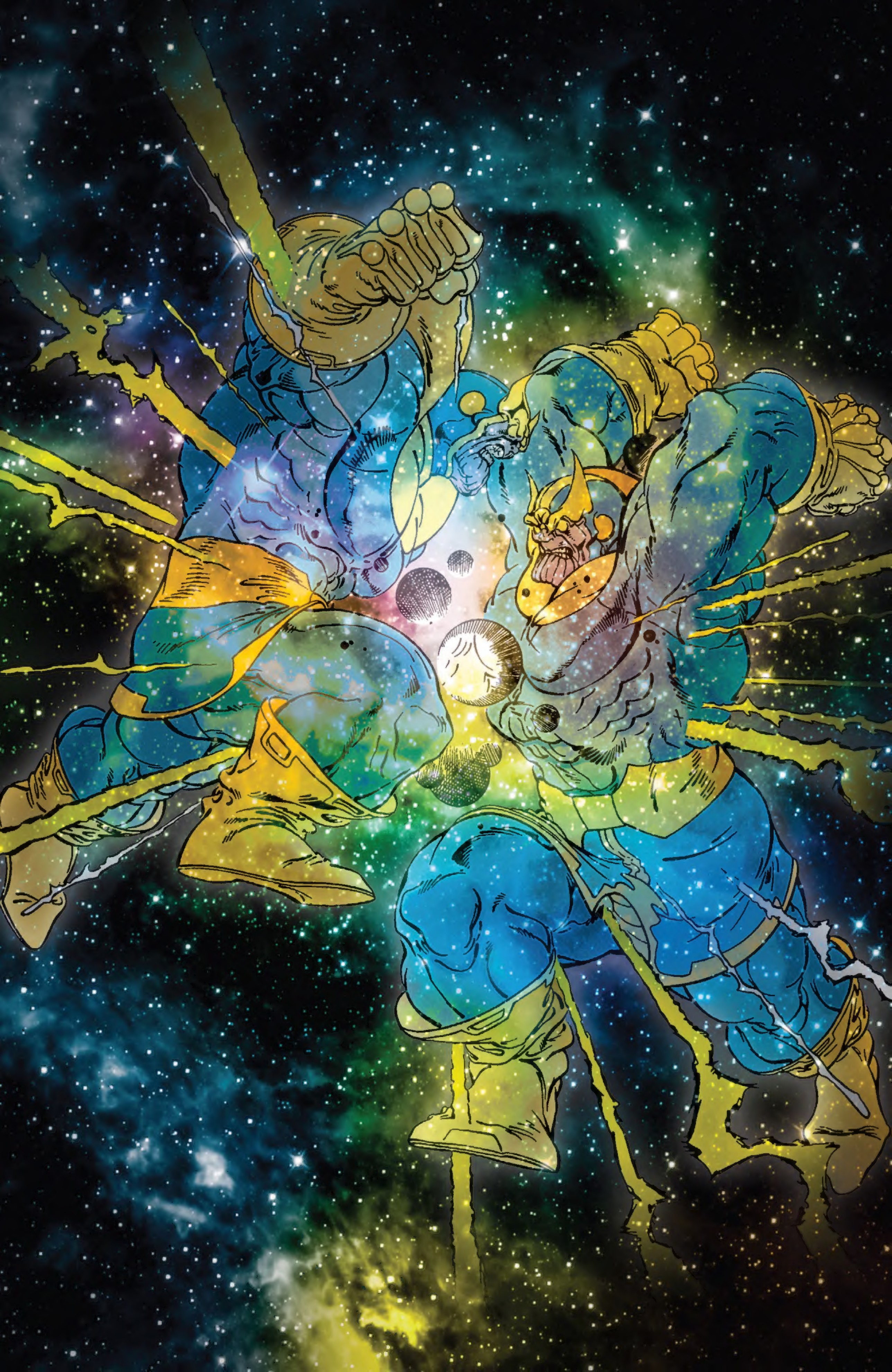
MARVEL
THE INFINITY WAR



THE INFINITY WAR

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"THE END HAS JUST BEGUN..."

30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL COMICS
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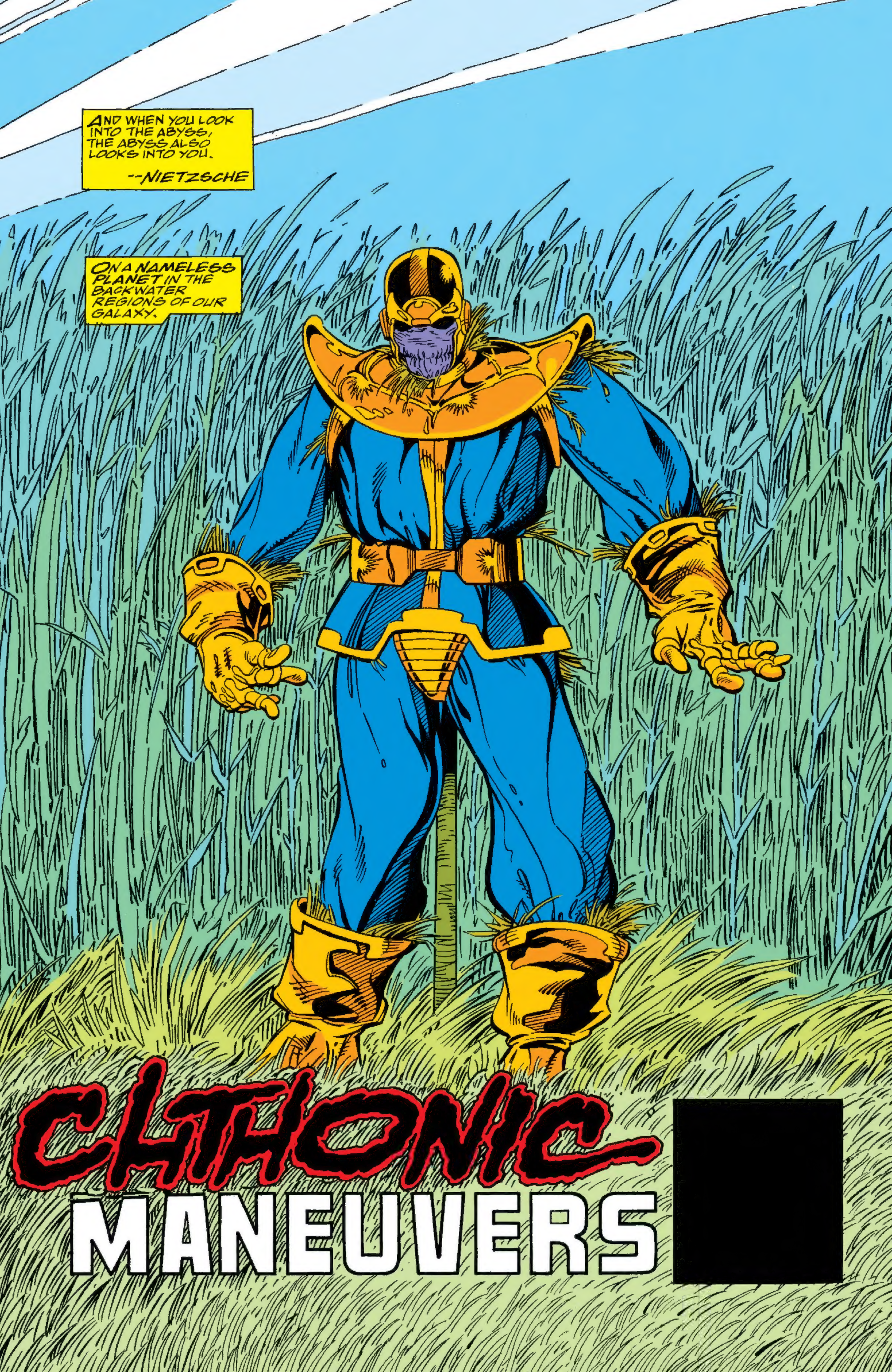
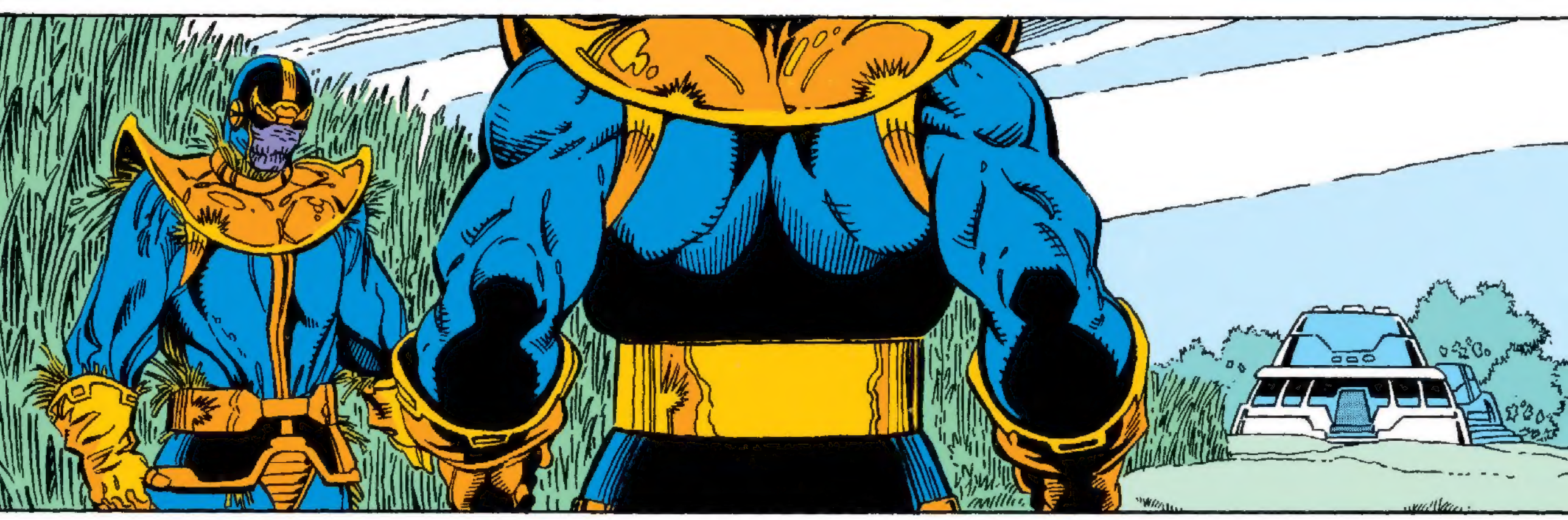
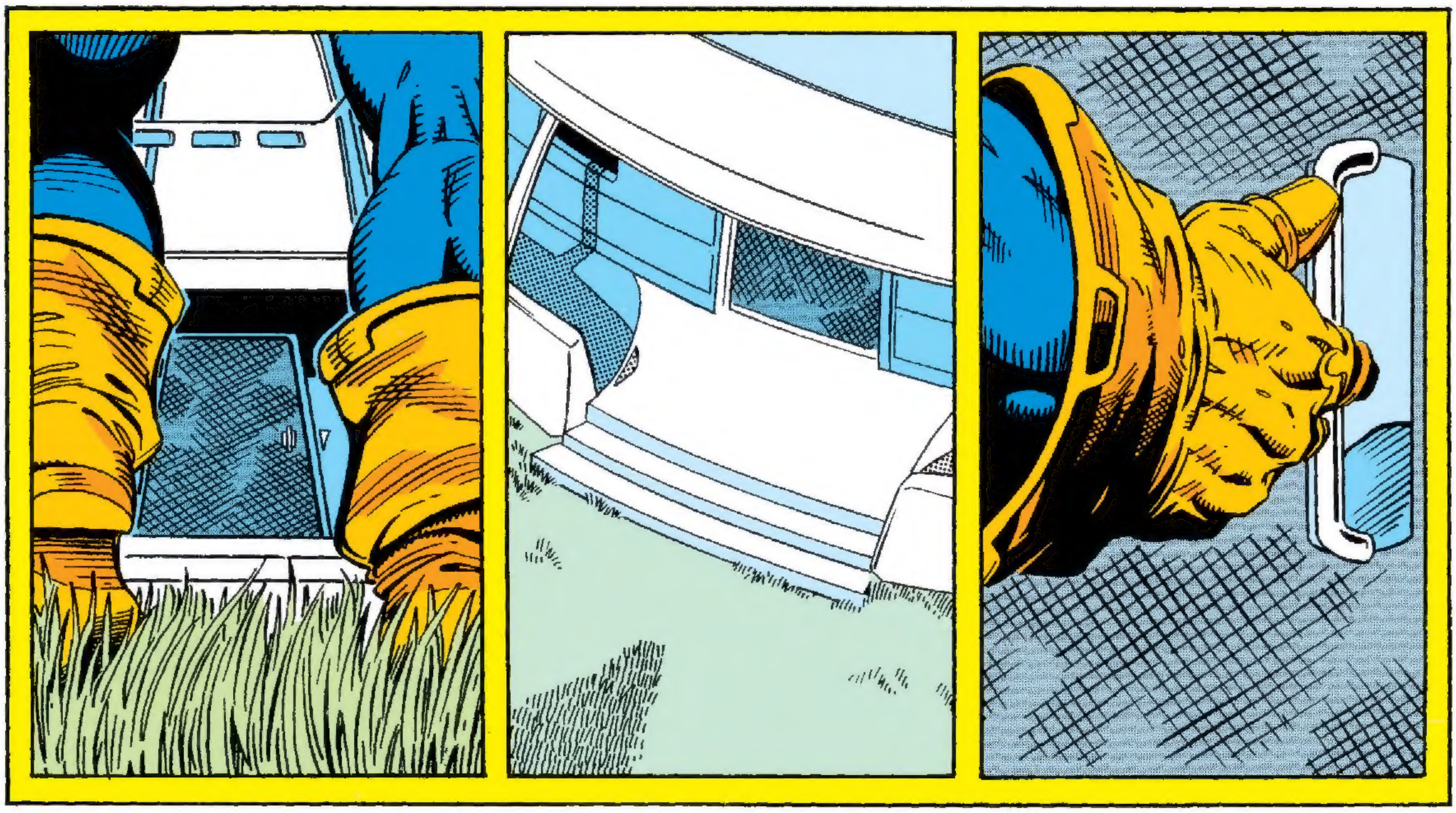
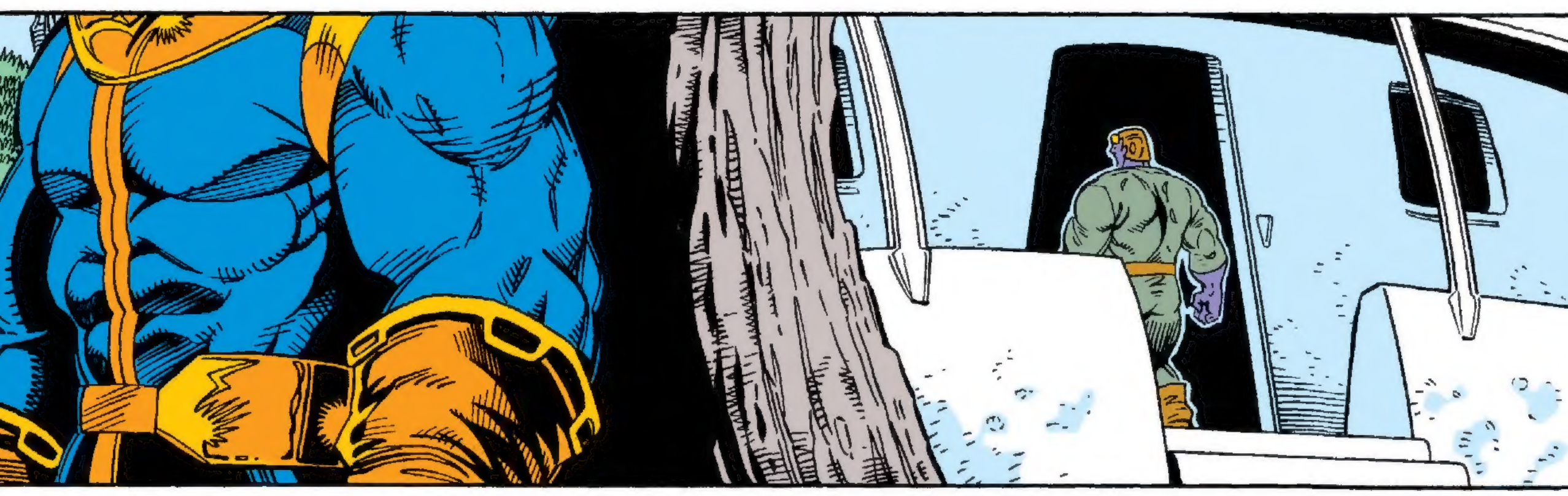
1 JUNE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INFINITY WAR
FIRST STRIKE!

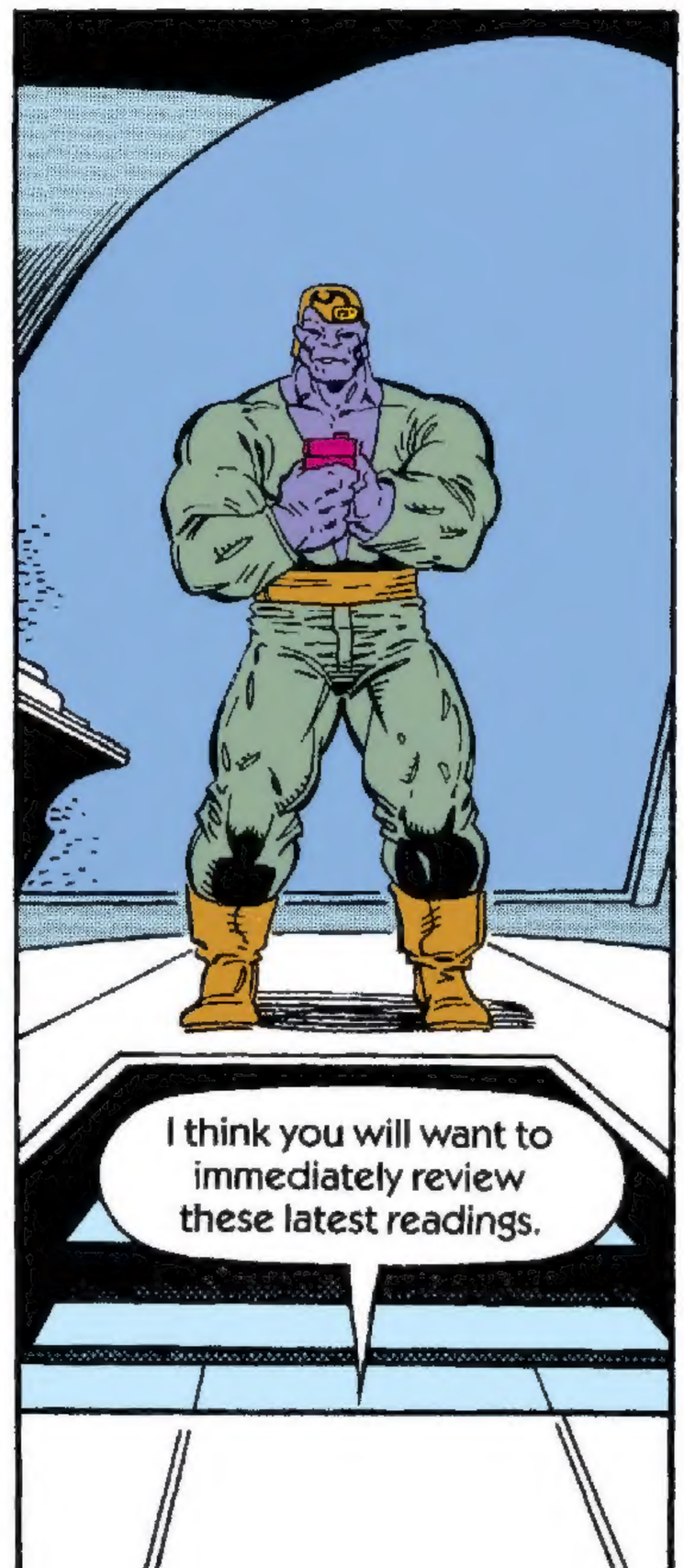

AND WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE ABYSS, THE ABYSS ALSO LOOKS INTO YOU.
--NIETZSCHE
ON A NAMELESS PLANET IN THE BACKWATER REGIONS OF OUR GALAXY.
CHTHONIC
MANEUVERS



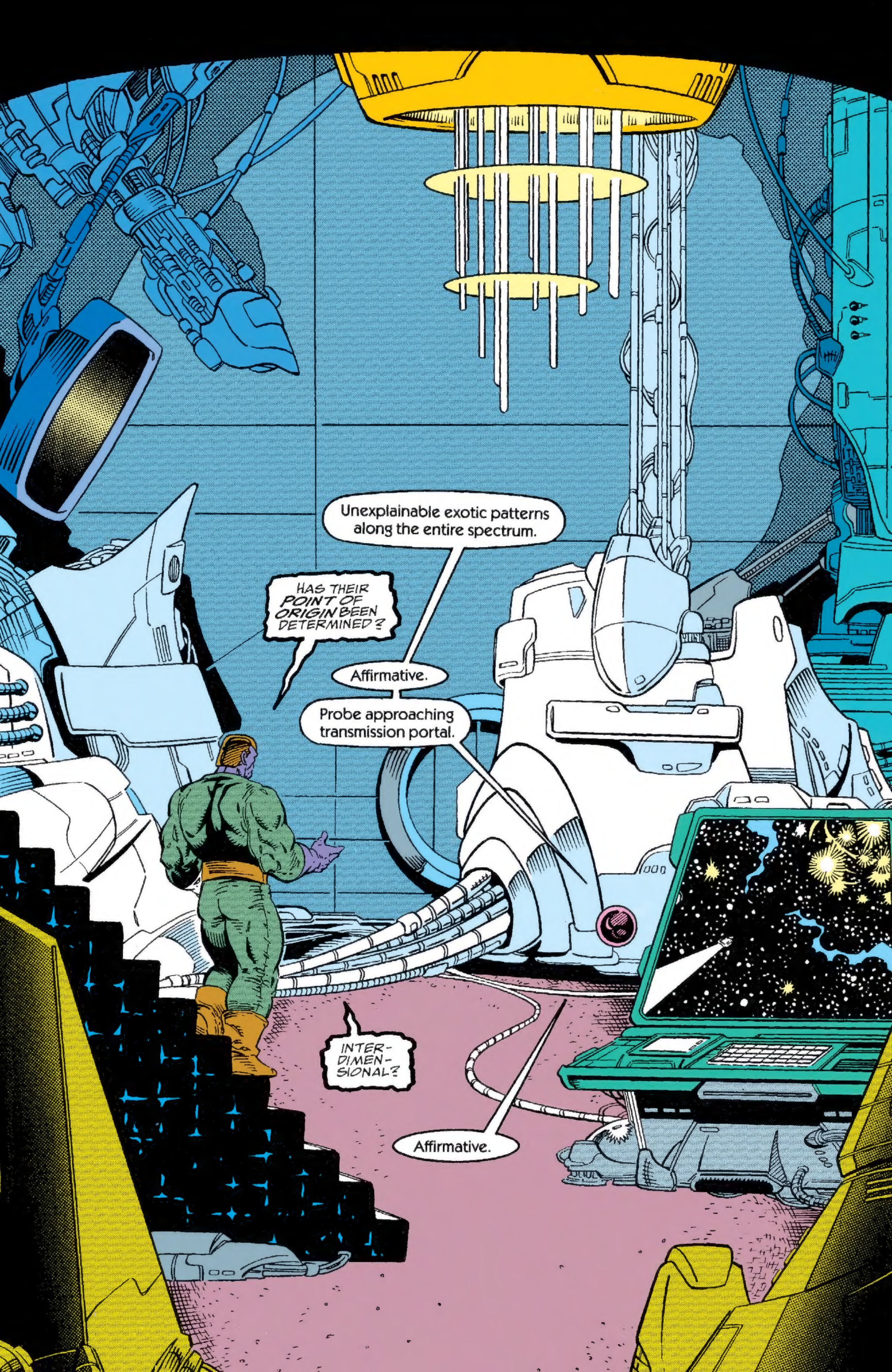




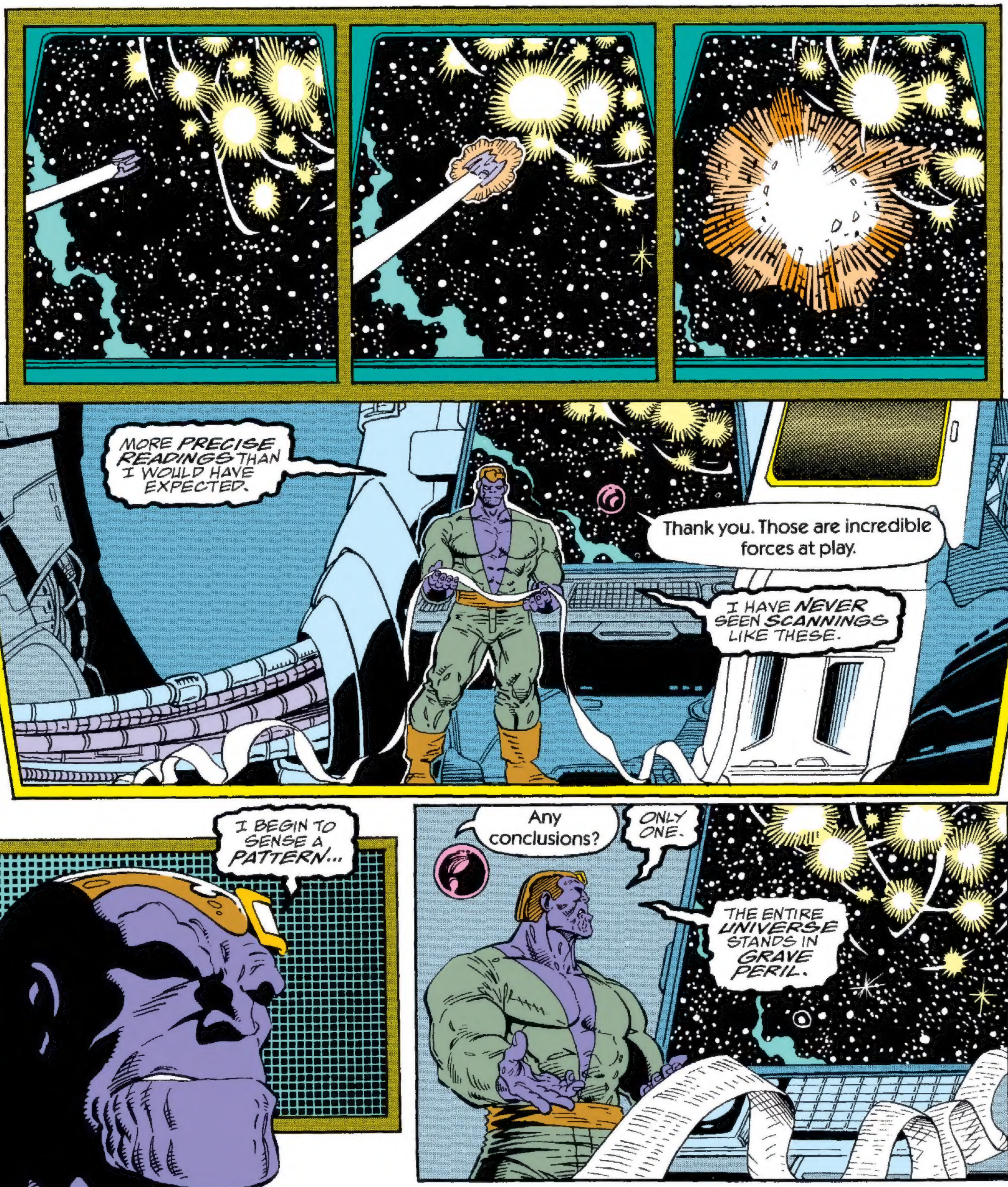
Master, the telemetry is collated and ready.


I think you will want to immediately review these latest readings.

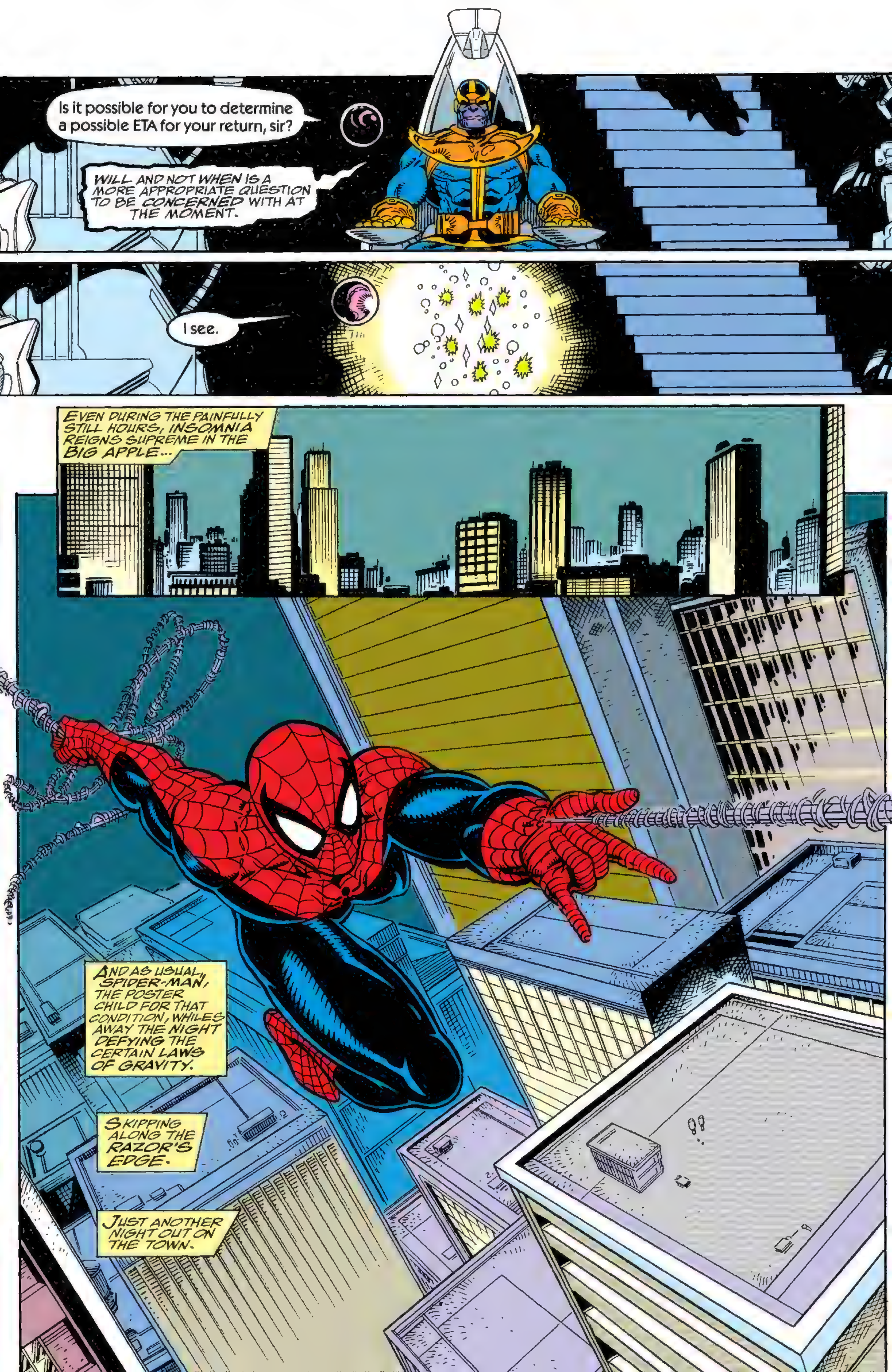
AN OVERVIEW SYNOPSIS, PLEASE.
Yes, sir.

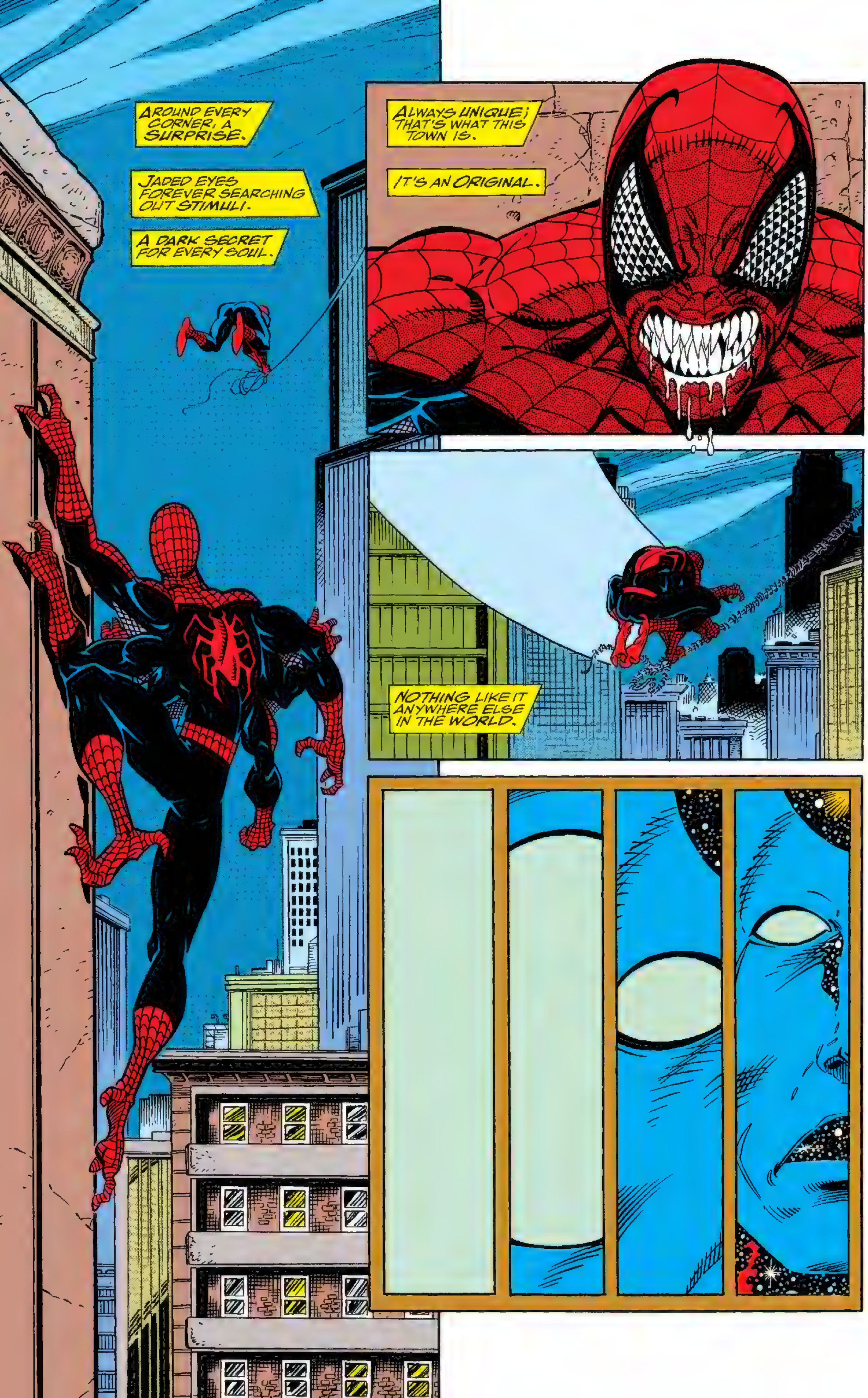

Unexplainable exotic patterns along the entire spectrum.
HAS THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN BEEN DETERMINED?
Affirmative.
Probe approaching transmission portal.
INTER-DIMEN-SIONAL?
Affirmative.

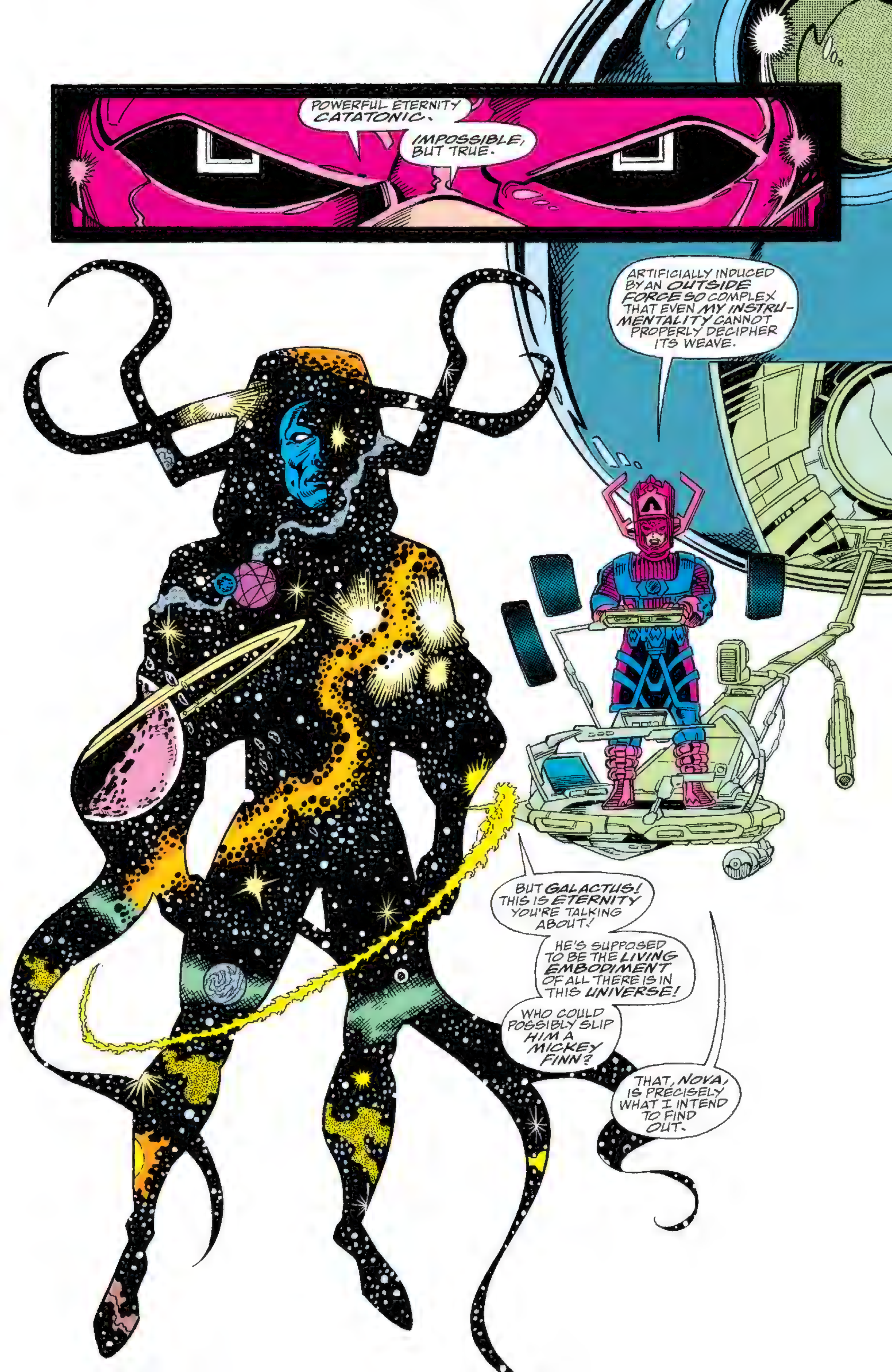
Vortex activity. Severe photon upheaval.
Probe's survival probability minimum.
NOT A CONSIDERATION. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE DATA.
TRANSMIT.
Proceeding.

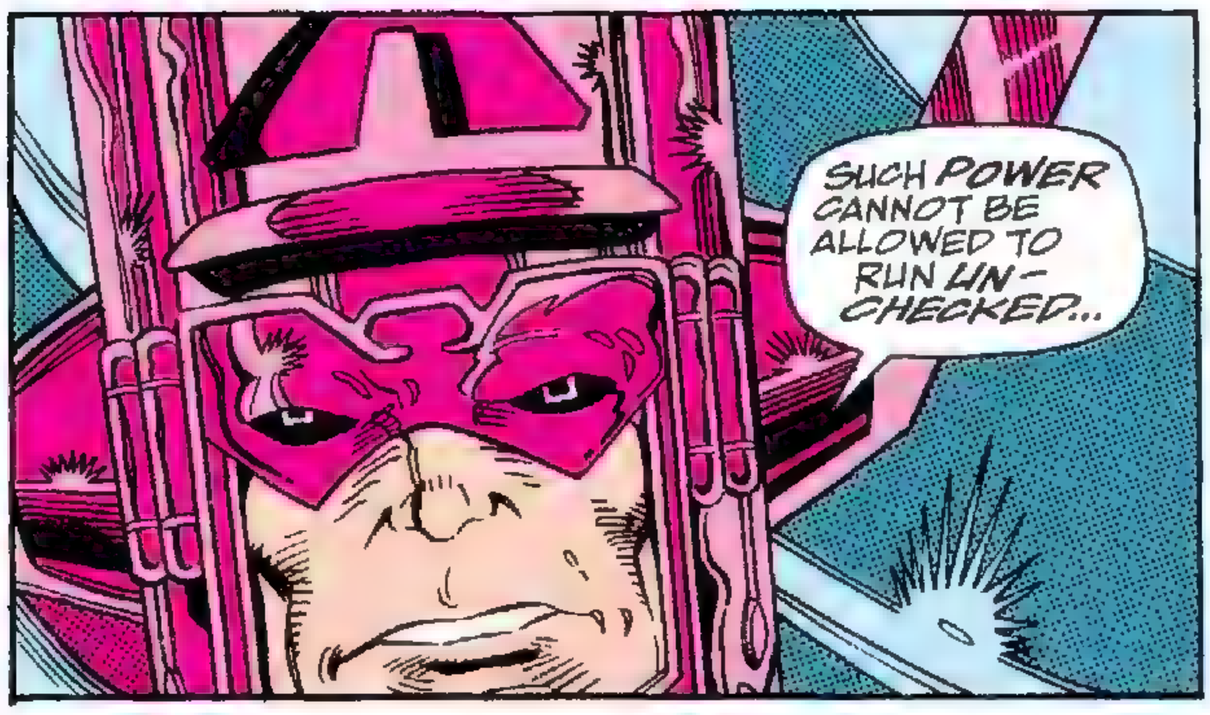


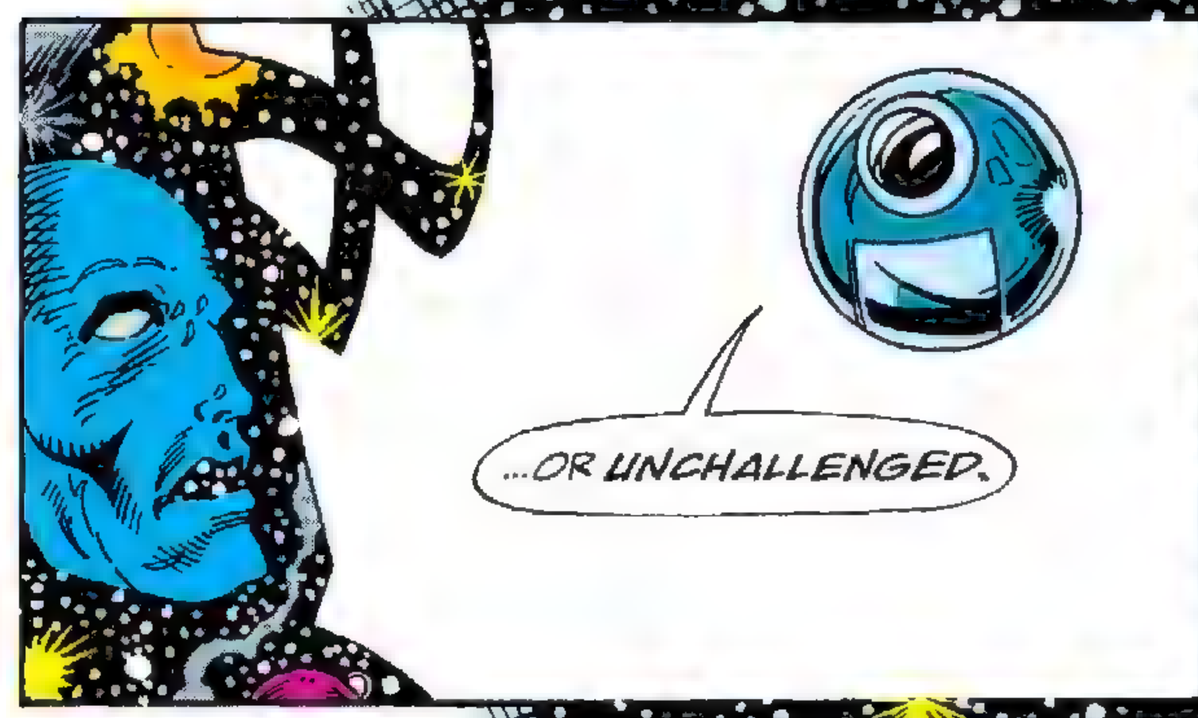
I take it that on-sight research is required?
SOMETIMES THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN A TRUSTWORTHY EVALUATION OF A SITUATION.
I will immediately begin construction of an appropriate vessel.
NOT NECESSARY.
I ALREADY HAVE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGED.
Your records show this craft destroyed some time back, sir.
A RECONSTRUCTION.
Did not the original vehicle have mystical qualities?
YES, THAT THIS FLYER LACKS.
BUT ONCE THANOS FAMILIARIZES HIMSELF WITH A TECHNOLOGY, VERY LITTLE IS LOST.
THIS CRAFT SHOULD SERVE ME WELL ENOUGH.

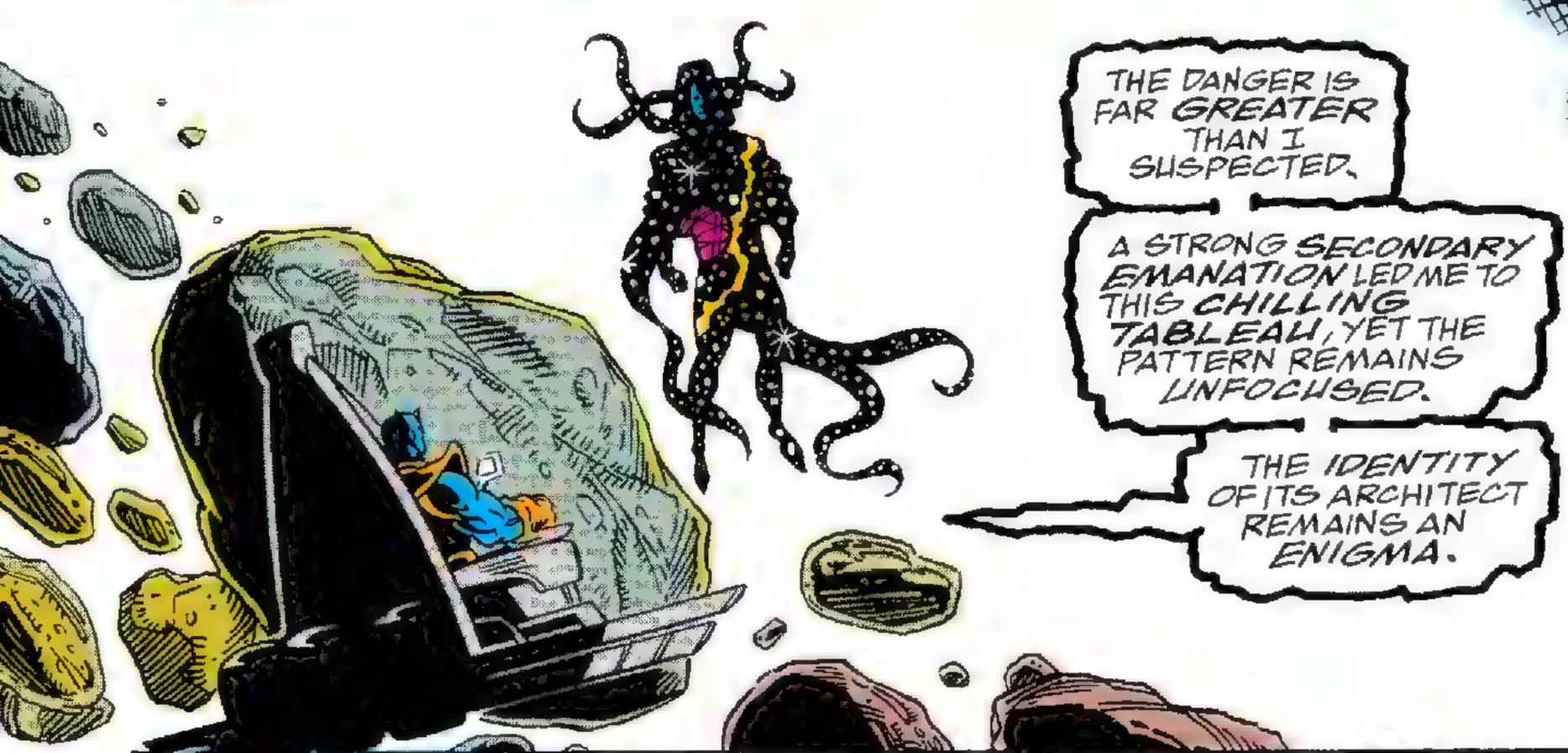

Is it possible for you to determine a possible ETA for your return, sir?
WILL AND NOT WHEN IS A MORE APPROPRIATE QUESTION TO BE CONCERNED WITH AT THE MOMENT.
I see.
EVEN DURING THE PAINFULLY STILL HOURS, INSOMNIA REIGNS SUPREME IN THE BIG APPLE...
AND AS USUAL, SPIDER-MAN, THE POSTER CHILD FOR THAT CONDITION, WHILES AWAY THE NIGHT DEFYING THE CERTAIN LAWS OF GRAVITY.
SKIPPING ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE.
JUST ANOTHER NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN.


AROUND EVERY CORNER, A SURPRISE.
JADED EYES FOREVER SEARCHING OUT STIMULI.
A DARK SECRET FOR EVERY SOUL.
ALWAYS UNIQUE; THAT'S WHAT THIS TOWN IS.
IT'S AN ORIGINAL.
NOTHING LIKE IT ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

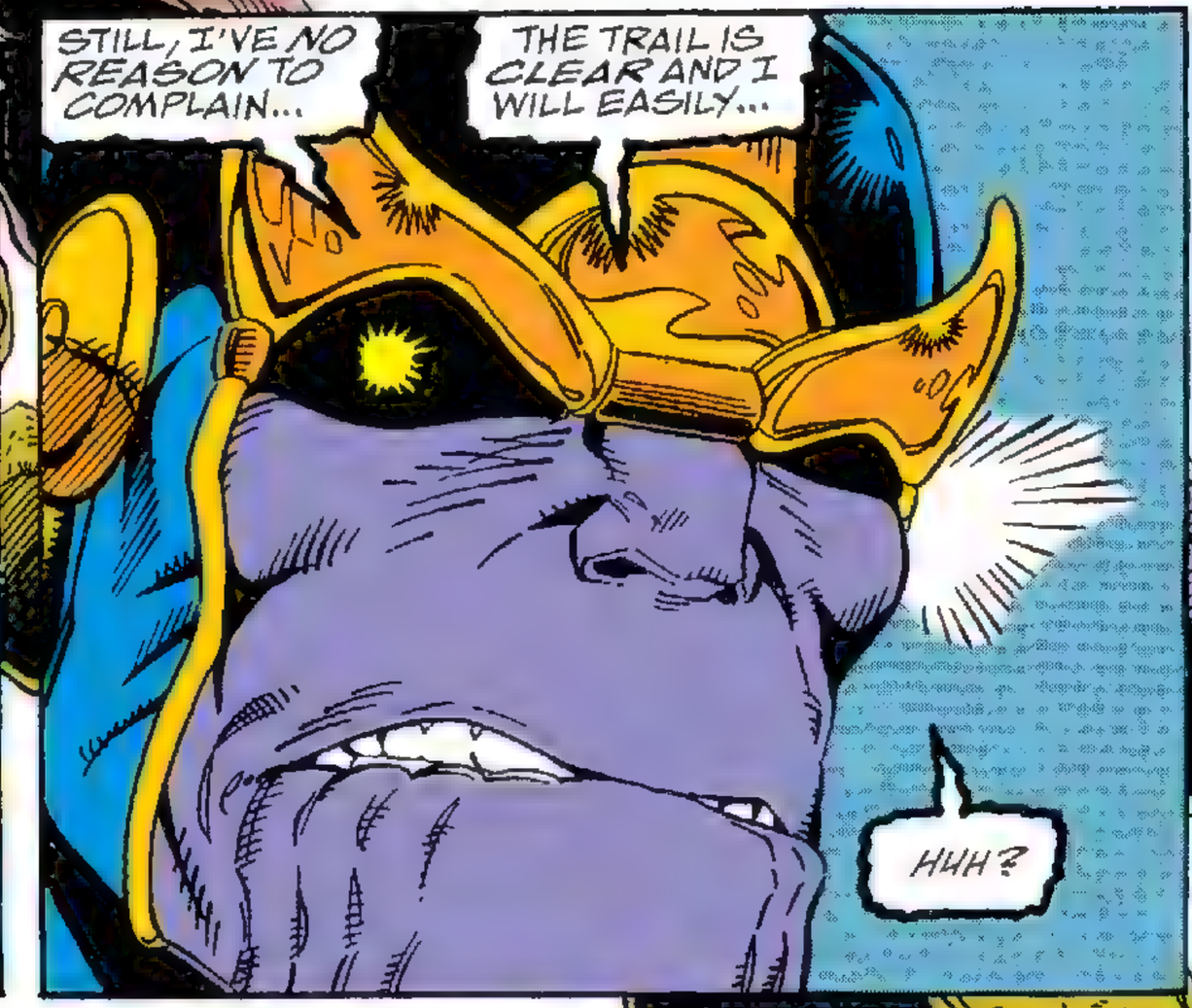

POWERFUL ETERNITY CATATONIC.
IMPOSSIBLE, BUT TRUE.
ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE SO COMPLEX THAT EVEN MY INSTRUMENTALITY CANNOT PROPERLY DECIPHER ITS WEAVE.
BUT GALACTUS! THIS IS ETERNITY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL THERE IS IN THIS UNIVERSE!
WHO COULD POSSIBLY SLIP HIM A MICKEY FINN?
THAT, NOVA, IS PRECISELY WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.

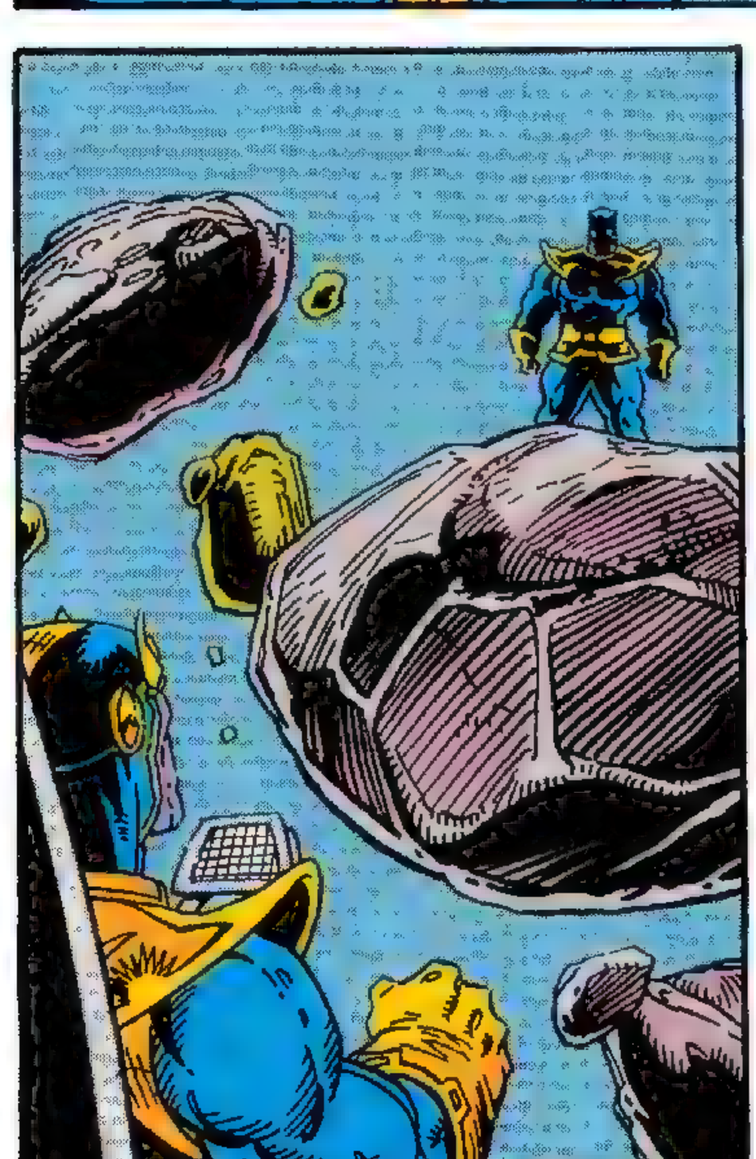

SUCH POWER CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN UN-CHECKED...

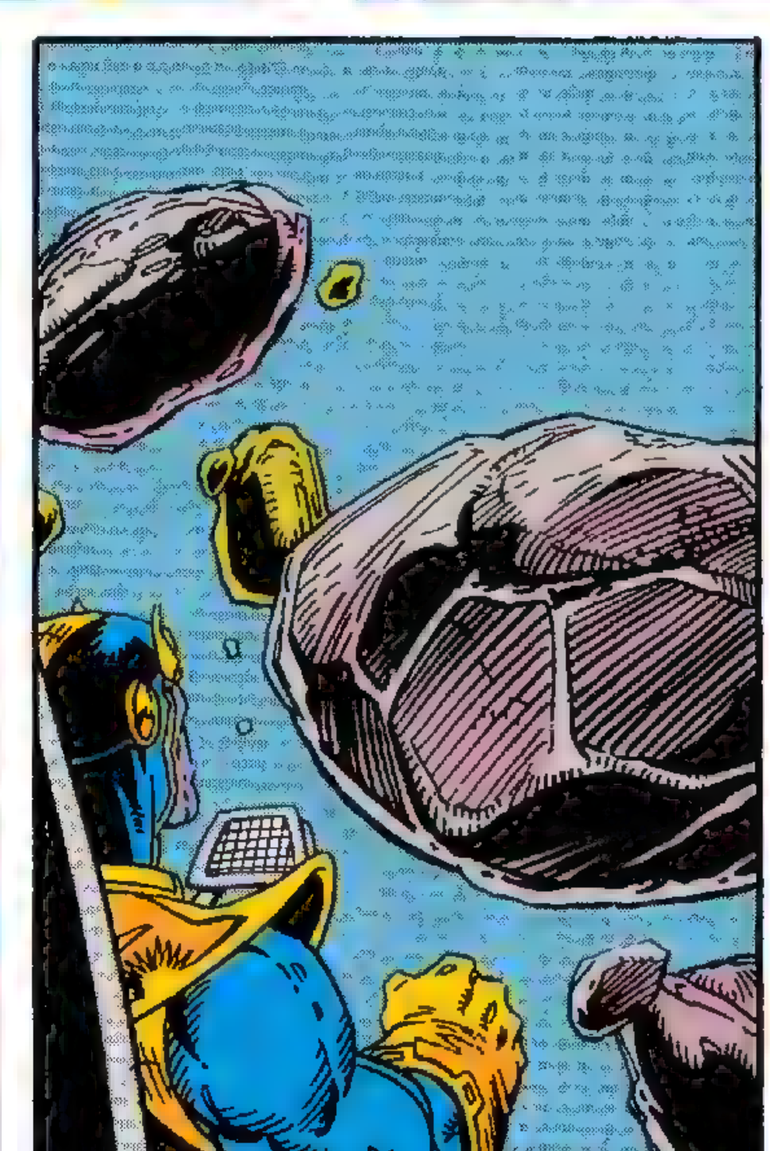

...OR UNCHALLENGED.

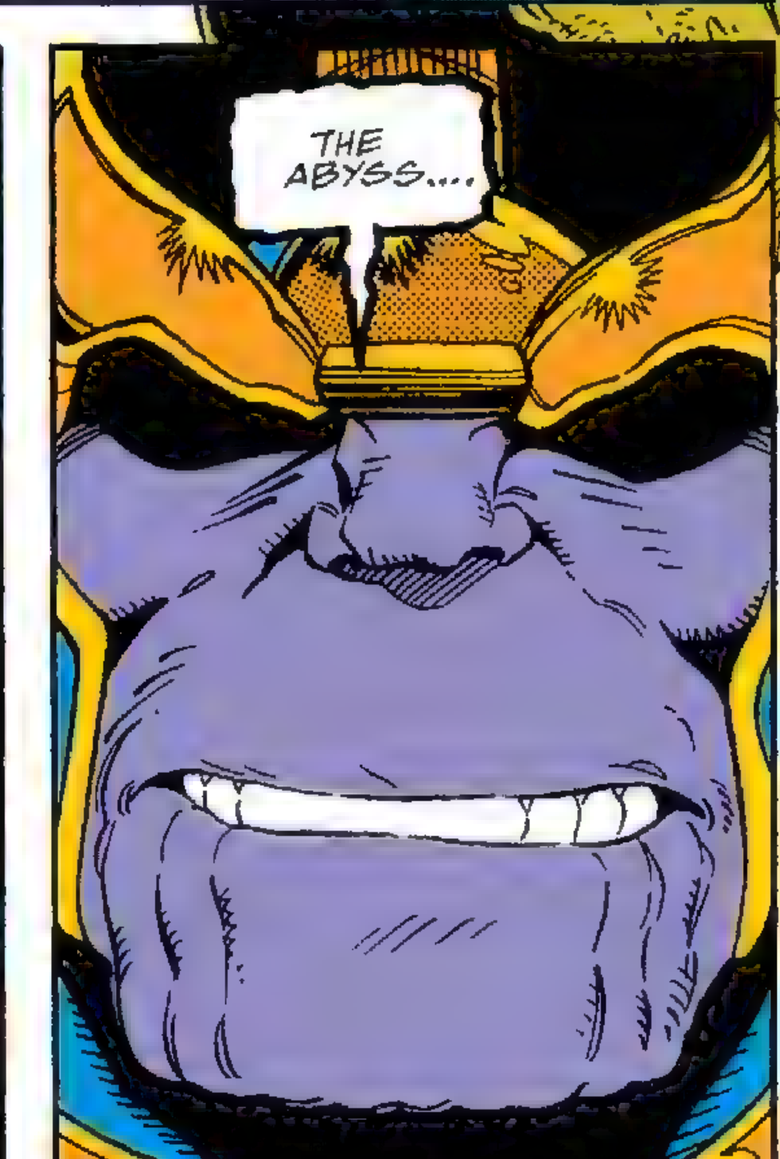

THE DANGER IS FAR GREATER THAN I SUSPECTED.
A STRONG SECONDARY EMANATION LED ME TO THIS CHILLING TABLEAU, YET THE PATTERN REMAINS UNFOCUSED.
THE IDENTITY OF ITS ARCHITECT REMAINS AN ENIGMA.

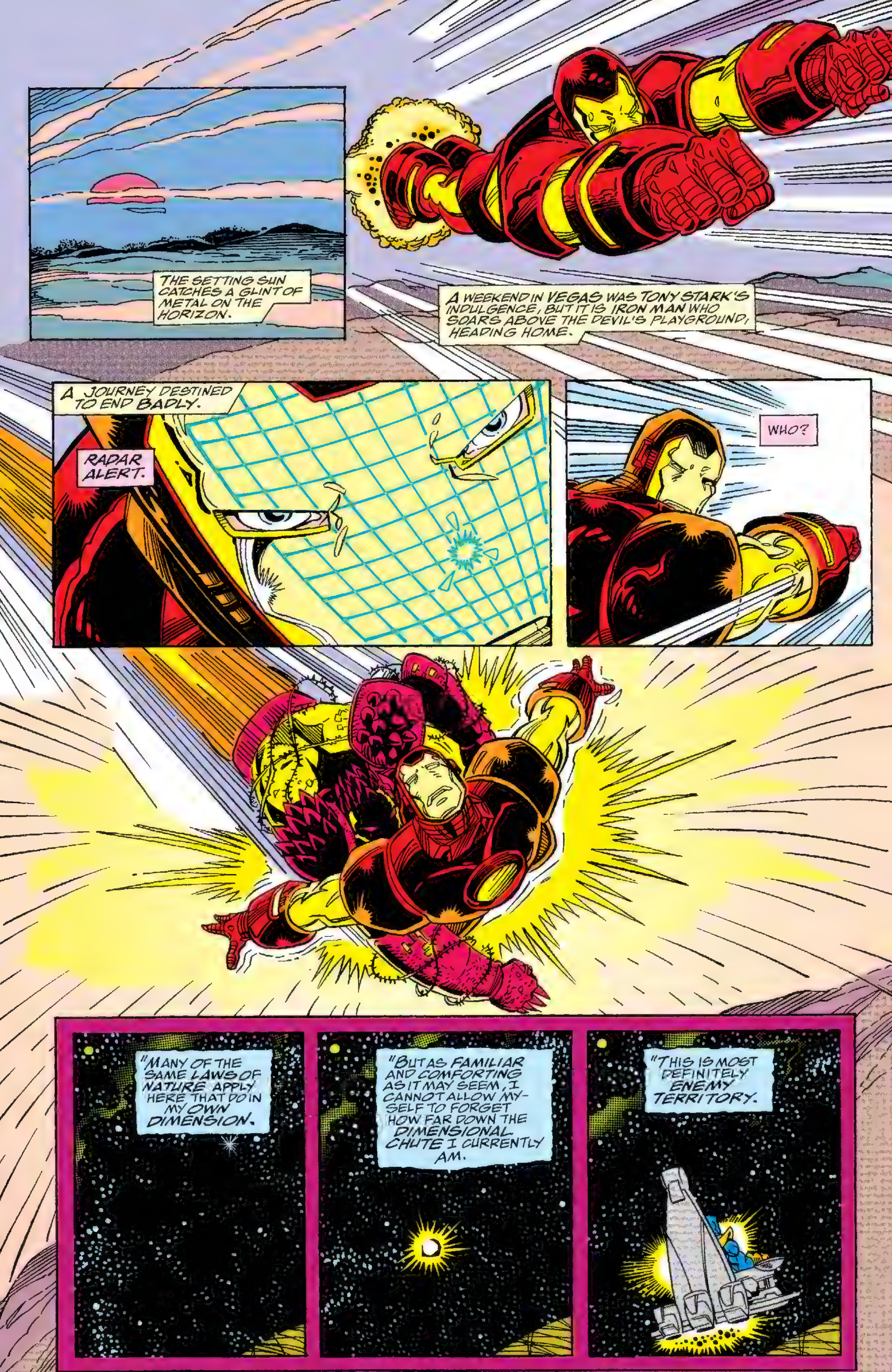
EVEN MORE VEXING IS THE FACT THAT I FIND THIS ENERGY SIGNATURE STRANGELY FAMILIAR.
BUT NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH TO ELICIT AN EXACT MEMORY.

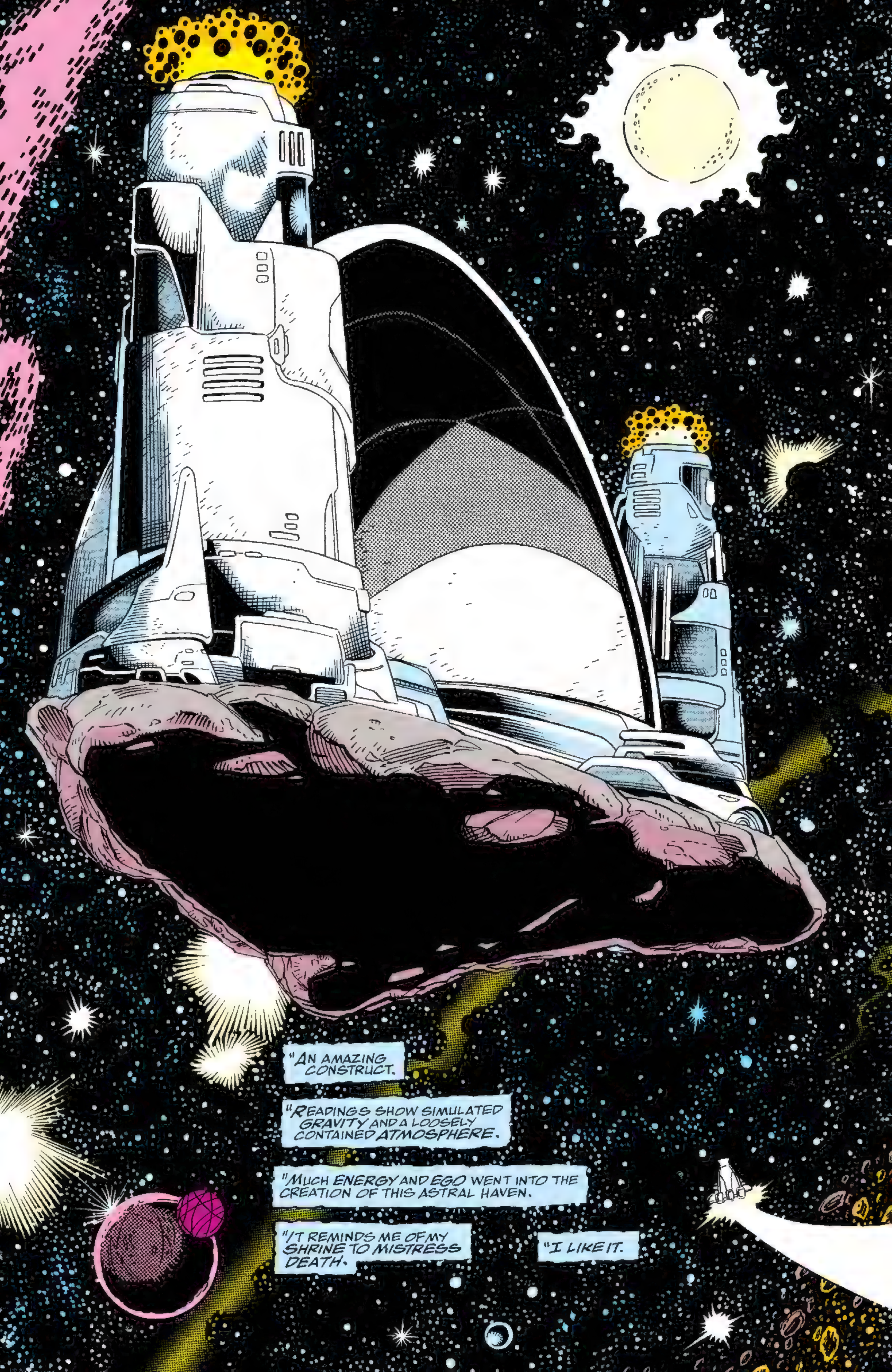

STILL, I'VE NO REASON TO COMPLAIN...
THE TRAIL IS CLEAR AND I WILL EASILY...
HUH?






THE ABYSS....


THE SETTING SUN CATCHES A GLINT OF METAL ON THE HORIZON.
A WEEKEND IN VEGAS WAS TONY STARK'S INDULGENCE, BUT IT IS IRON MAN WHO SOARS ABOVE THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND, HEADING HOME.
A JOURNEY DESTINED TO END BADLY.
RADAR ALERT.
WHO?
"MANY OF THE SAME LAWS OF NATURE APPLY HERE THAT DO IN MY OWN DIMENSION.
"BUT AS FAMILIAR AND COMFORTING AS IT MAY SEEM, I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO FORGET HOW FAR DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL CHUTE I CURRENTLY AM.
"THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY ENEMY TERRITORY.


"AN AMAZING CONSTRUCT.
"READINGS SHOW SIMULATED GRAVITY AND A LOOSELY CONTAINED ATMOSPHERE.
"MUCH ENERGY AND EGO WENT INTO THE CREATION OF THIS ASTRAL HAVEN.
"IT REMINDS ME OF MY SHRINE TO MISTRESS DEATH.
"I LIKE IT.

"NO SENTRY CHALLENGES MY ENTRY, ALMOST AS IF THIS WERE AN ABANDONED OUTPOST.

"BUT MY INSTRUMENTATION UNDERSCORES THE FUTILE FOOLISHNESS OF THAT NOTION.

"THE SOURCE OF THESE UNBELIEVABLE READINGS IS WITHIN A STRUCTURE PACKED TO THE RAFTERS WITH WONDROUS TOYS.

"SO ADVANCED IS THE TECHNOLOGY THAT I CAN ONLY GUESS AT HALF OF THE DEVICES' FUNCTIONS.

"THE ENERGIES AT WORK ARE BENUMBING, ON A LEVEL FEW BEINGS COULD EVEN DREAM OF, LET ALONE CONTROL.

"BUT REALIZING THAT THIS CONTROL IS ACHIEVED BY MECHANICAL MEANS IS EVEN MORE MIND-BOGGLING.

"IT IS MUCH LIKE TAKING A DINOSAUR OUT FOR A WALK ON A LEASH.

"I AM TALKING ABOUT POWER READINGS JUST SHORT OF THE LEVELS OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET'S.
"END LOG ENTRY."
SOMETIMES HIS BETTER HALF NEEDS REVITALIZING AND PURGING.
THAT'S WHEN THE WILD RECLAIMS HIM.
THE MAN RECEDES, AND THE WOLVERINE REIGNS.
HIS EVERY SENSE EVER ON THE ALERT FOR DANGER.
EVEN A DANGER NEARLY AS FAMILIAR AS HIS OWN REFLECTION.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE: THE EMANATIONS' POINT OF ORIGIN IS LOCATED IN THE LOZENGE-SHAPED MODULE ON THE CENTER'S CEILING.

DEPARTING CRAFT TO BETTER INVESTIGATE.

WILL NOW EXAMINE AND IDENTIFY ENERGY SOURCE.

HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON TAKING BACK ANY SAMPLES WITH YOU, THANOS.

WHO?

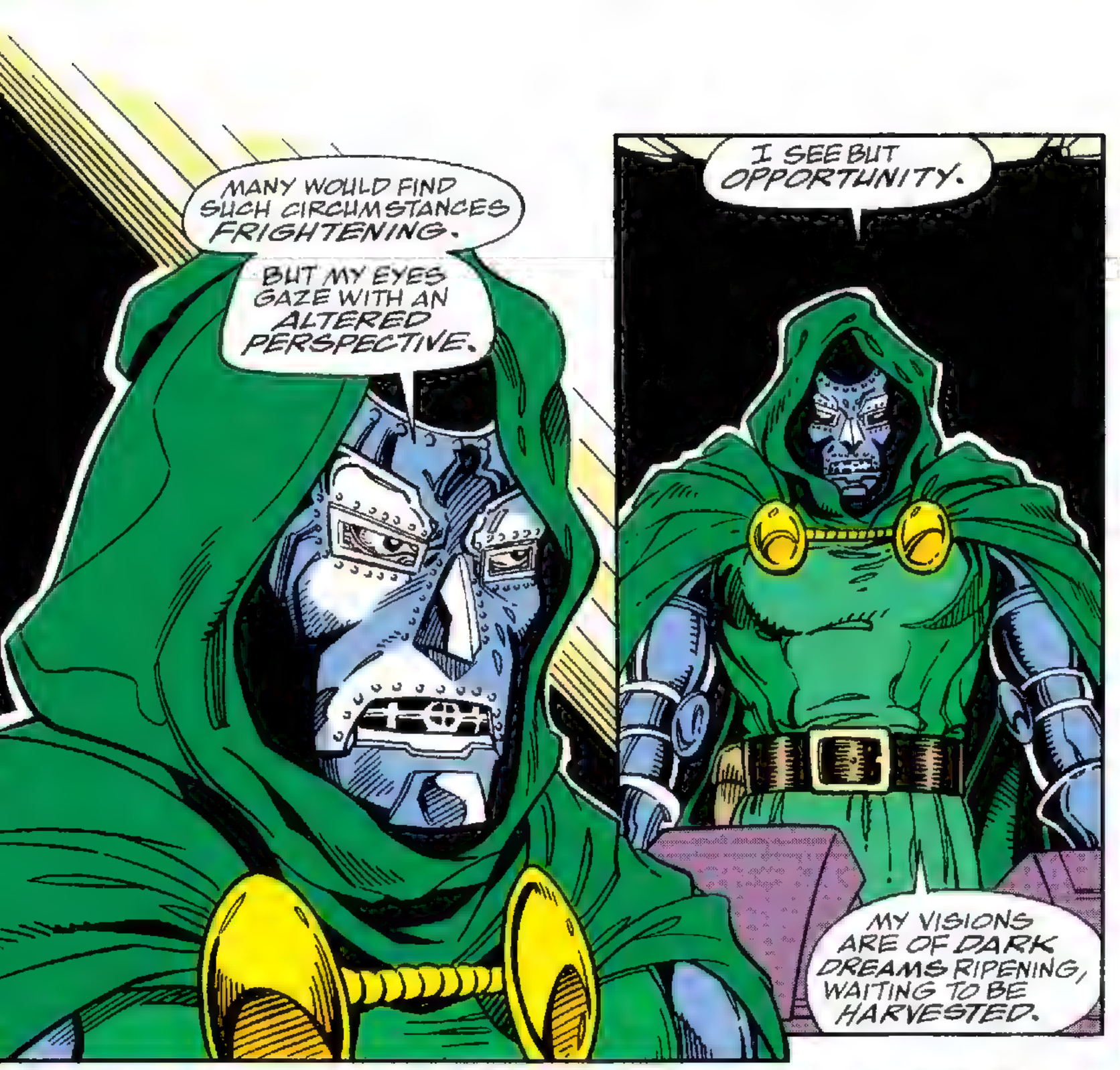
YOU?

"I HAVE NEVER SEEN SCANNINGS LIKE THESE.

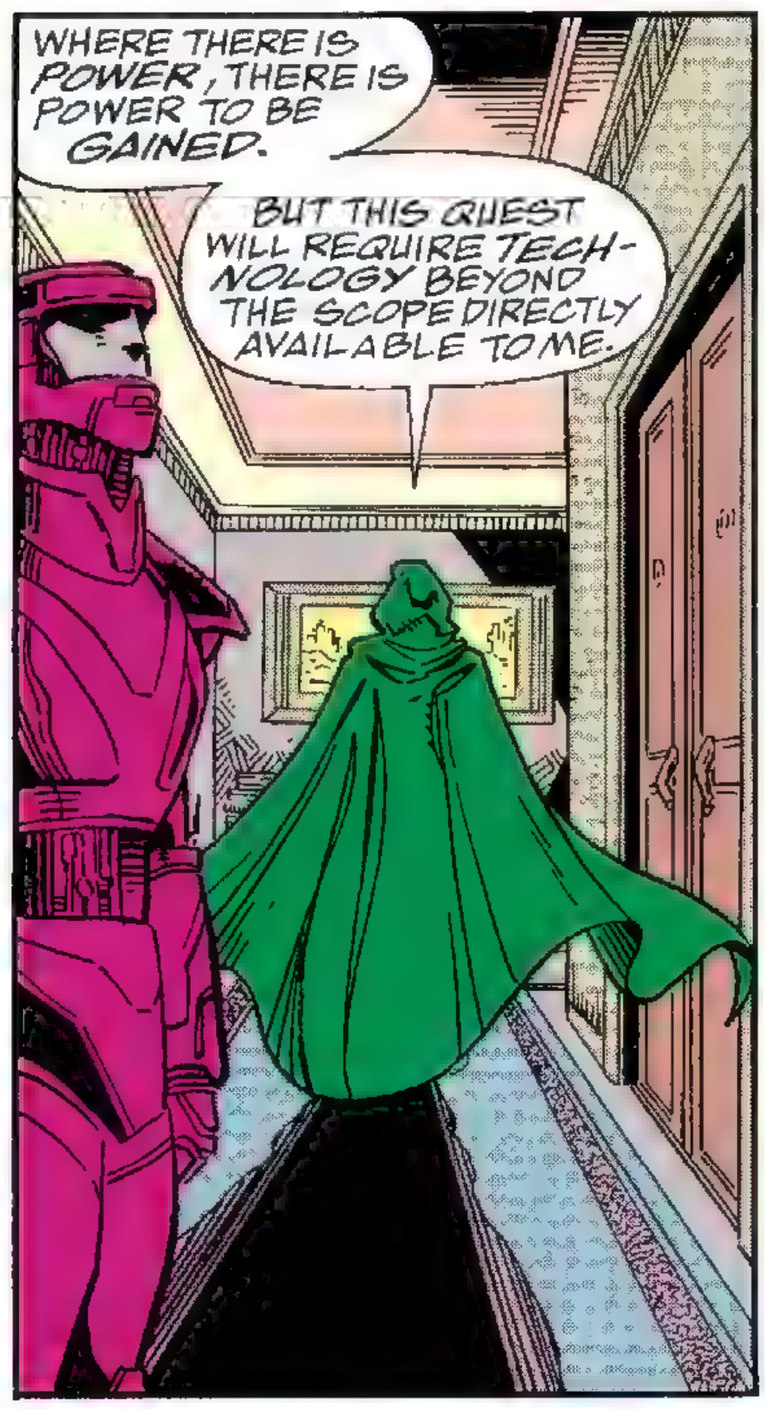
"I TRULY DOUBT ANYONE EVER HAS."

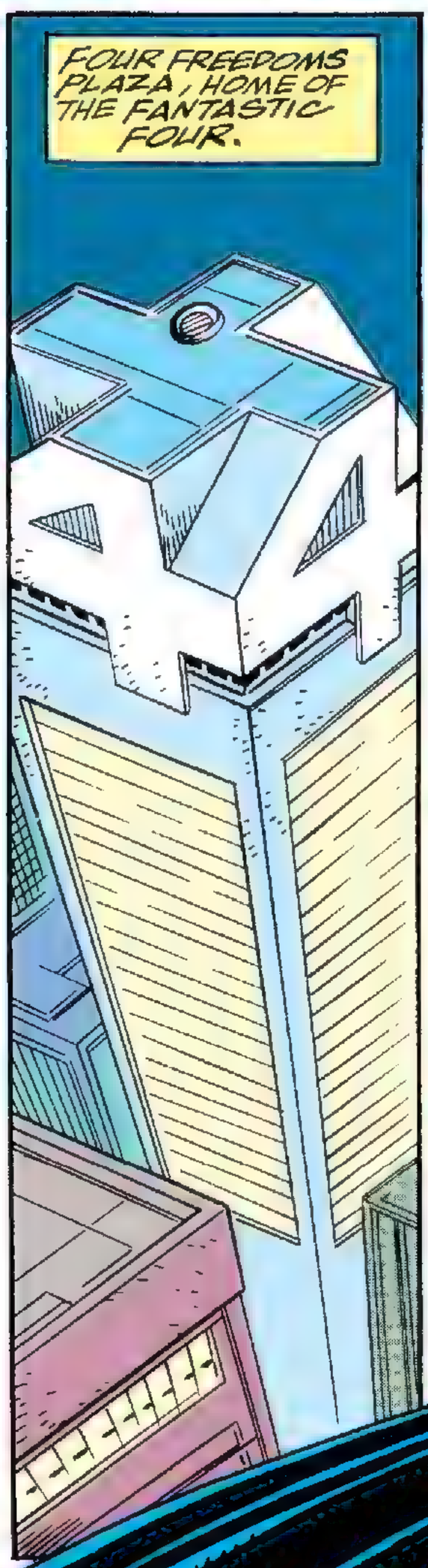
ENERGIES ON THIS LEVEL ARE USUALLY CONTROLLED BY A COSMIC ENTITY.

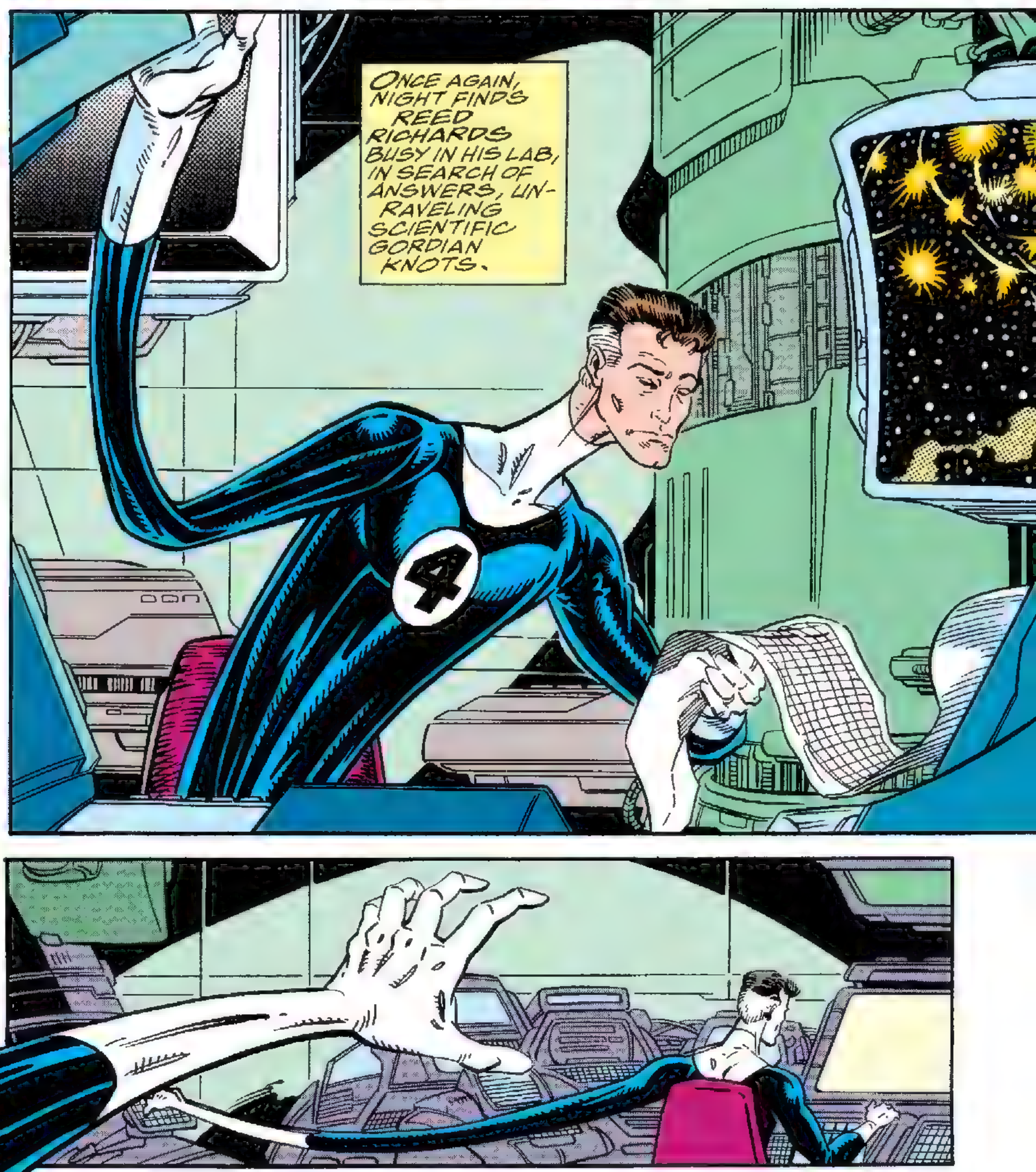
BUT DOCTOR DOOM SENSES NO SUCH PLAYER INVOLVED IN THIS AFFAIR.

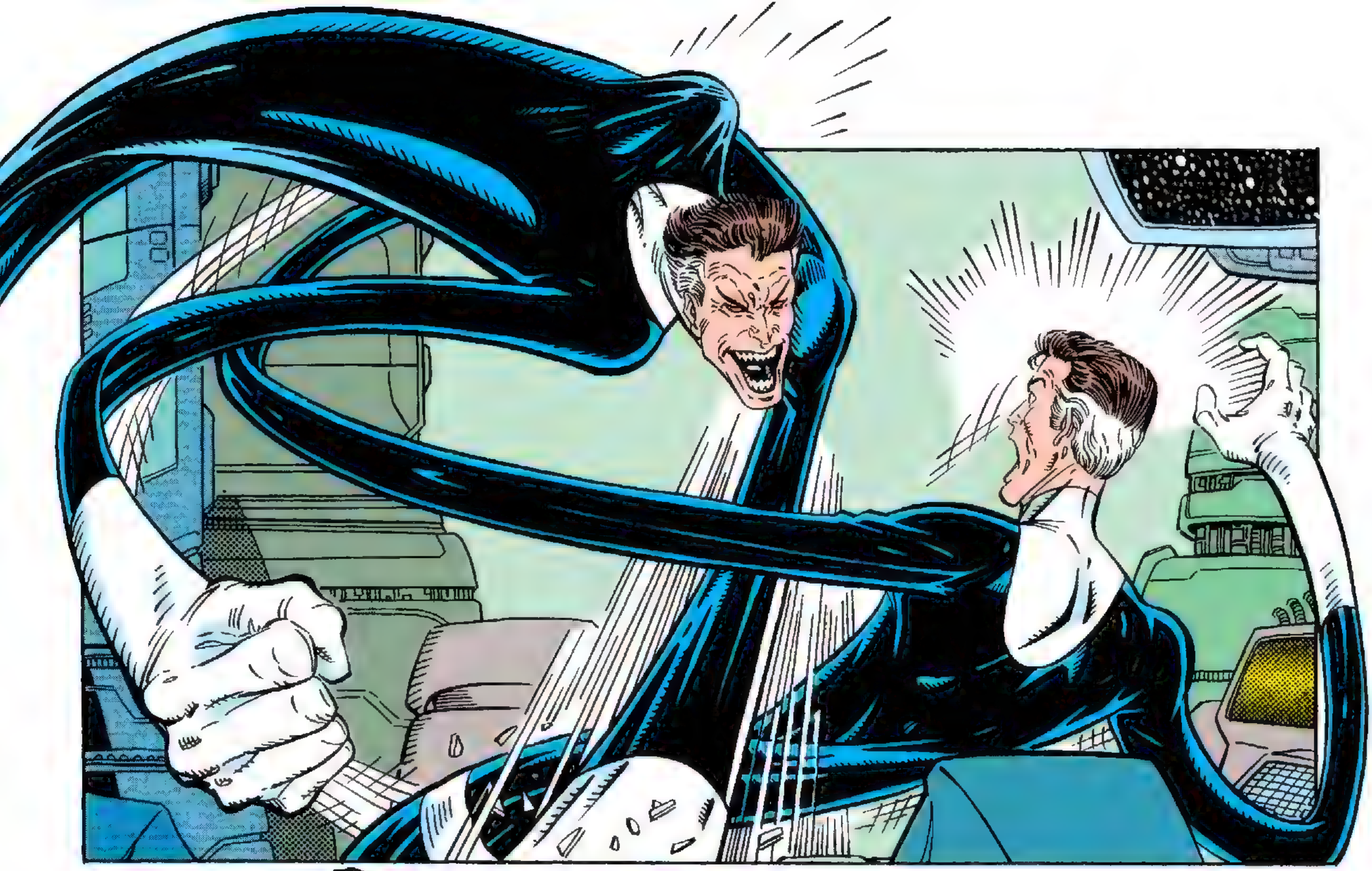

MANY WOULD FIND SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES FRIGHTENING.
BUT MY EYES GAZE WITH AN ALTERED PERSPECTIVE.

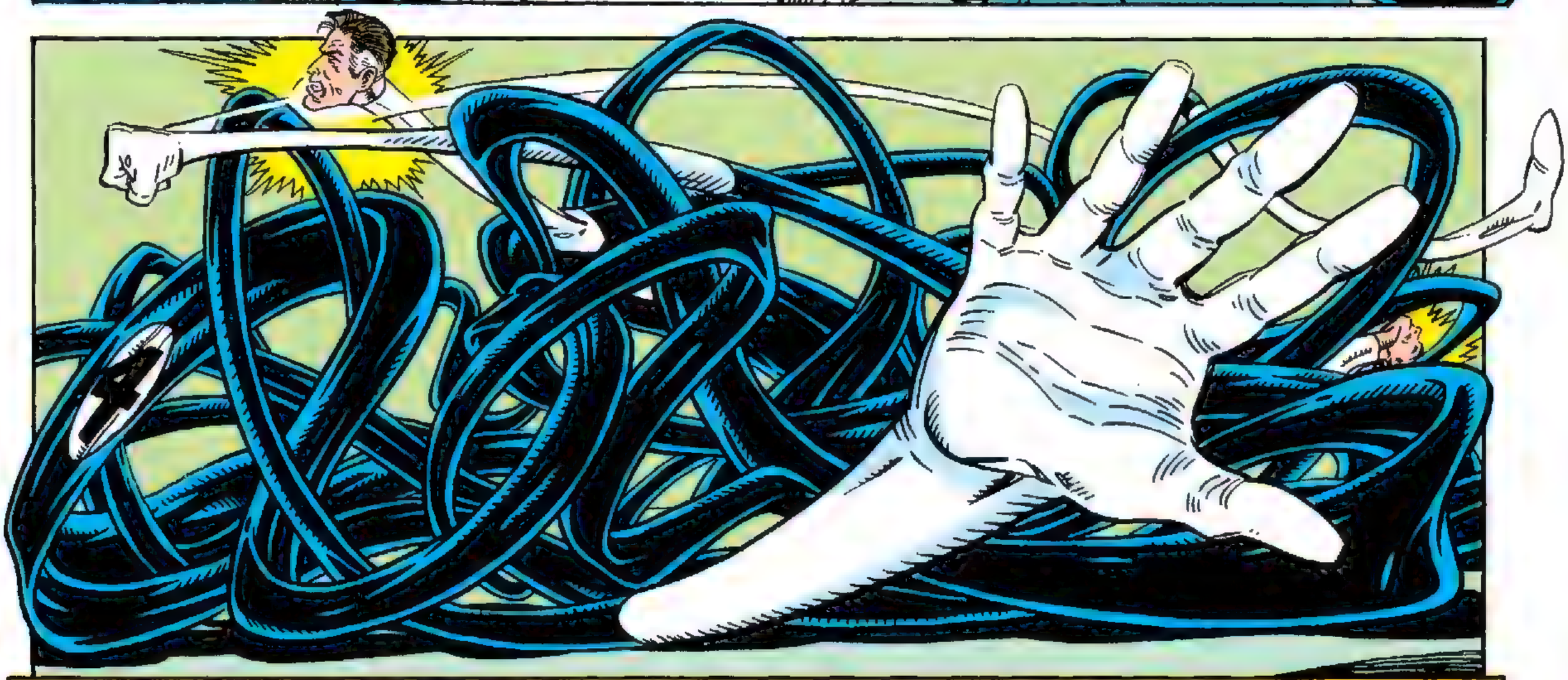
I SEE BUT OPPORTUNITY.
MY VISIONS ARE OF DARK DREAMS RIPENING, WAITING TO BE HARVESTED.

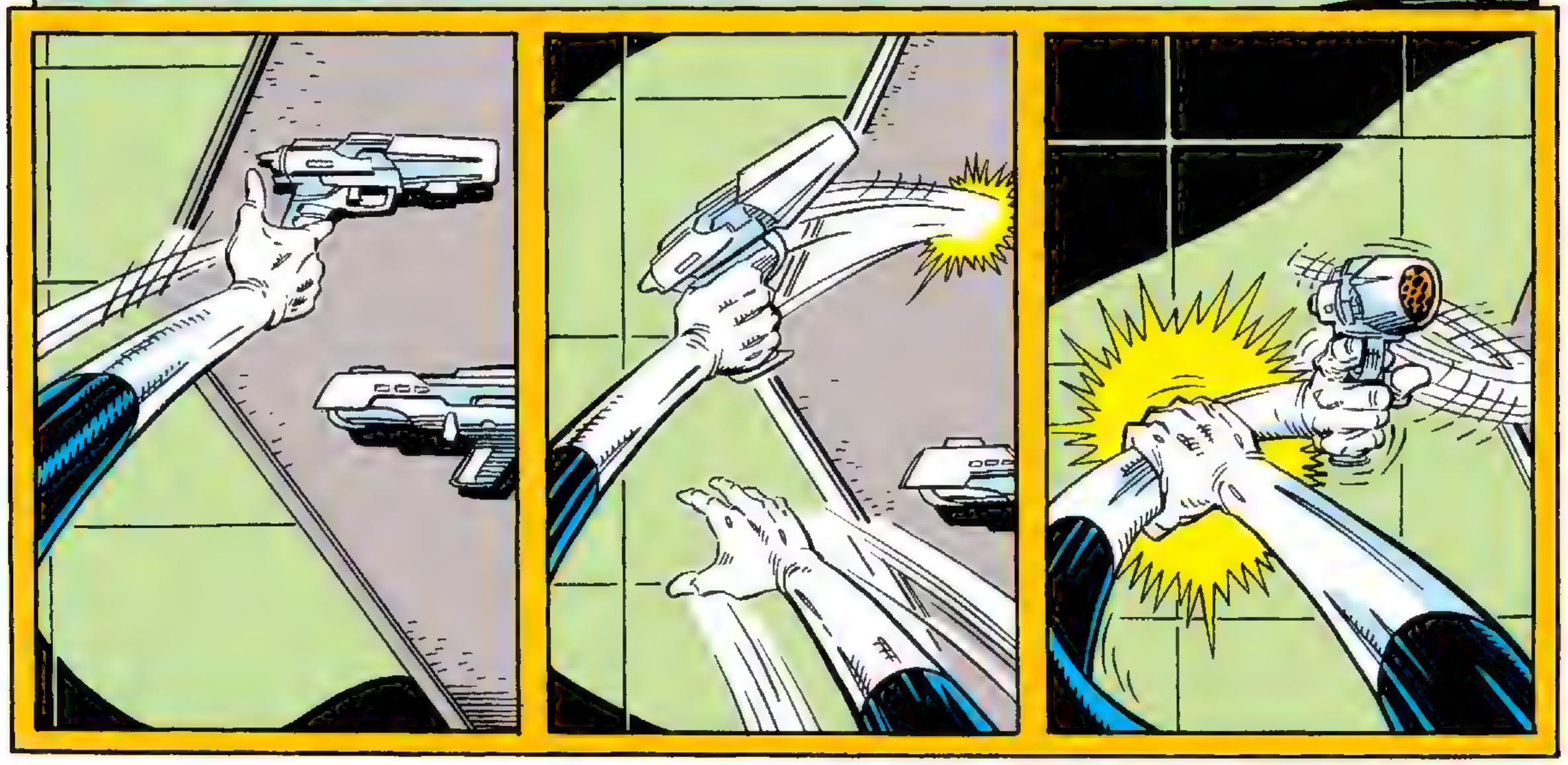

WHERE THERE IS POWER, THERE IS POWER TO BE GAINED.
BUT THIS QUEST WILL REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY BEYOND THE SCOPE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO ME.

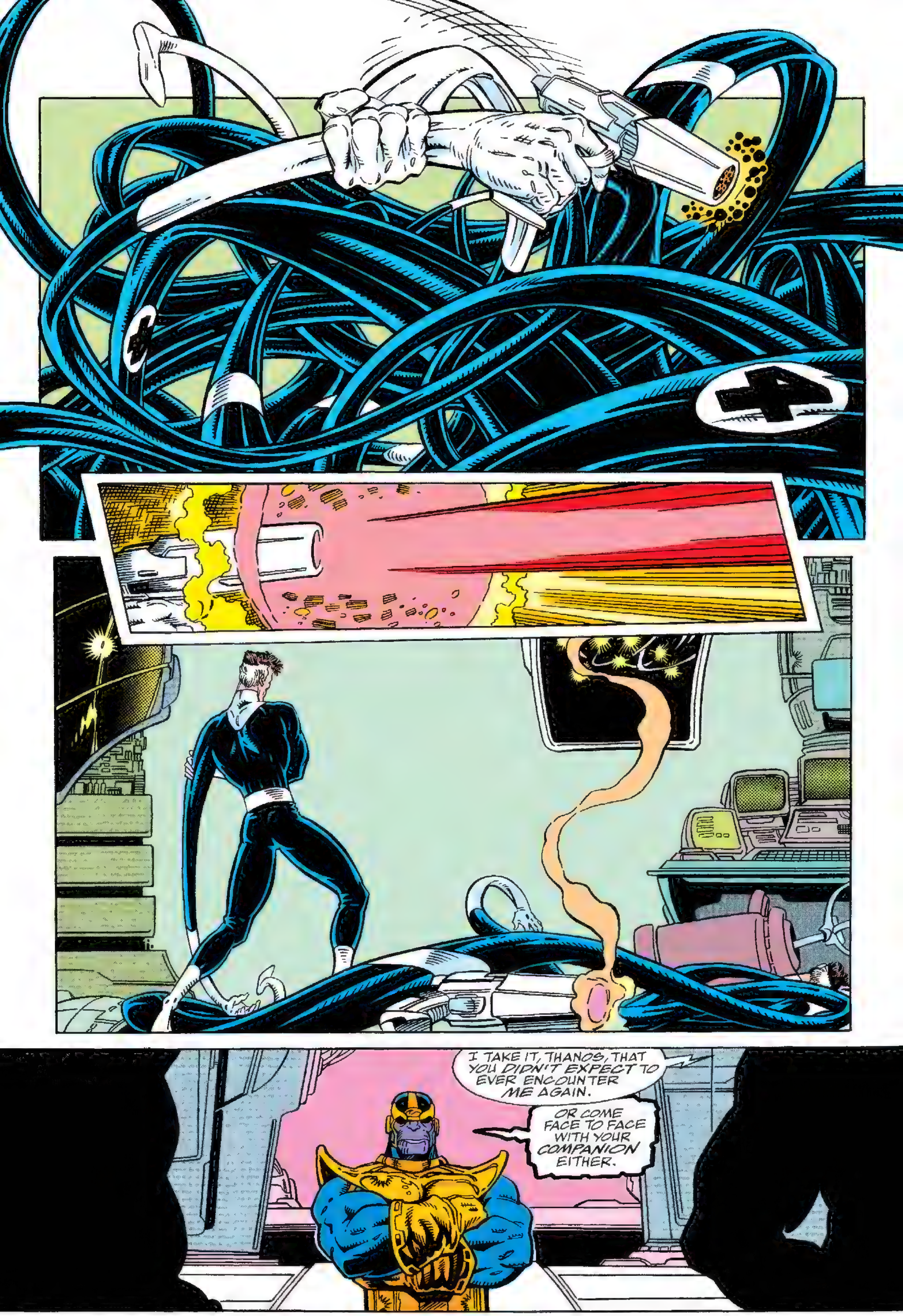

FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

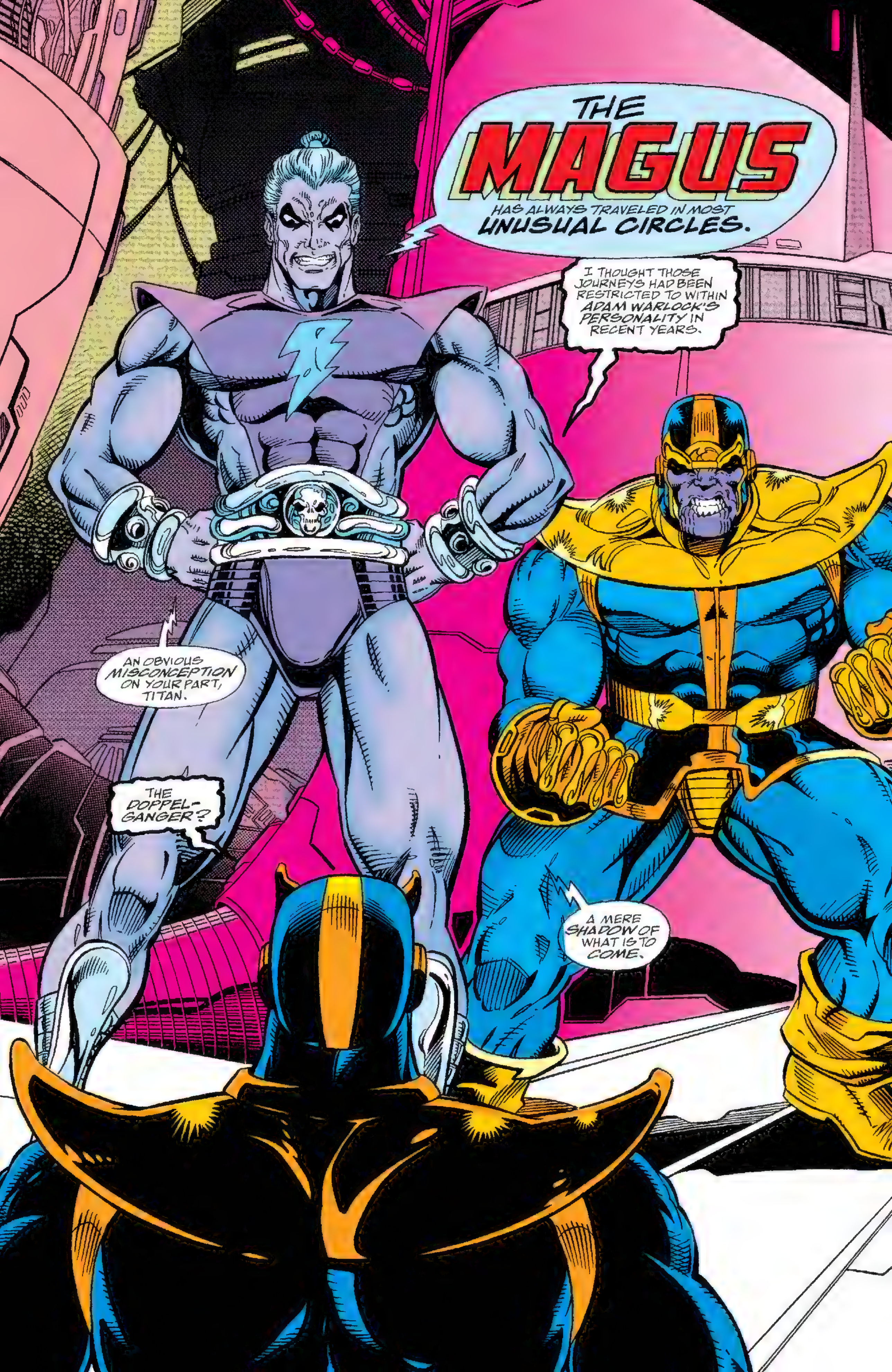

ONCE AGAIN, NIGHT FINDS REED RICHARDS BUSY IN HIS LAB, IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS, UNRAVELING SCIENTIFIC GORDIAN KNOTS.

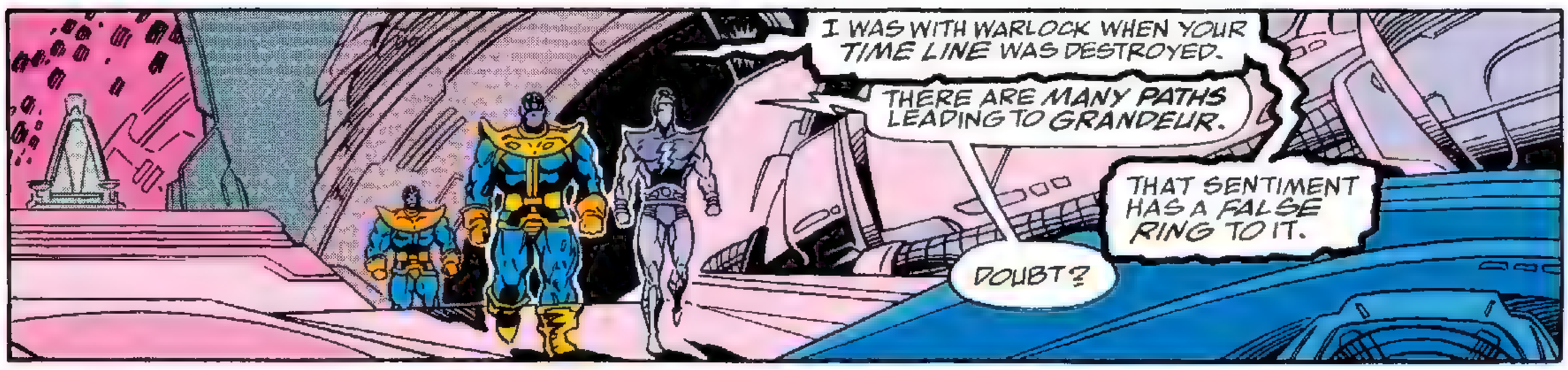


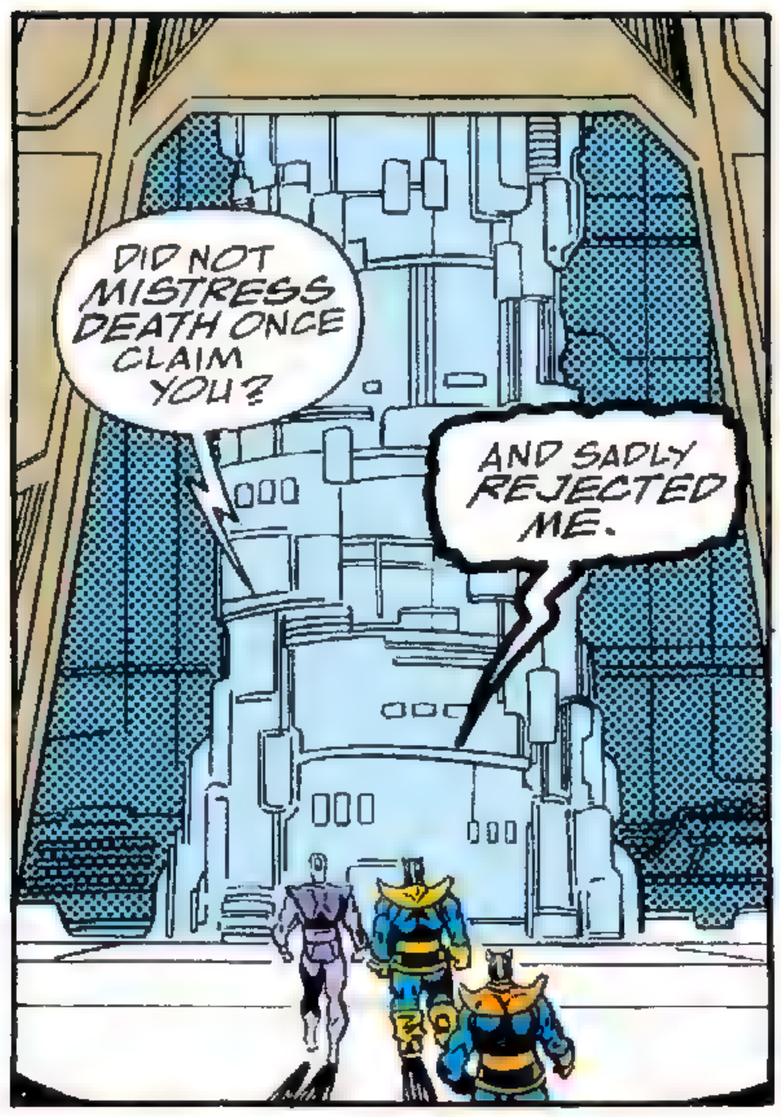


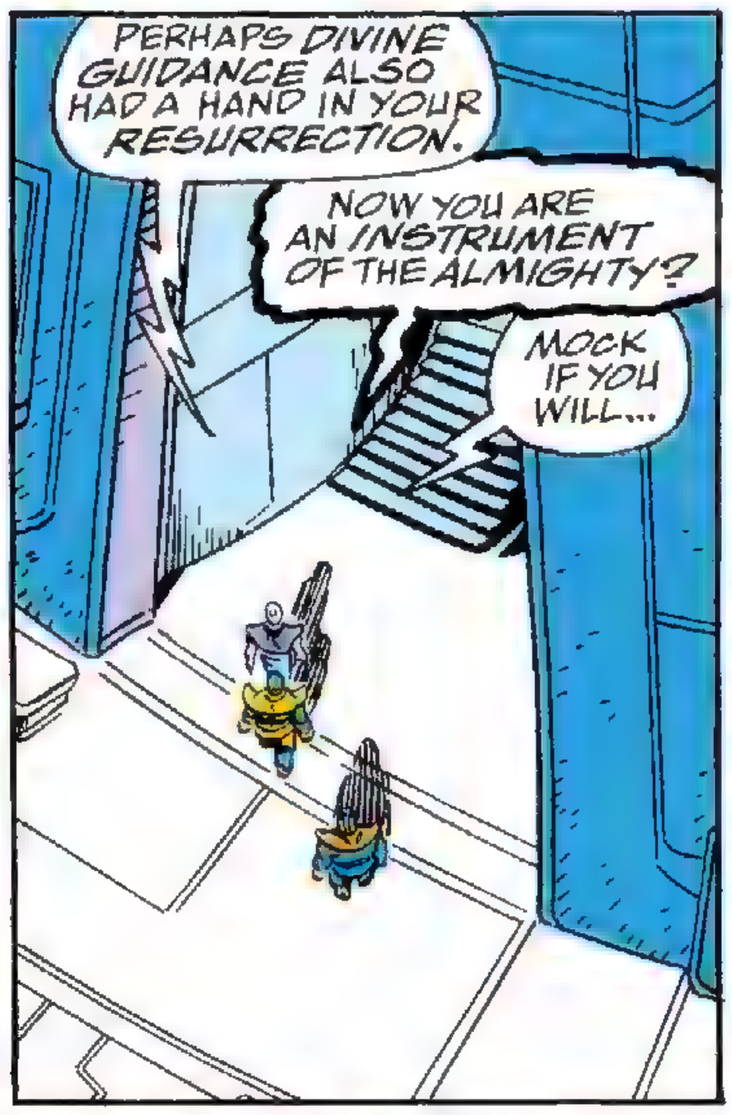



I TAKE IT, THANOS, THAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO EVER ENCOUNTER ME AGAIN.
OR COME FACE TO FACE WITH YOUR COMPANION EITHER.

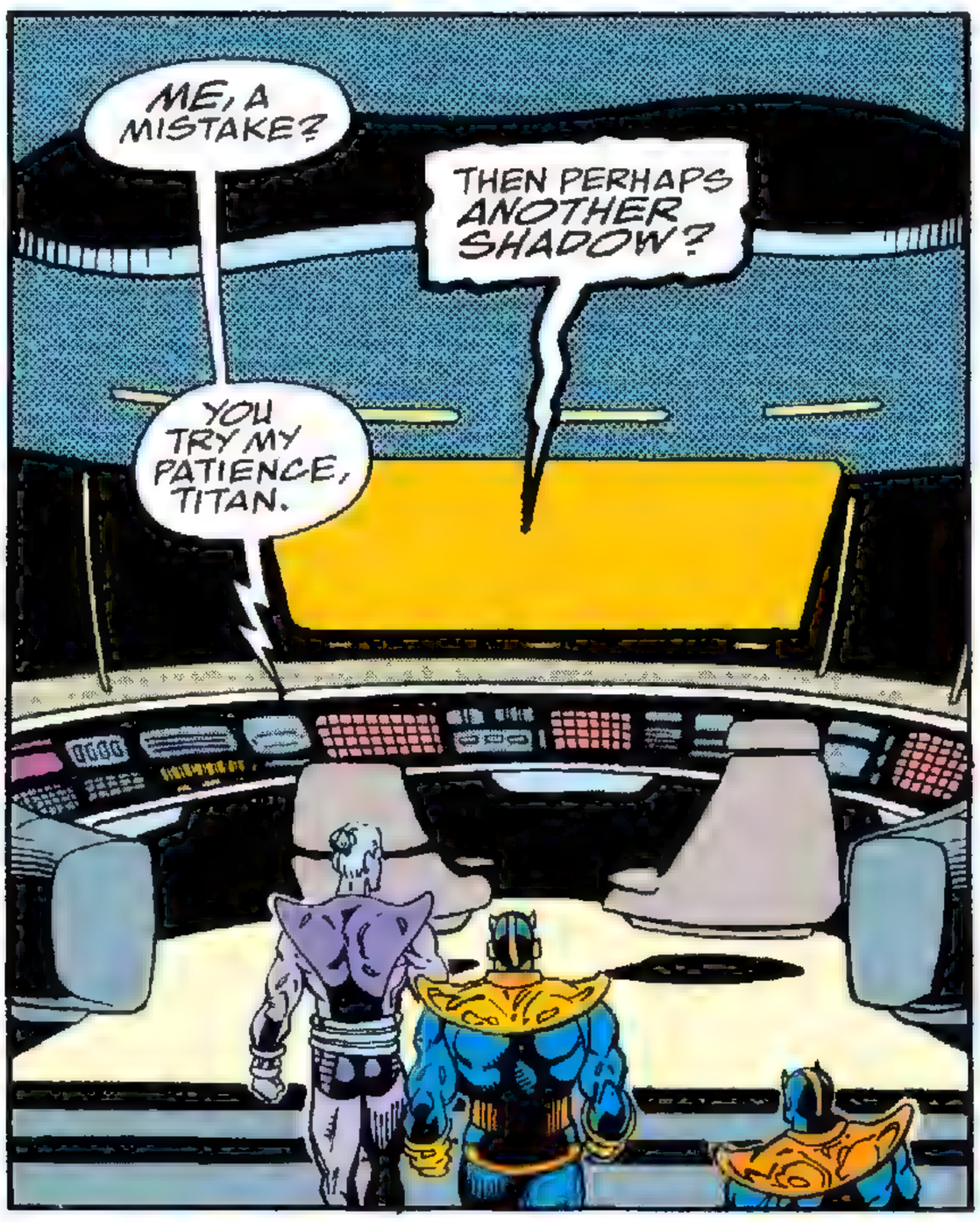

THE MAGUS HAS ALWAYS TRAVELED IN MOST UNUSUAL CIRCLES.
I THOUGHT THOSE JOURNEYS HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO WITHIN ADAM WARLOCK'S PERSONALITY IN RECENT YEARS.
AN OBVIOUS MISCONCEPTION ON YOUR PART, TITAN.
THE DOPPEL-GANGER?
A MERE SHADOW OF WHAT IS TO COME.


I WAS WITH WARLOCK WHEN YOUR TIME LINE WAS DESTROYED.
THERE ARE MANY PATHS LEADING TO GRANDEUR.
THAT SENTIMENT HAS A FALSE RING TO IT.
DOUBT?

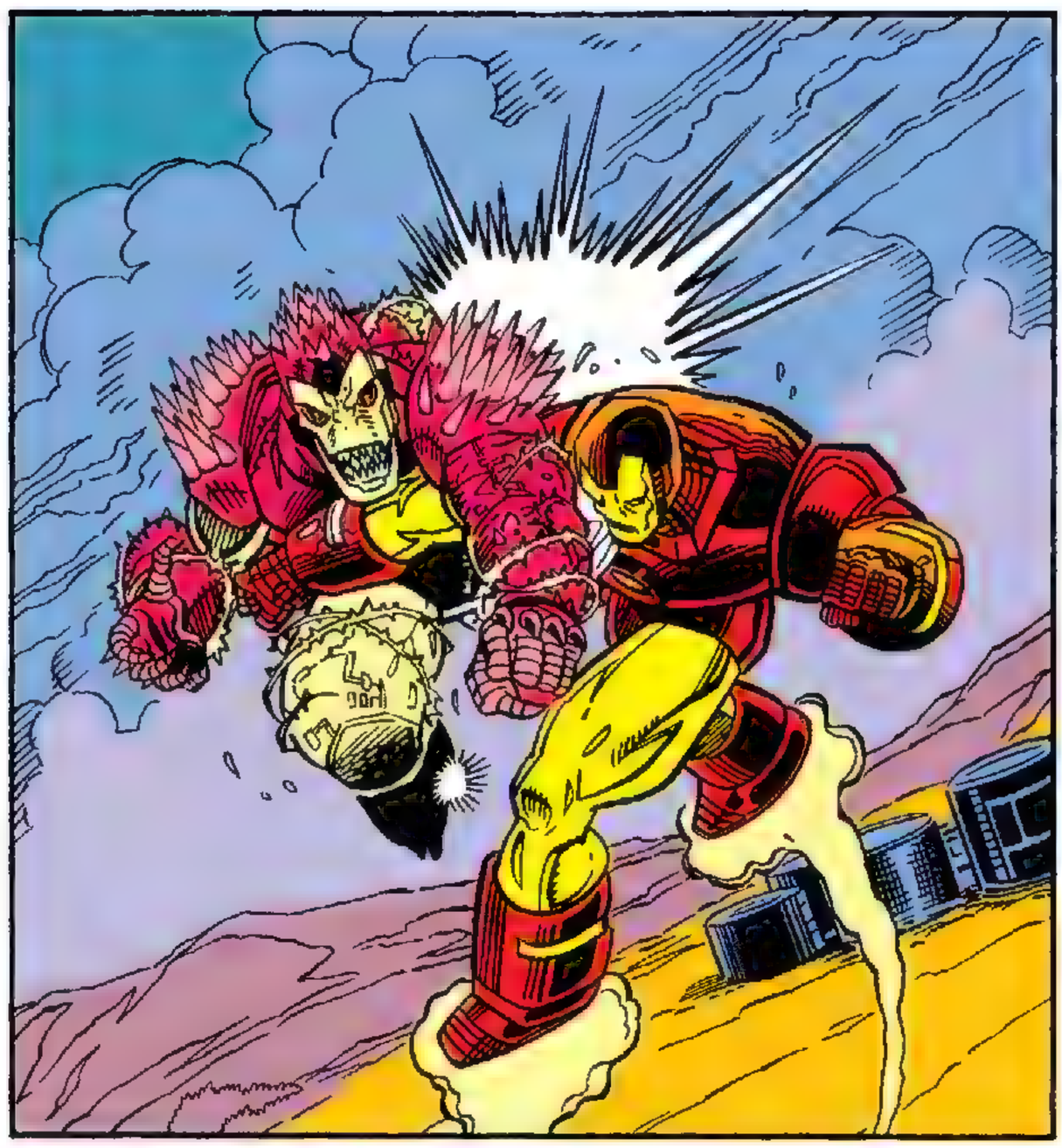

DID NOT MISTRESS DEATH ONCE CLAIM YOU?
AND SADLY REJECTED ME.

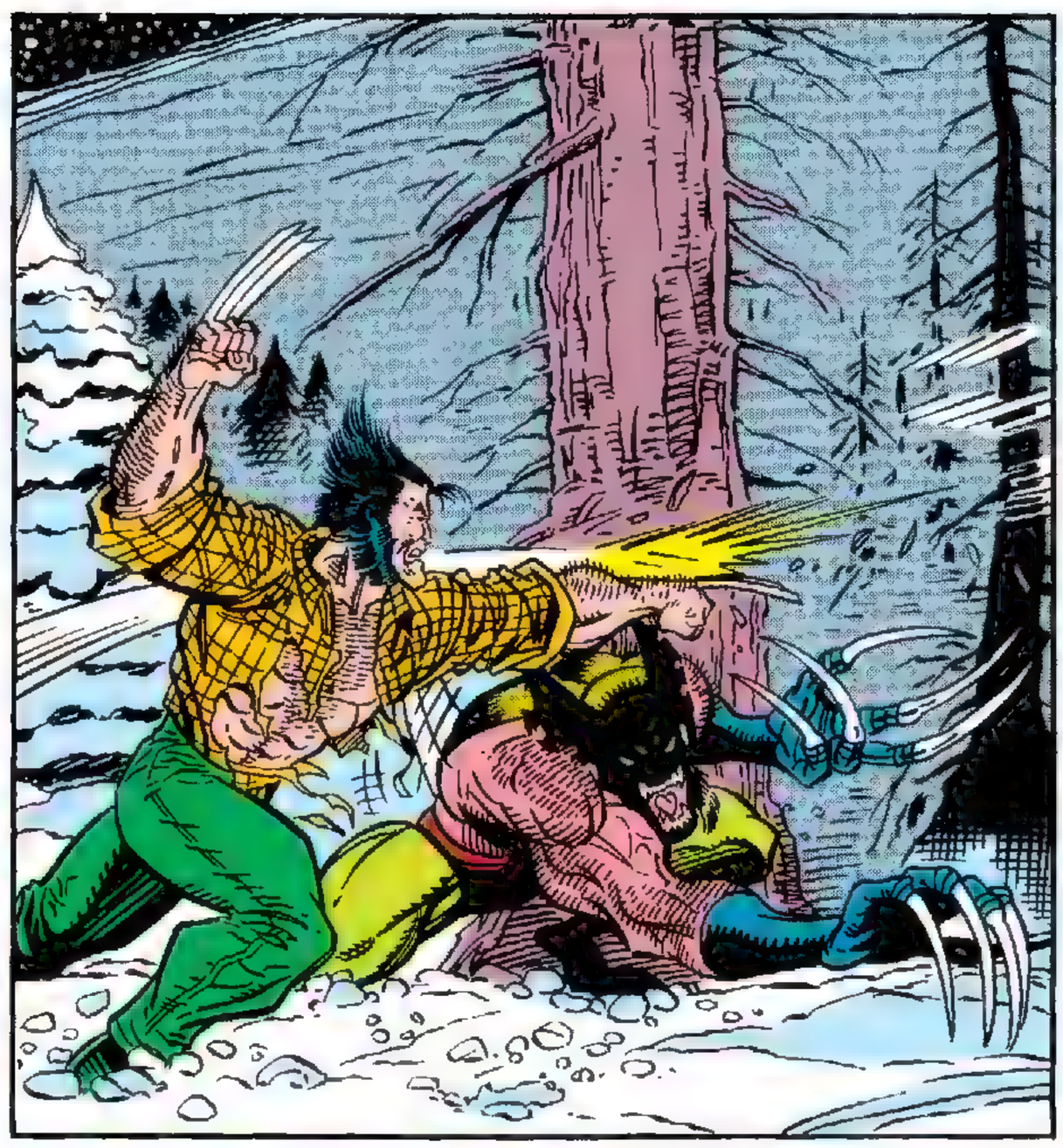

PERHAPS DIVINE GUIDANCE ALSO HAD A HAND IN YOUR RESURRECTION.
NOW YOU ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF THE ALMIGHTY?
MOCK IF YOU WILL...

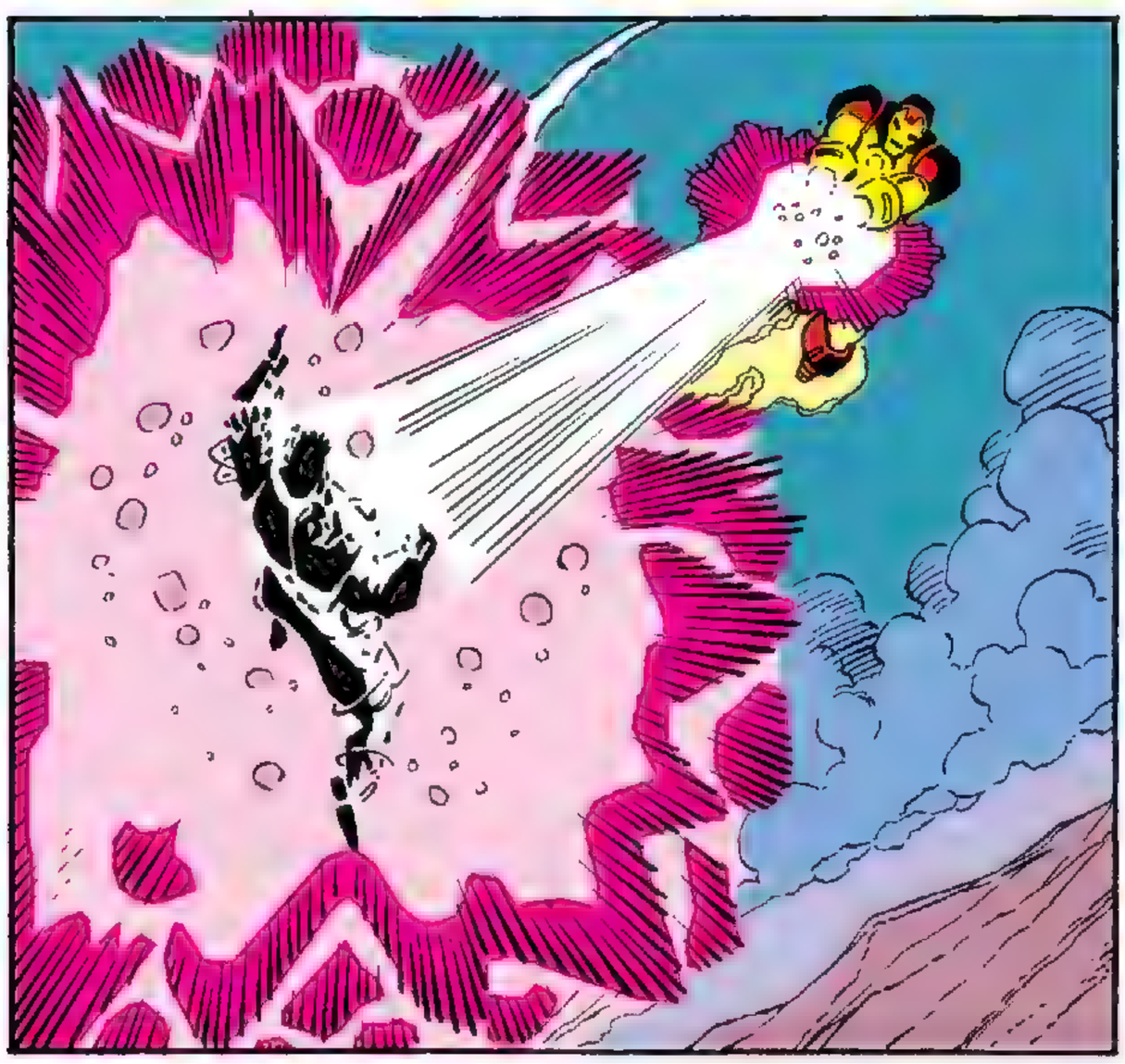
...BUT YOU WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO SEE THAT MY FLAME IS DESTINED TO BLAZE THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.
SOME MISTAKES ARE JUST TOO TEMPTING NOT TO REPEAT.

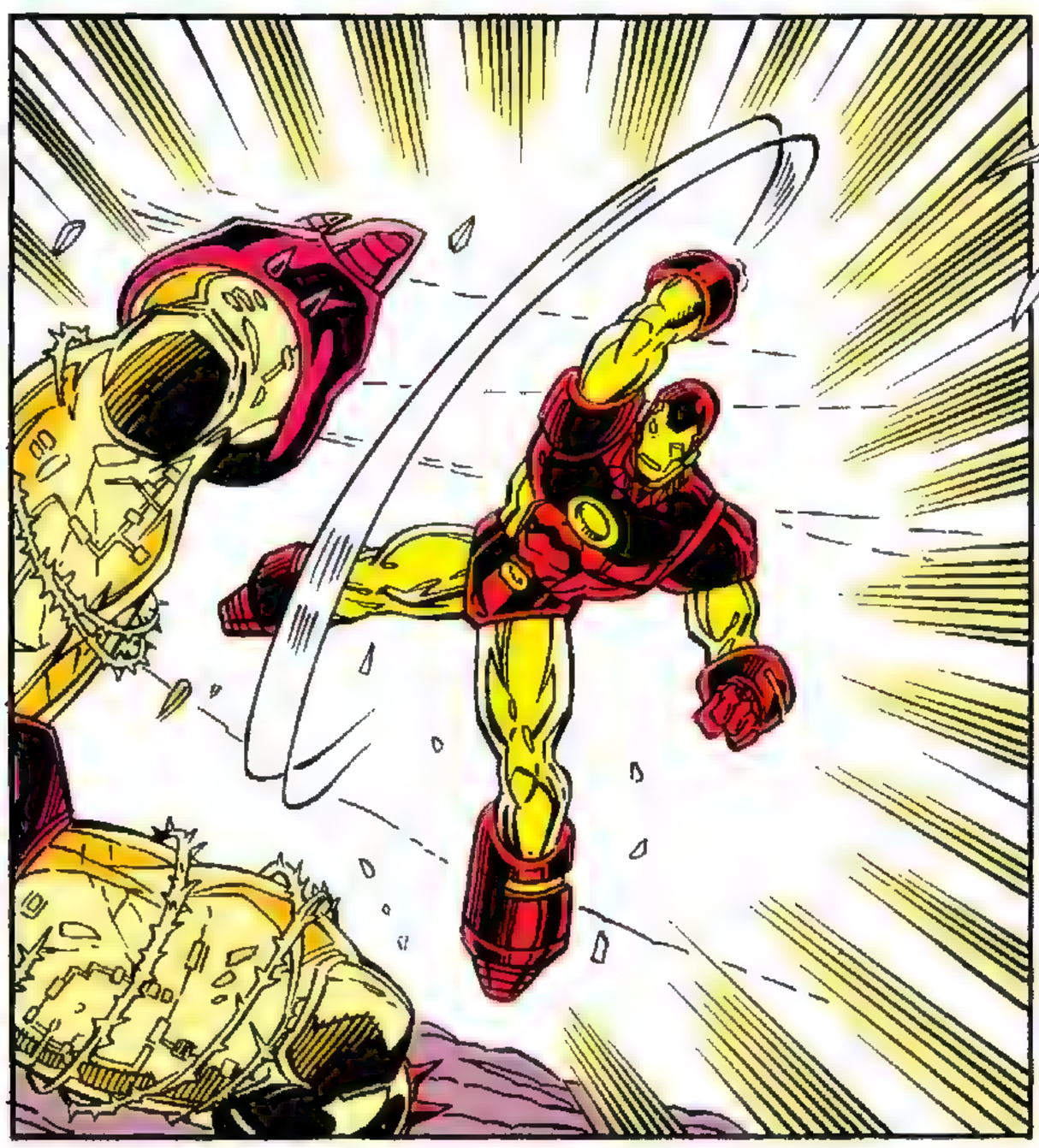

ME, A MISTAKE?
THEN PERHAPS ANOTHER SHADOW?
YOU TRY MY PATIENCE, TITAN.

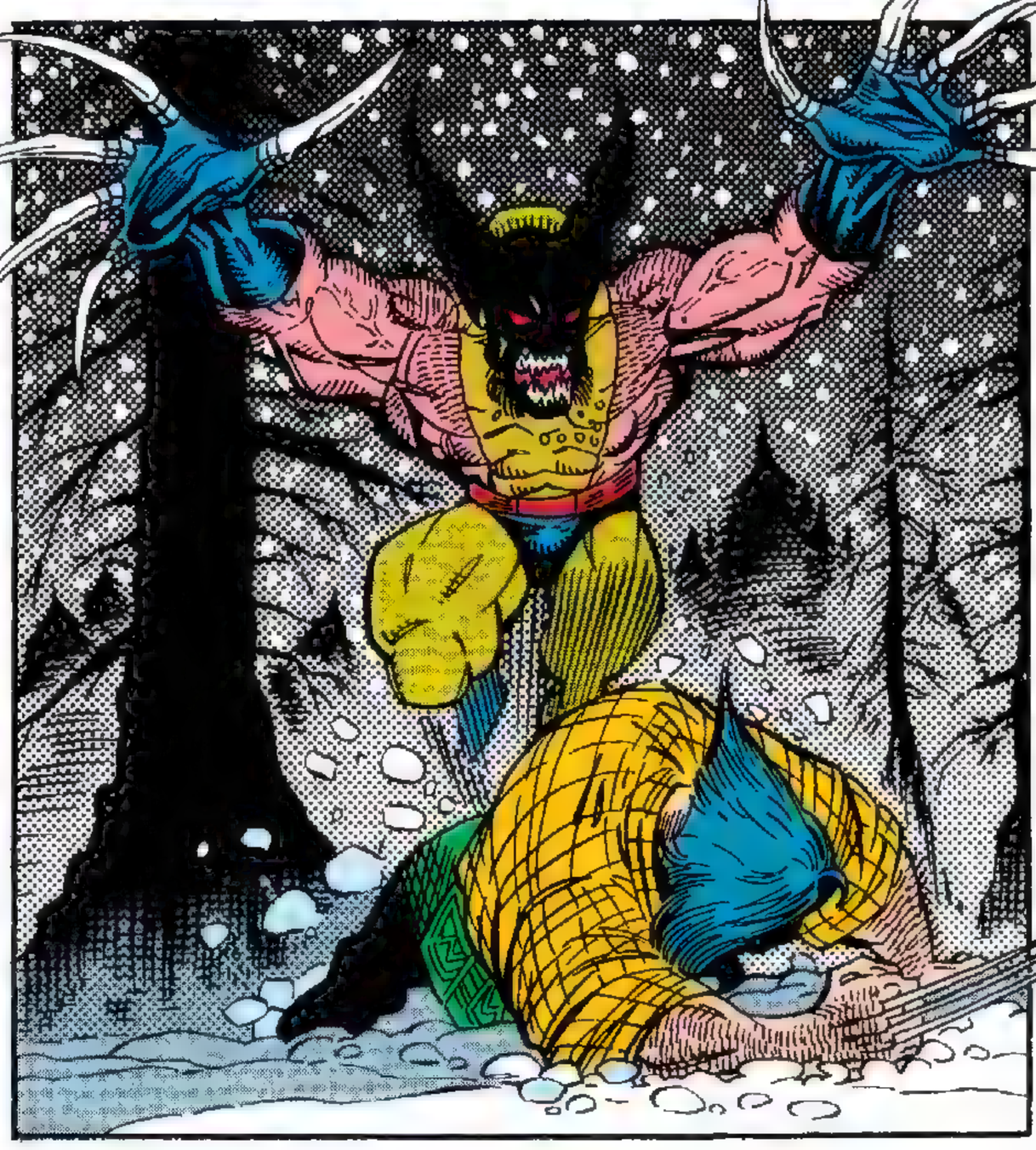
BE WARNED, FANNING THE EMBERS OF MY WRATH COULD PROVE A TERRIBLE ERROR.
REMEMBER, SOME MISTAKES ARE FATAL.

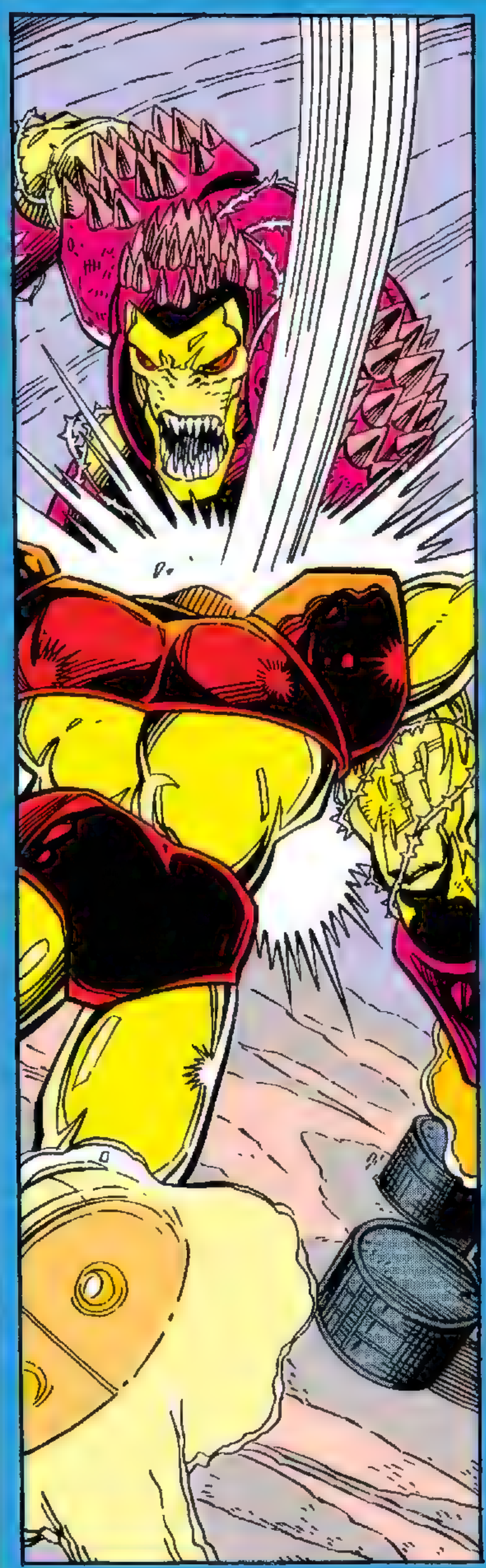


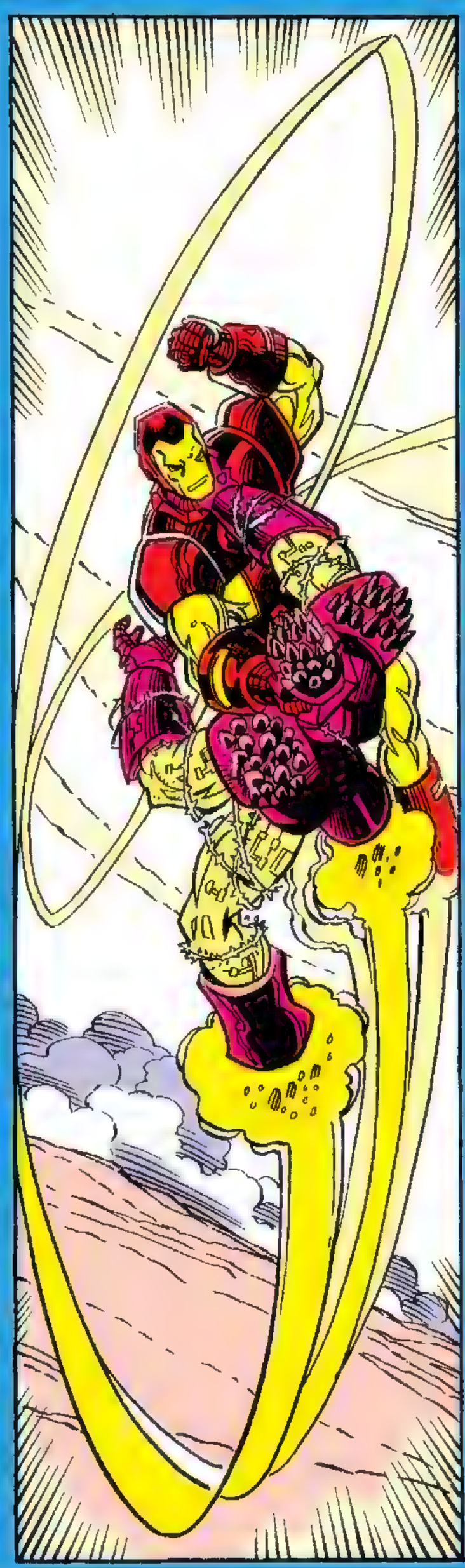


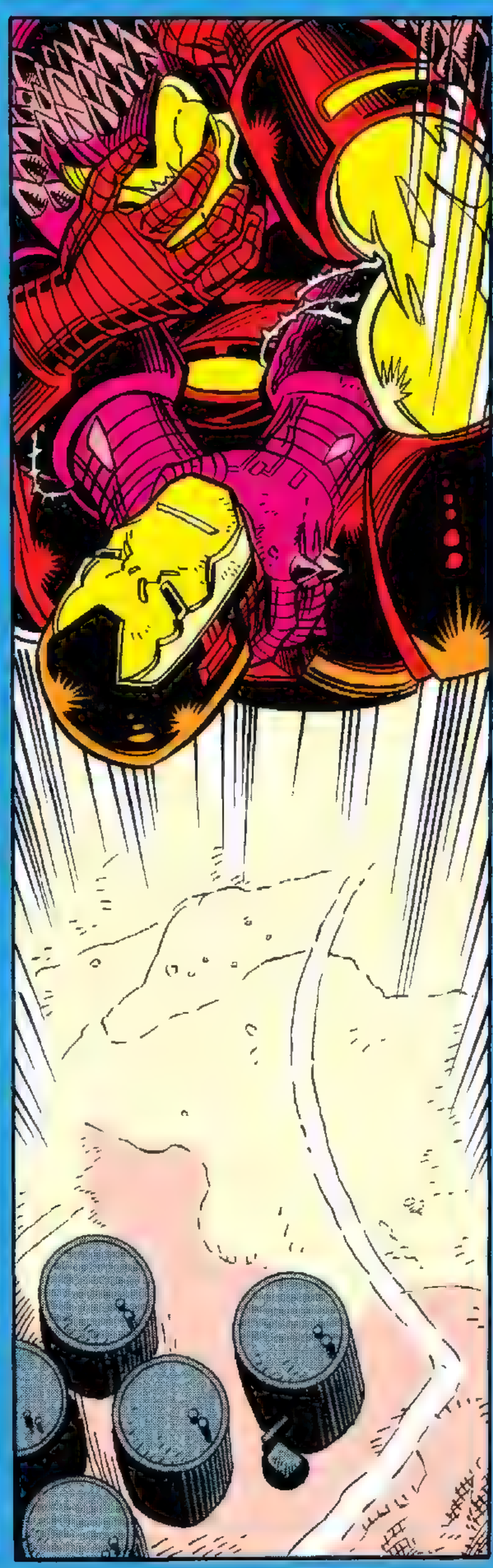


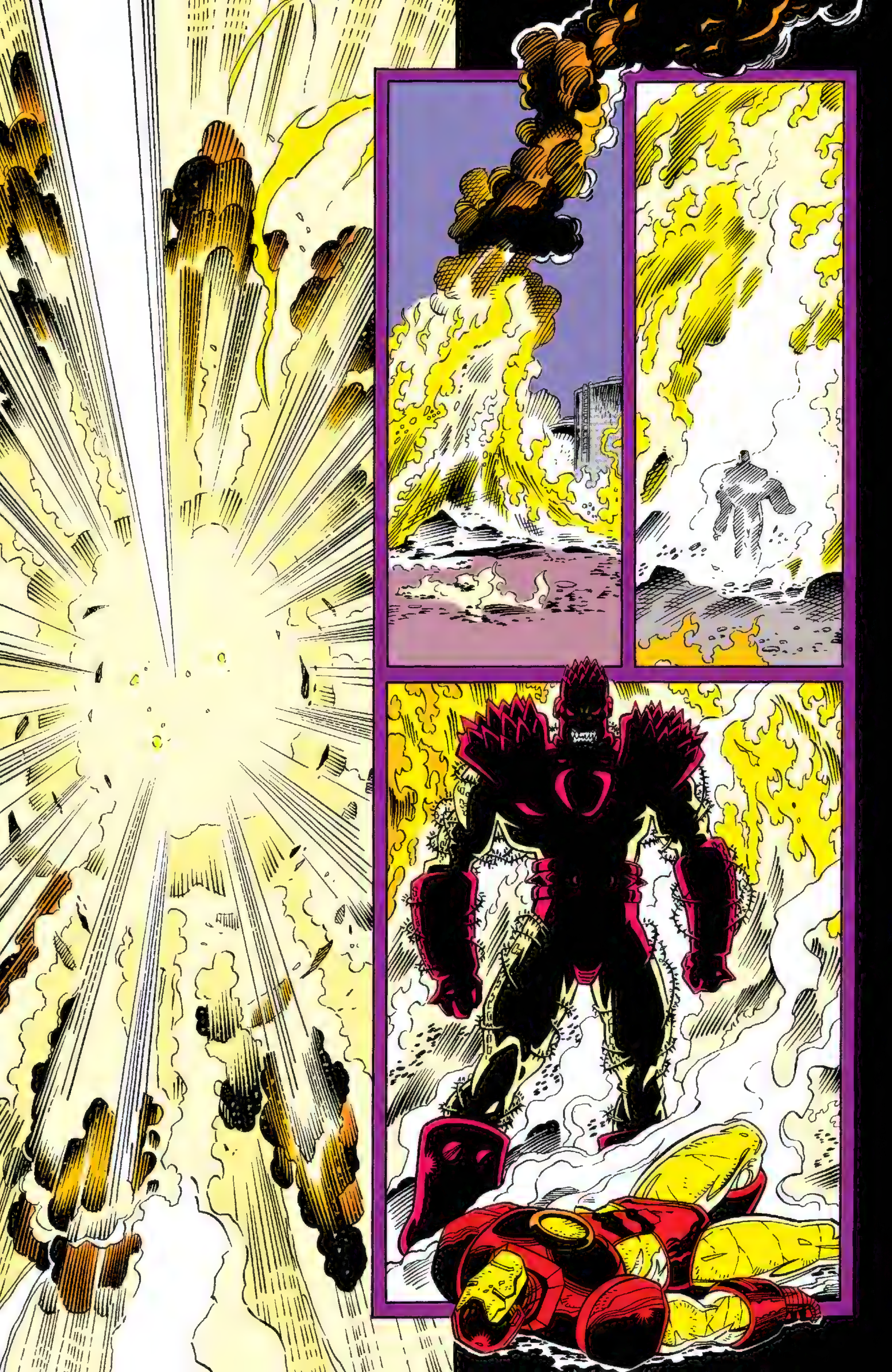


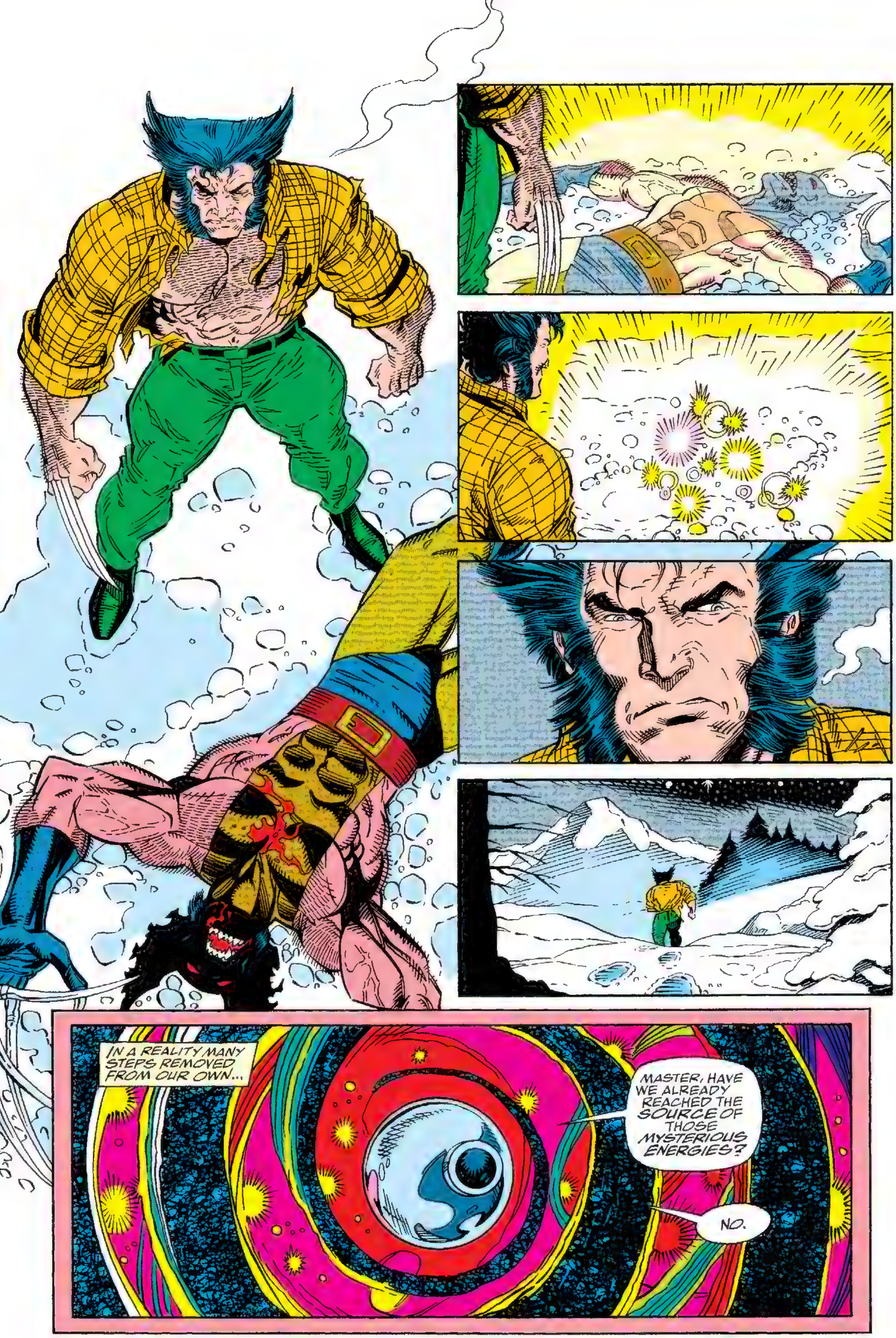











IN A REALITY MANY STEPS REMOVED FROM OUR OWN...
MASTER, HAVE WE ALREADY REACHED THE SOURCE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS ENERGIES?
NO.

THE TRAIL HAS SUDDENLY BEEN SCRAMBLED.

MY ON-BOARDS ARE STRUGGLING TO DECIPHER THE ALTERED SIGNAL, BUT...

IT IS AS IF MY FOE SENSED MY APPROACH.

CAN THAT BE?

WITH POWER LIKE THIS, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT I HUNT DOWN THE WIELDER OF THIS MIGHT.

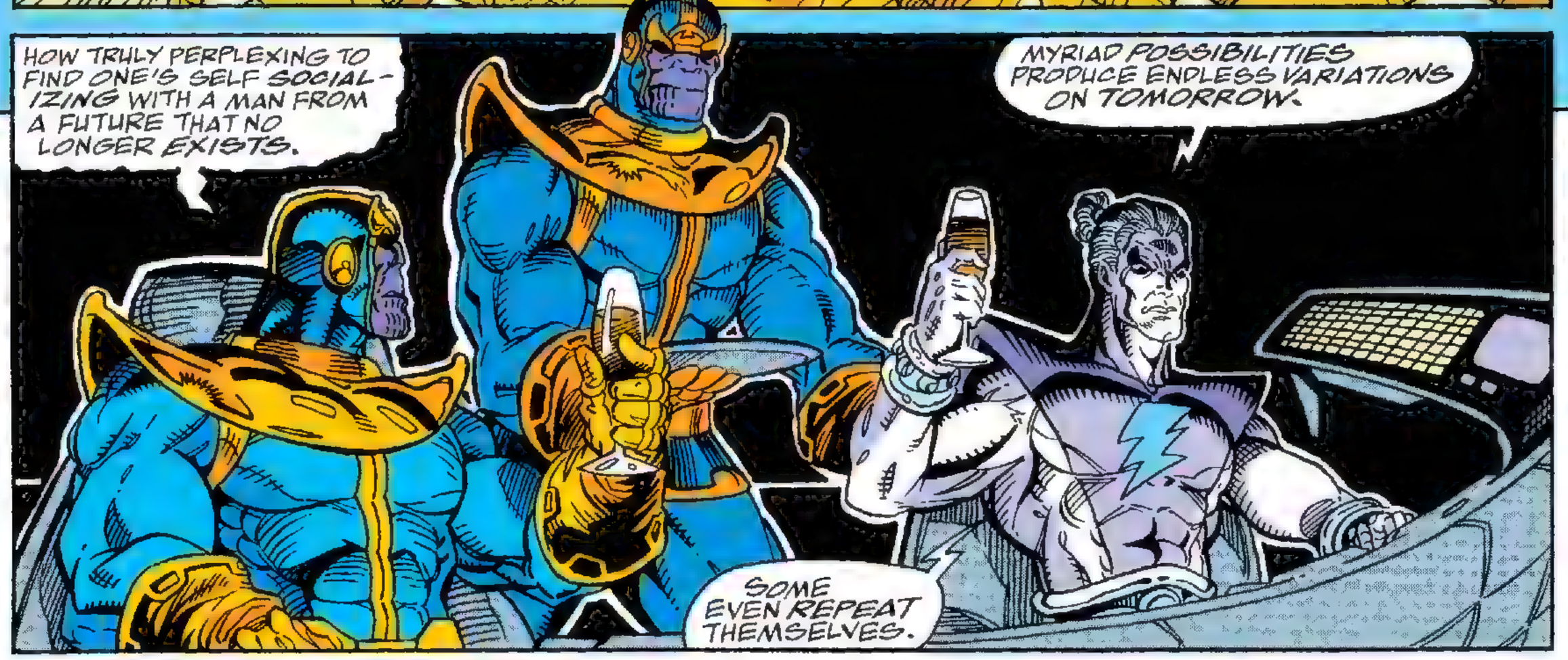
HE TINKERS WITH MY REALITY--AN AFFRONT I CANNOT ALLOW.

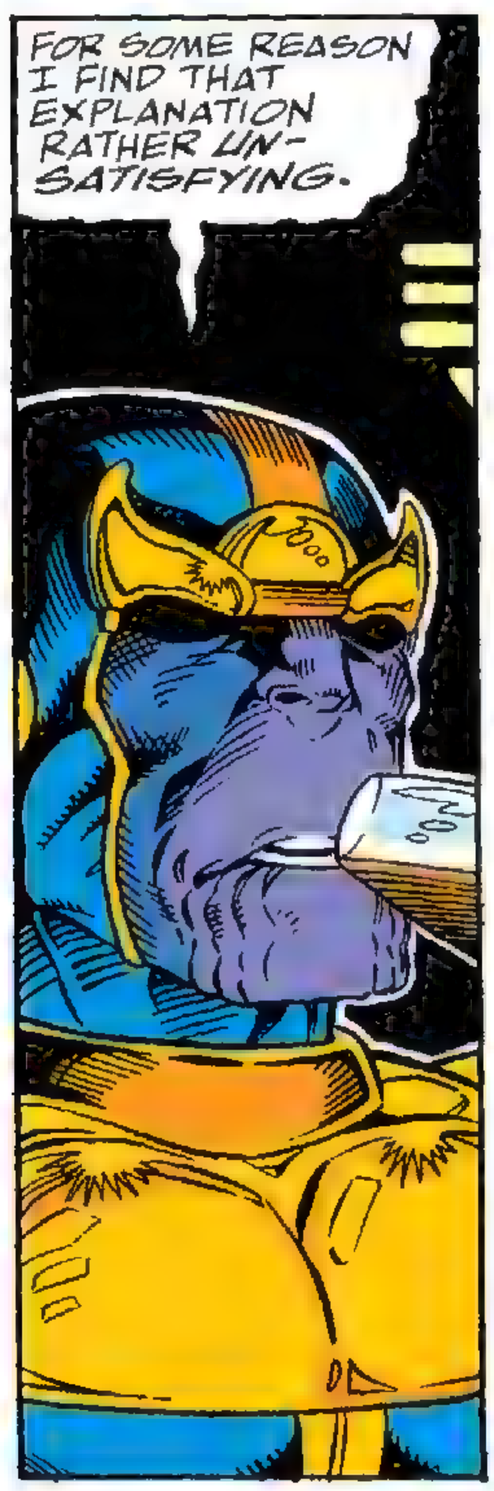
BUT HOW WILL YOU...?

BY INDUCTING INTO MY SERVICE ONE WHO CAN EASILY PENETRATE THE MYSTICAL BARRIERS SET BEFORE ME.

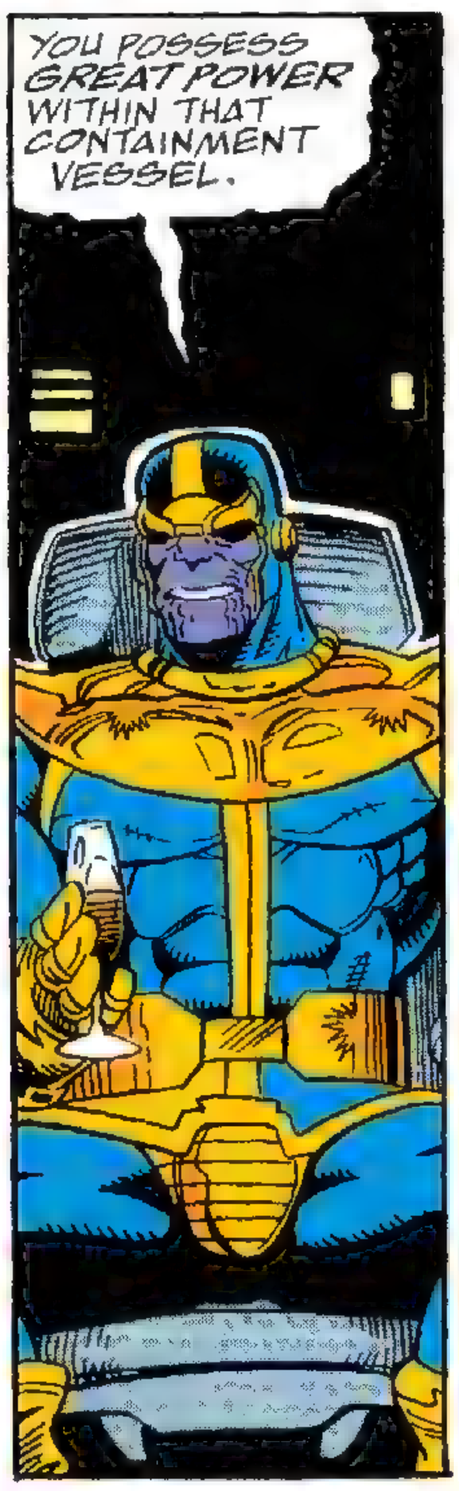
WHO?

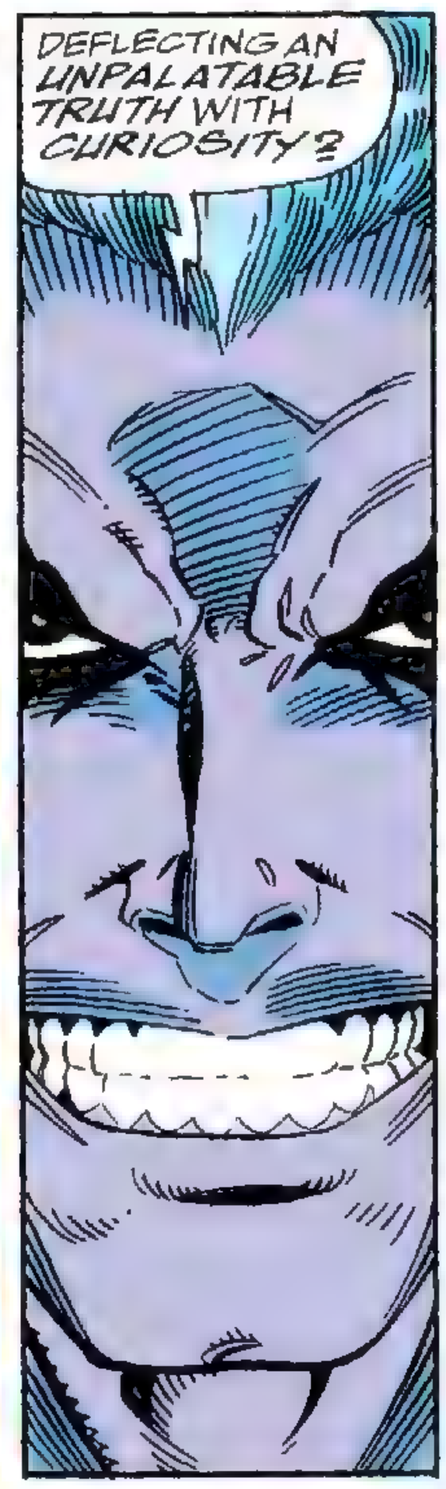
A MAGE.


HOW TRULY PERPLEXING TO FIND ONE'S SELF SOCIALIZING WITH A MAN FROM A FUTURE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.
MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES PRODUCE ENDLESS VARIATIONS ON TOMORROW.
SOME EVEN REPEAT THEMSELVES.


FOR SOME REASON I FIND THAT EXPLANATION RATHER UNSATISFYING.

YES, I HAVE HEARD THAT SATISFACTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH YOU.


YOU POSSESS GREAT POWER WITHIN THAT CONTAINMENT VESSEL.

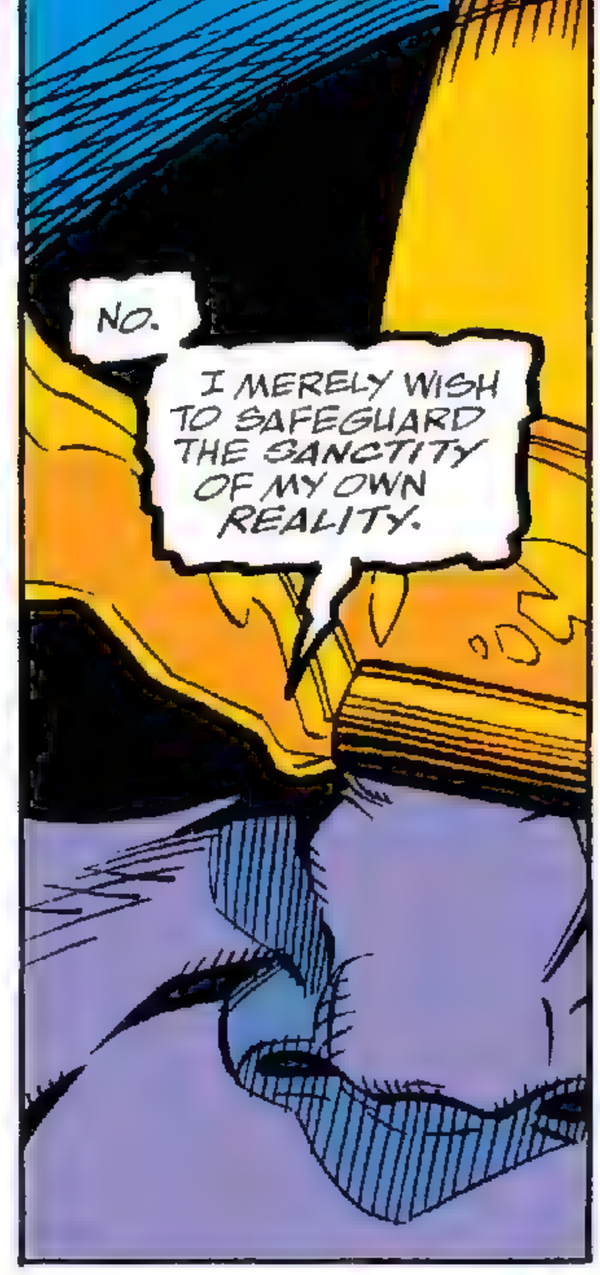

DEFLECTING AN UNPALATABLE TRUTH WITH CURIOSITY?

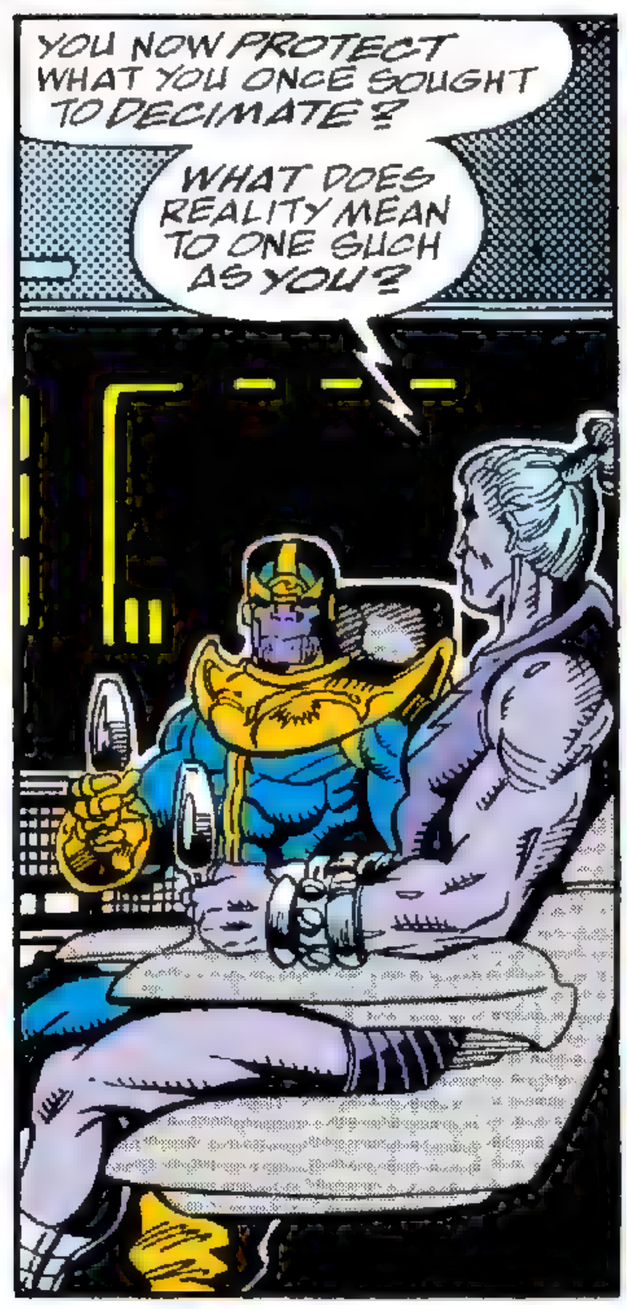
THERE'S SOMETHING DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE TEXTURE OF THOSE ENERGIES.

I IMAGINE WHAT I PLAN TO DO WITH YONDER POWER IS ALSO OF GREAT INTEREST TO YOU.

IT IS WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THIS GOD-FORSAKEN CORNER OF THE PLANE.

IN THE HOPES OF ELUDING MY VENGEFUL WRATH..?


NO.
I MERELY WISH TO SAFEGUARD THE SANCTITY OF MY OWN REALITY.

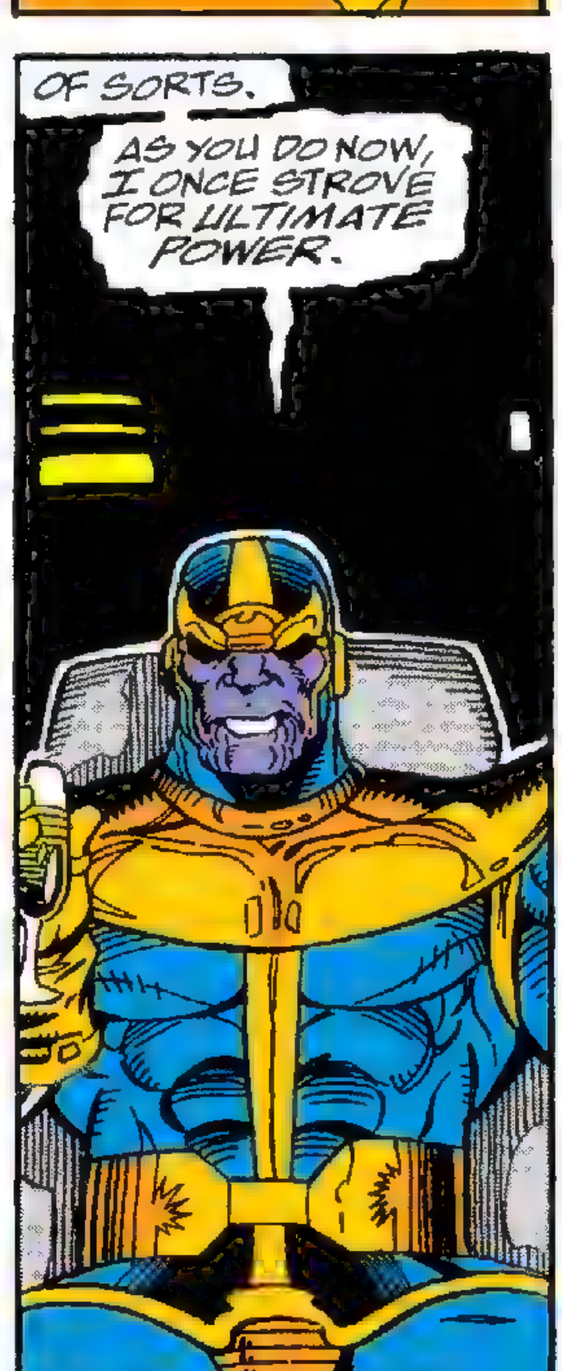

YOU NOW PROTECT WHAT YOU ONCE SOUGHT TO DECIMATE?
WHAT DOES REALITY MEAN TO ONE SUCH AS YOU?

MUCH IN RECENT MONTHS.

THIS DOES NOT SOUND LIKE THE THANOS I KNEW OF OLD.

HE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A CREATURE WITH DIFFERENT PRIORITIES.

A REVELATION?


OF SORTS.
AS YOU DO NOW, I ONCE STROVE FOR ULTIMATE POWER.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT MY GOAL?

YOU ALREADY POSSESS VAST ENERGIES, YET I STILL SEE HUNGER IN YOUR EYES.

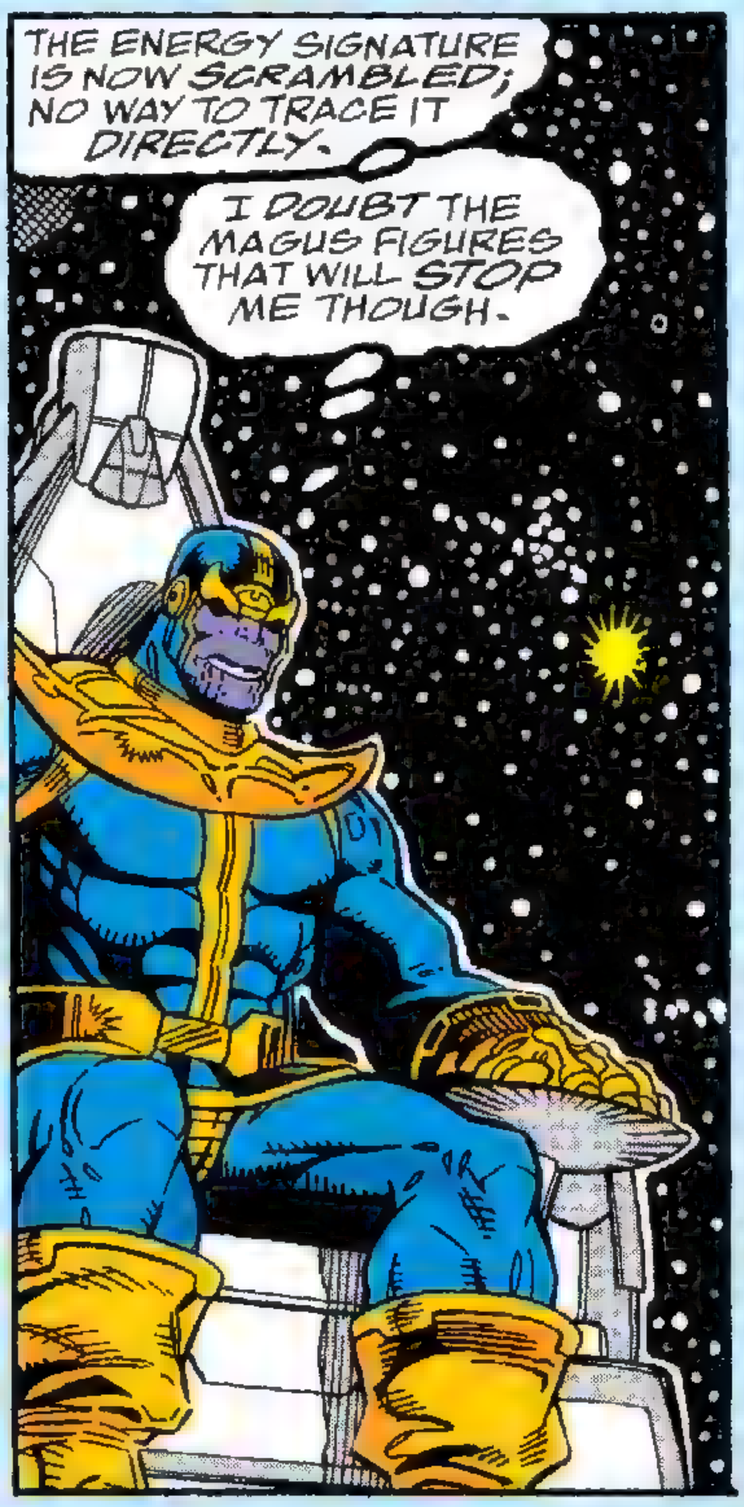
YOU SPEAK AS A KINDRED SOUL AND AN ANXIOUS COMPETITOR?
I'VE ALREADY HAD MY TASTE OF OMNIPOTENCE AND FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP DOWN.
ULTIMATE MIGHT WAS NOT MEANT FOR BEINGS SUCH AS OURSELVES.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I HAVE GROSSLY OVER-ESTIMATED YOU, TITAN.
YOU AND I ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT OF THE SAME BREED.
AND I APPARENTLY WASTE MY TIME TRYING TO REASON WITH YOU.
IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

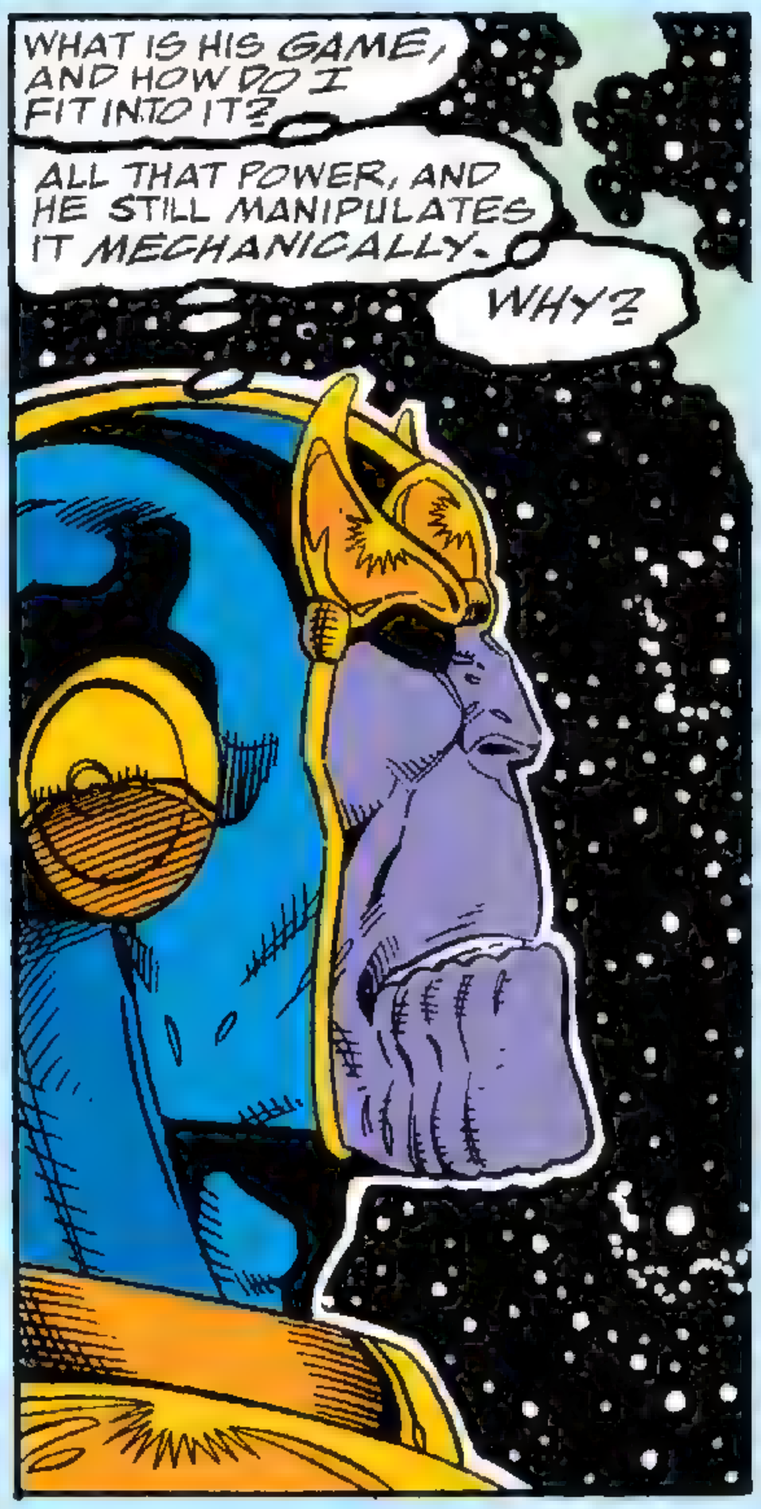
YOU WILL LET ADAM KNOW I'M COMING, WON'T YOU?

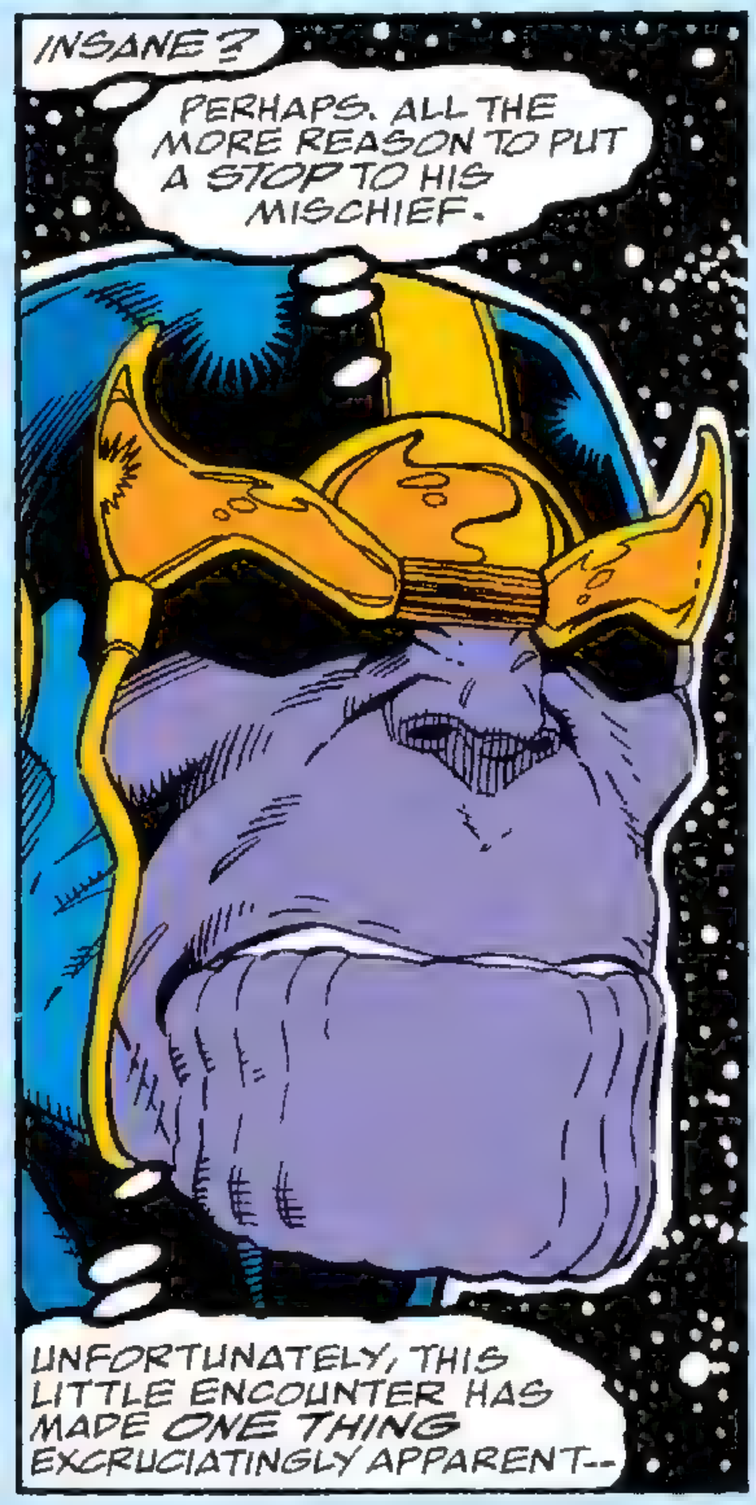
HAHAHAHAHAHA

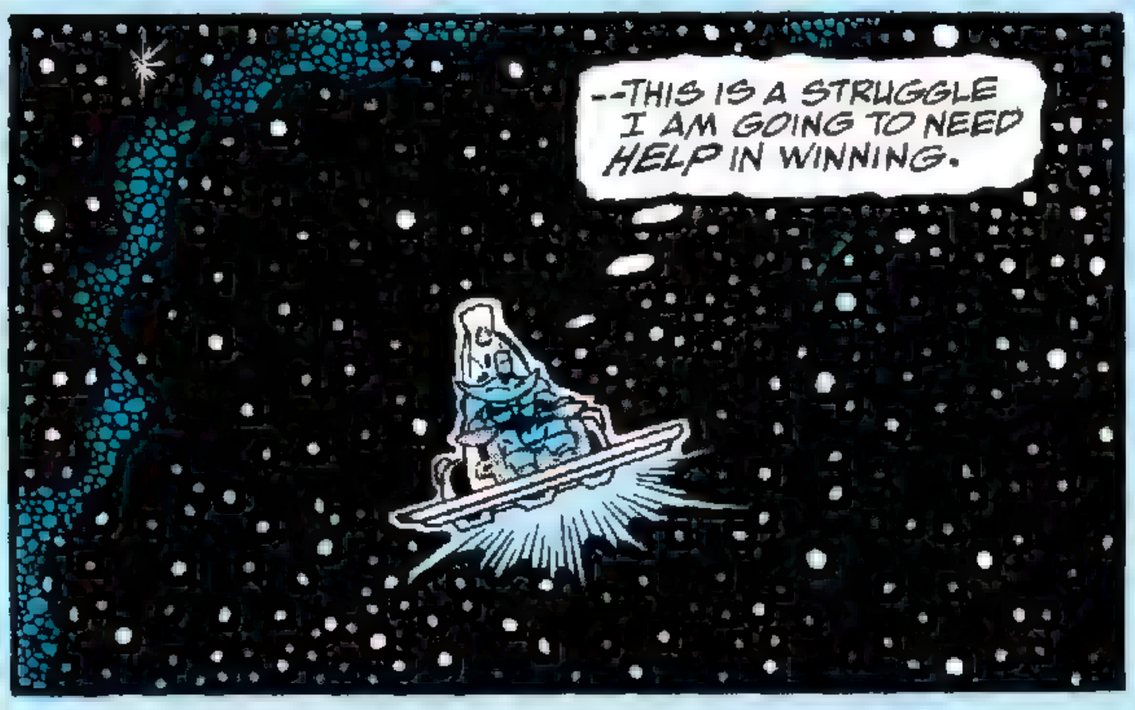
THE TITAN CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE THE SKILL WITH WHICH HE WAS HANDLED.

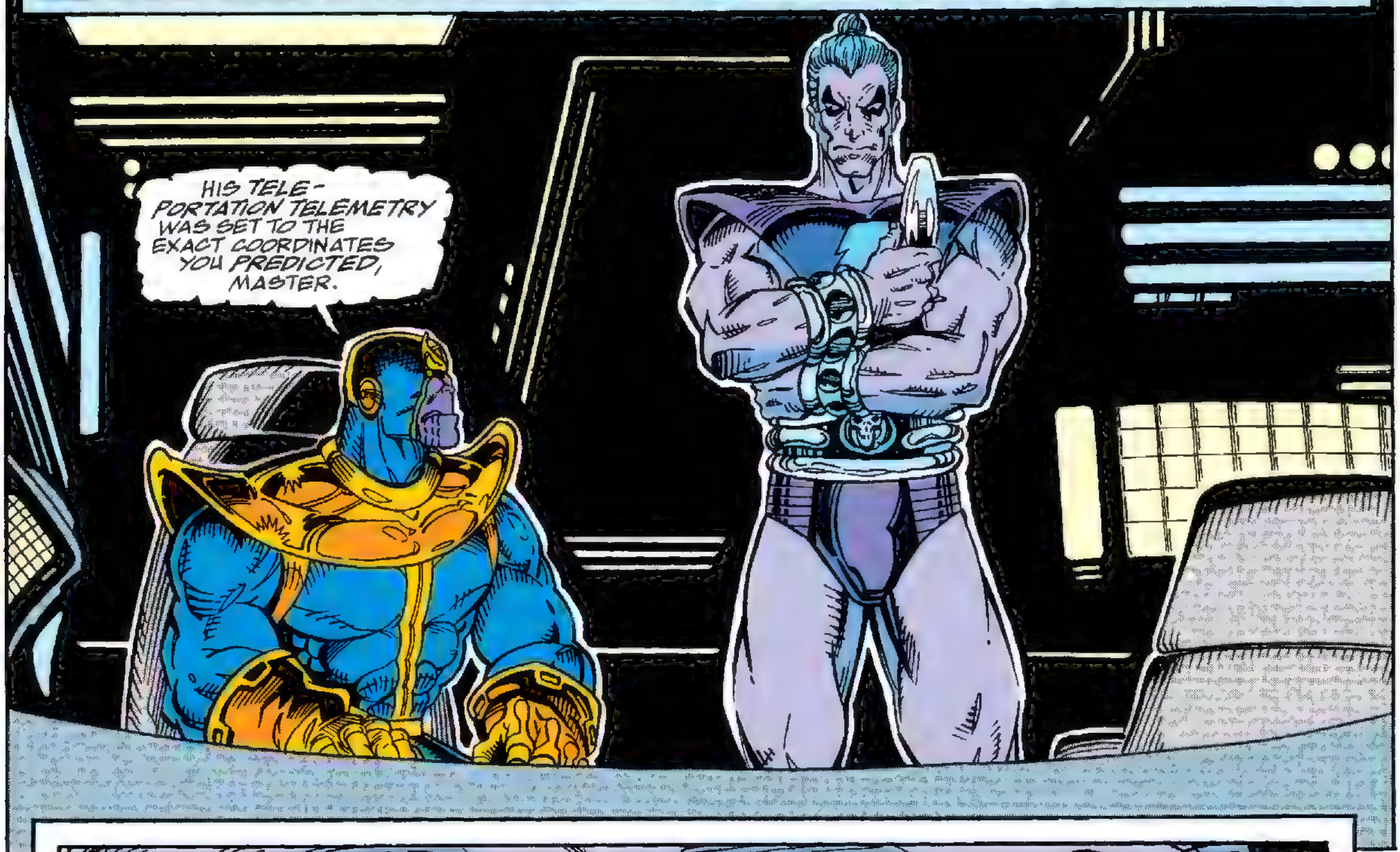
ON-BOARDS WIPED CLEAN AND HE DEPOSITED UN-CEREMONIOUSLY BACK INTO HIS OWN DIMENSION.

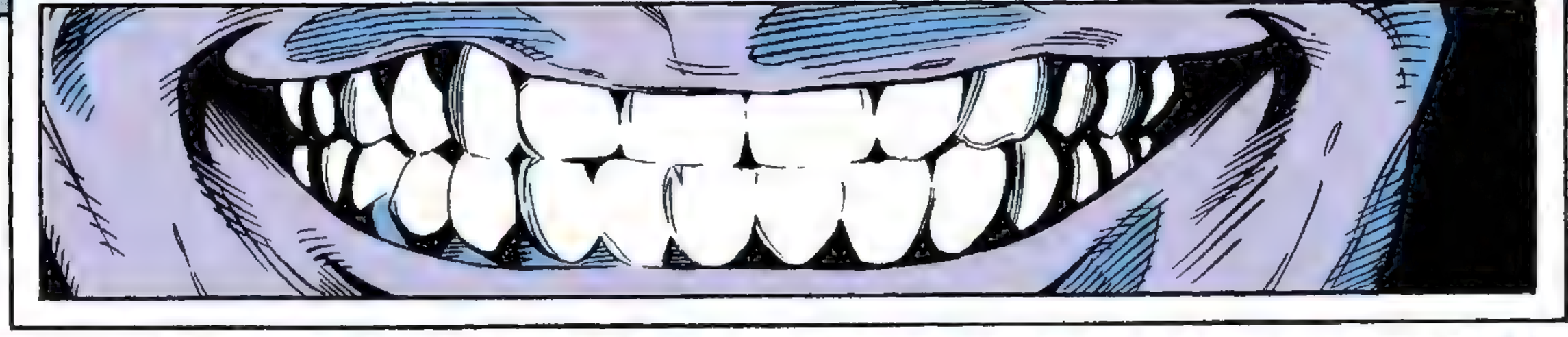


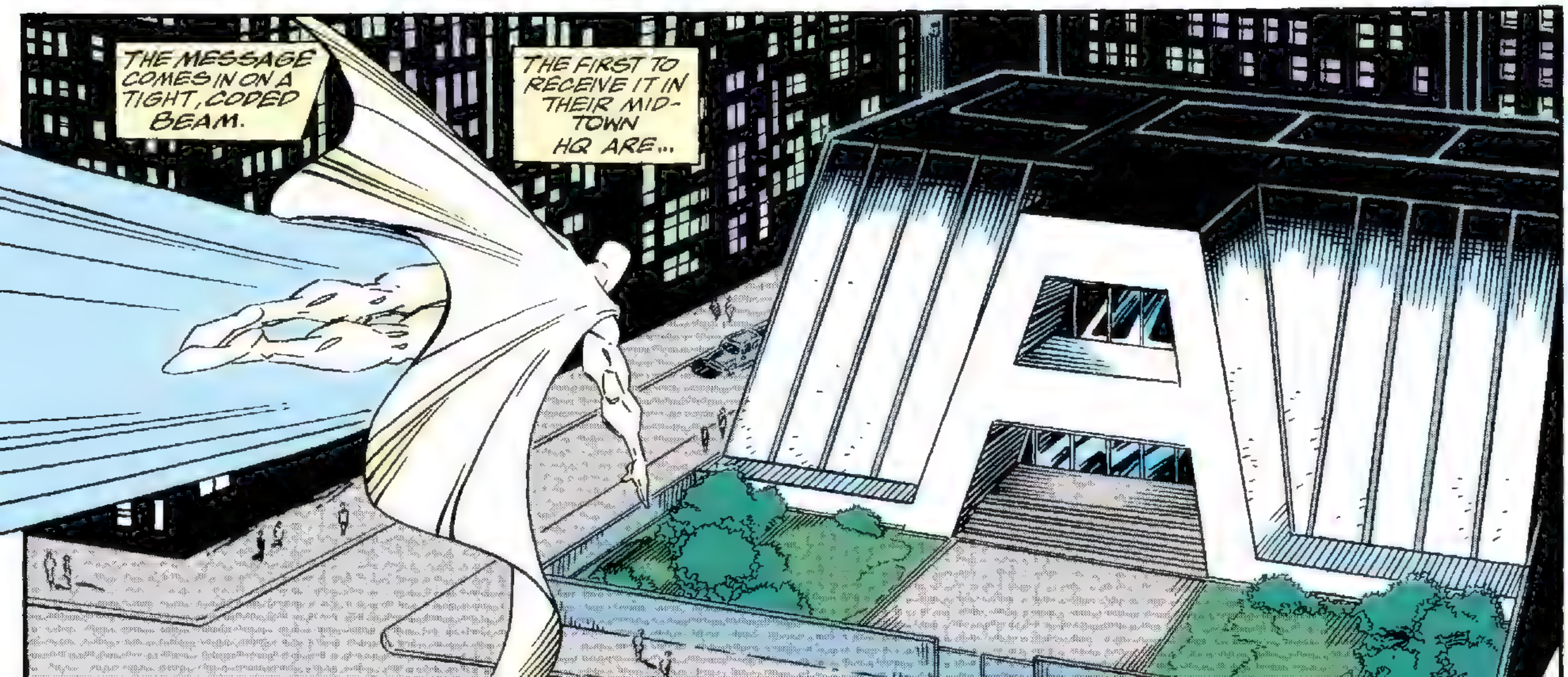


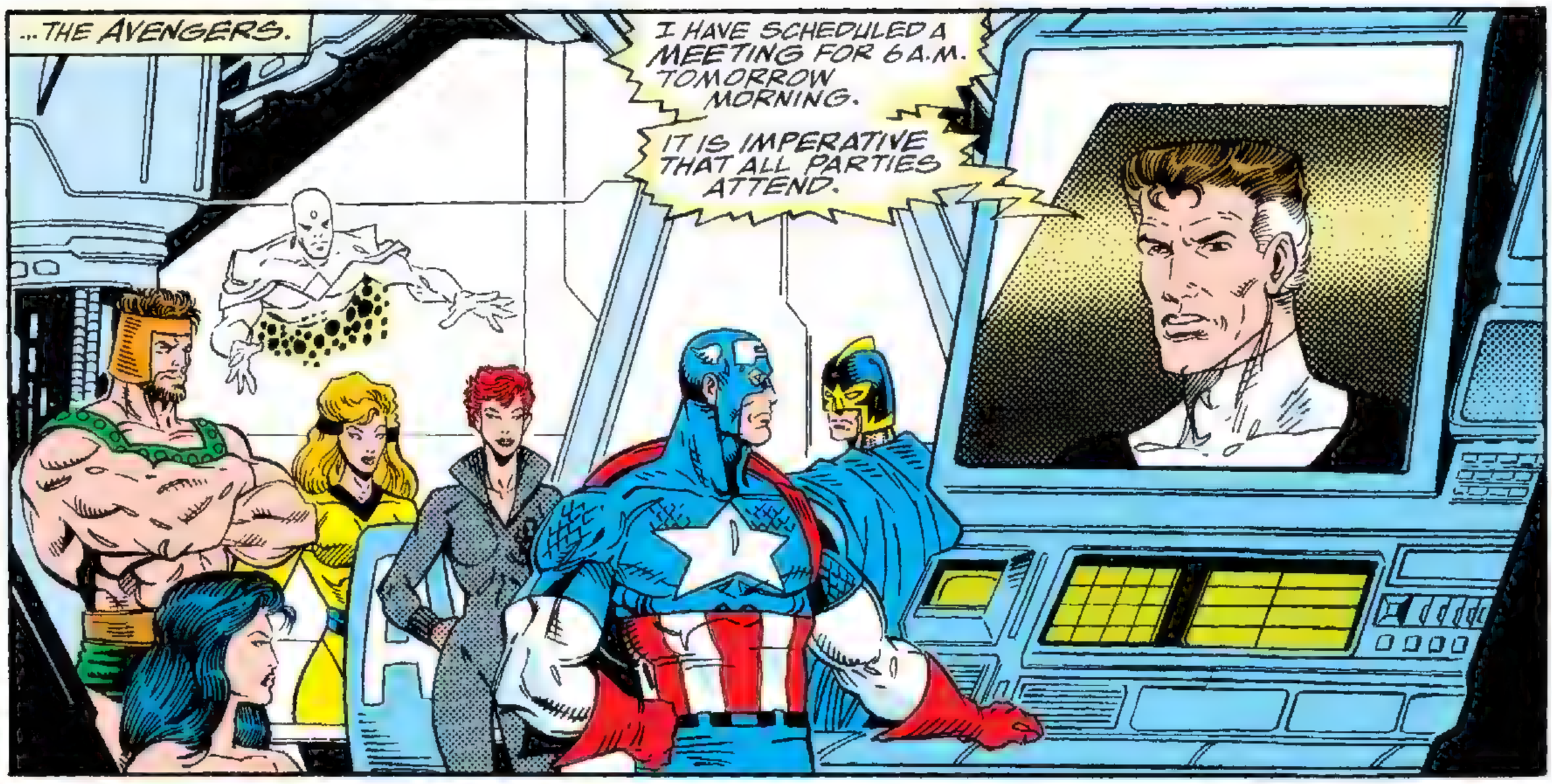


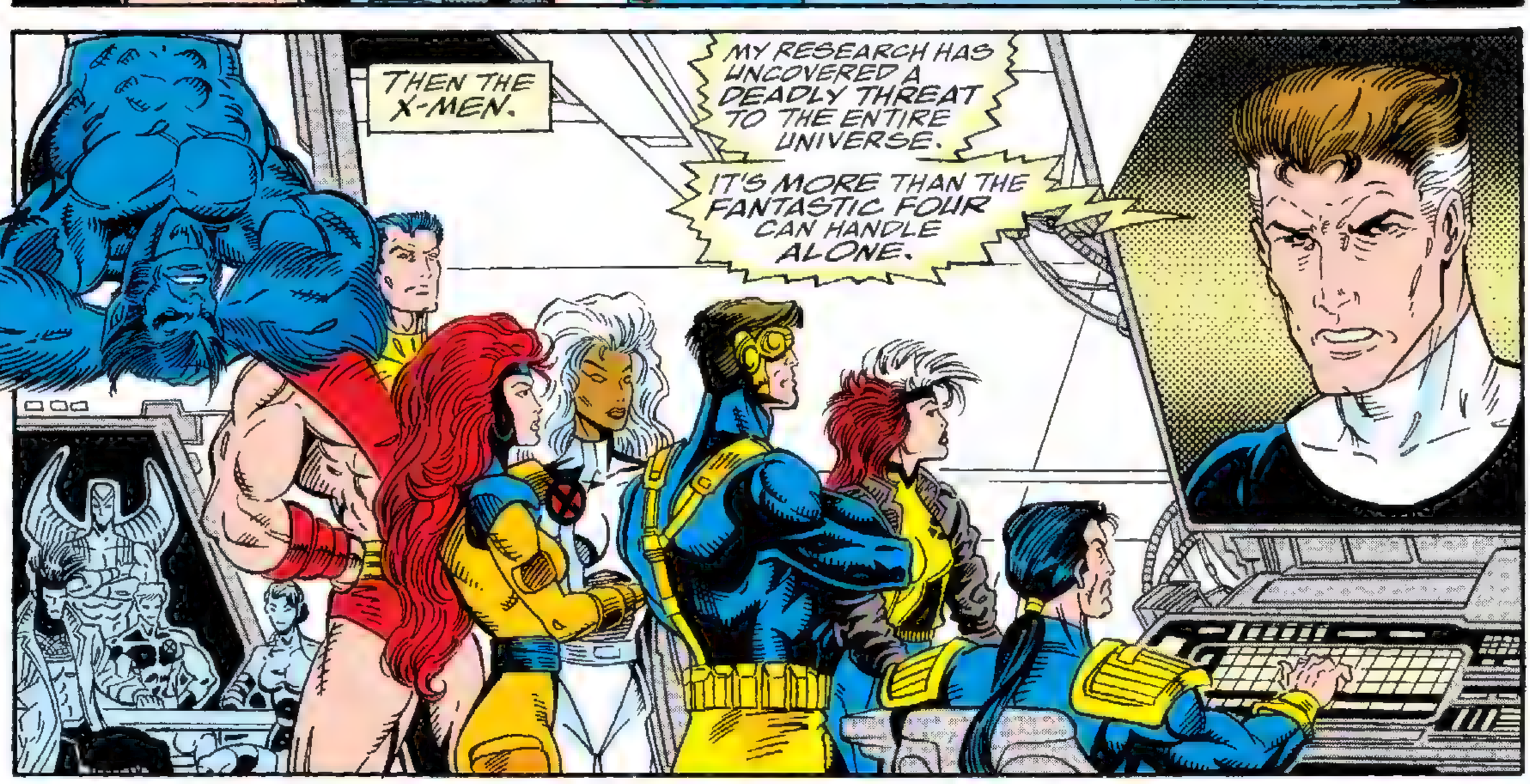

--THIS IS A STRUGGLE I AM GOING TO NEED HELP IN WINNING.

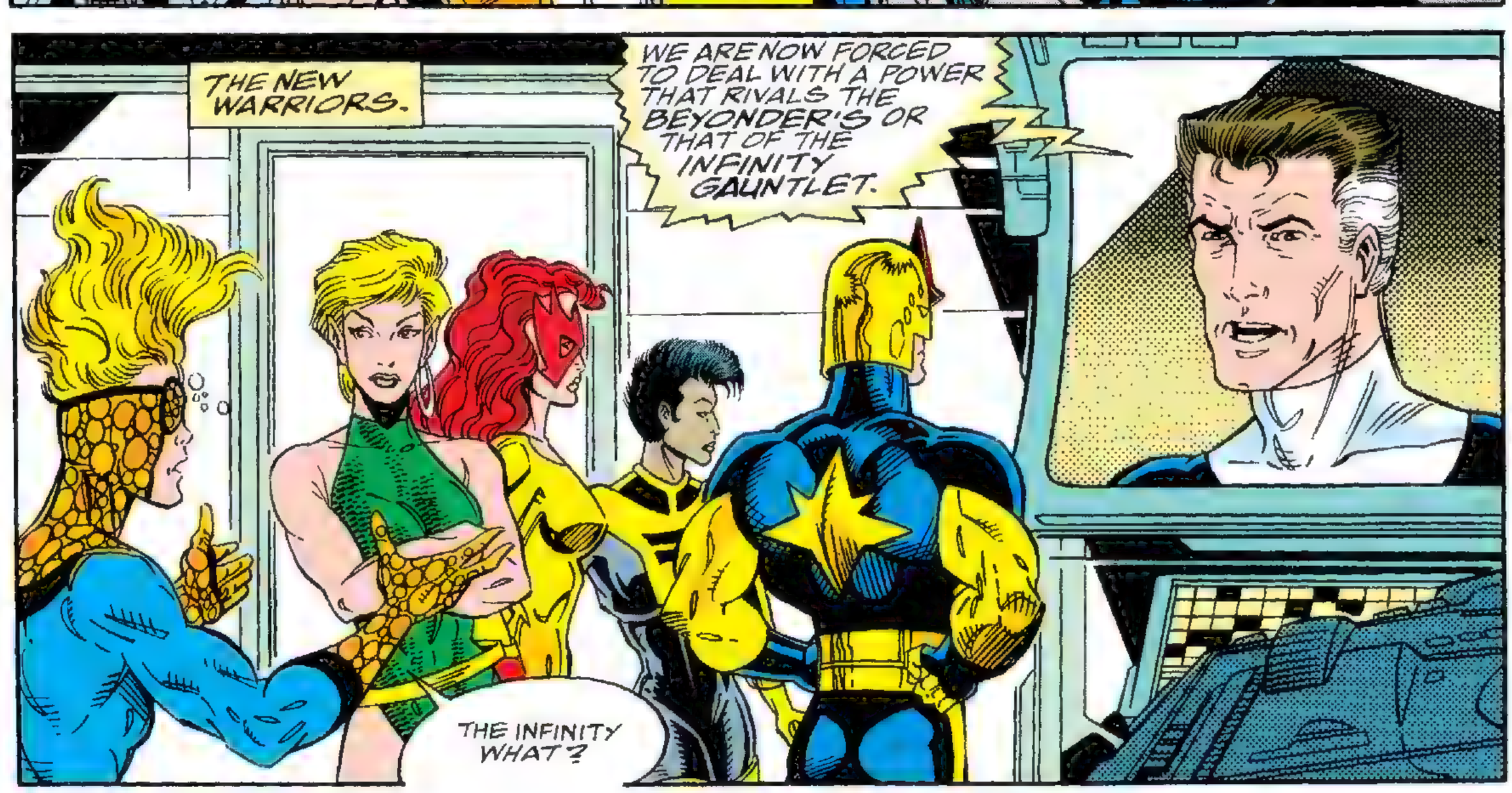

HIS TELE-PORTATION TELEMETRY WAS SET TO THE EXACT COORDINATES YOU PREDICTED, MASTER.

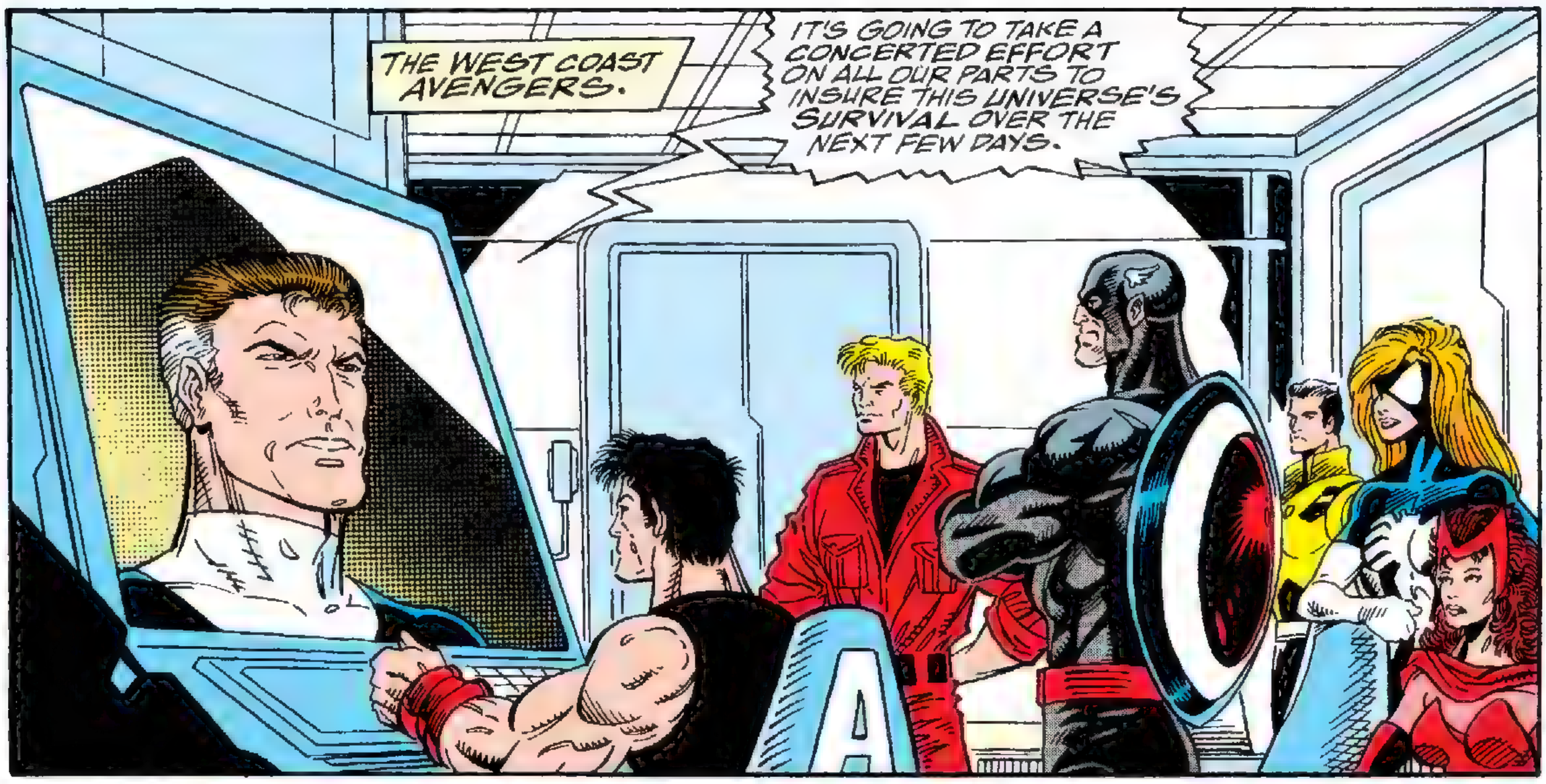


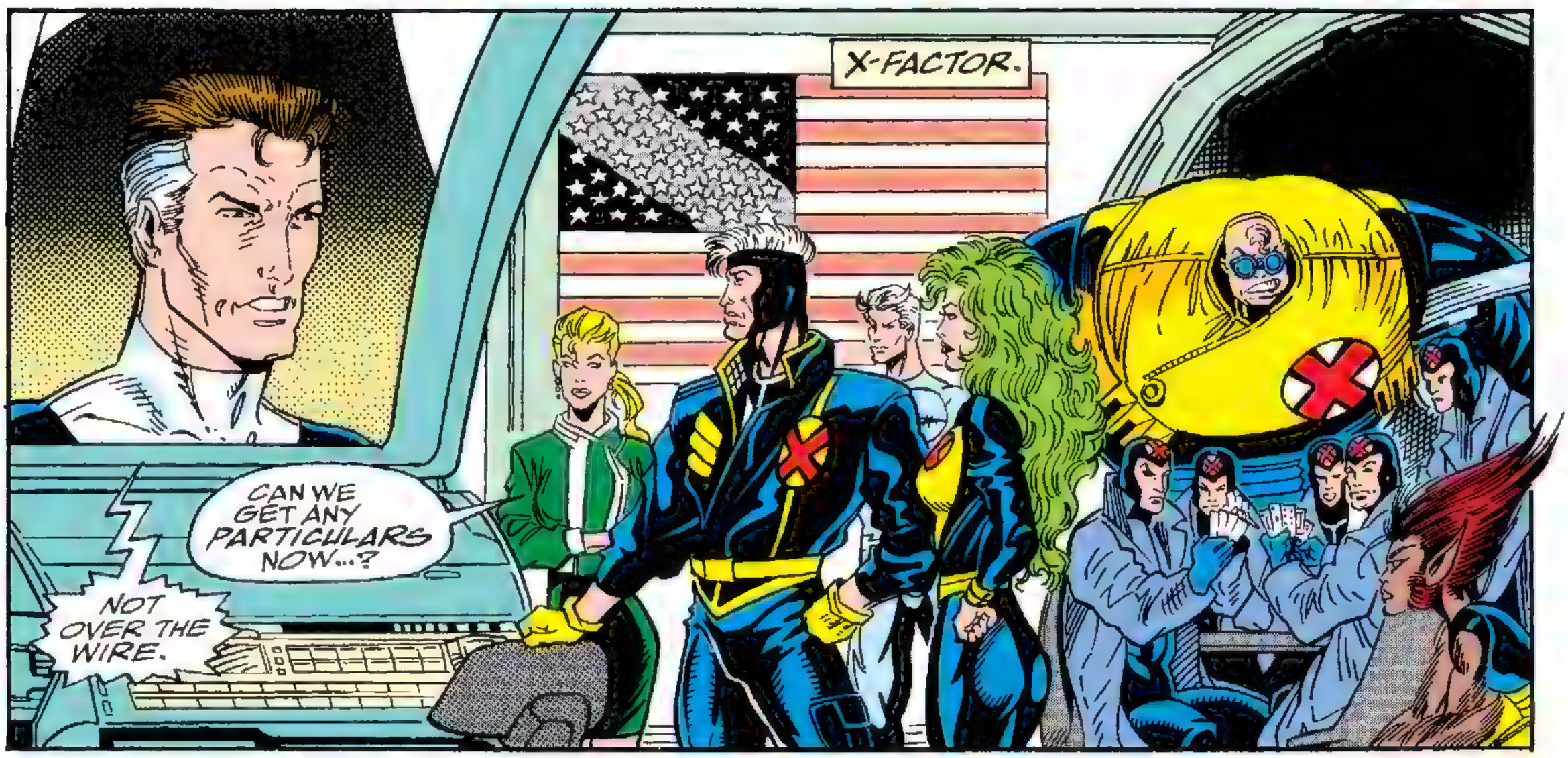

THE MESSAGE COMES IN ON A TIGHT, CODED BEAM.
THE FIRST TO RECEIVE IT IN THEIR MID-TOWN HQ ARE...

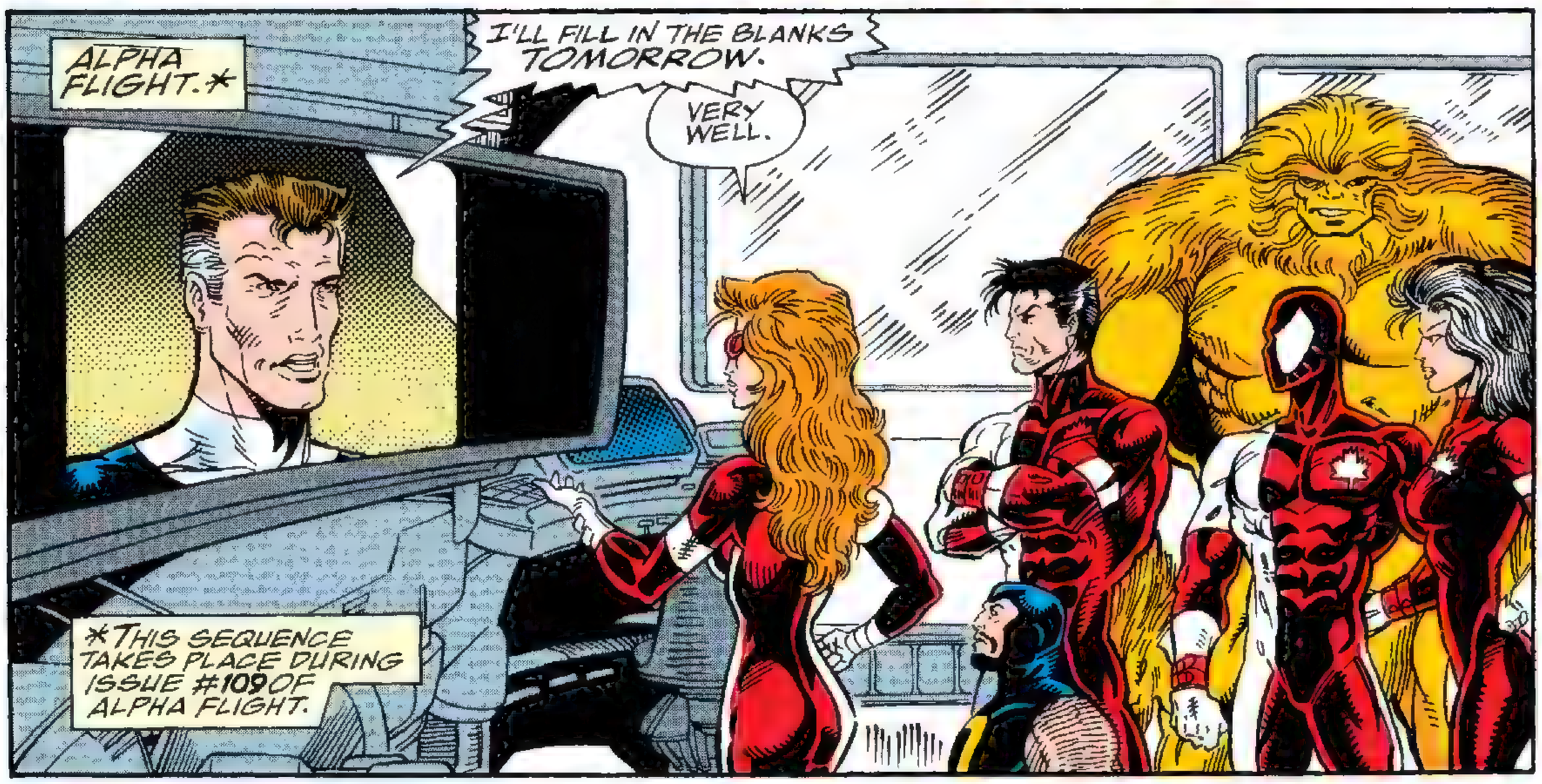

...THE AVENGERS.
I HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR 6 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING.
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL PARTIES ATTEND.

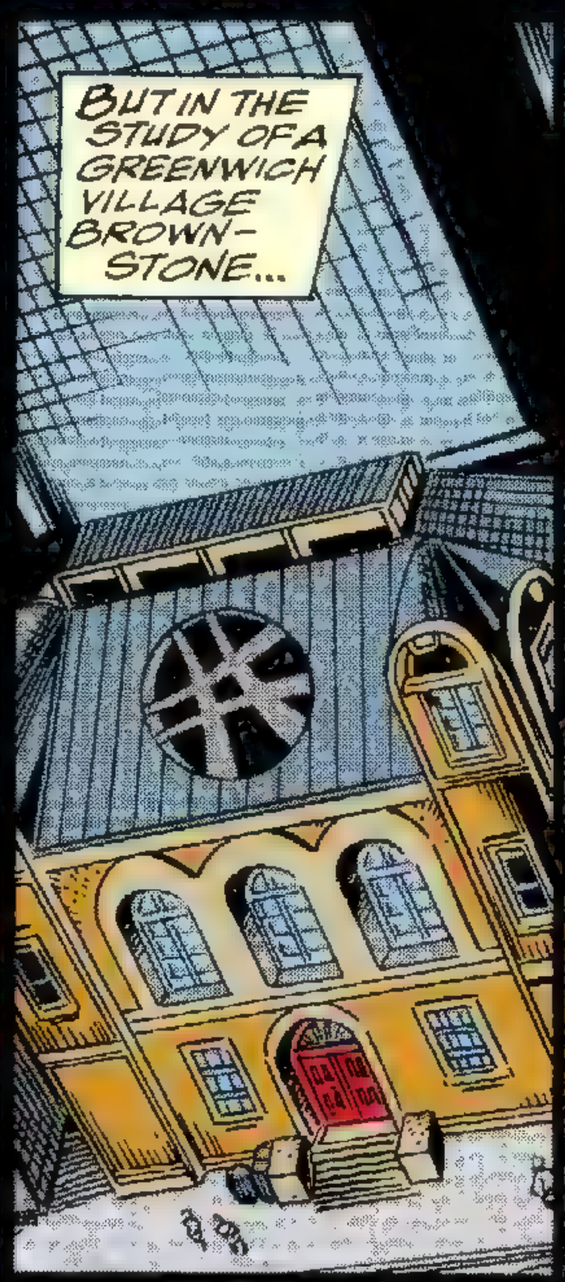

THEN THE X-MEN.
MY RESEARCH HAS UNCOVERED A DEADLY THREAT TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
IT'S MORE THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN HANDLE ALONE.

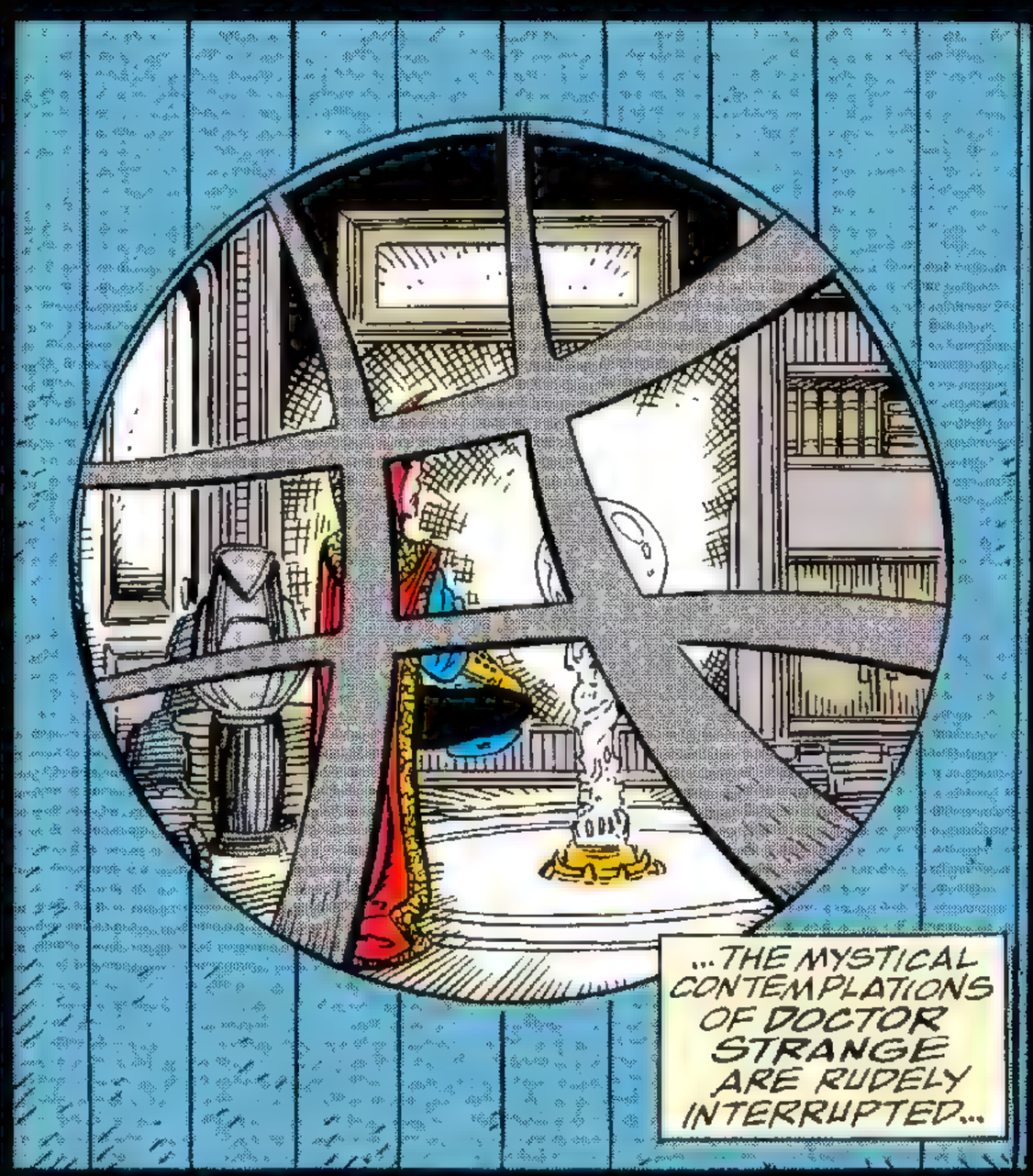

THE NEW WARRIORS.
WE ARE NOW FORCED TO DEAL WITH A POWER THAT RIVALS THE BEYONDER'S OR THAT OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
THE INFINITY WHAT?


THE WEST COAST AVENGERS.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT ON ALL OUR PARTS TO INSURE THIS UNIVERSE'S SURVIVAL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

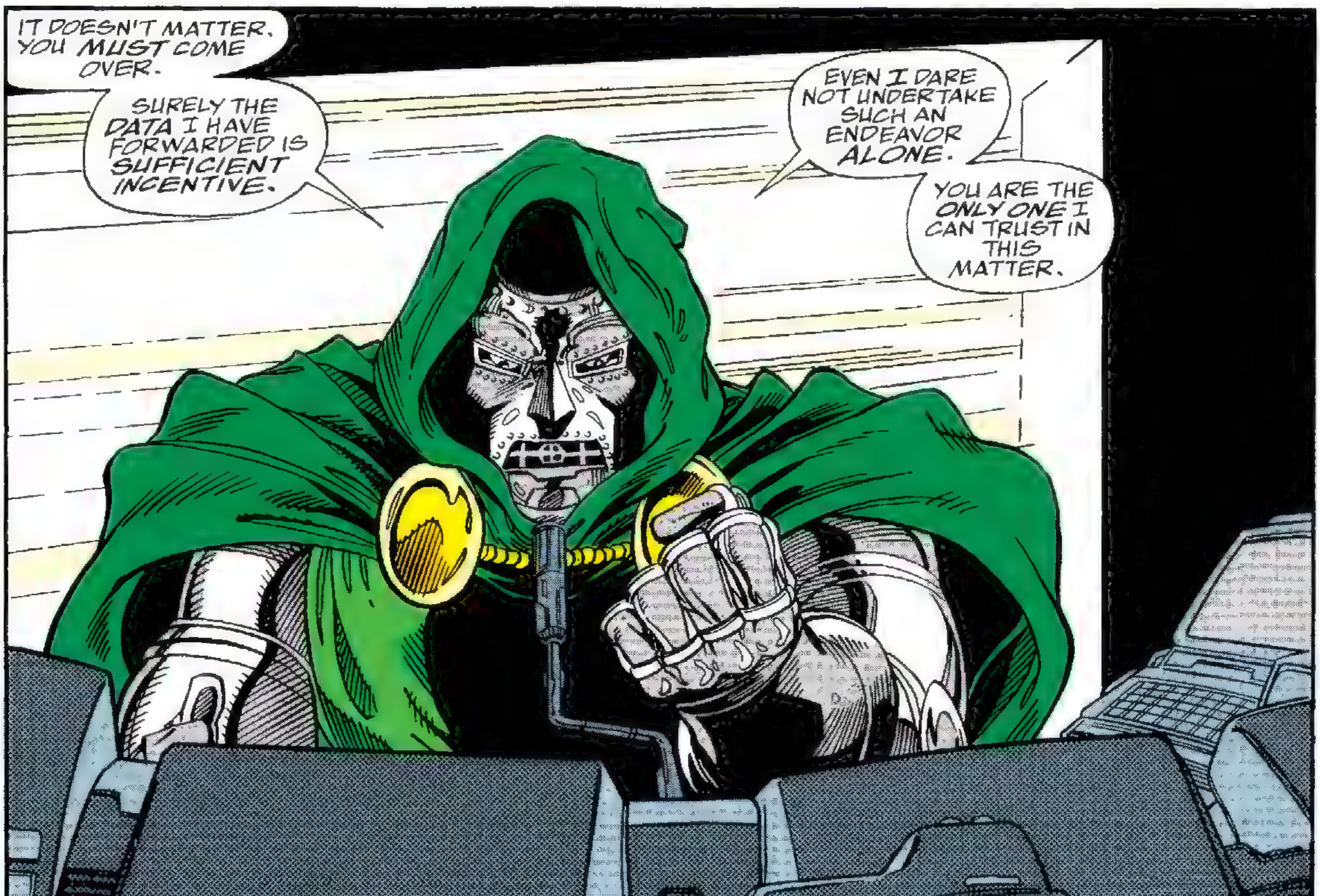

X-FACTOR.
CAN WE GET ANY PARTICULARS NOW...?
NOT OVER THE WIRE.

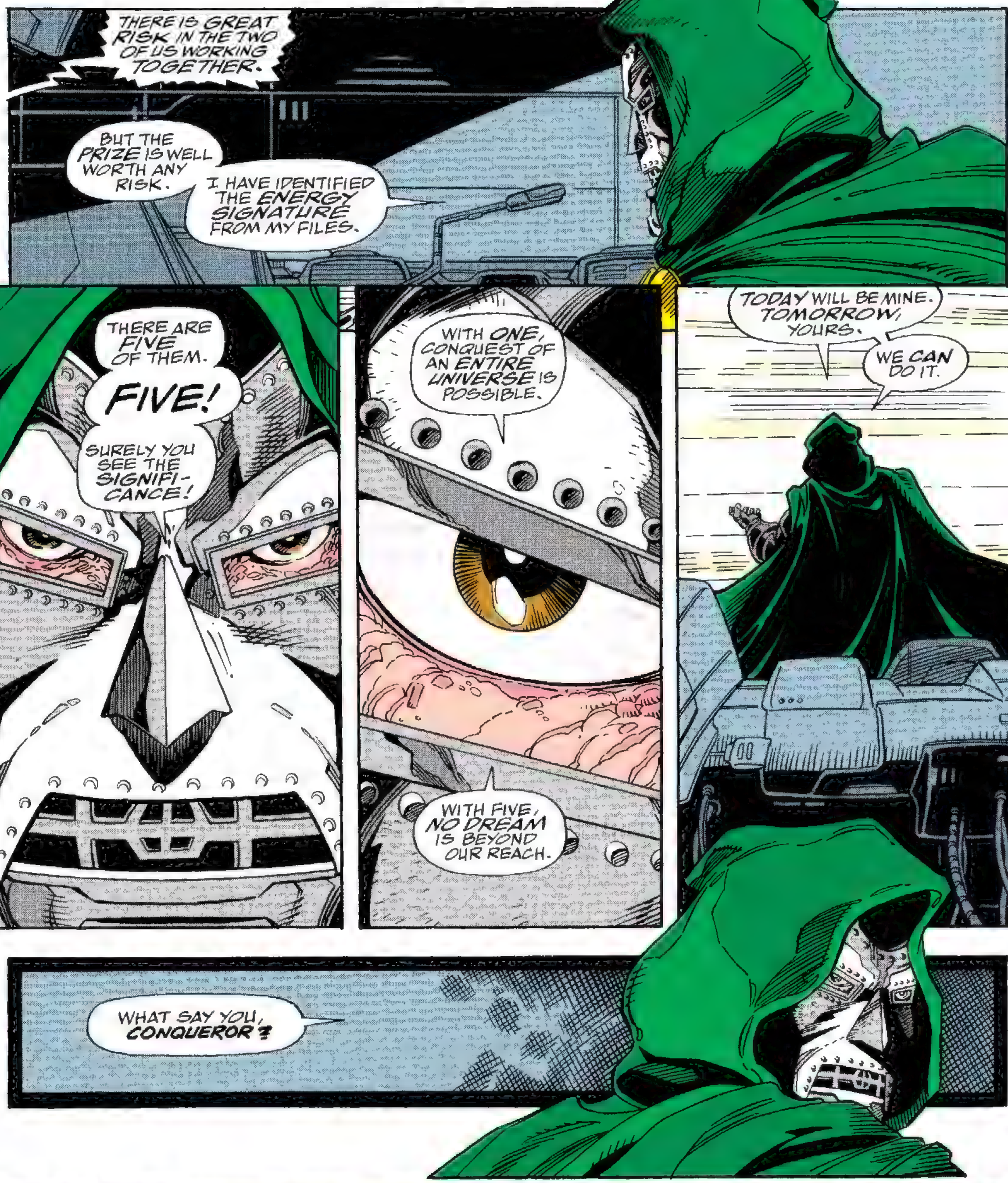

ALPHA FLIGHT.*
I'LL FILL IN THE BLANKS TOMORROW.
VERY WELL.
*THIS SEQUENCE TAKES PLACE DURING ISSUE #109 OF ALPHA FLIGHT.


BUT IN THE STUDY OF A GREENWICH VILLAGE BROWN-STONE...


...THE MYSTICAL CONTEMPLATIONS OF DOCTOR STRANGE ARE RUDELY INTERRUPTED...

WHAT?


IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU MUST COME OVER.
SURELY THE DATA I HAVE FORWARDED IS SUFFICIENT INCENTIVE.
EVEN I DARE NOT UNDERTAKE SUCH AN ENDEAVOR ALONE.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST IN THIS MATTER.


THERE IS GREAT RISK IN THE TWO OF US WORKING TOGETHER.
BUT THE PRIZE IS WELL WORTH ANY RISK.
I HAVE IDENTIFIED THE ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM MY FILES.
THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM.
FIVE!
SURELY YOU SEE THE SIGNIFI-CANCE!
WITH ONE, CONQUEST OF AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS POSSIBLE.
WITH FIVE, NO DREAM IS BEYOND OUR REACH.
TODAY WILL BE MINE. TOMORROW, YOURS.
WE CAN DO IT.
WHAT SAY YOU, CONQUEROR?

WELCOME BACK TO THE 20TH CENTURY, KANG.

I GREET YOU, PROUD DOOM...

...WHOM, EVER THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, I SHALL...

...CUT OUT OF THIS BARGAIN MOST HARSHLY...

IT IS CALLED MONSTER ISLAND!

IT'S THE HOME OF MANY A BIZARRE BEHEMOTH AND A PROTECTORATE OF THE MOLE MAN'S EMPIRE.

BUT THIS DESOLATE ISLE CAN NOW ALSO BOAST OF NEWER AND EVEN MORE INFAMOUS RESIDENTS.

ADAM WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WARLOCK, THE CASTLE WILL PROVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR YOUR GROUP'S NEEDS.

SETTING UP THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT OF YOUR PLAN WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT FACET TO IMPLEMENT.

HELLO! ANYONE HOME?

THEN IT IS AGREED: WE ARE NOW ALLIES!

ONLY UNDER THE TERMS WE DISCUSSED, MOLE MAN.*

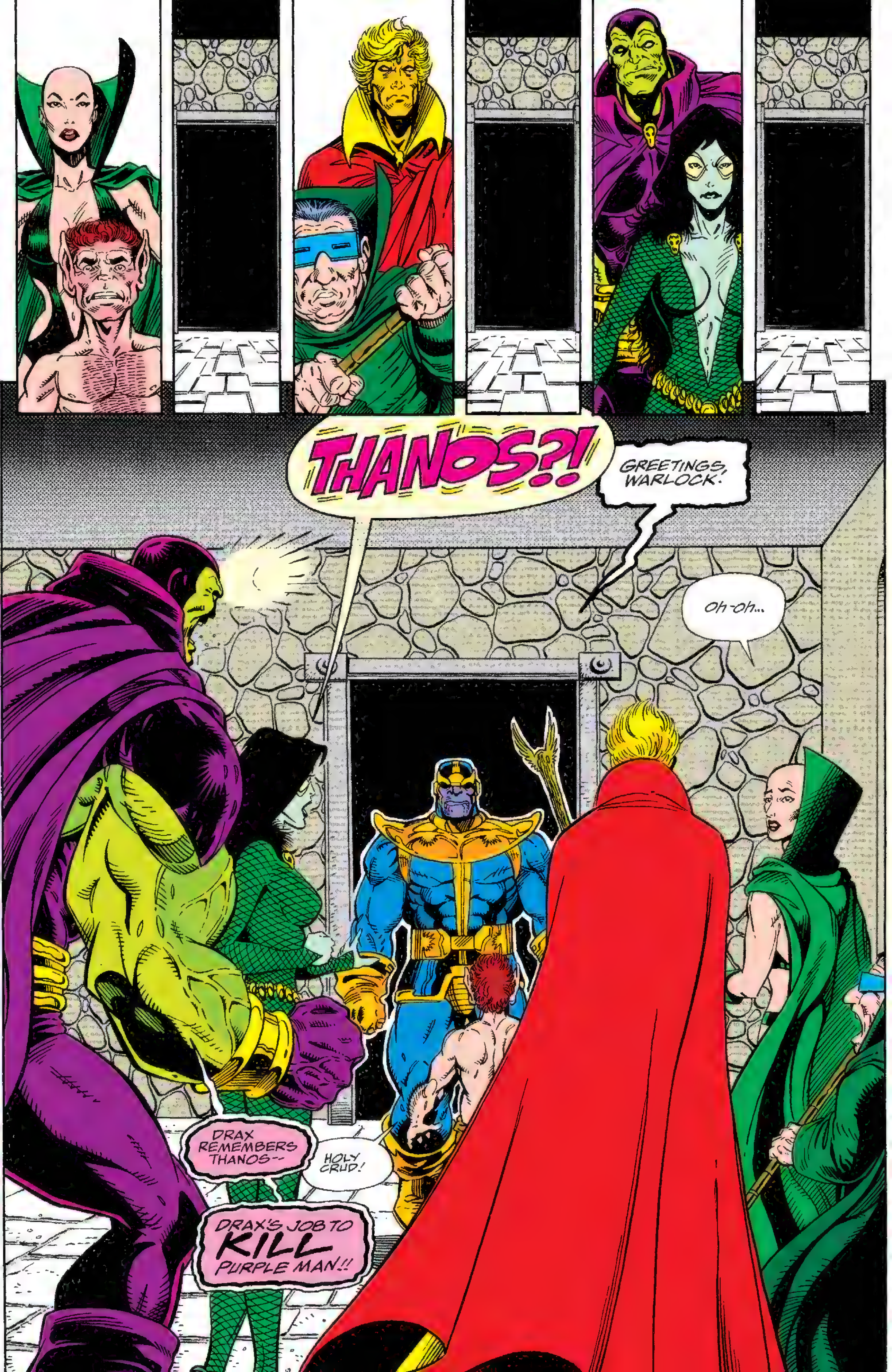
TERMS I CAN EASILY LIVE WITH.

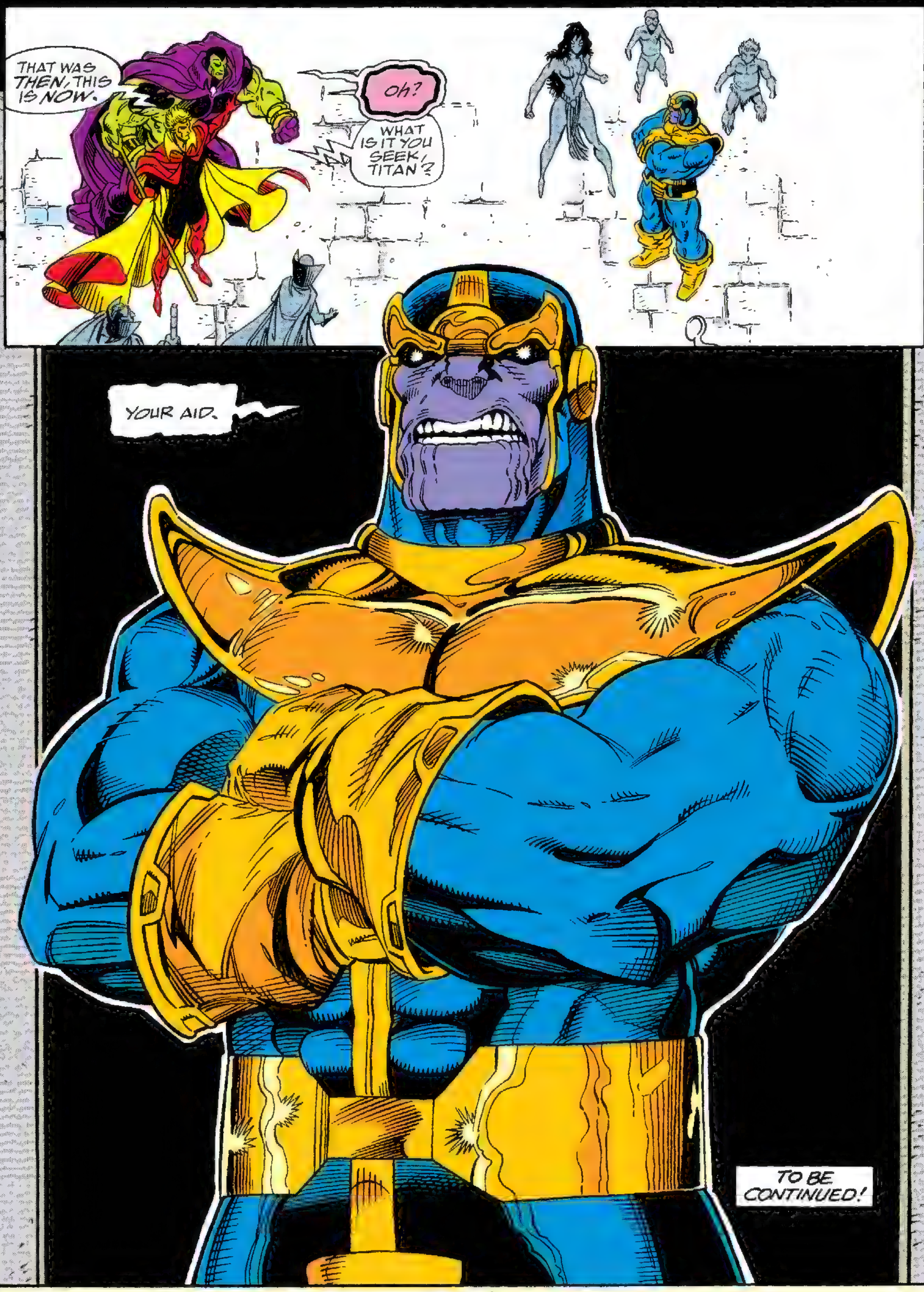
*FOR DETAILS ON THIS CHECK OUT WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #7!

THEN IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE HAVE ONLY ONE LAST PROBLEM TO DEAL WITH.

AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

WE HAVE AN INTRUDER...


THANOS?!
GREETINGS, WARLOCK.
Oh-oh...
DRAX REMEMBERS THANOS--
HOLY CRUD!
DRAX'S JOB TO KILL PURPLE MAN!!



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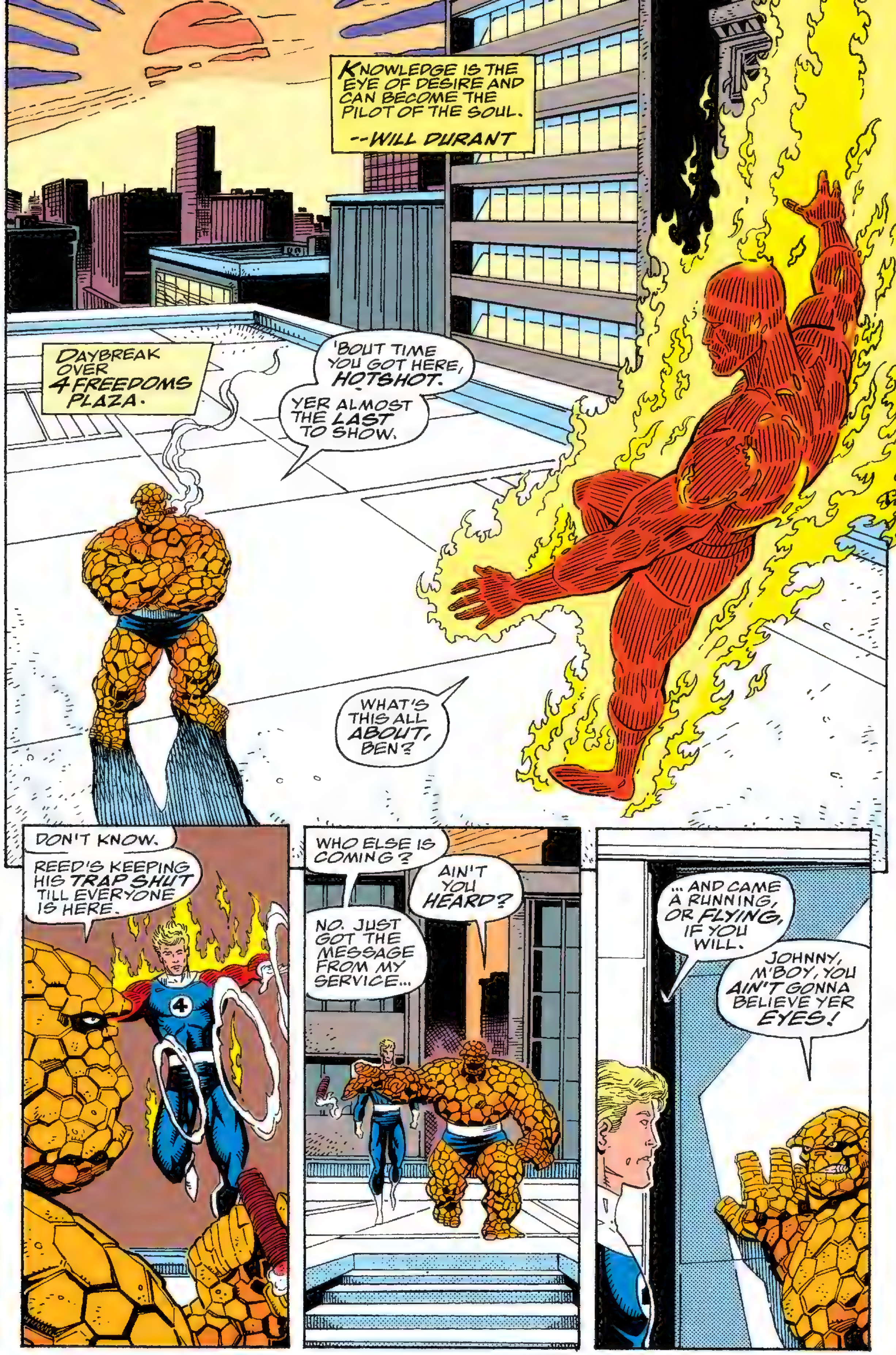
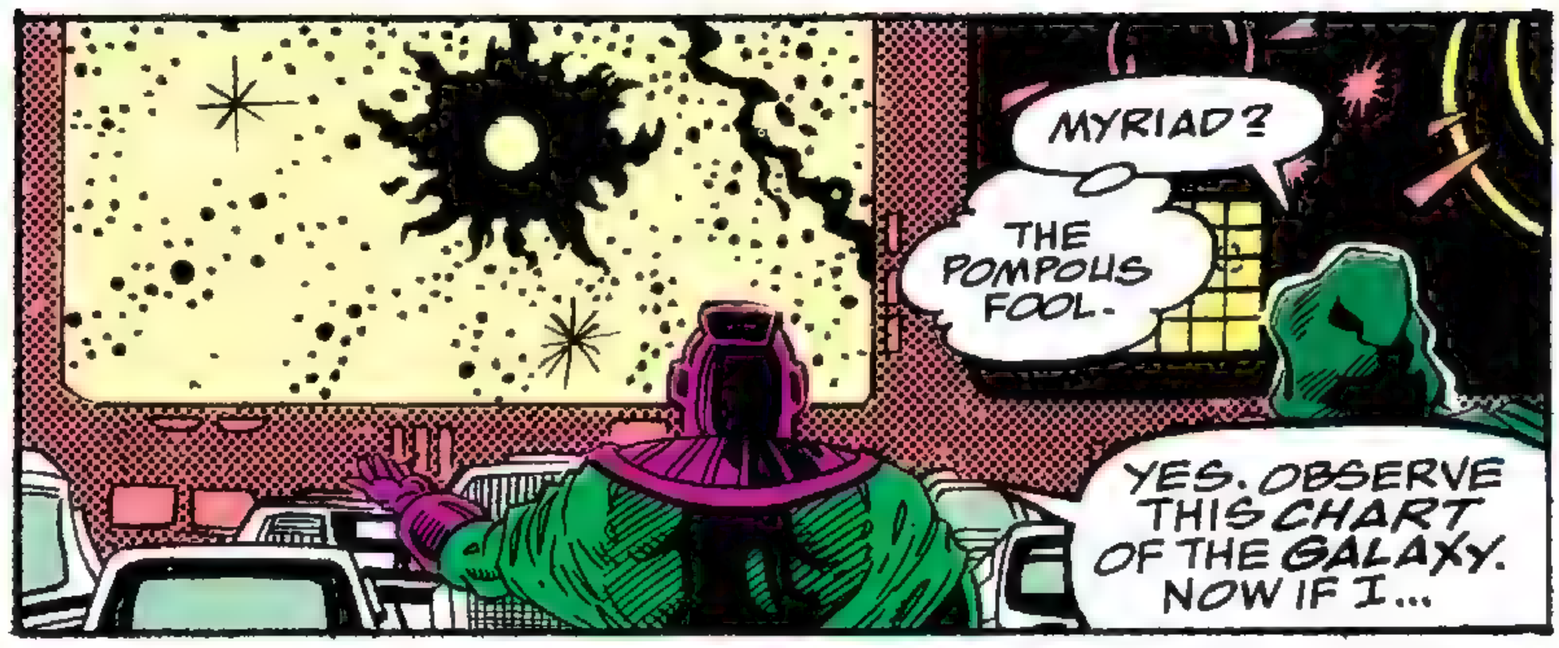
2
JULY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INFINITY WAR
DIVIDE AND CONQUER!
BAGLEY + MILGROM

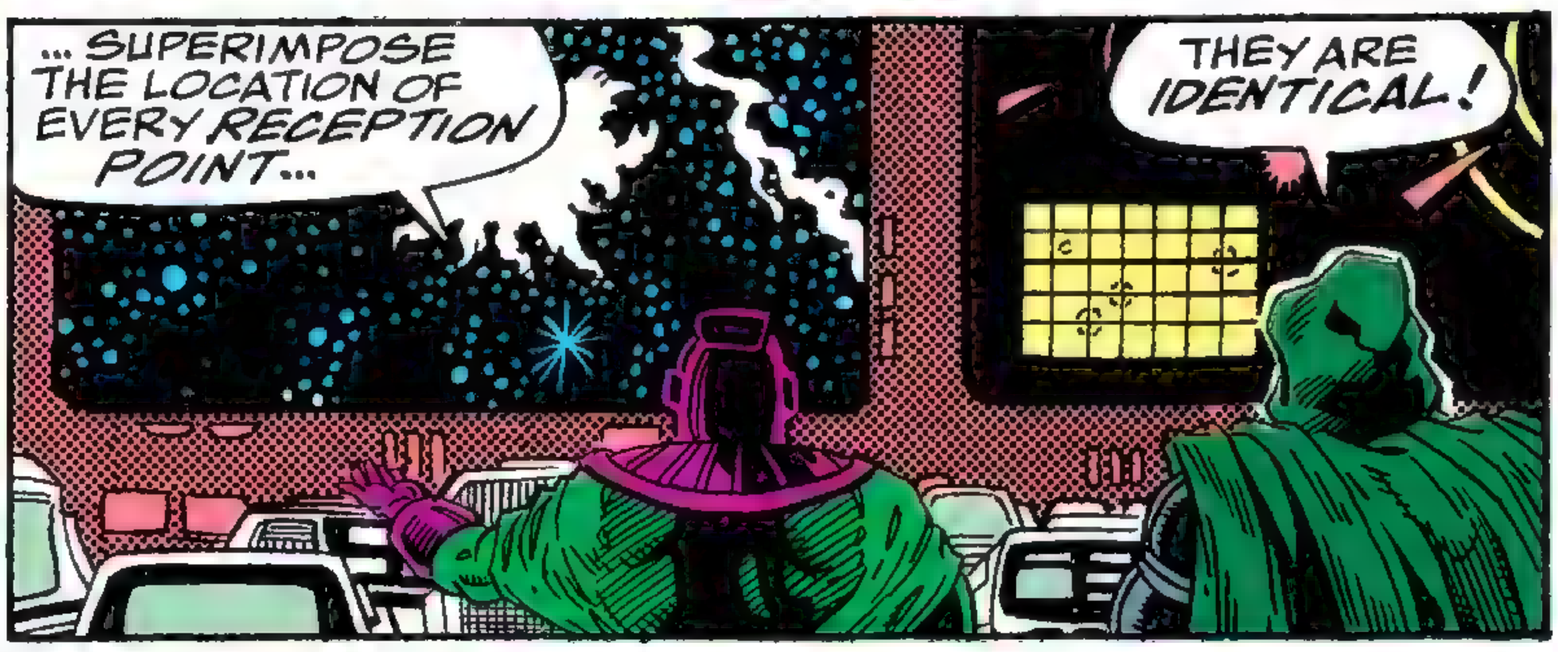

KNOWLEDGE IS THE EYE OF DESIRE AND CAN BECOME THE PILOT OF THE SOUL.
--WILL DURANT
DAYBREAK OVER 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA.
'BOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, HOTSHOT.
YER ALMOST THE LAST TO SHOW.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BEN?
DON'T KNOW.
REED'S KEEPING HIS TRAP SHUT TILL EVERYONE IS HERE.
WHO ELSE IS COMING?
AIN'T YOU HEARD?
NO. JUST GOT THE MESSAGE FROM MY SERVICE...
... AND CAME A RUNNING, OR FLYING, IF YOU WILL.
JOHNNY, M'BOY, YOU AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE YER EYES!

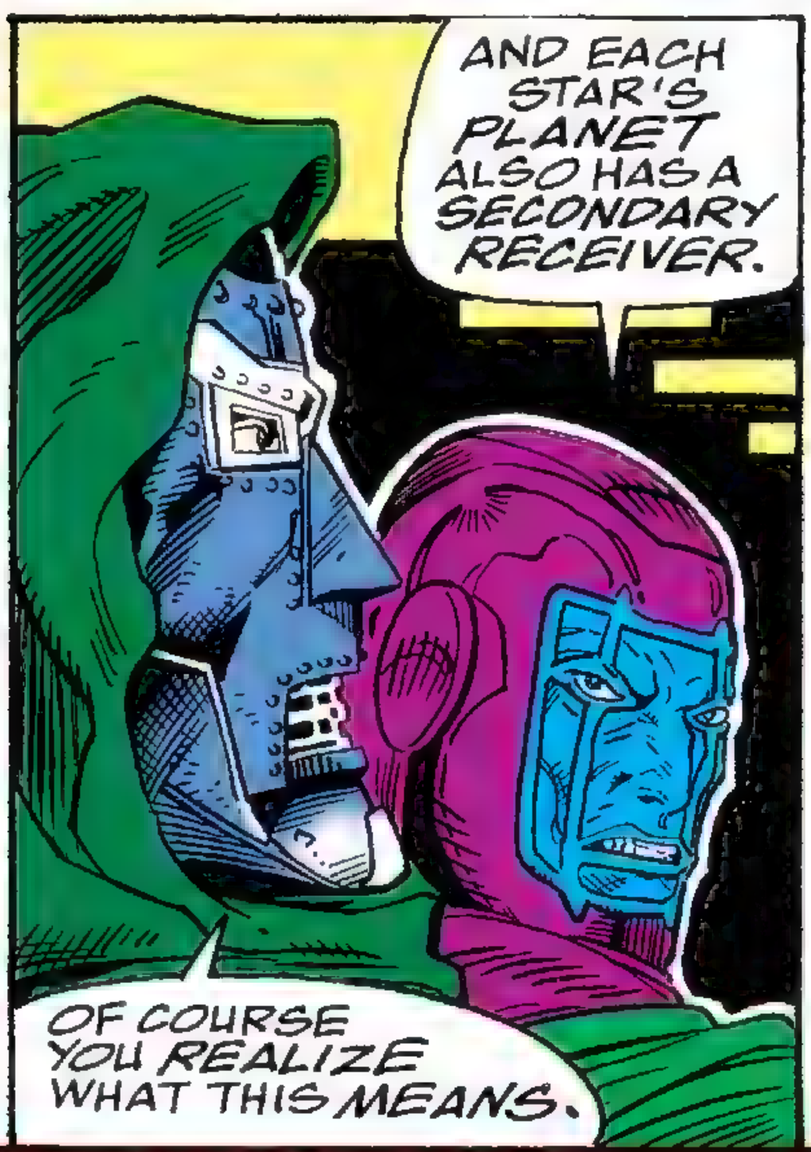
ETHEREAL REVISIONISM
JIM STARLIN WRITER | RON LIM PENCILS | ALAN MILGROM INKS | IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO CHIEF
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
HOLY COW!
THIS IS WORSE THAN A SHRINER'S CONVENTION!
LOT NOISIER, TOO.
RICHARDS, I'M GETTING TIRED OF COOLING MY HEELS HERE...
I TOLD YOU, DR. BANNER, THAT THIS SITUATION IS TOO COMPLICATED TO GO INTO MORE THAN ONCE.
I'LL NOT START THE MEETING UNTIL ALL THE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SETTLE DOWN, HULK?
CAP, WHY DON'T YOU--

YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE ANYTIME YOU WISH, BRUCE.
BUT YOU'LL SURELY REGRET THAT CHOICE IF YOU OPT FOR IT.
YOU THREATENING ME, PENCIL NECK?
NO.
MERELY STATING AN IRREFUTABLE FACT.
I HAVE INFORMATION OF STARTLING NATURE TO SHARE.
IT'S NEWS THAT WILL AFFECT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM.
YOURSELF INCLUDED.
EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE.
WHO STILL HASN'T SHOWN?
IRON MAN, WOLVERINE, HAWKEYE, AND SPIDER-MAN.
LIGHT-WEIGHTS!
OUGHT TO START WITHOUT THEM!
ELSEWHERE...
DIRECTLY PINPOINTING THE SOURCE OF THE ENERGY EMISSIONS APPEARS BEYOND EVEN MY INSTRUMENTATION.
IT APPEARS TO BE CLOAKED BY MYSTICAL MEANS, KANG.
SO IT WOULD SEEM, DOOM, BUT WE'LL NOT LET THAT STOP US.
SUCH A NEANDERTHAL.

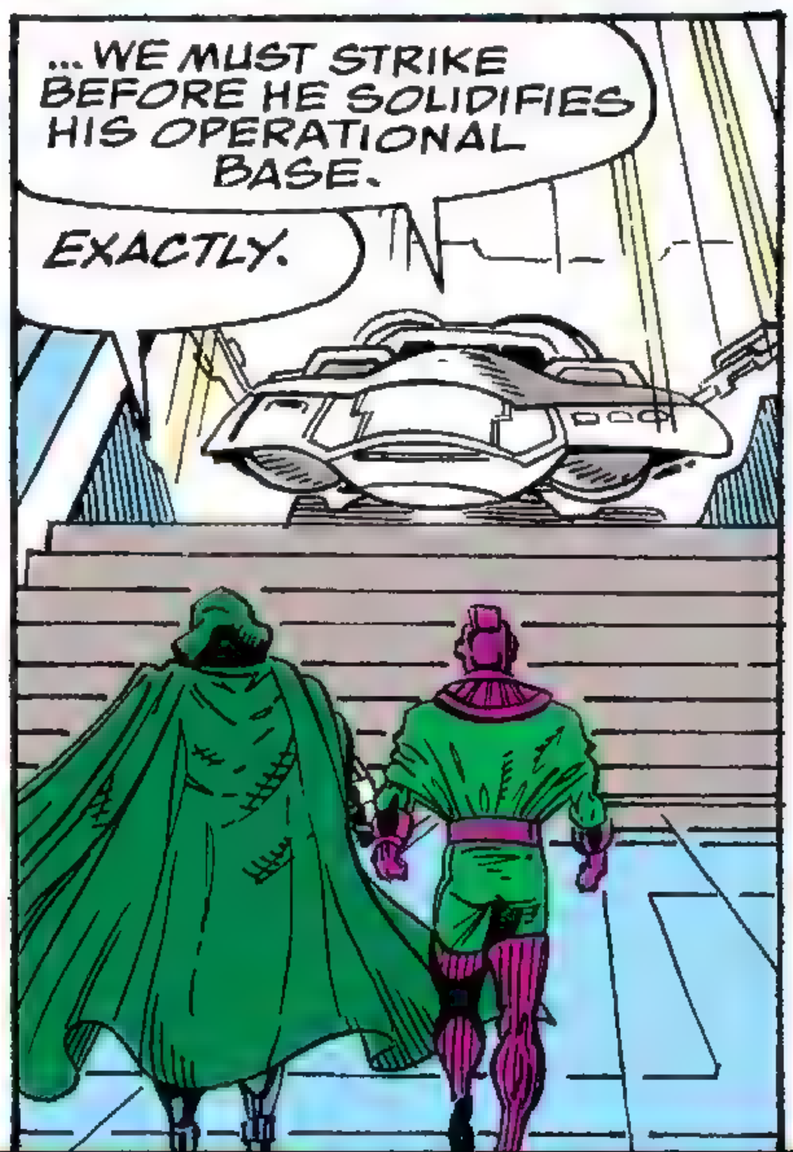
PERHAPS IF WE APPROACH THE PROBLEM FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
THE ENERGIES ARE BEING FUNNELED TO MYRIAD SITES THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

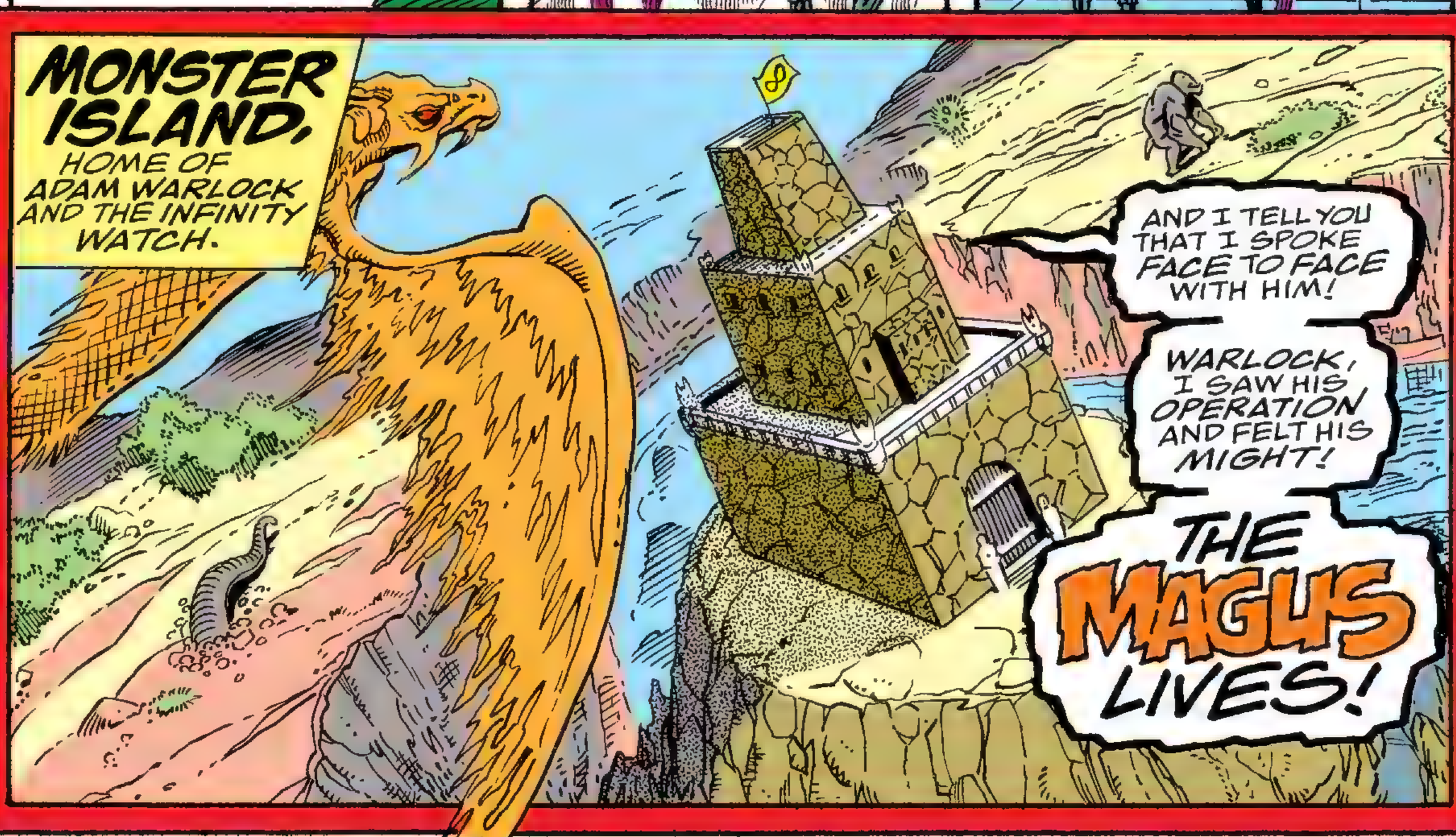

MYRIAD?
THE POMPOUS FOOL.
YES. OBSERVE THIS CHART OF THE GALAXY. NOW IF I...


...SUPERIMPOSE THE LOCATION OF EVERY RECEPTION POINT...
THEY ARE IDENTICAL!

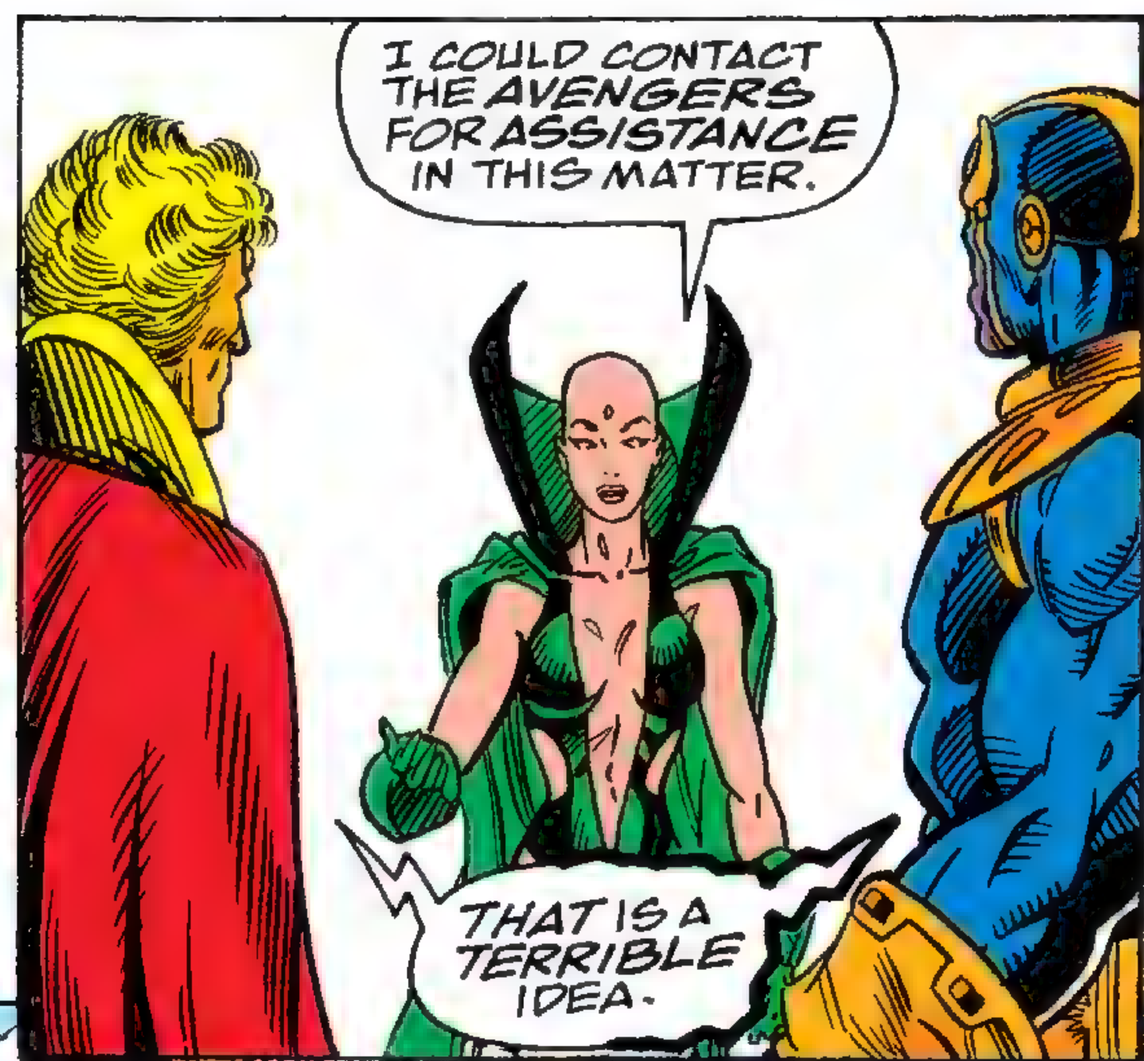

AND EACH STAR'S PLANET ALSO HAS A SECONDARY RECEIVER.
OF COURSE YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS.

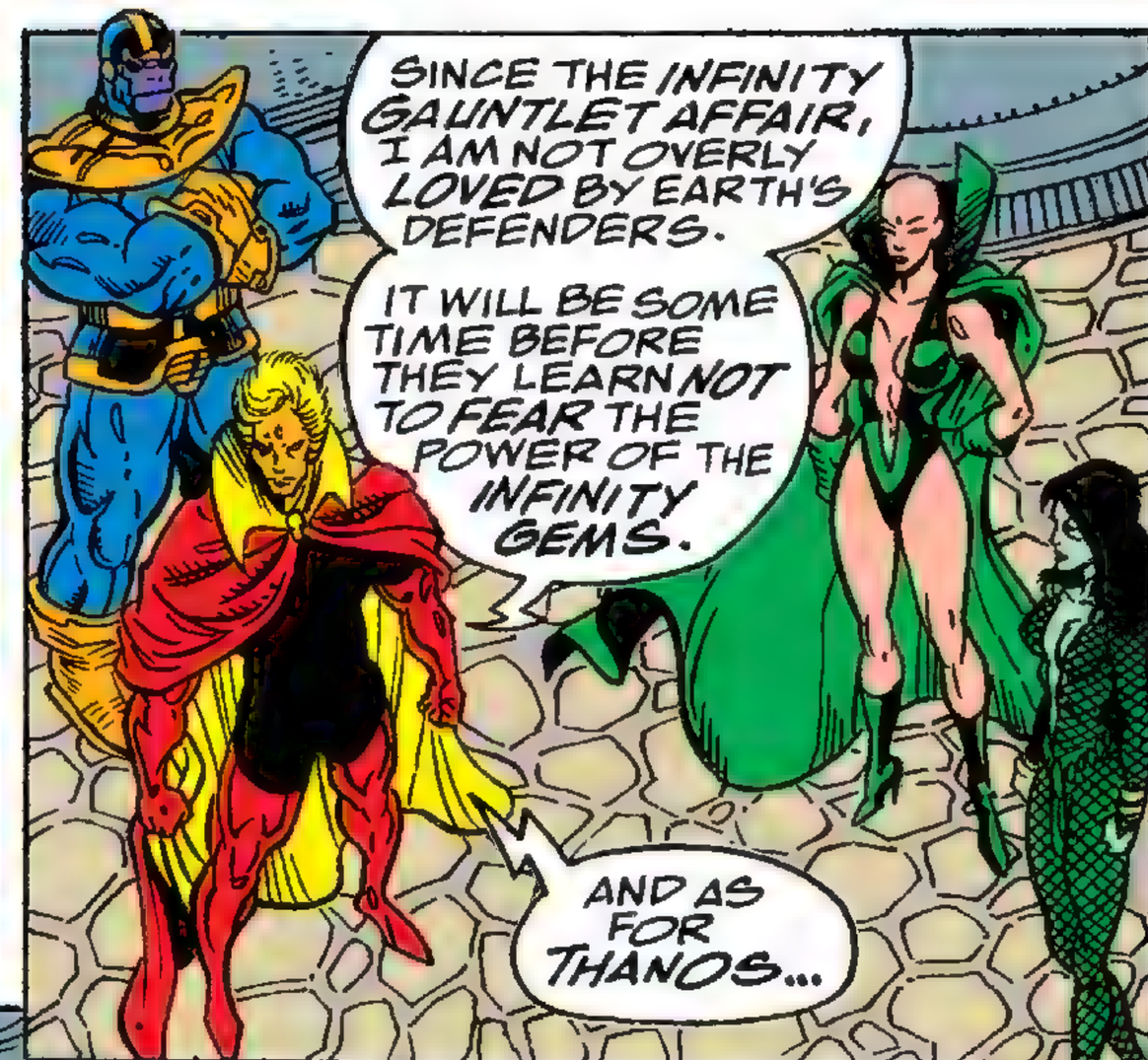
THAT EVERY MOMENT COUNTS.
IF WE WISH TO WREST POWER FROM OUR SECRET ADVERSARY...

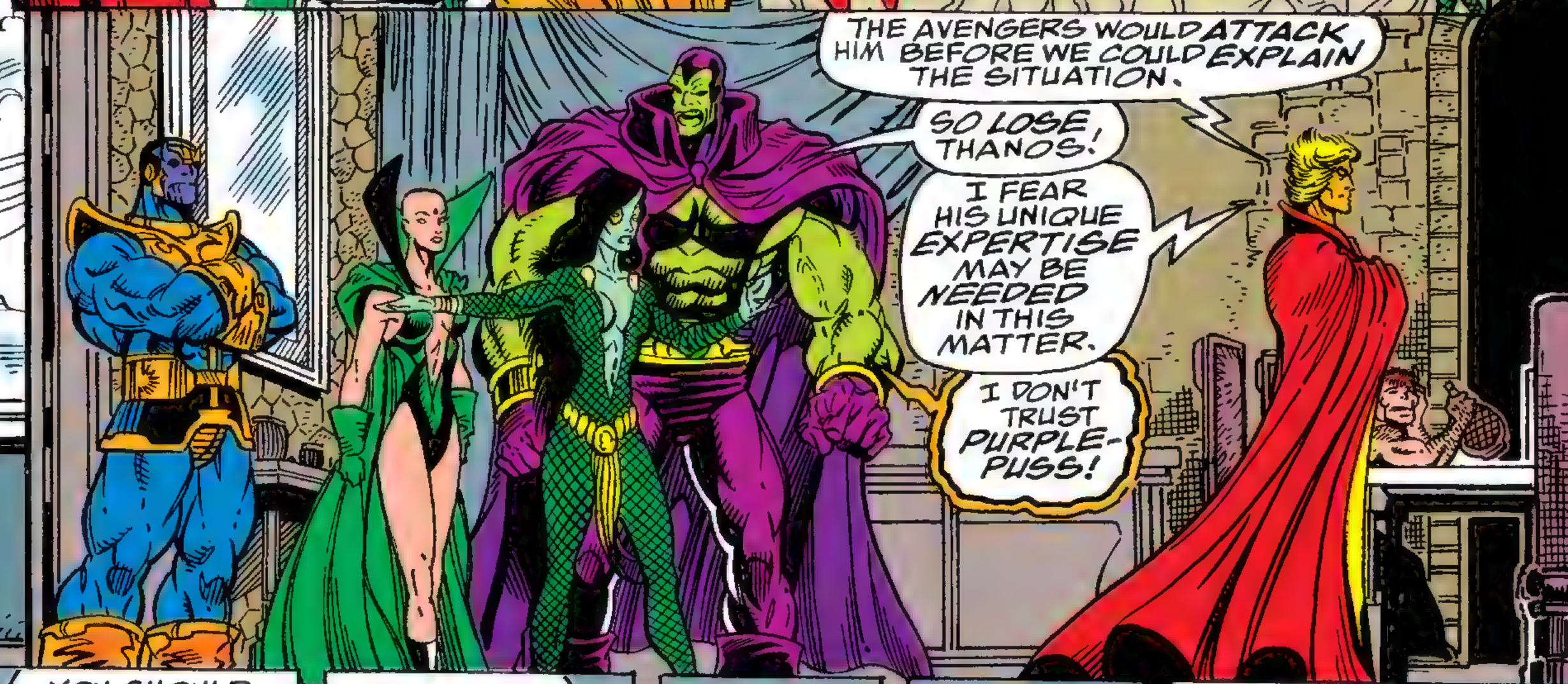

...WE MUST STRIKE BEFORE HE SOLIDIFIES HIS OPERATIONAL BASE.
EXACTLY.


MONSTER ISLAND, HOME OF ADAM WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH.
AND I TELL YOU THAT I SPOKE FACE TO FACE WITH HIM!
WARLOCK, I SAW HIS OPERATION AND FELT HIS MIGHT!
THE MAGUS LIVES!

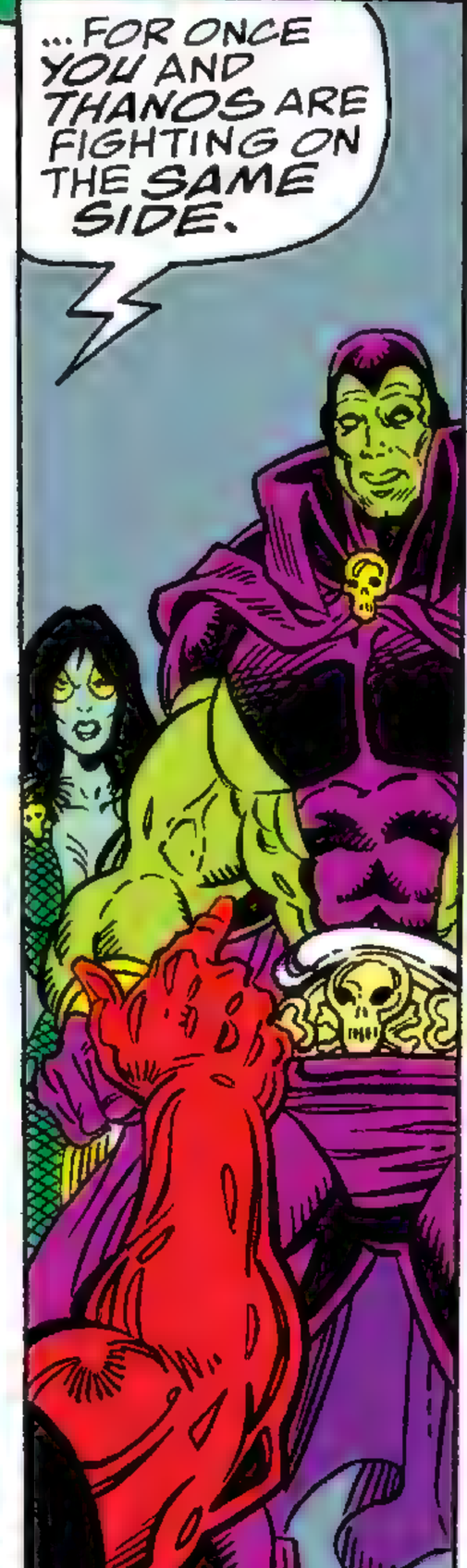
BUT I DESTROYED HIS TIME-LINE.
YOU, THANOS, SAW HIM FADE FROM EXIS-TENCE.
NONETHELESS, HE HAS RETURNED AND WITH AWESOME ENERGIES BEHIND HIM.
POWER ENOUGH TO ALTER THE FACE OF REALITY.
I THOUGHT I HAD PUT THE MAGUS'S EVIL BEHIND ME.
YOU OBVIOUSLY WERE MISTAKEN, WHICH IS WHY I HAVE COME TO YOU.
THIS TIME THE MAGUS'S PLAN IS TOO FAR ALONG AND COMPLEX FOR ME TO DISRUPT ALONE.
AND SO YOU WERE FORCED TO DIRECTLY ASK FOR MY AID?
NO TIME TO TRICK ME INTO JOINING FORCES WITH YOU AGAINST THE MAGUS, LIKE YOU DID THE LAST TIME..?*
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
*SEE WARLOCK VOL. 2, #1-6, ON SALE NOW!
HIS DEFEAT CAN NOW ONLY BE IM-PLEMENTED THROUGH METAPHYSICAL MEANS AND WITH YOUR INVOLVE-MENT.
AND WHAT IF I DON'T DEIGN TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS LITTLE DRAMA?
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, WARLOCK.
THE MAGUS IS PART OF YOU.
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
IF I MIGHT MAKE A SUGGESTION...
GO AHEAD, MOON-DRAGON.


I COULD CONTACT THE AVENGERS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.
THAT IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

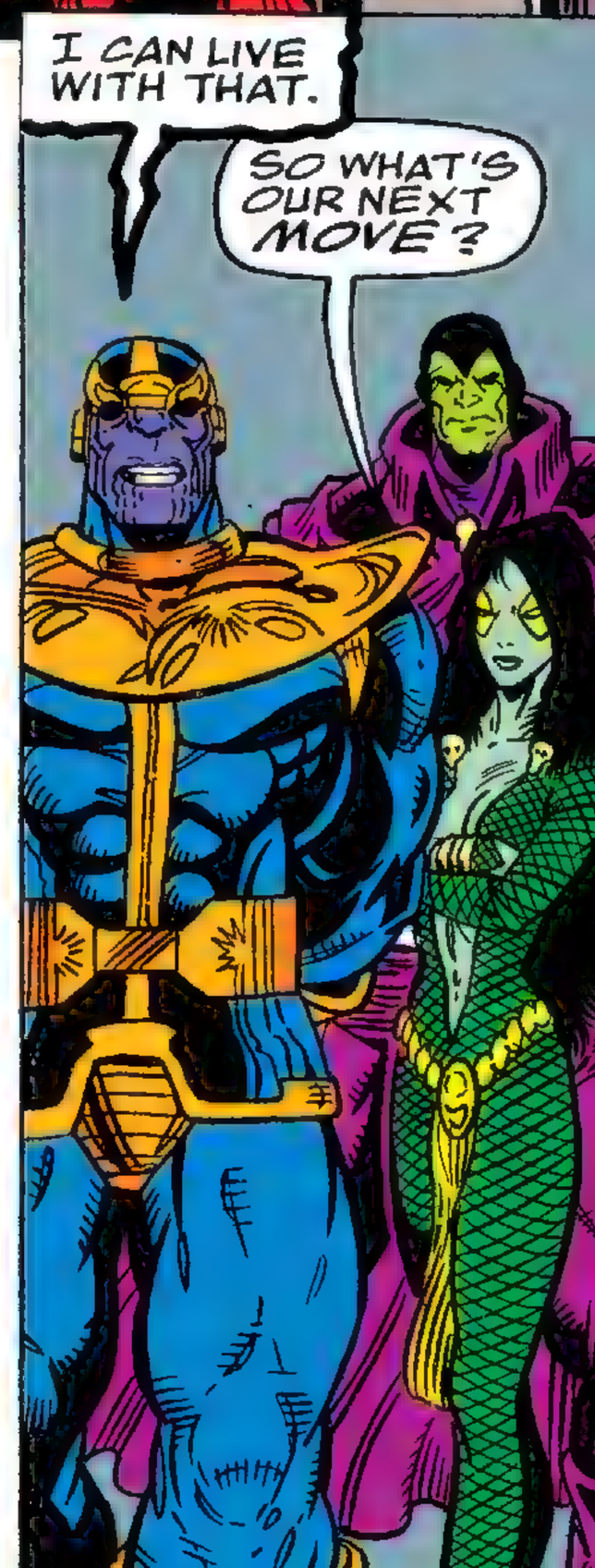

SINCE THE INFINITY GAUNTLET AFFAIR, I AM NOT OVERLY LOVED BY EARTH'S DEFENDERS.
IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY LEARN NOT TO FEAR THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS.
AND AS FOR THANOS...

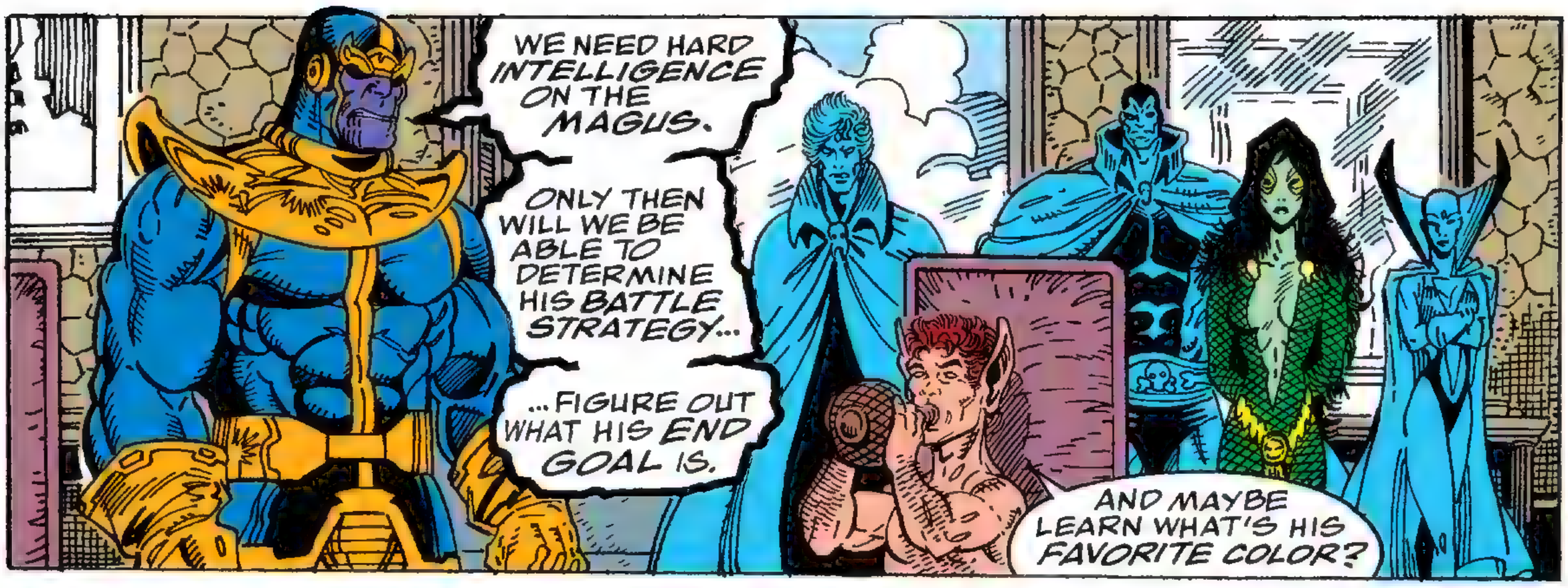

THE AVENGERS WOULD ATTACK HIM BEFORE WE COULD EXPLAIN THE SITUATION.
SO LOSE, THANOS!
I FEAR HIS UNIQUE EXPERTISE MAY BE NEEDED IN THIS MATTER.
I DON'T TRUST PURPLE-PUSS!

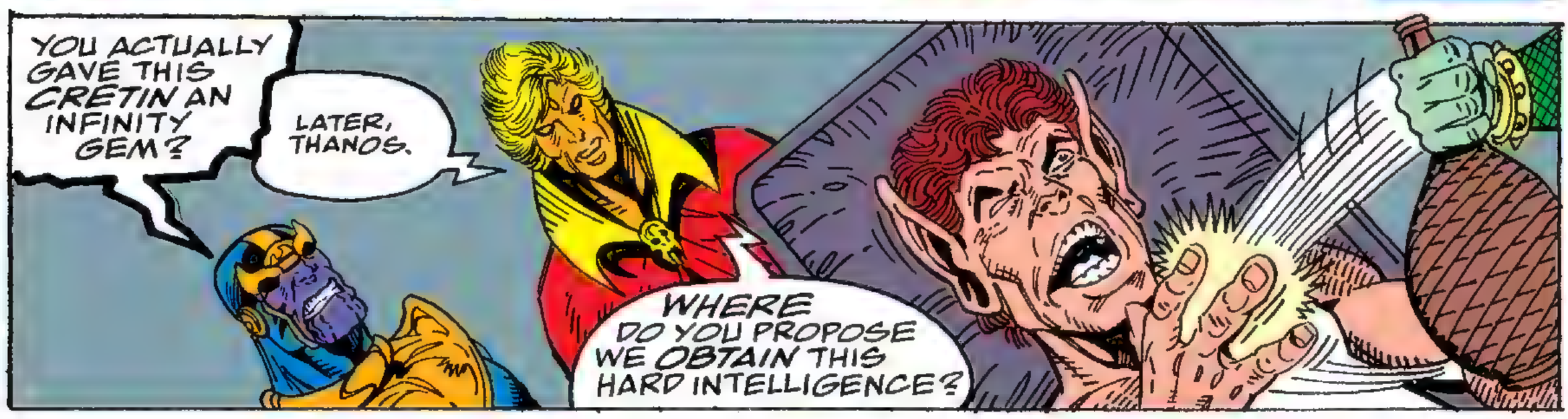
YOU SHOULD, DRAX. THE DATA HE PRESENTED CLEARLY SHOWS HIM NOT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PERIL WE FACE.
LIKE IT OR NOT...


...FOR ONCE YOU AND THANOS ARE FIGHTING ON THE SAME SIDE.

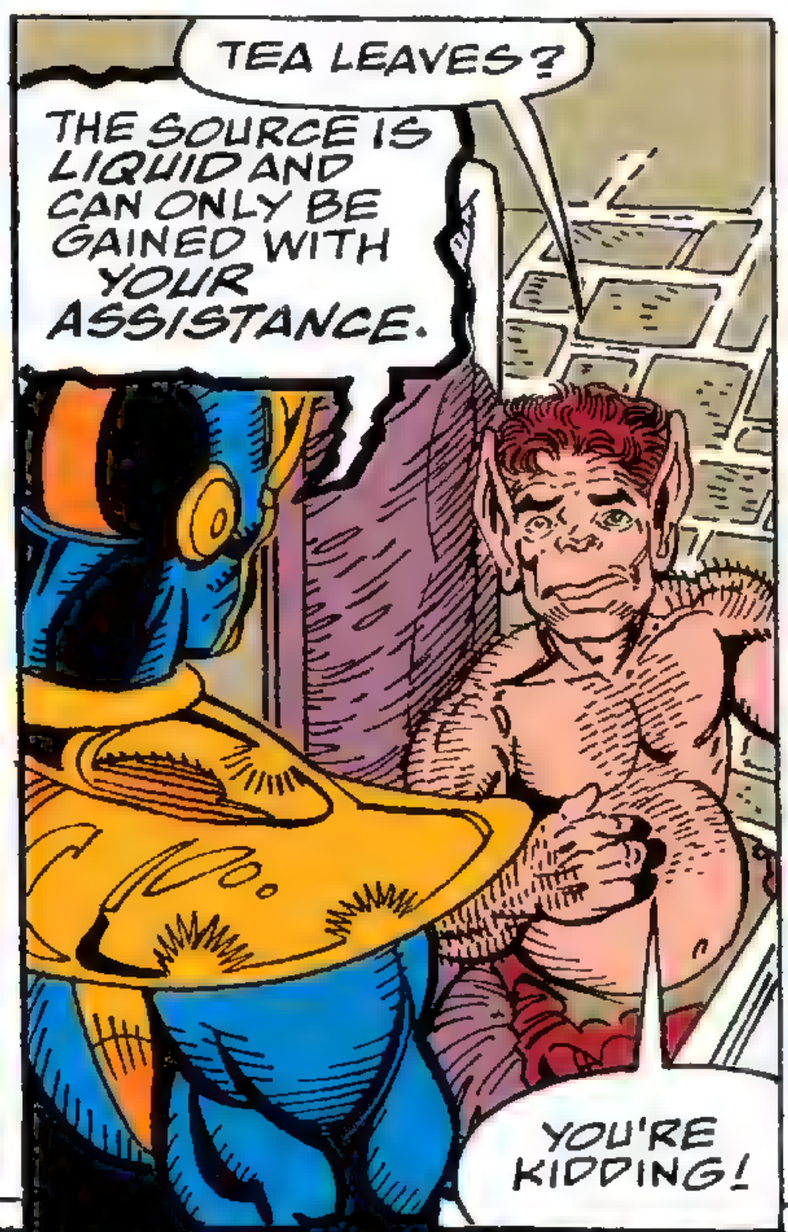
OKAY. I SMASH THANOS LATER.


I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
SO WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?

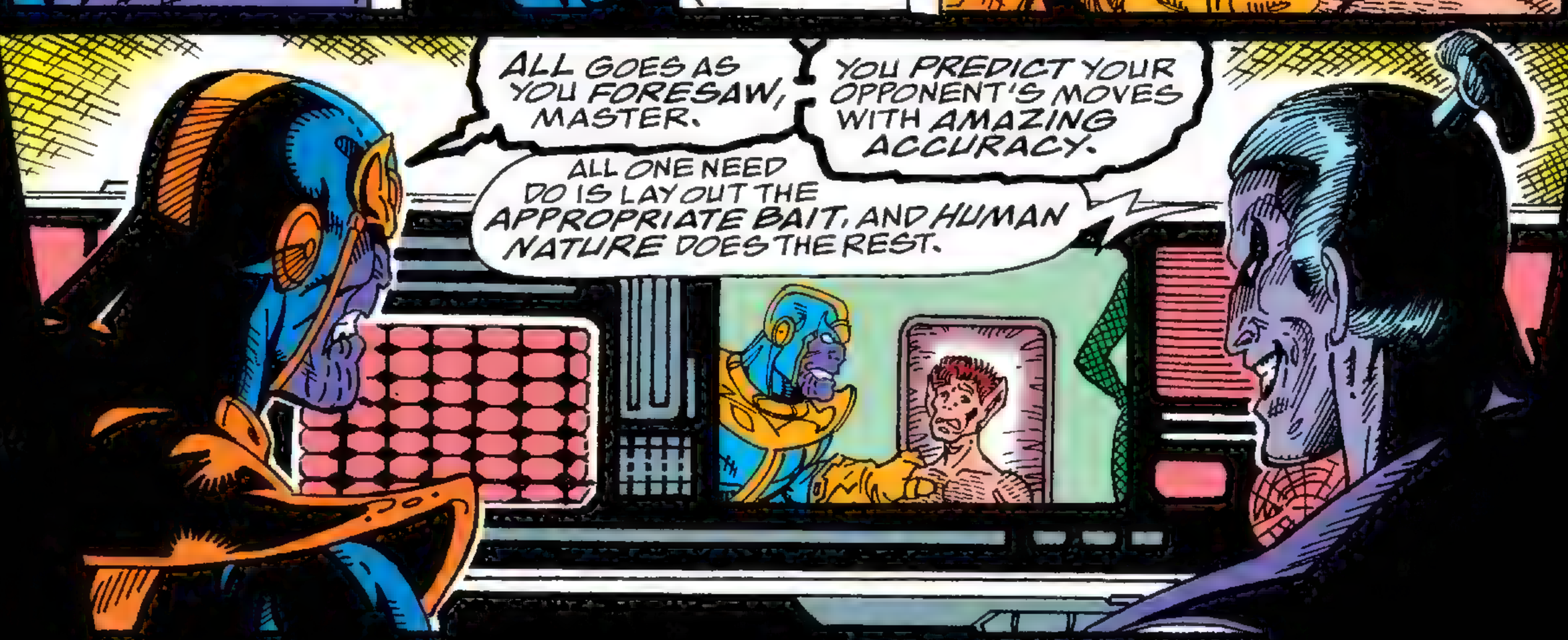

WE NEED HARD INTELLIGENCE ON THE MAGUS.
ONLY THEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO DETERMINE HIS BATTLE STRATEGY...
...FIGURE OUT WHAT HIS END GOAL IS.
AND MAYBE LEARN WHAT'S HIS FAVORITE COLOR?


YOU ACTUALLY GAVE THIS CRETIN AN INFINITY GEM?
LATER, THANOS.
WHERE DO YOU PROPOSE WE OBTAIN THIS HARD INTELLIGENCE?

THERE IS ONLY ONE SOURCE I KNOW OF TO DEFINITIVELY HARVEST SUCH ESOTERIC INFORMATION.


TEA LEAVES?
THE SOURCE IS LIQUID AND CAN ONLY BE GAINED WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE.
YOU'RE KIDDING!

THANOS NEVER JESTS.
YOU SHALL USE THE SPACE GEM TO TRANSPORT US TO MISTRESS DEATH'S PALACE.
I SHALL GUIDE YOU.
DEATH'S PALACE?


ALL GOES AS YOU FORESAW, MASTER.
YOU PREDICT YOUR OPPONENT'S MOVES WITH AMAZING ACCURACY.
ALL ONE NEED DO IS LAY OUT THE APPROPRIATE BAIT, AND HUMAN NATURE DOES THE REST.

IT IS A GAME PLAN I CAN FIND NO FAULT WITH.

WHICH IS WHY I CHOSE YOU TO BE MY ASSISTANT.

IN ALL THE GALAXY, THERE IS NO GREATER SCHEMER THAN THANOS OF TITAN.

BUT WILL THIS ELABORATE WEAVE ENSNARE ADAM WARLOCK?

YOUR OTHER SELF IS SO UNPREDICTABLE.

OTHER SELF?

YOU MEAN MY SHADE, DON'T YOU?!

URGH!

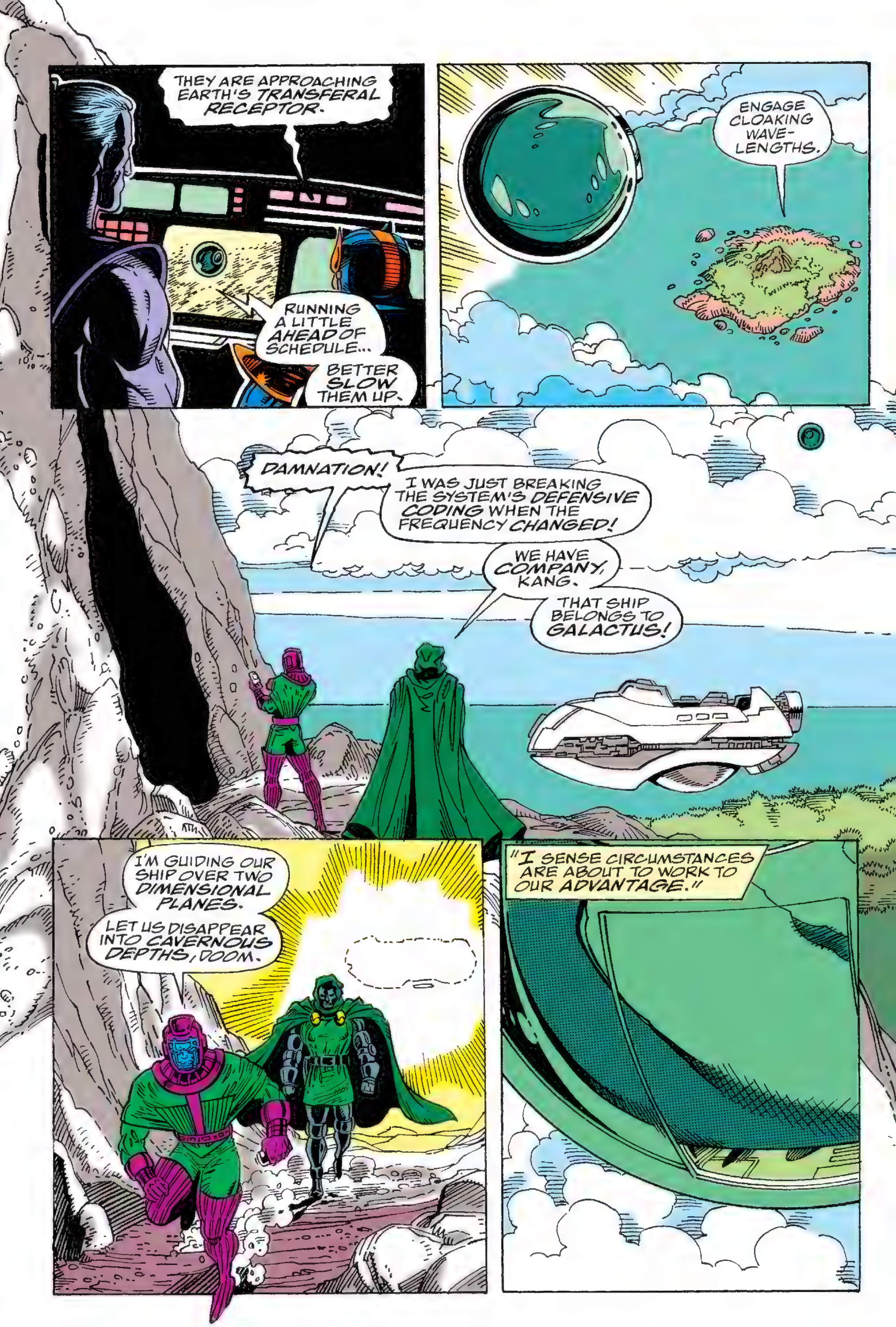
YES...

YOUR SHADE.

NEVER FORGET THAT FACT.

DESPITE HIS VAUNTED REPUTATION, WARLOCK WILL ALSO FALL VICTIM TO MY GUILE AND CUNNING.

WHAT HAVE WE ON THE GALACTUS CONTINGENT?


THEY ARE APPROACHING EARTH'S TRANSFERAL RECEPTOR.
RUNNING A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE...
BETTER SLOW THEM UP.
ENGAGE CLOAKING WAVE-LENGTHS.
DAMNATION!
I WAS JUST BREAKING THE SYSTEM'S DEFENSIVE CODING WHEN THE FREQUENCY CHANGED!
WE HAVE COMPANY, KANG.
THAT SHIP BELONGS TO GALACTUS!
I'M GUIDING OUR SHIP OVER TWO DIMENSIONAL PLANES.
LET US DISAPPEAR INTO CAVERNOUS DEPTHS, DOOM.
"I SENSE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ABOUT TO WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE."

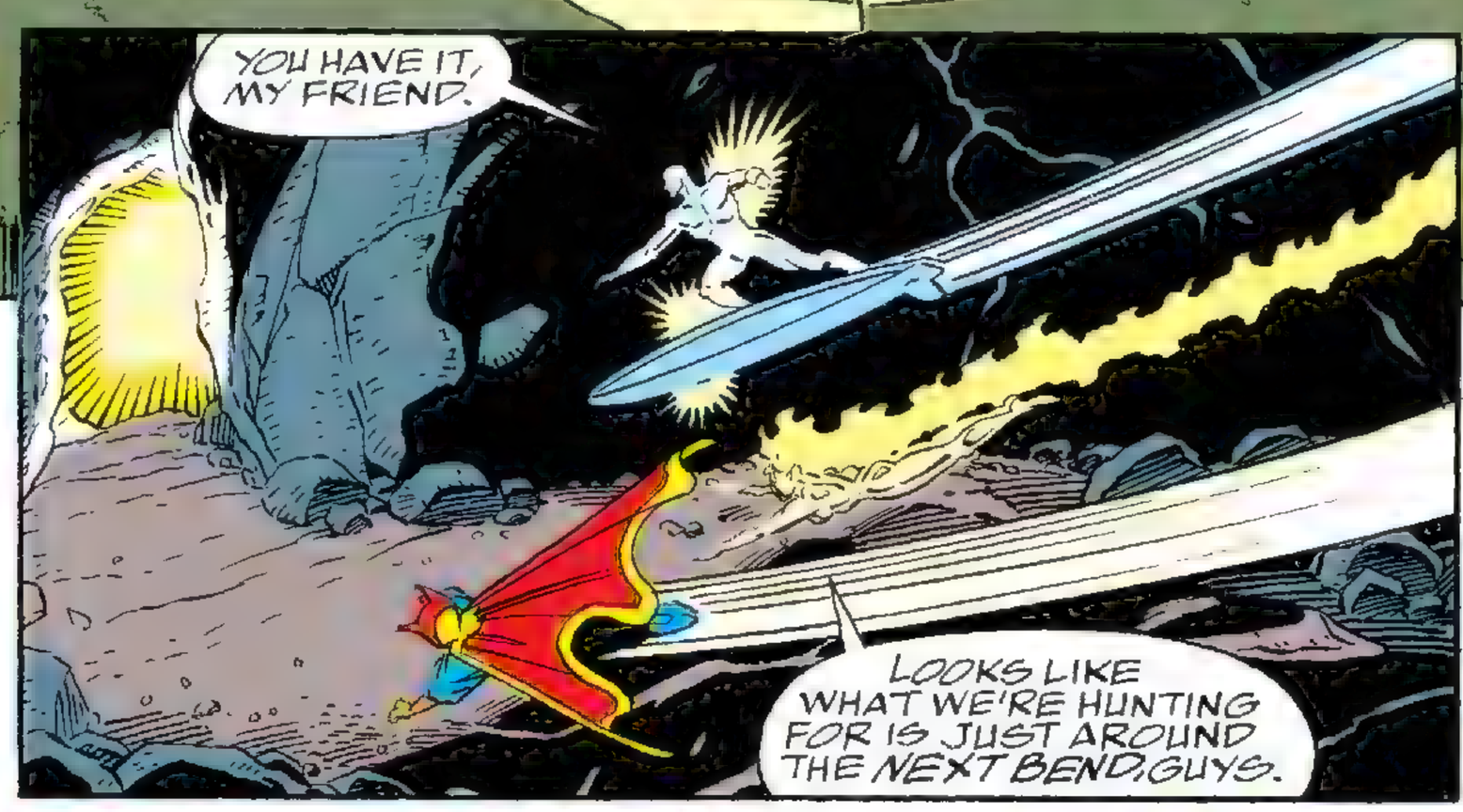
NOVA, NORRIN RADD, SCOUT THE AREA FOR INTRUDERS.

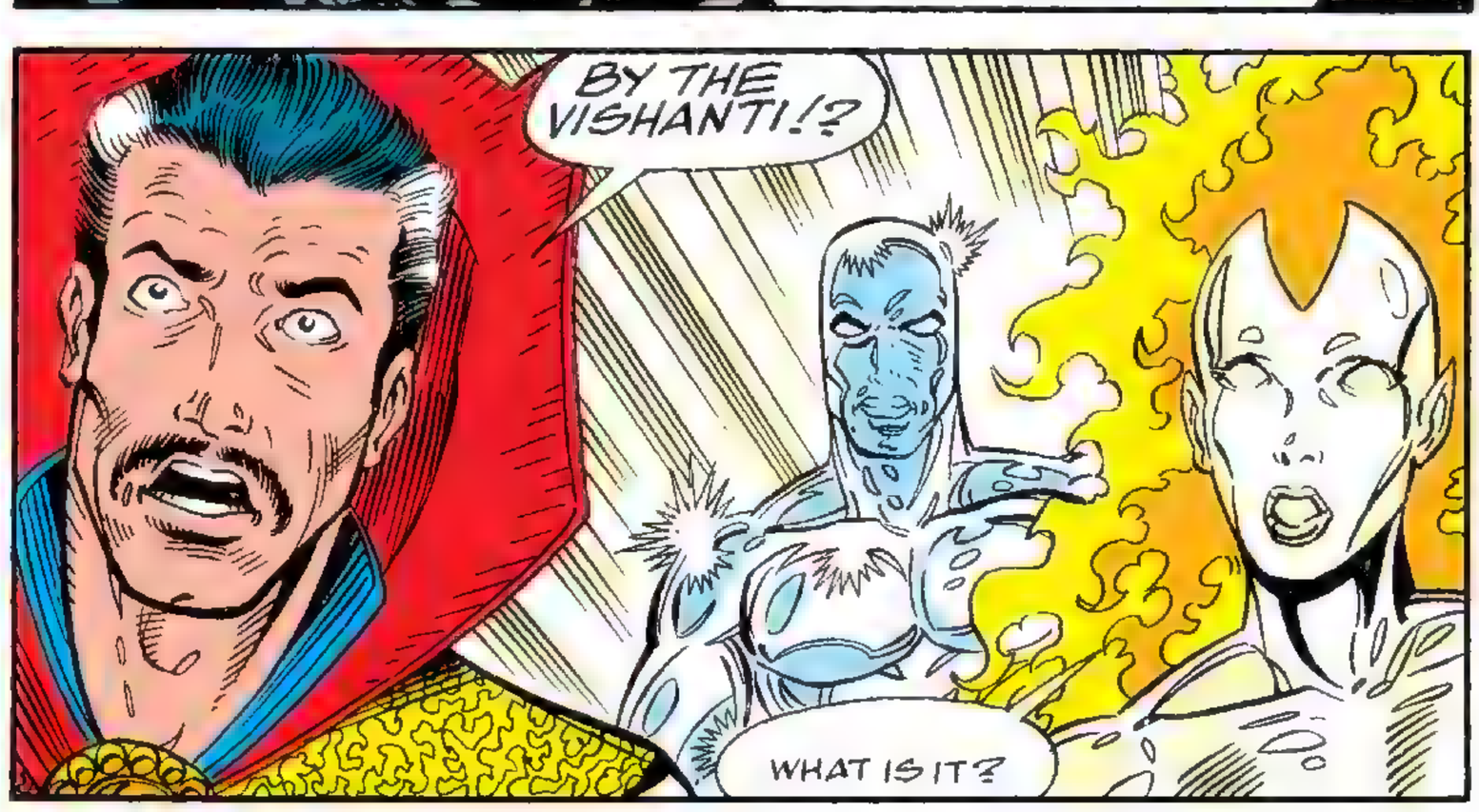
THAT ENERGY FLUCTUATION THE SCANNERS PICKED UP ON OUR WAY IN CONCERNS ME.

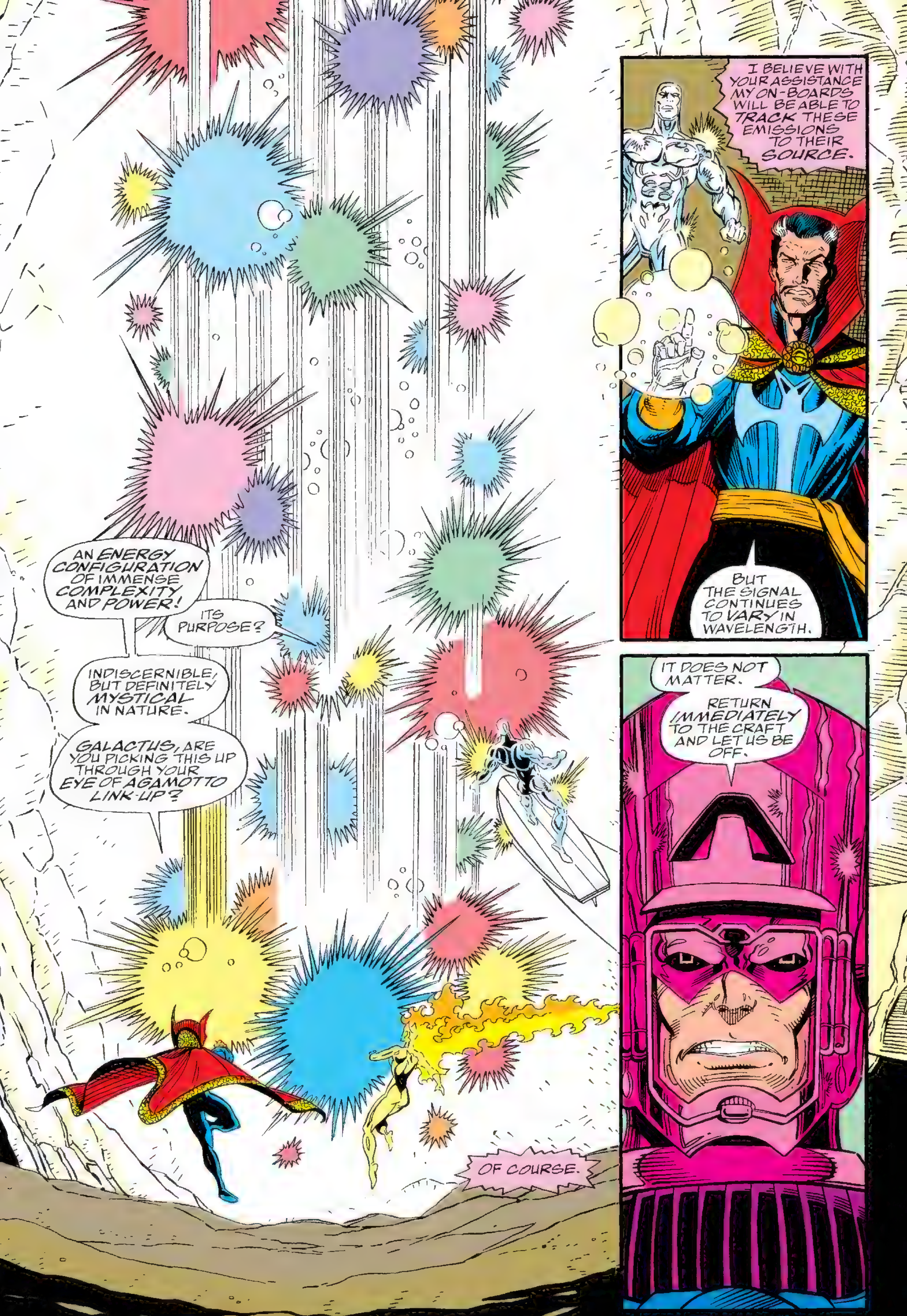
DR. STRANGE?

I'VE LOCATED THE RECEPTION RELAY WITHIN THAT CAVE.

INVESTIGATE DIRECTLY.






AN ENERGY CONFIGURATION OF IMMENSE COMPLEXITY AND POWER!
ITS PURPOSE?
INDISCERNIBLE, BUT DEFINITELY MYSTICAL IN NATURE.
GALACTUS, ARE YOU PICKING THIS UP THROUGH YOUR EYE OF AGAMOTTO LINK-UP?
OF COURSE.
I BELIEVE WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE MY ON-BOARDS WILL BE ABLE TO TRACK THESE EMISSIONS TO THEIR SOURCE.
BUT THE SIGNAL CONTINUES TO VARY IN WAVELENGTH.
IT DOES NOT MATTER.
RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO THE CRAFT AND LET US BE OFF.

OUR CLOAKING SHIELDS CONCEALED US FROM EVEN THE SURFER'S ACUTE SENSES.

WERE YOU ABLE TO SLAP A TRACE BEAM ONTO GALACTUS'S SHIP?

OF COURSE.

NOW WE NEED ONLY FOLLOW HIM TO THE SOURCE OF THE POWER BROADCASTS.

LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

SHORTLY.

I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT IRON MAN AND HAWKEYE ARE ON THEIR WAY.

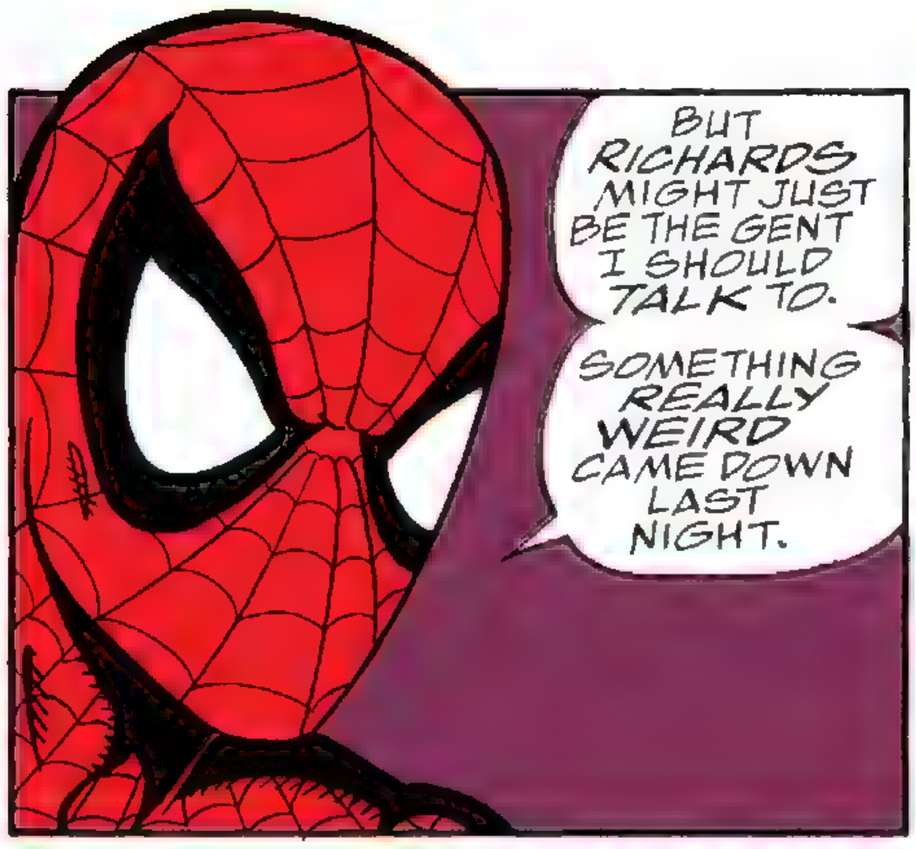
I'LL BEGIN ONCE THEY ARRIVE.

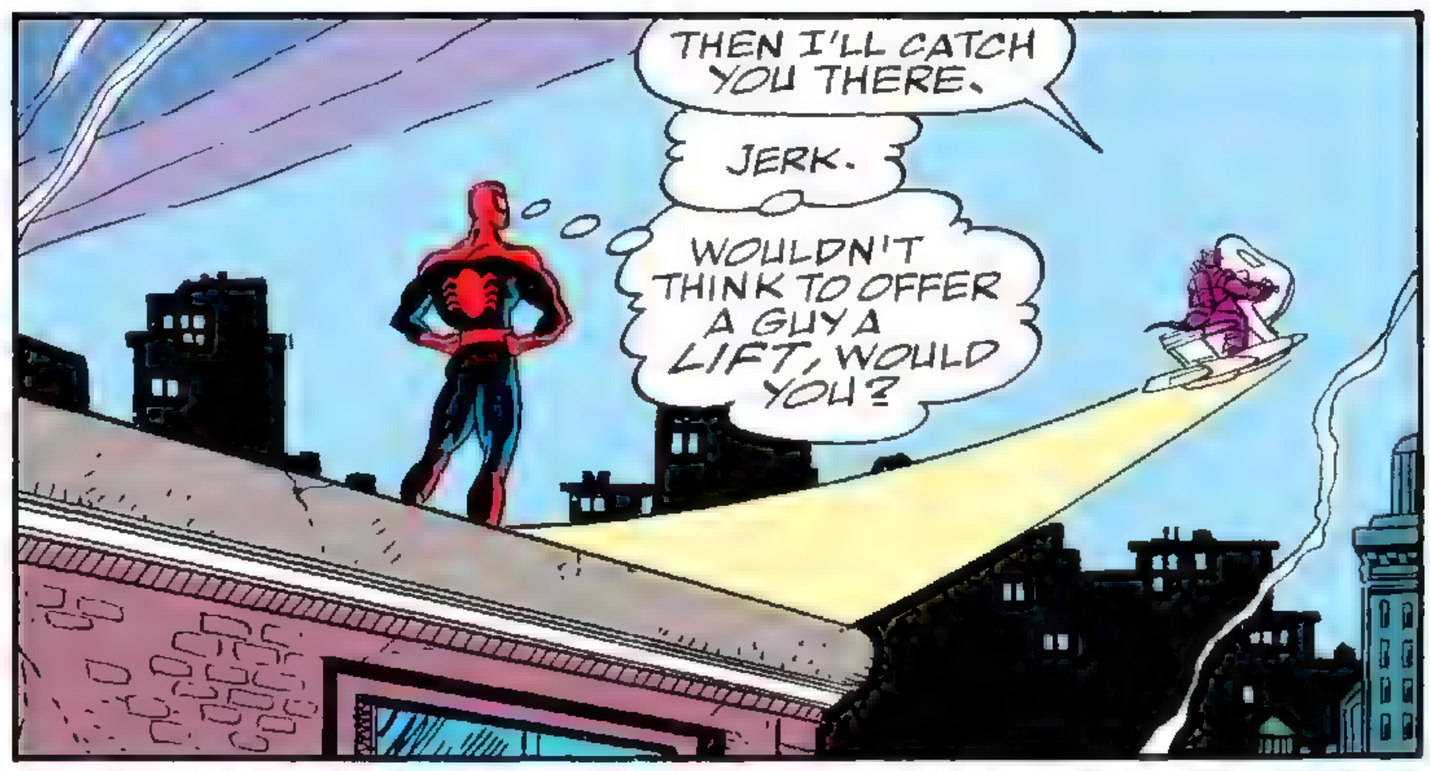
THIS BETTER BE WORTH WAITING FOR, OR I'LL...

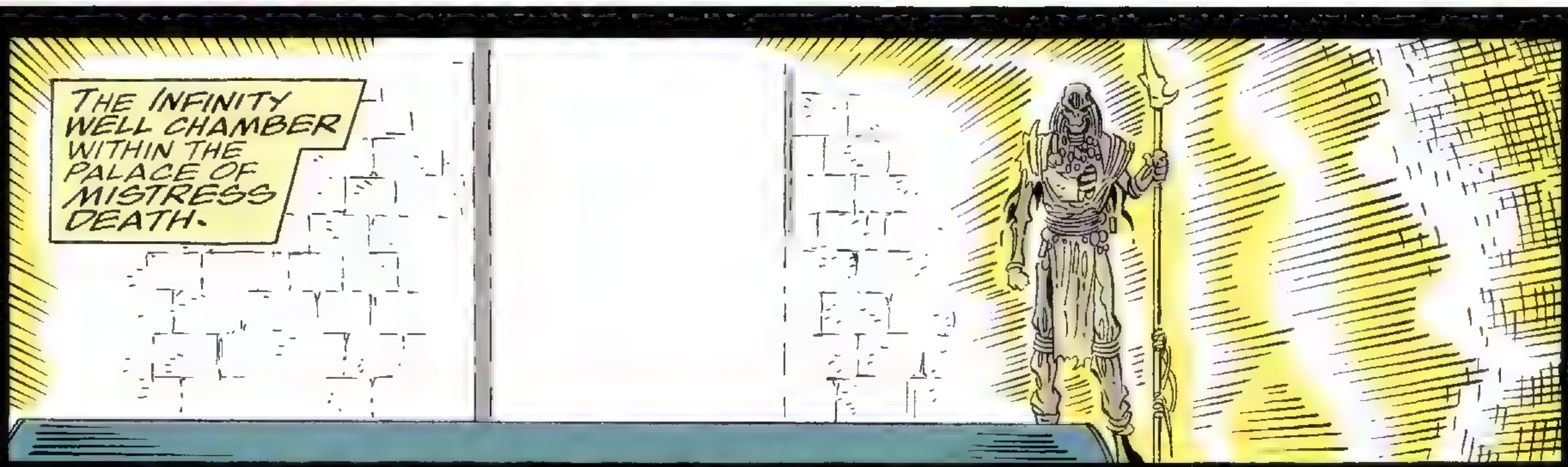
YEAH, BIG GET-TOGETHER AT THE 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA.

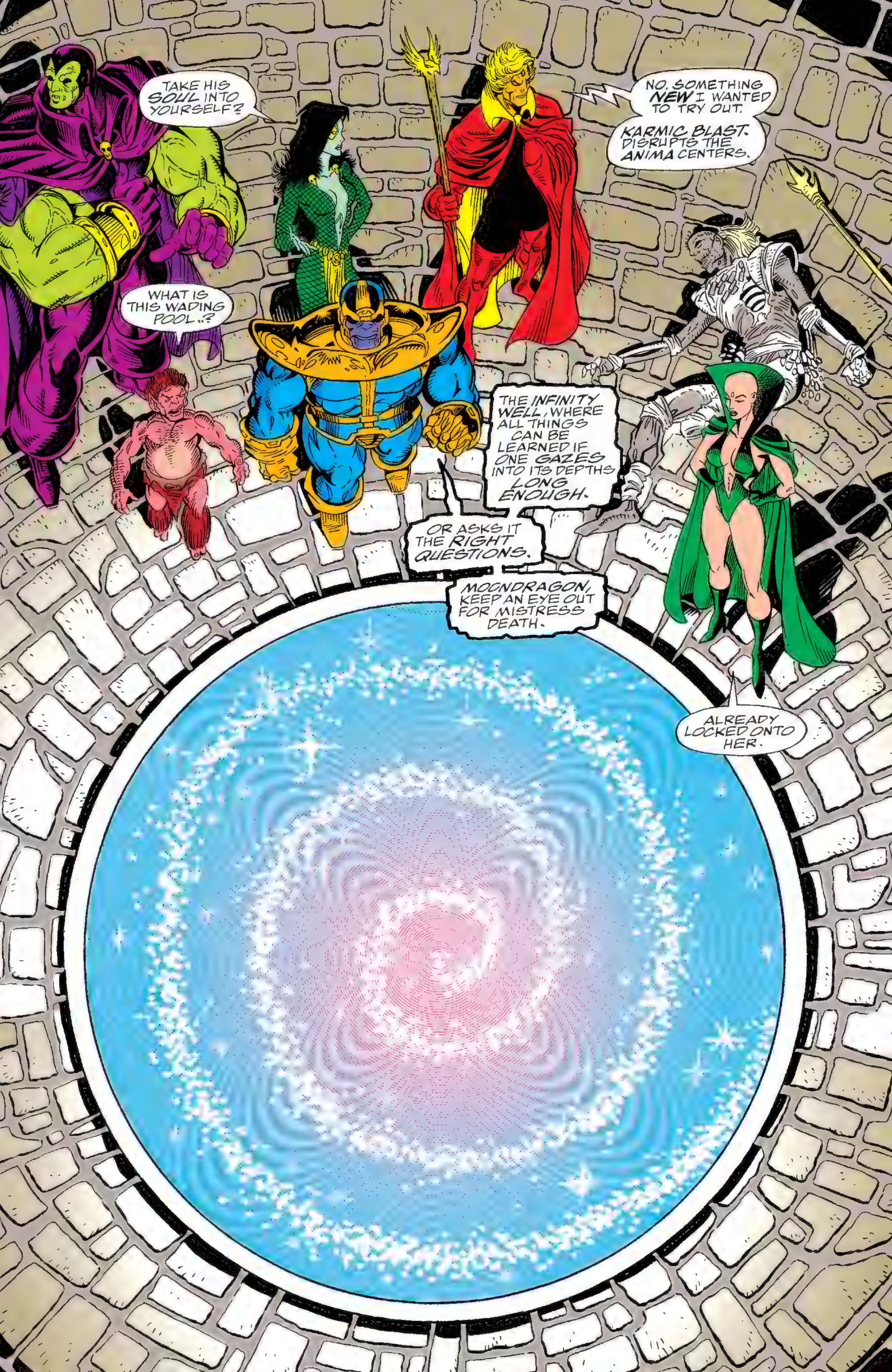
SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT, SPIDEY.

I'VE BEEN KIND OF OUT OF TOUCH LATELY, HAWKEYE.

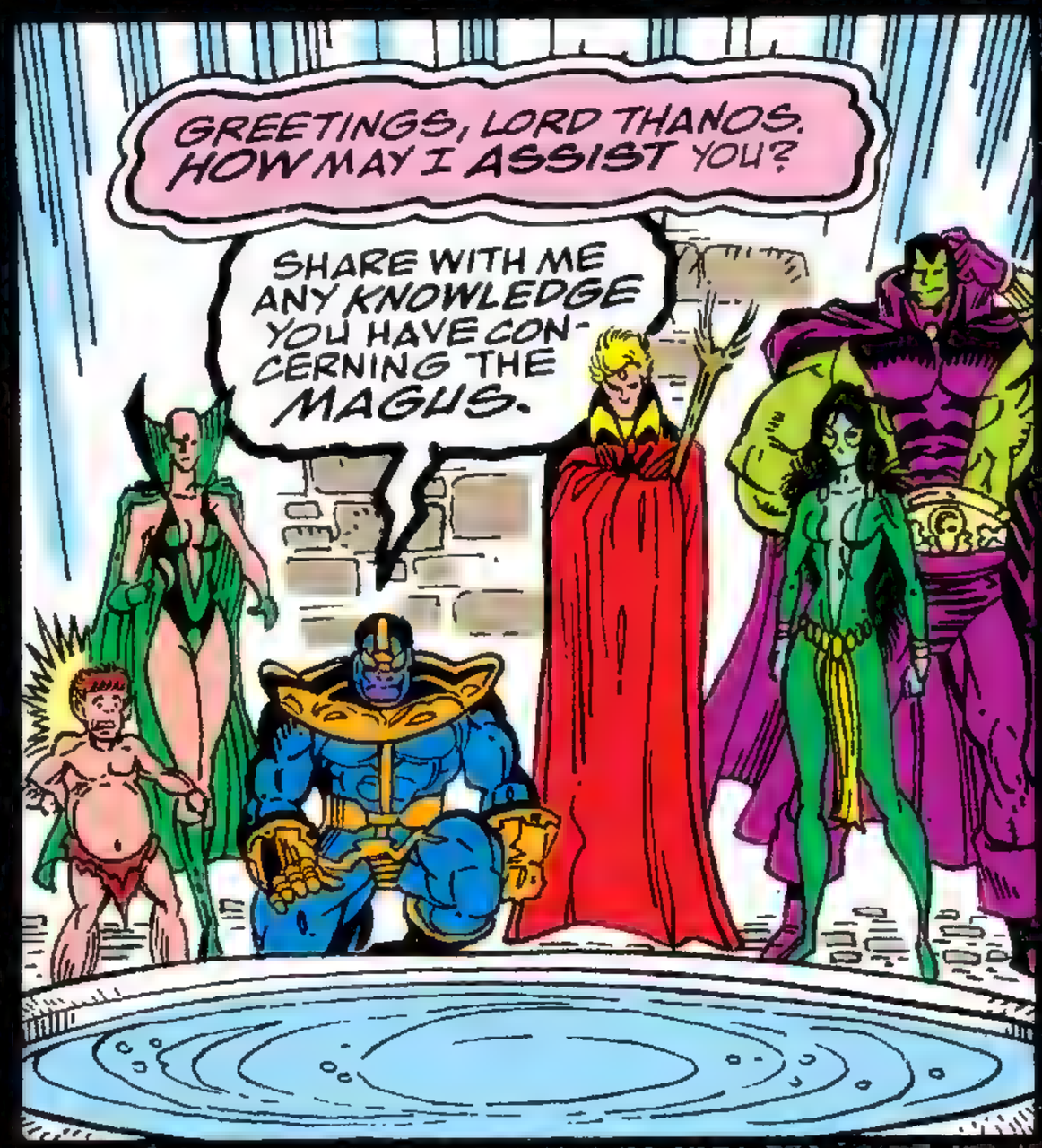

BUT RICHARDS MIGHT JUST BE THE GENT I SHOULD TALK TO.
SOMETHING REALLY WEIRD CAME DOWN LAST NIGHT.


THEN I'LL CATCH YOU THERE.
JERK.
WOULDN'T THINK TO OFFER A GUY A LIFT, WOULD YOU?

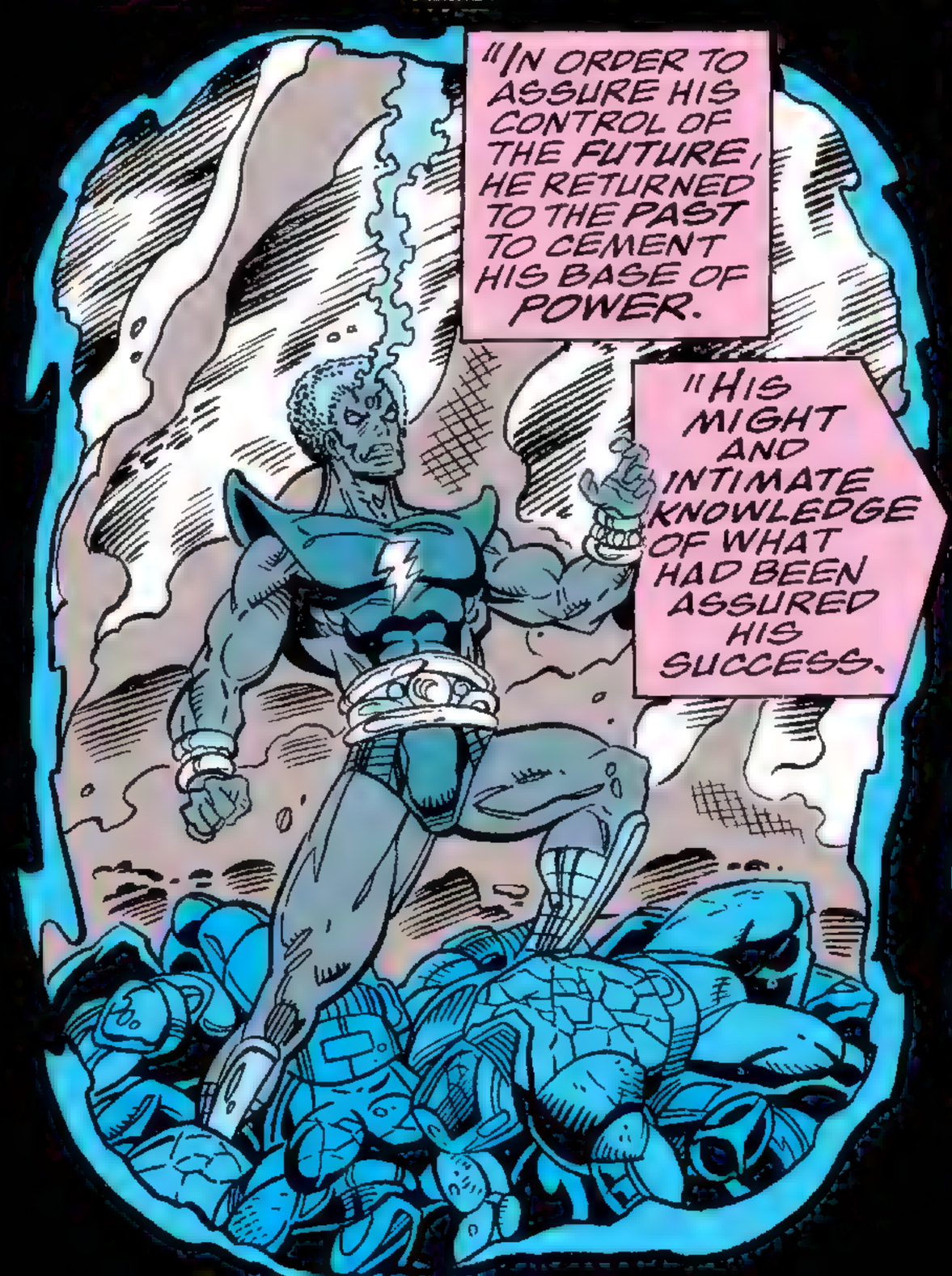

THE INFINITY WELL CHAMBER WITHIN THE PALACE OF MISTRESS DEATH.

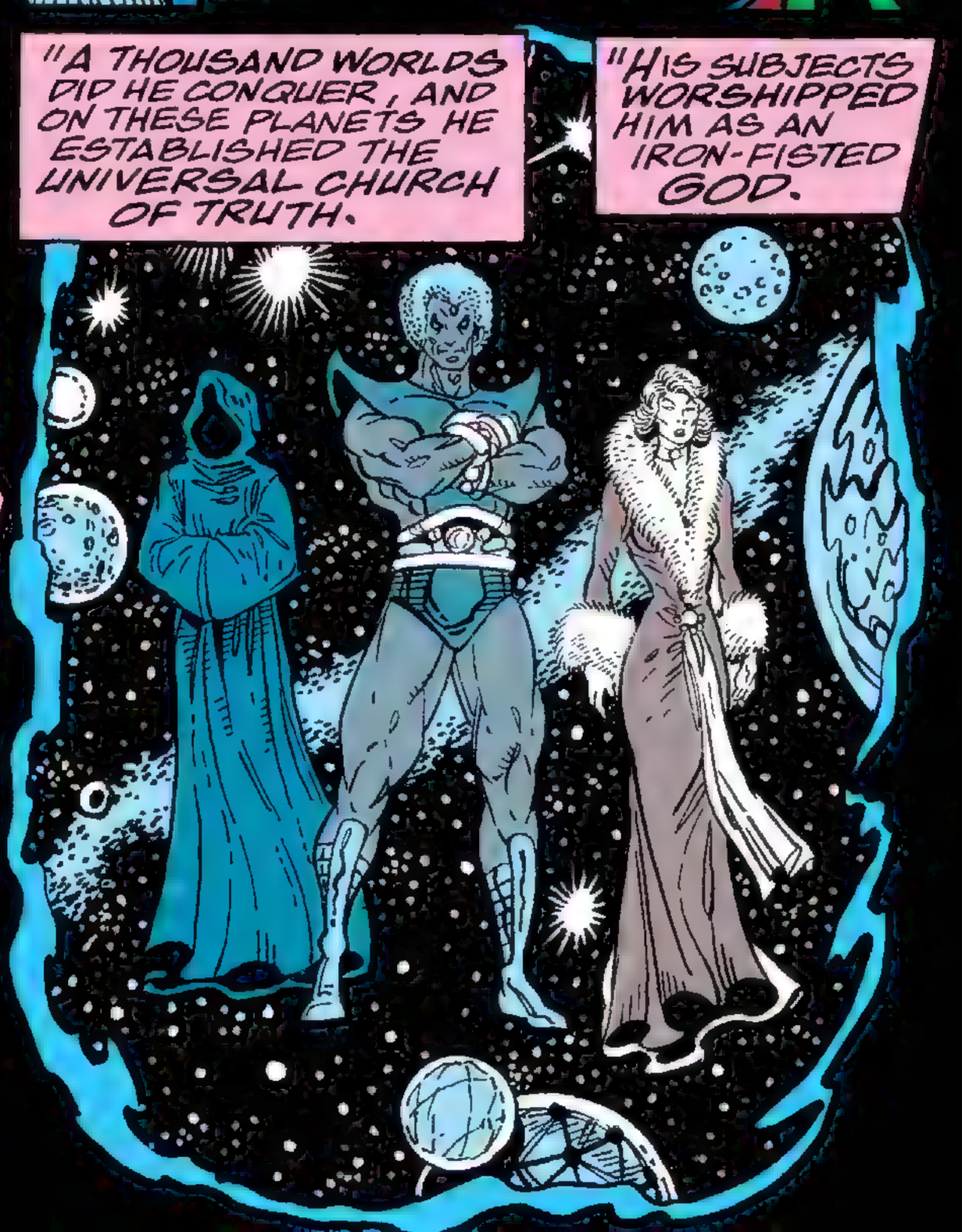

TAKE HIS SOUL INTO YOURSELF?
WHAT IS THIS WADING POOL..?
NO. SOMETHING NEW I WANTED TO TRY OUT.
KARMIC BLAST. DISRUPTS THE ANIMA CENTERS.
THE INFINITY WELL, WHERE ALL THINGS CAN BE LEARNED IF ONE GAZES INTO ITS DEPTHS LONG ENOUGH.
OR ASKS IT THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.
MOONDRAGON, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MISTRESS DEATH.
ALREADY LOCKED ONTO HER.

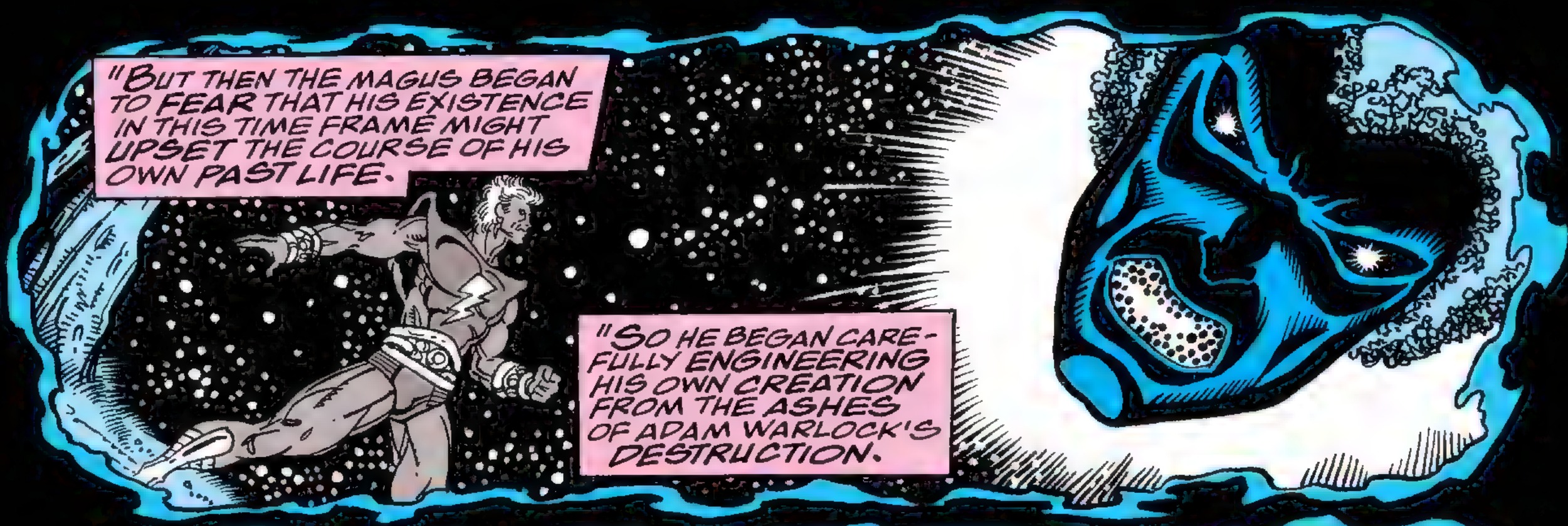
YOU SAY YOU CAN SPEAK WITH THIS WELL?
BY SIMPLY STIRRING ITS WATERS.

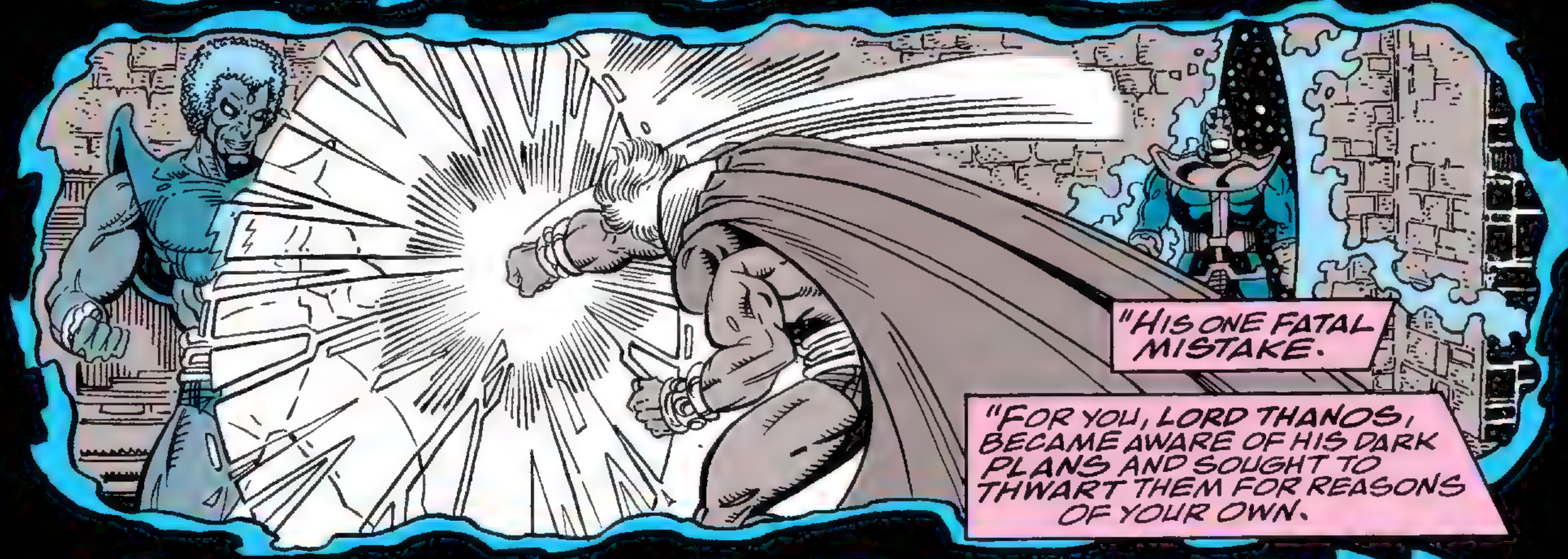

GREETINGS, LORD THANOS. HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?
SHARE WITH ME ANY KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE CONCERNING THE MAGUS.

NO SIMPLE REQUEST.
ONCE A TIME LINE EXISTED WHERE YOUR COMPANION, ADAM WARLOCK, EVENTUALLY BECOME THE MAGUS, A DARK AND OMINOUS CONQUEROR.
BUT HE WAS A CAESAR WITH A STRANGE TWIST.


"IN ORDER TO ASSURE HIS CONTROL OF THE FUTURE, HE RETURNED TO THE PAST TO CEMENT HIS BASE OF POWER.
"HIS MIGHT AND INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAD BEEN ASSURED HIS SUCCESS.

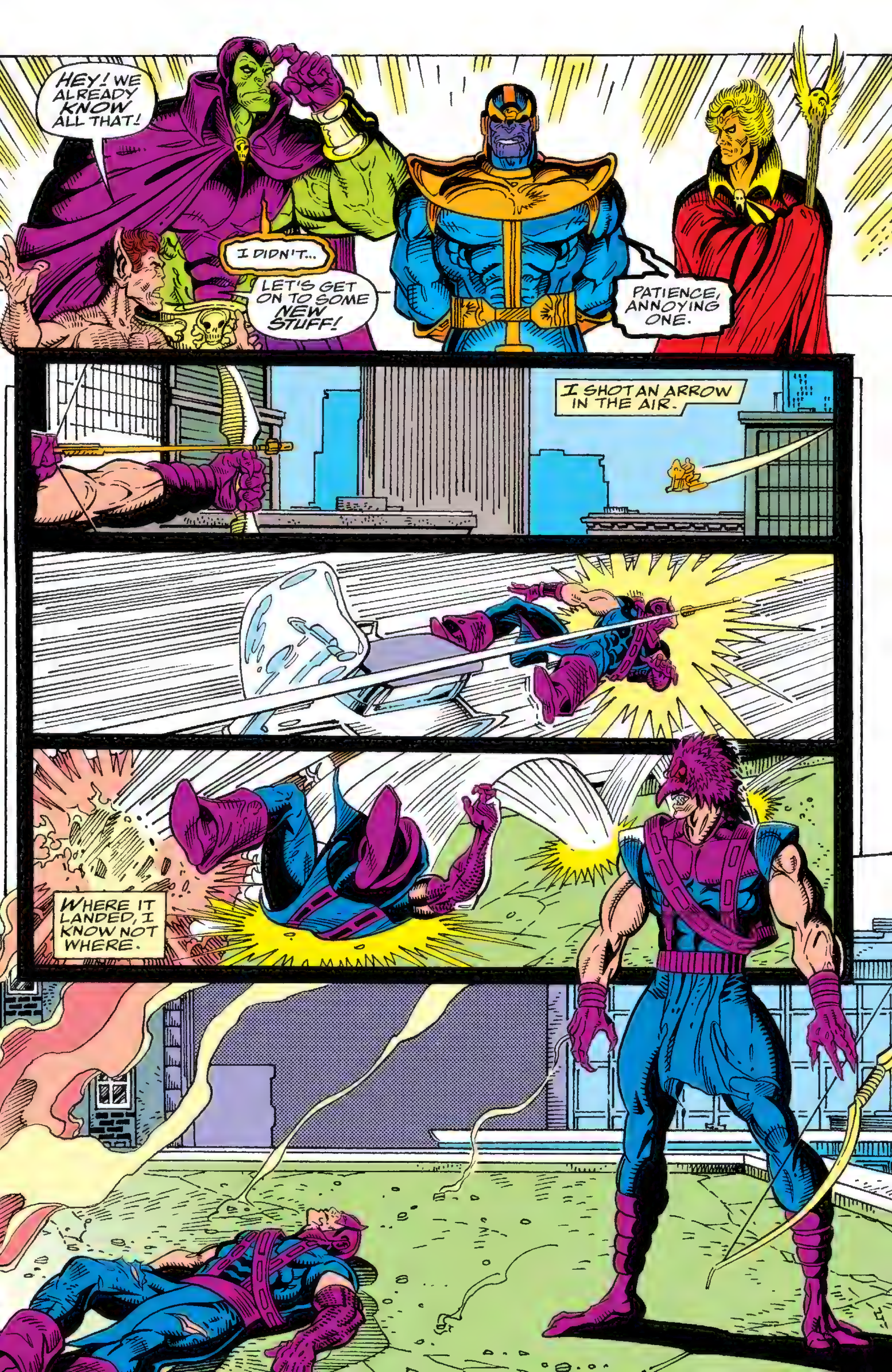

"A THOUSAND WORLDS DID HE CONQUER, AND ON THESE PLANETS HE ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH.
"HIS SUBJECTS WORSHIPPED HIM AS AN IRON-FISTED GOD.

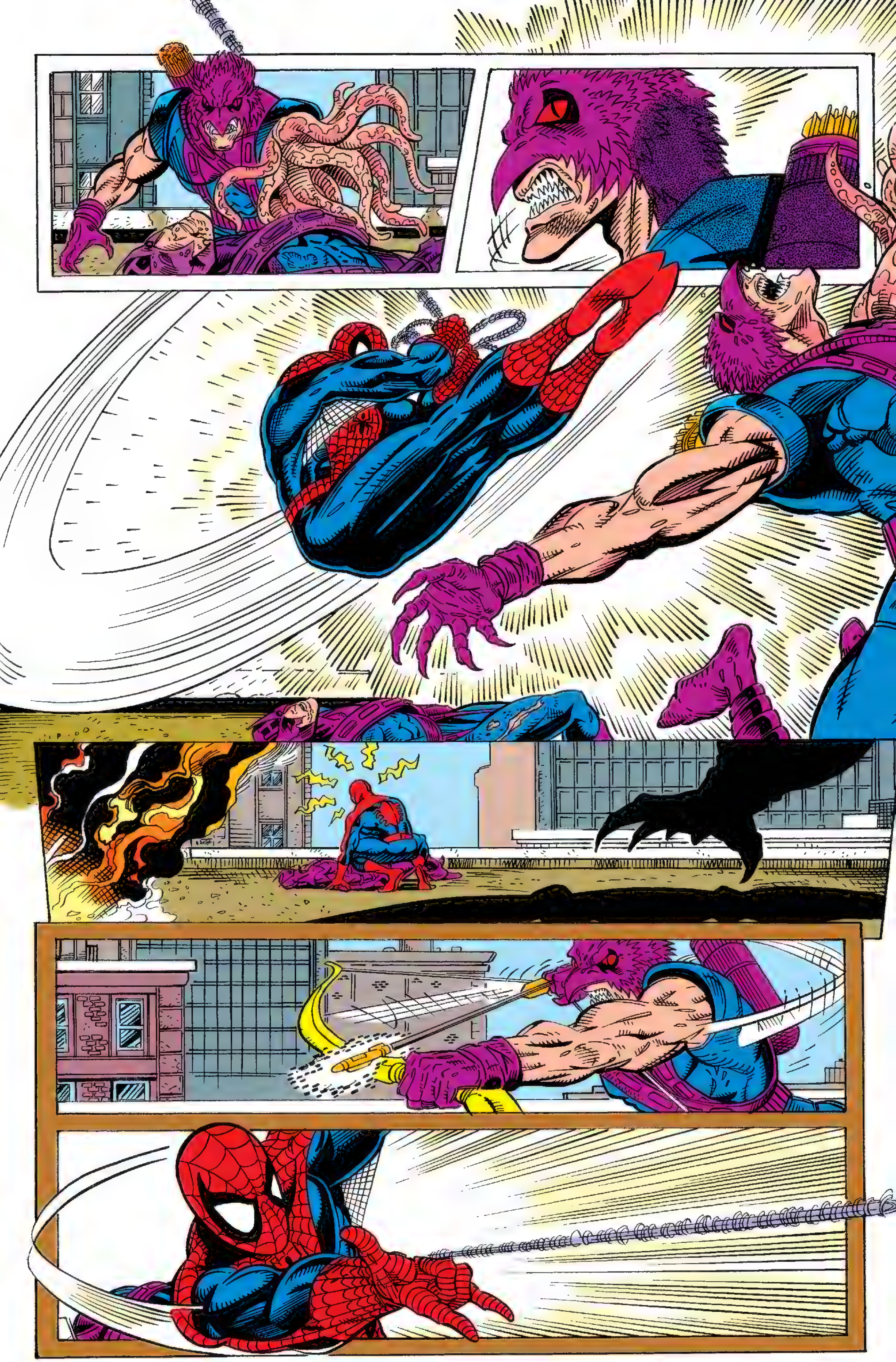

"BUT THEN THE MAGUS BEGAN TO FEAR THAT HIS EXISTENCE IN THIS TIME FRAME MIGHT UPSET THE COURSE OF HIS OWN PAST LIFE.
"SO HE BEGAN CAREFULLY ENGINEERING HIS OWN CREATION FROM THE ASHES OF ADAM WARLOCK'S DESTRUCTION.

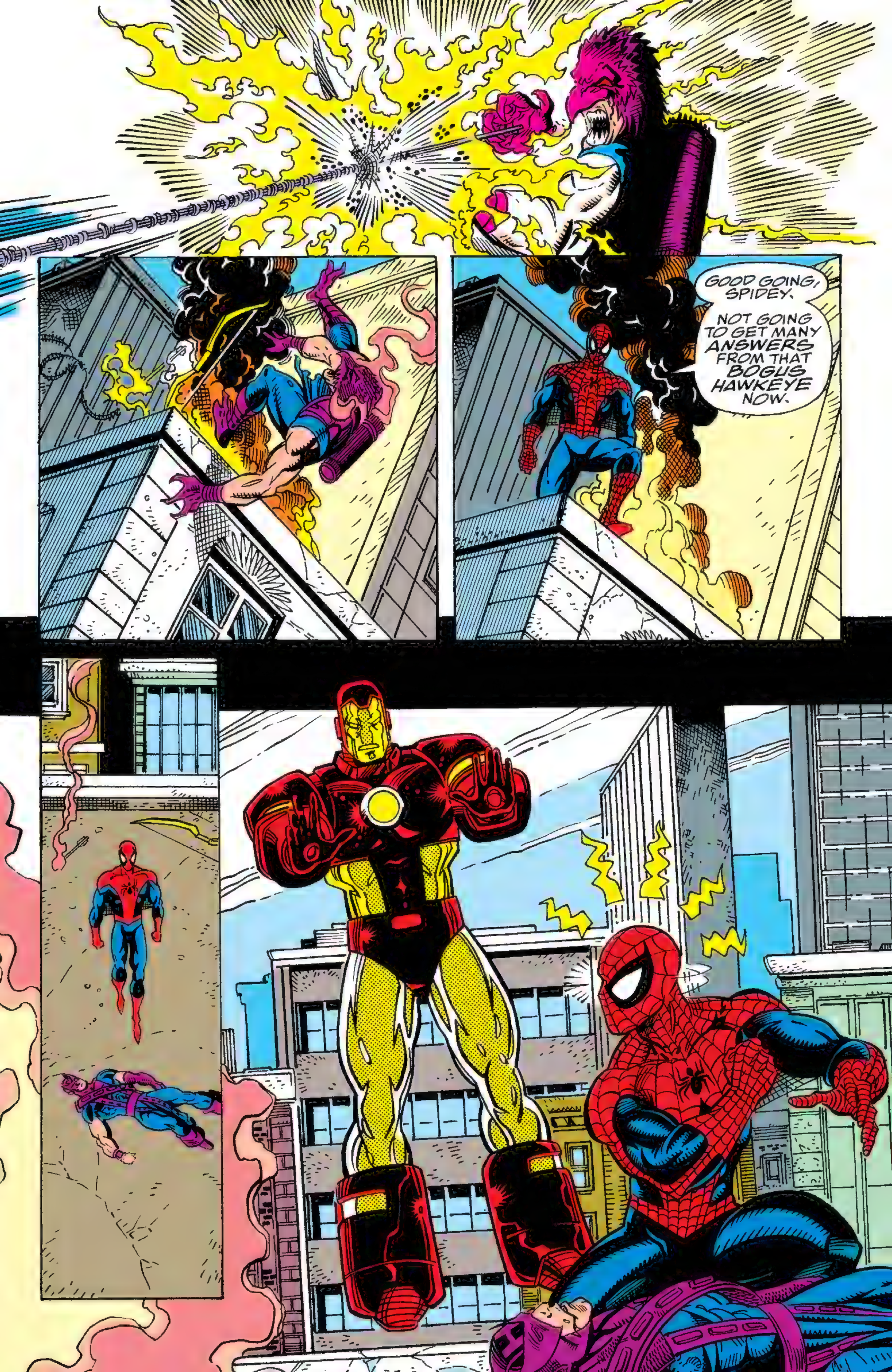

"HIS ONE FATAL MISTAKE.
"FOR YOU, LORD THANOS, BECAME AWARE OF HIS DARK PLANS AND SOUGHT TO THWART THEM FOR REASONS OF YOUR OWN.

"WITH YOUR AID, WARLOCK WAS ABLE TO DESTROY THE TIME LINE FROM WHOSE LOINS THE MAGUS SPRANG.

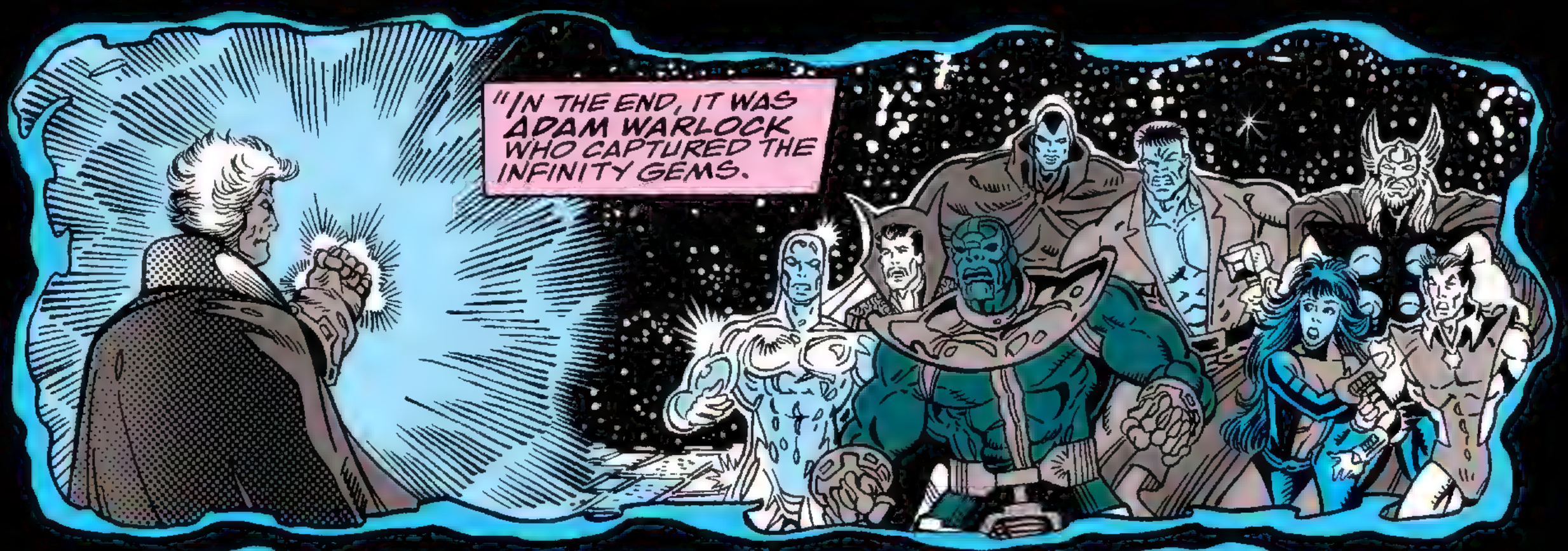
"AND THE BASE EVIL THAT HAD BEEN THE MAGUS FADED FROM EXISTENCE, ONLY TO BE REMEMBERED BY A SELECT FEW."


HEY! WE ALREADY KNOW ALL THAT!
I DIDN'T...
LET'S GET ON TO SOME NEW STUFF!
PATIENCE, ANNOYING ONE.
I SHOT AN ARROW IN THE AIR.
WHERE IT LANDED, I KNOW NOT WHERE.

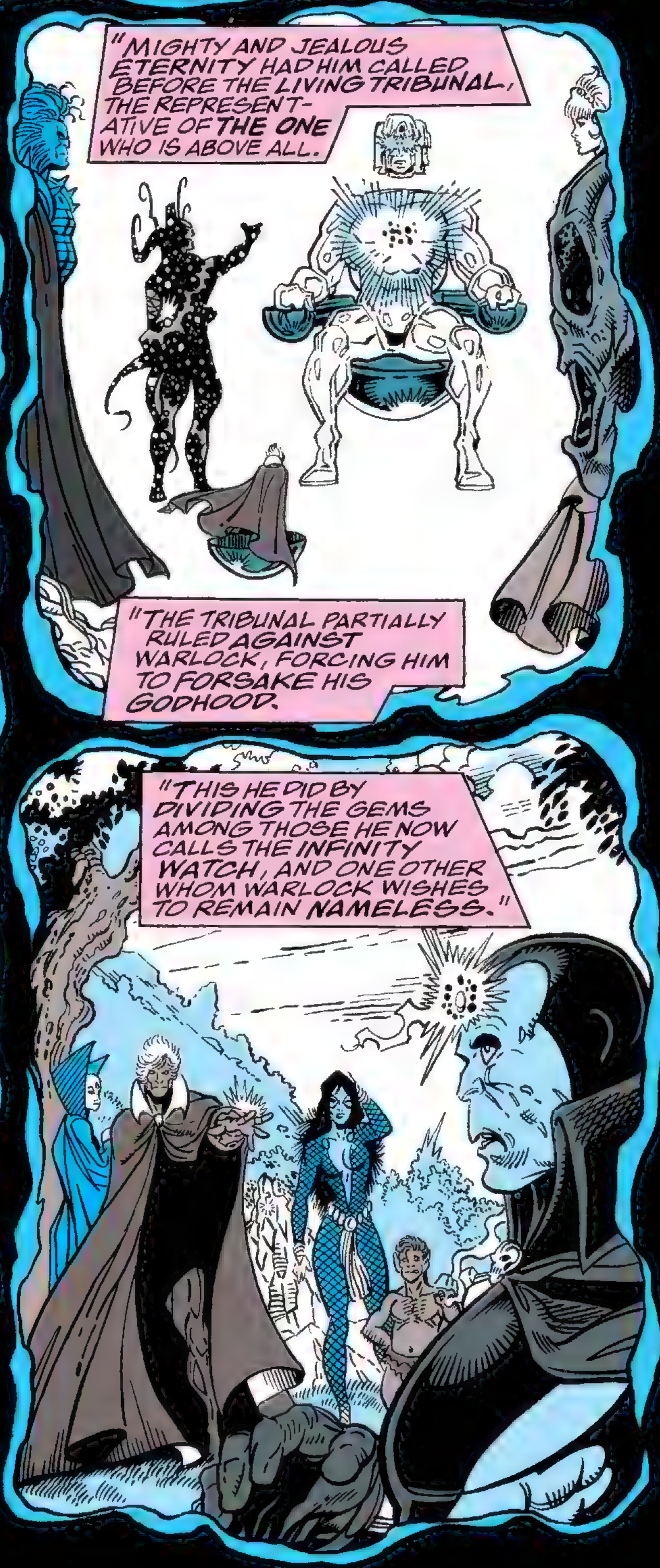



GOOD GOING, SPIDEY.
NOT GOING TO GET MANY ANSWERS FROM THAT BOGUS HAWKEYE NOW.

BUT THE MAGUS WAS NOT DESTINED TO REMAIN A FAINT MEMORY.
FOR YOU, LORD THANOS, DECIDED TO SEEK OUT THE INFINITY GEMS AND HARNESS THEIR AWESOME POWER.
"WITH THEM, YOU GAINED CONTROL OVER ALL TIME, SPACE, POWER, REALITY, THE MIND AND THE SOUL.
"YOU BECAME WHAT YOU CONSIDERED OMNIPOTENCE: GOD.
"BUT THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRED AGAINST YOUR REIGN AND EVENTUALLY PREVAILED.


"IN THE END, IT WAS ADAM WARLOCK WHO CAPTURED THE INFINITY GEMS.

"FOR A SHORT TIME, HE WAS THE END-ALL AND BE-ALL OF THIS REALITY, ITS MASTER.
"BUT LIKE YOU, LORD THANOS, WARLOCK WAS A FLAWED BEING, NOT WORTHY OF THE MANTLE OF SUPREMACY.


"MIGHTY AND JEALOUS ETERNITY HAD HIM CALLED BEFORE THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, THE REPRESENT-ATIVE OF THE ONE WHO IS ABOVE ALL.
"THE TRIBUNAL PARTIALLY RULED AGAINST WARLOCK, FORCING HIM TO FORSAKE HIS GODHOOD.
"THIS HE DID BY DIVIDING THE GEMS AMONG THOSE HE NOW CALLS THE INFINITY WATCH, AND ONE OTHER WHOM WARLOCK WISHES TO REMAIN NAMELESS."

STILL OLD NEWS.

BUT WHAT NONE OF YOU IS AWARE OF IS THAT A DRAMATIC CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN ADAM WARLOCK DURING HIS TENURE AS THE ALMIGHTY.

CHANGE?

AS GOD, HE TRULY STROVE FOR PERFECTION IN ORDER TO SUITABLY CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES.

HE SUBCONSCIOUSLY FELT THAT ONLY PURE LOGIC WOULD ALLOW HIM TO SHOULDER HIS NEW-FOUND RESPONSIBILITIES PROPERLY.

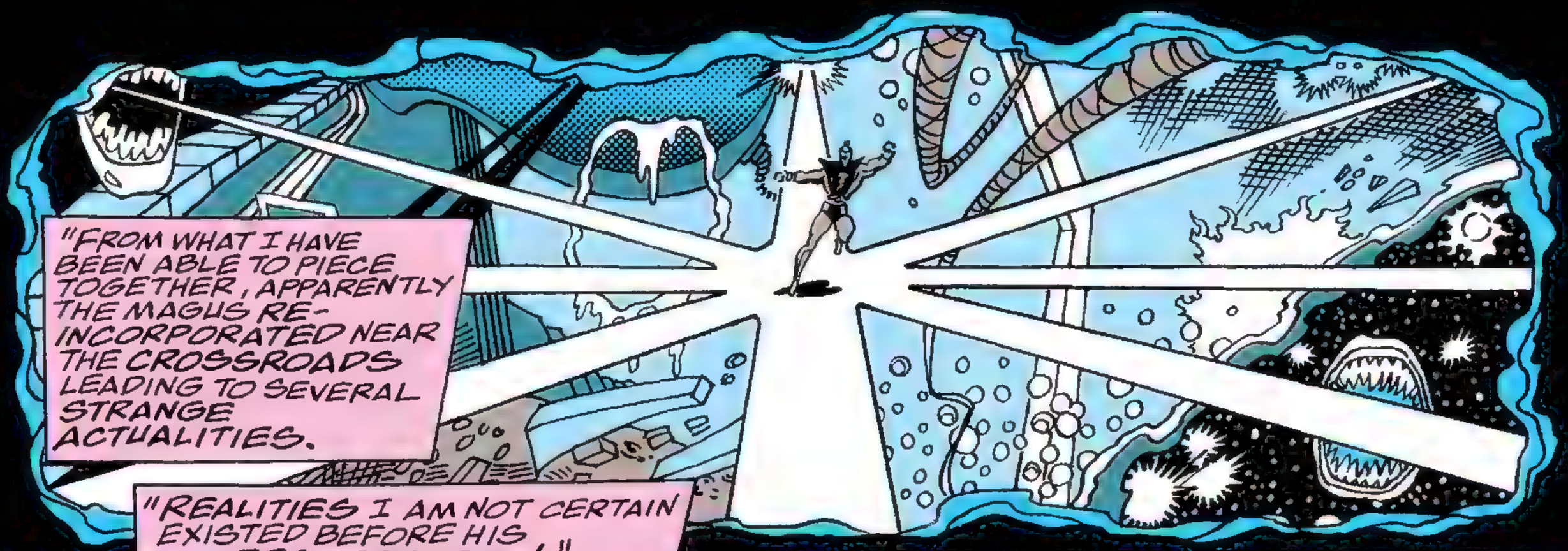
NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CLOUD HIS JUDGMENT.

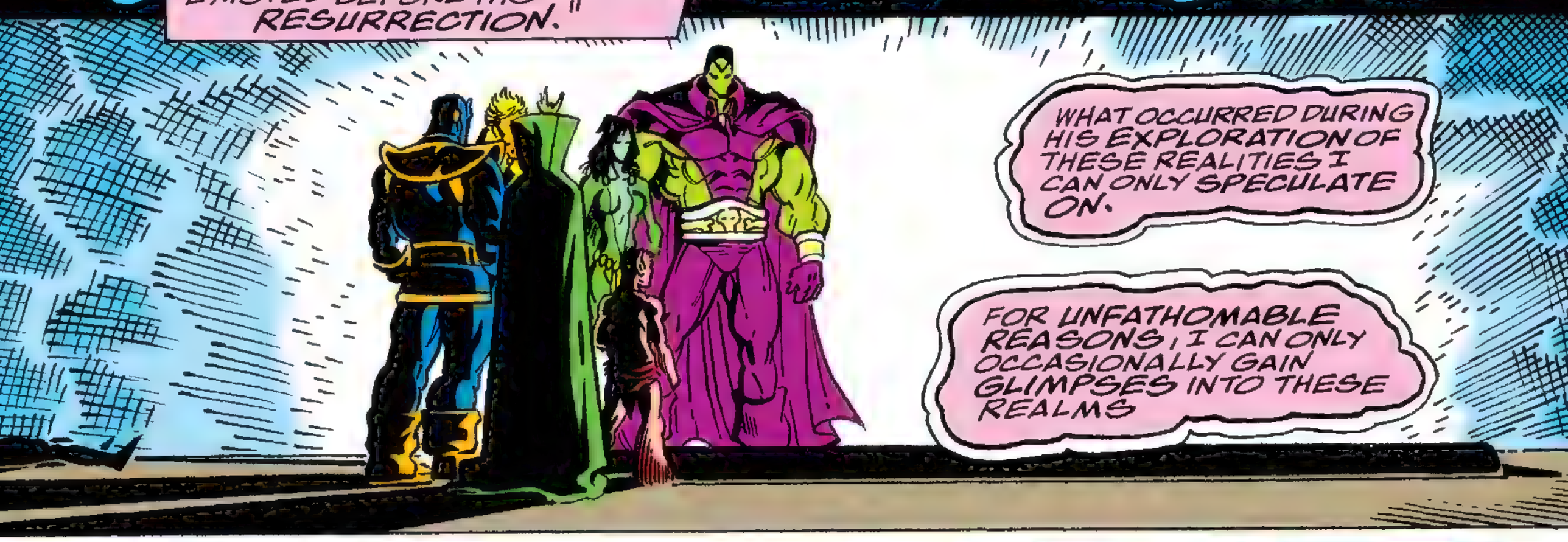
"SO BOTH WERE SUBCONSCIOUSLY AND TOTALLY EXPELLED FROM HIS BEING."

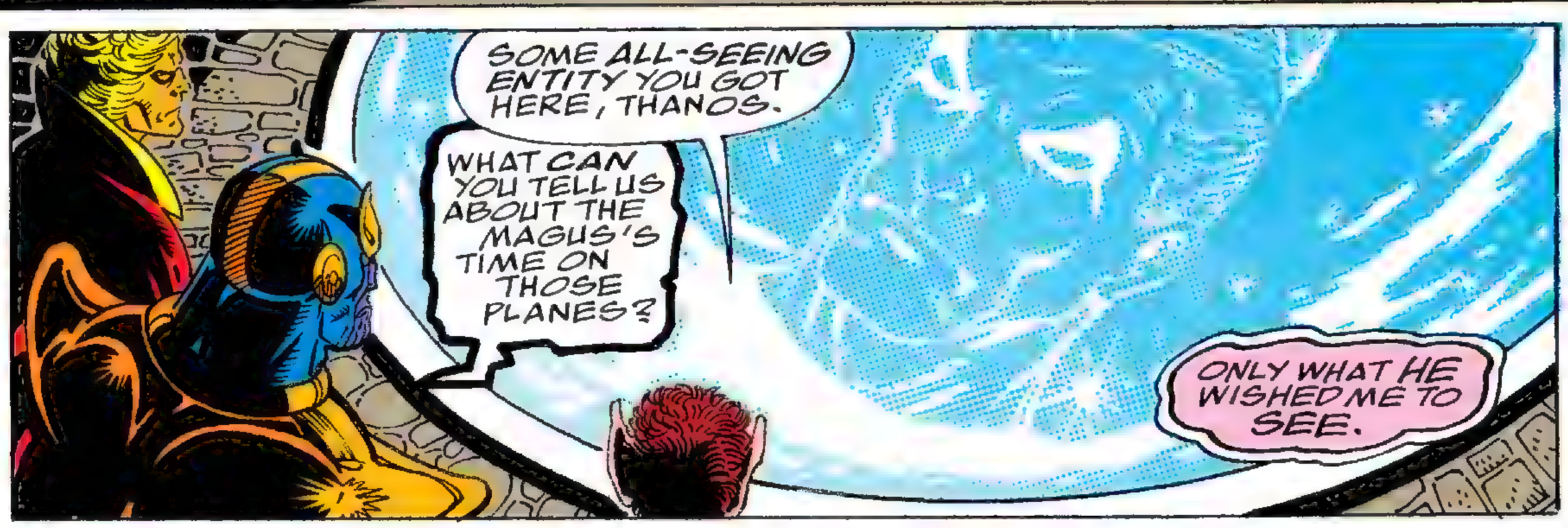
BUT THE DARKNESS THAT IS THE MAGUS WOULD NOT EASILY DIE.

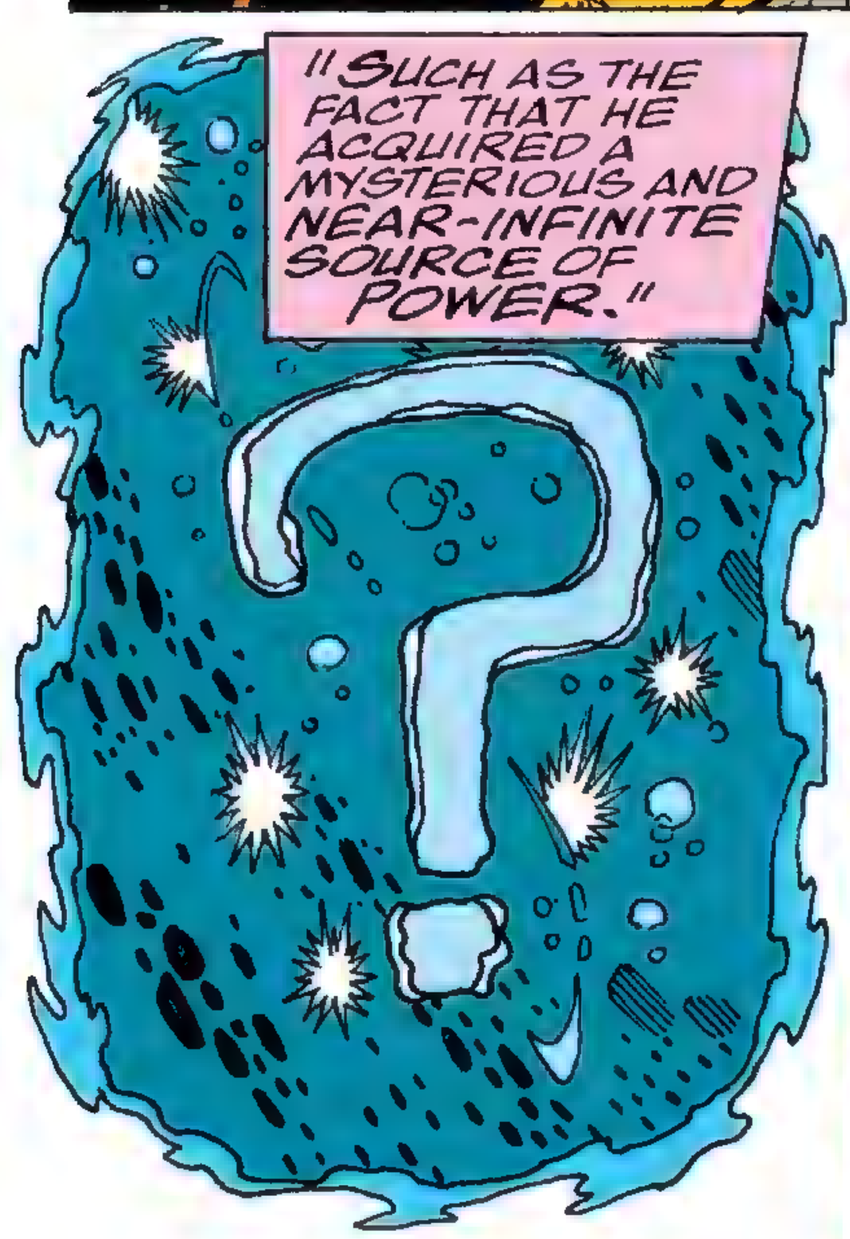
NO GOOD OR EVIL WITHIN ME.

THAT EXPLAINS SO MUCH OF LATE.


"FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER, APPARENTLY THE MAGUS RE-INCORPORATED NEAR THE CROSSROADS LEADING TO SEVERAL STRANGE ACTUALITIES.
"REALITIES I AM NOT CERTAIN EXISTED BEFORE HIS RESURRECTION."

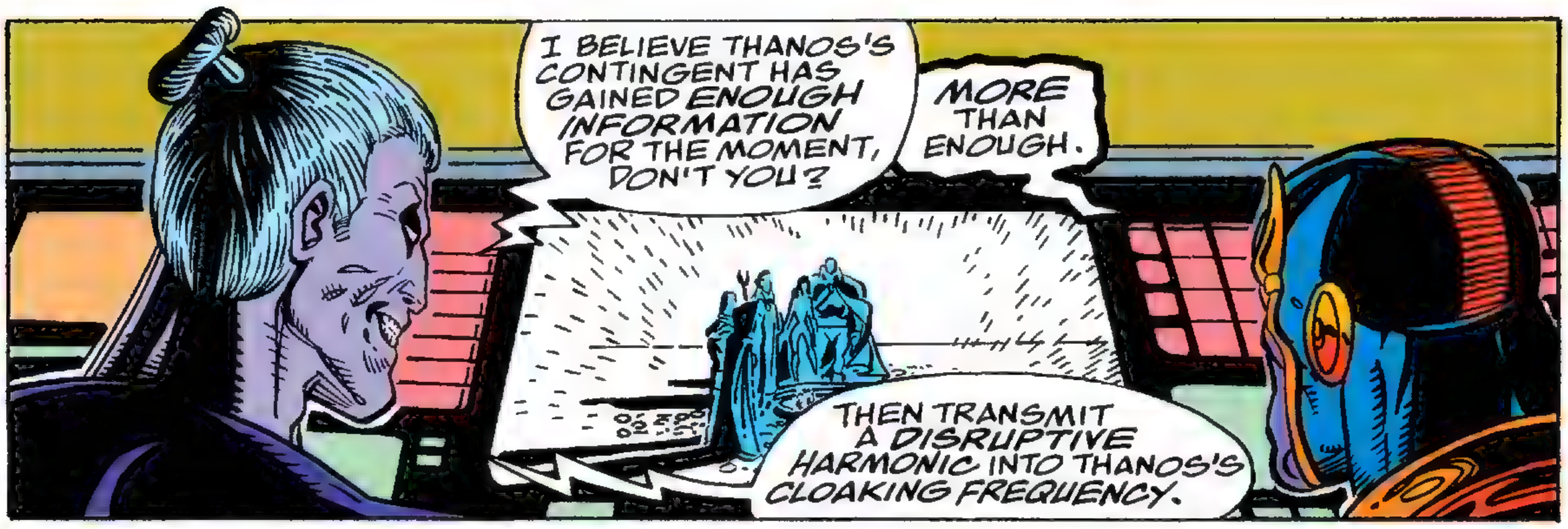

WHAT OCCURRED DURING HIS EXPLORATION OF THESE REALITIES I CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON.
FOR UNFATHOMABLE REASONS, I CAN ONLY OCCASIONALLY GAIN GLIMPSES INTO THESE REALMS


SOME ALL-SEEING ENTITY YOU GOT HERE, THANOS.
WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MAGUS'S TIME ON THOSE PLANES?
ONLY WHAT HE WISHED ME TO SEE.

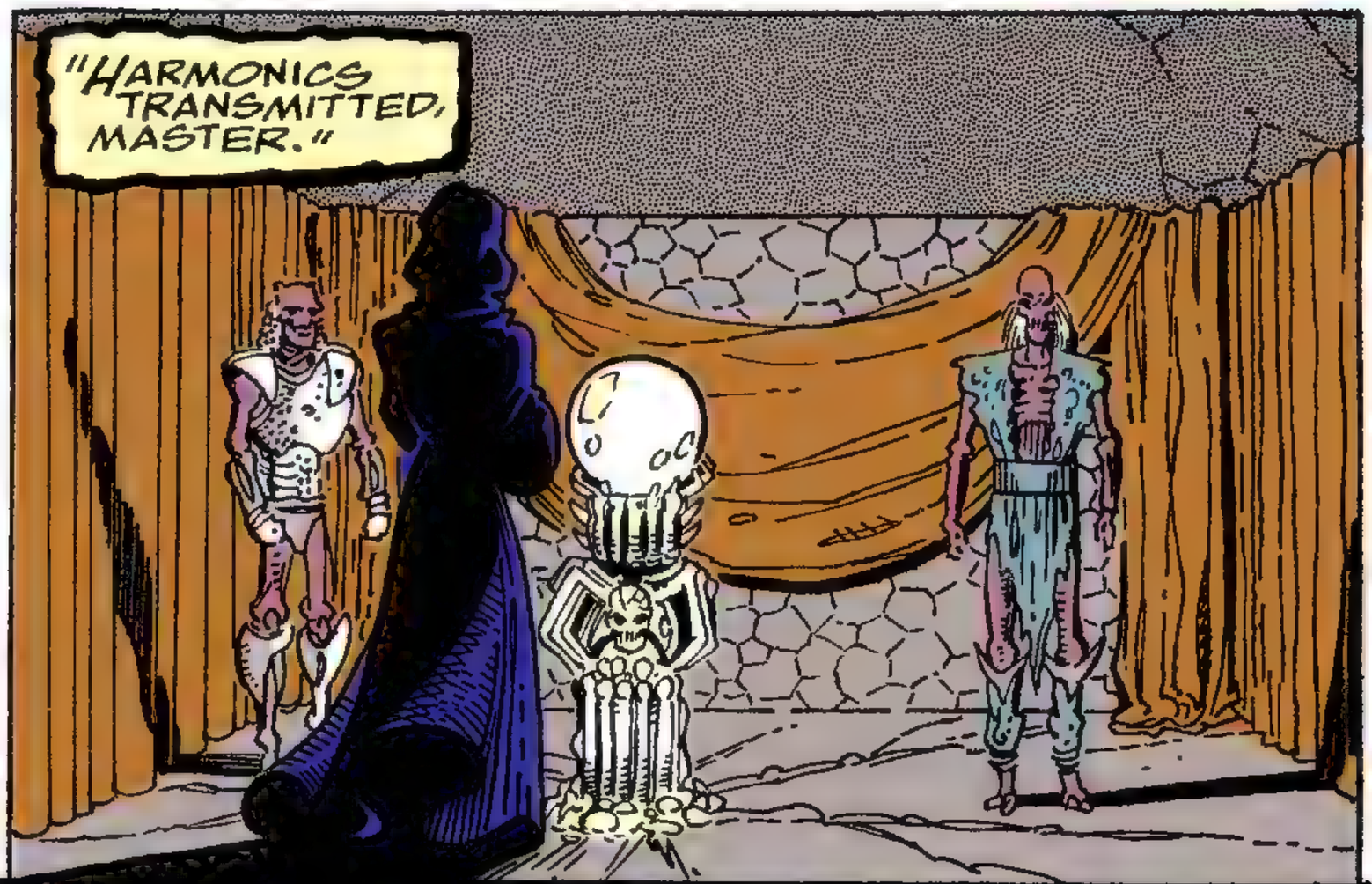

"SUCH AS THE FACT THAT HE ACQUIRED A MYSTERIOUS AND NEAR-INFINITE SOURCE OF POWER."

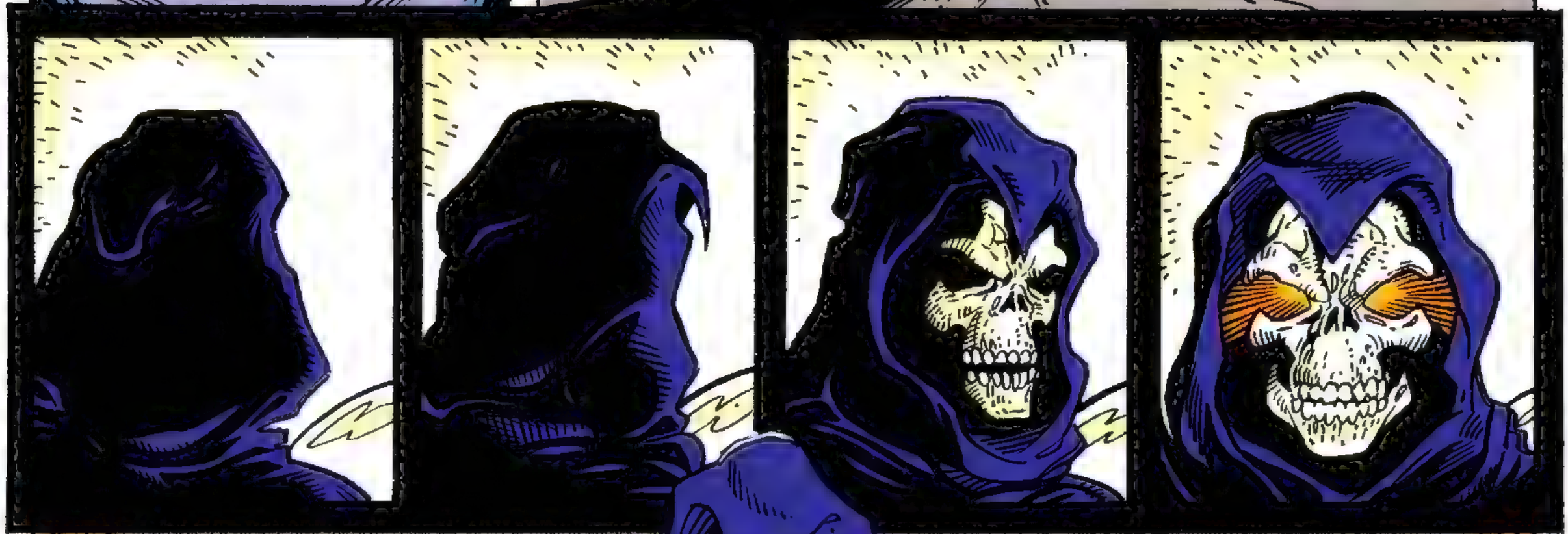
HE WRESTED THIS MIGHT FROM FIVE SEPARATE REALITIES.
FIVE?
ARE WE TALKING ABOUT OTHER-DIMENSIONAL INFINITY GEMS, PERHAPS?

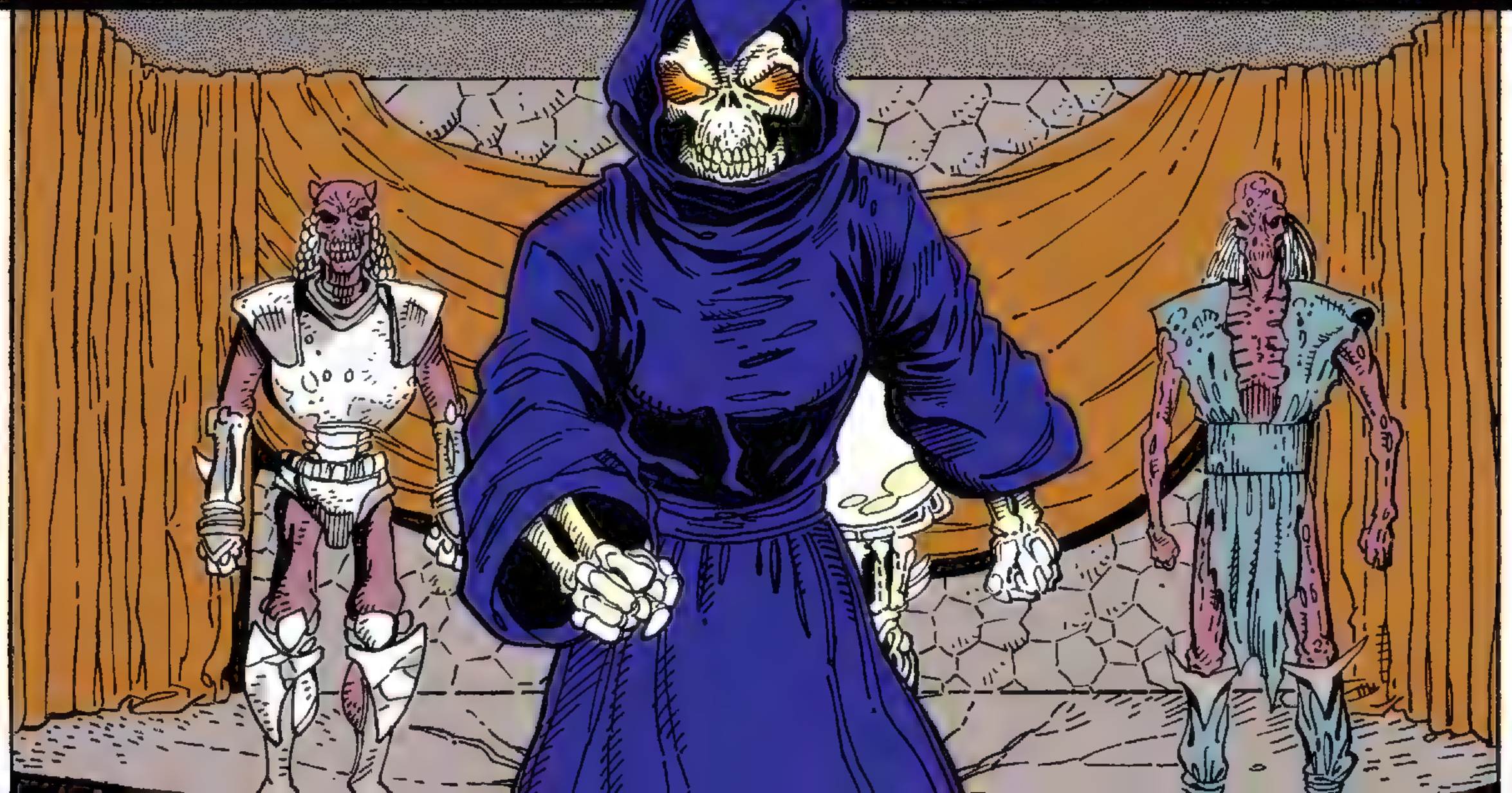
NO, THE WAVE FREQUENCIES DIFFER.
THEN WHAT?
I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUERY.


I BELIEVE THANOS'S CONTINGENT HAS GAINED ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR THE MOMENT, DON'T YOU?
MORE THAN ENOUGH.
THEN TRANSMIT A DISRUPTIVE HARMONIC INTO THANOS'S CLOAKING FREQUENCY.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MISTRESS DEATH TO LEARN SHE HAS TRES-PASSERS ON THE PREMISES.

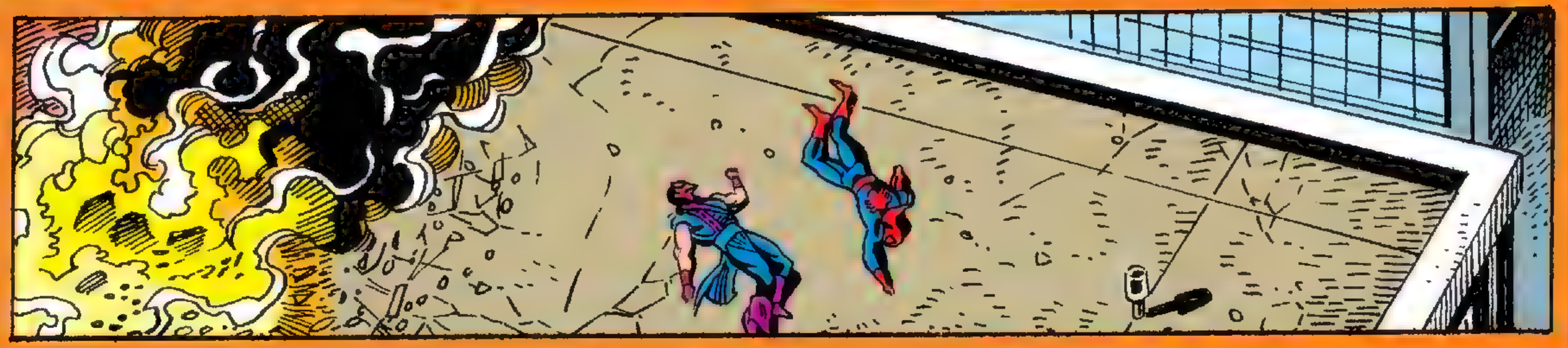

"HARMONICS TRANSMITTED, MASTER."

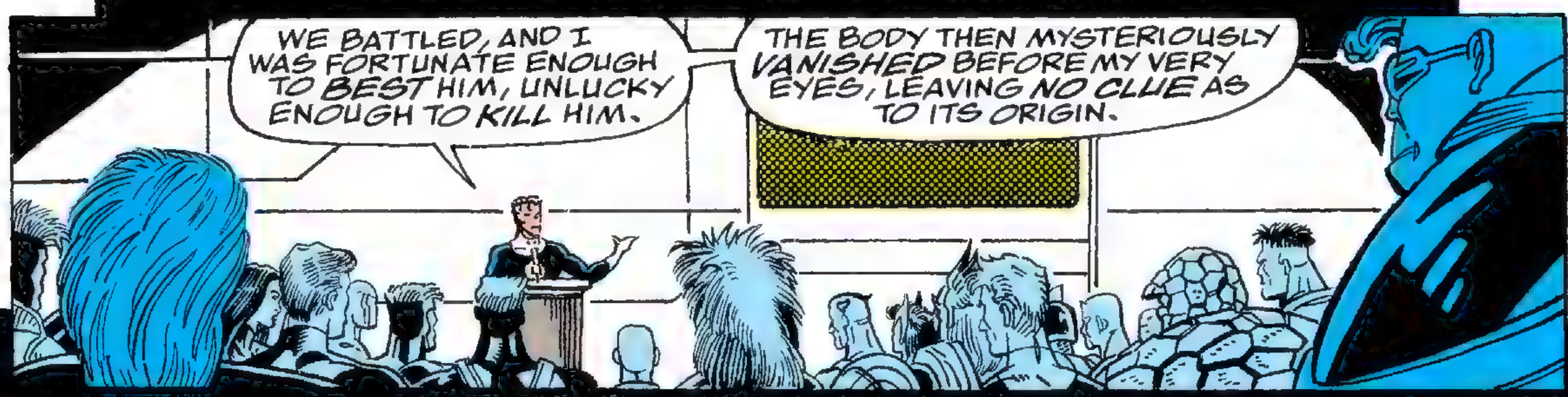


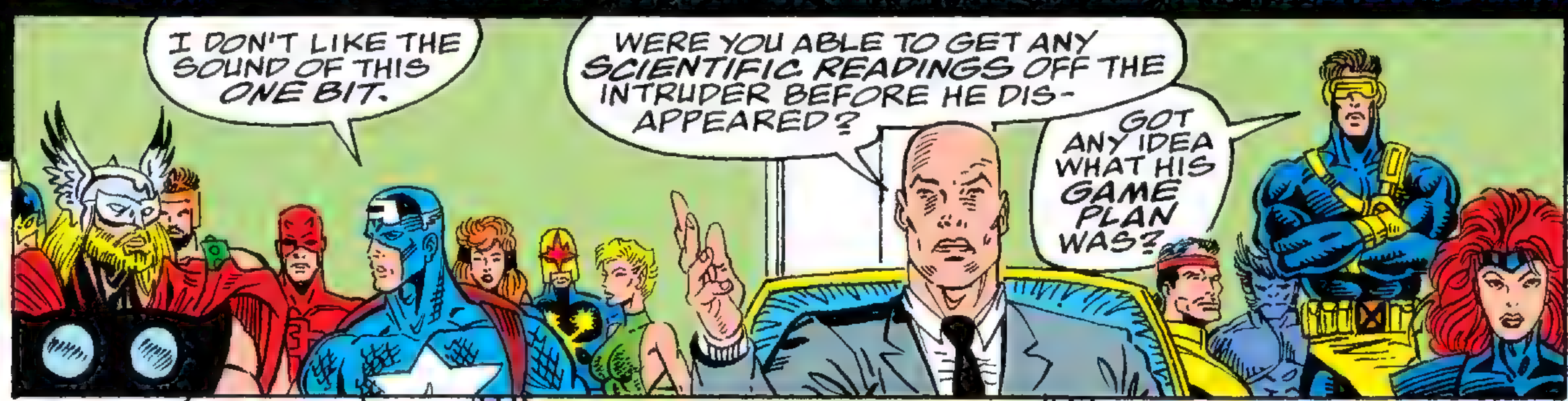


SPIDER-MAN AND HAWKEYE WON'T BE JOINING US.

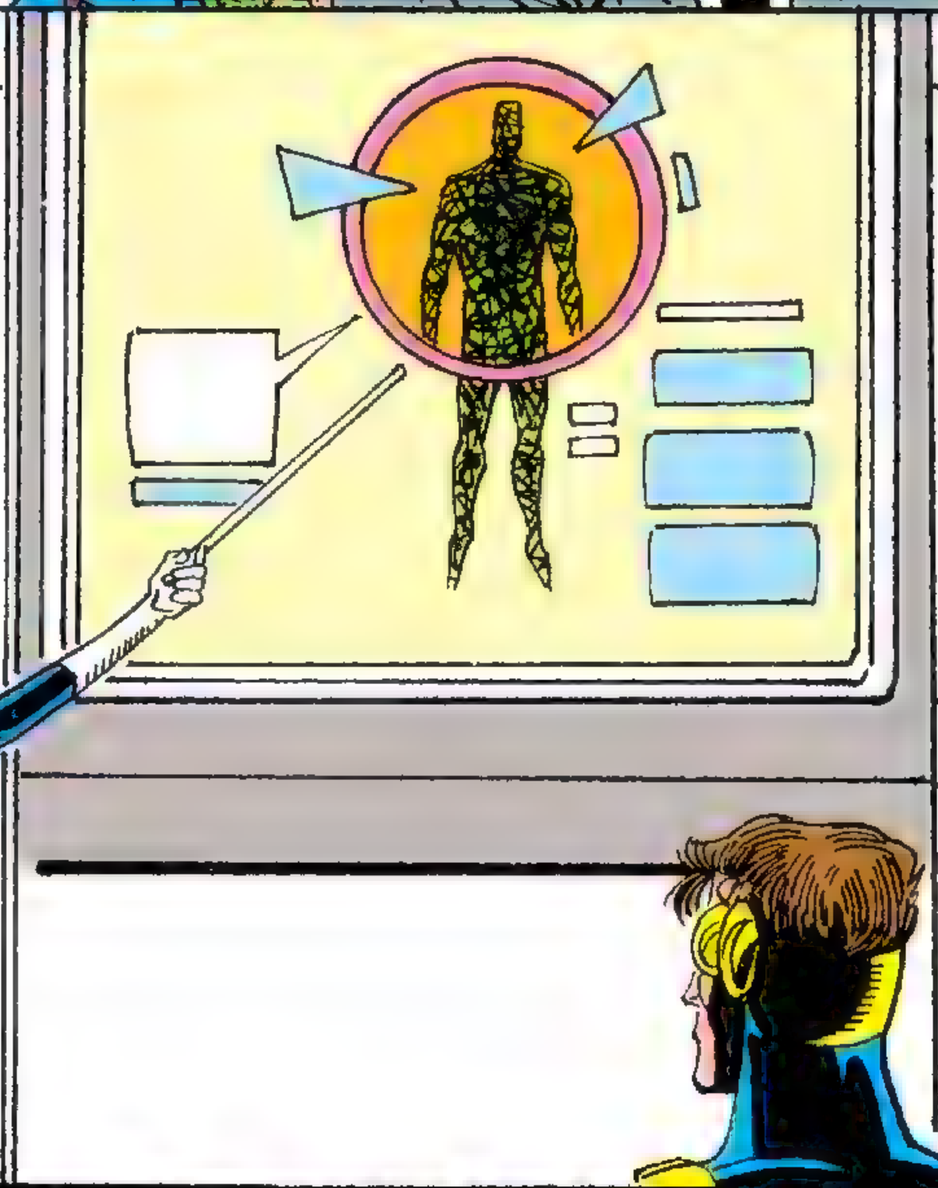
THEY HAVE BEEN UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED.

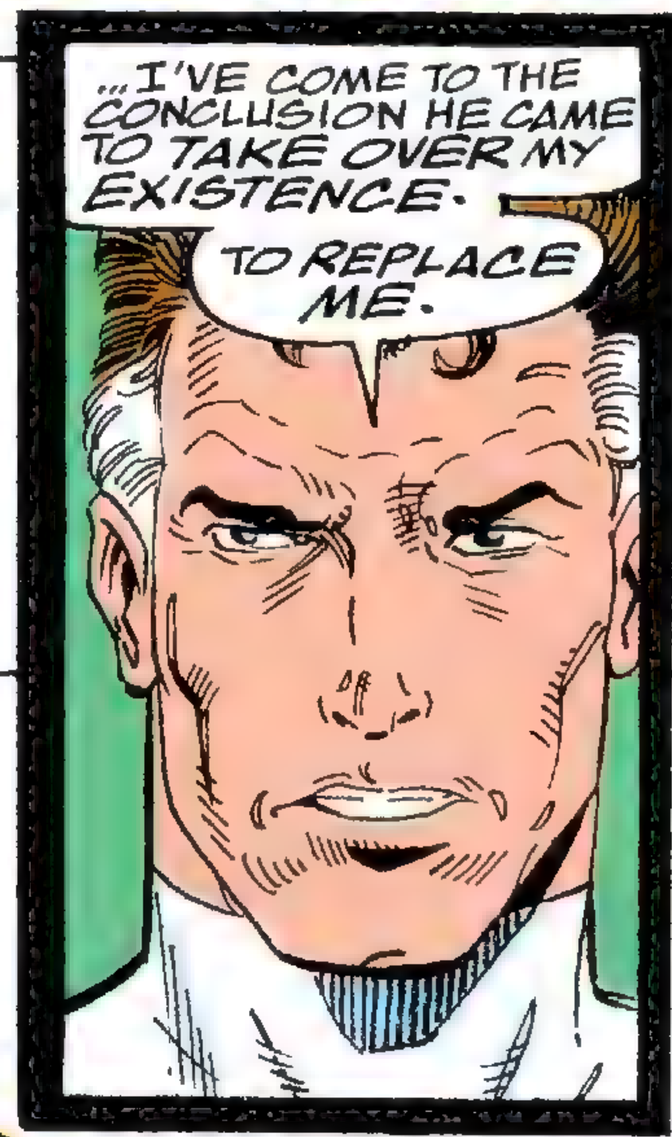


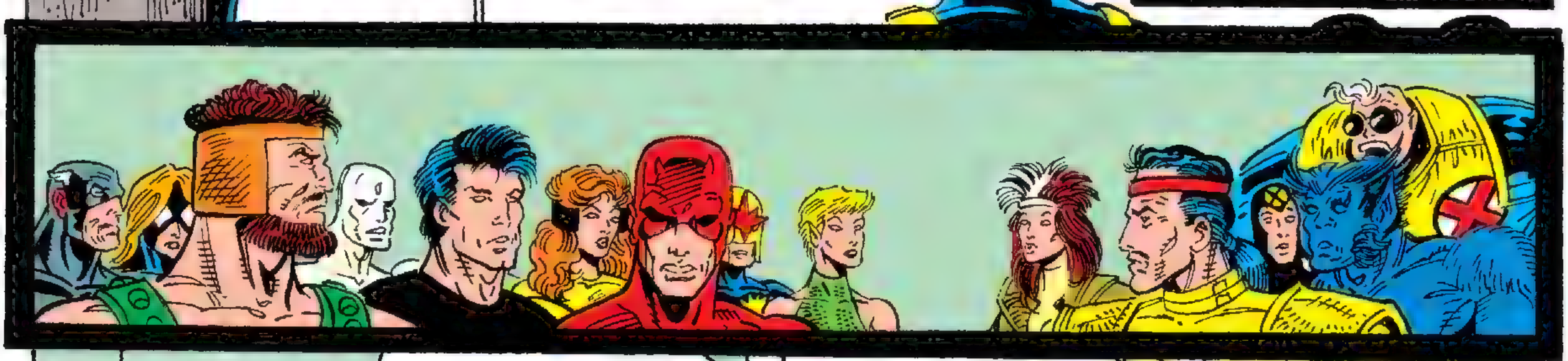

WE BATTLED, AND I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BEST HIM, UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO KILL HIM.
THE BODY THEN MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED BEFORE MY VERY EYES, LEAVING NO CLUE AS TO ITS ORIGIN.

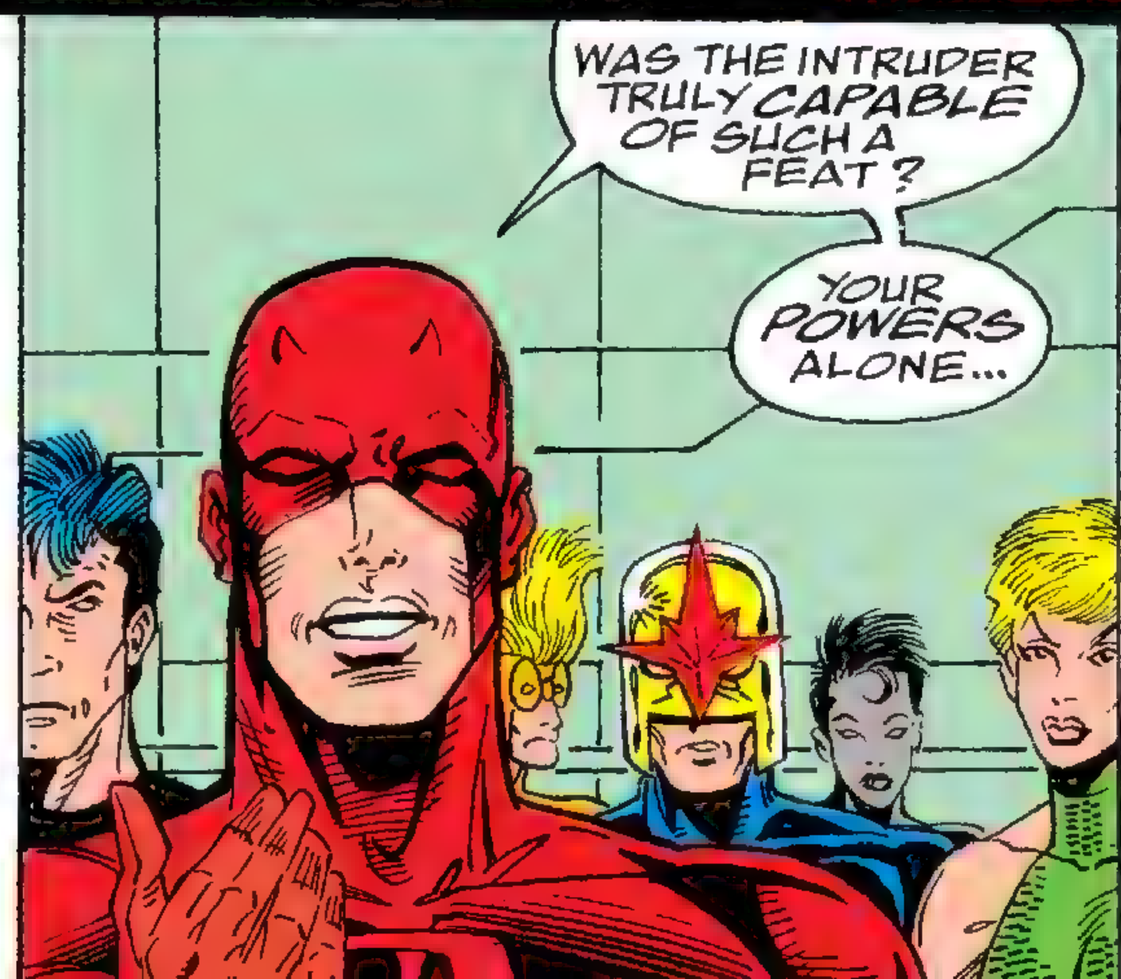

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS ONE BIT.
WERE YOU ABLE TO GET ANY SCIENTIFIC READINGS OFF THE INTRUDER BEFORE HE DIS-APPEARED?
GOT ANY IDEA WHAT HIS GAME PLAN WAS?

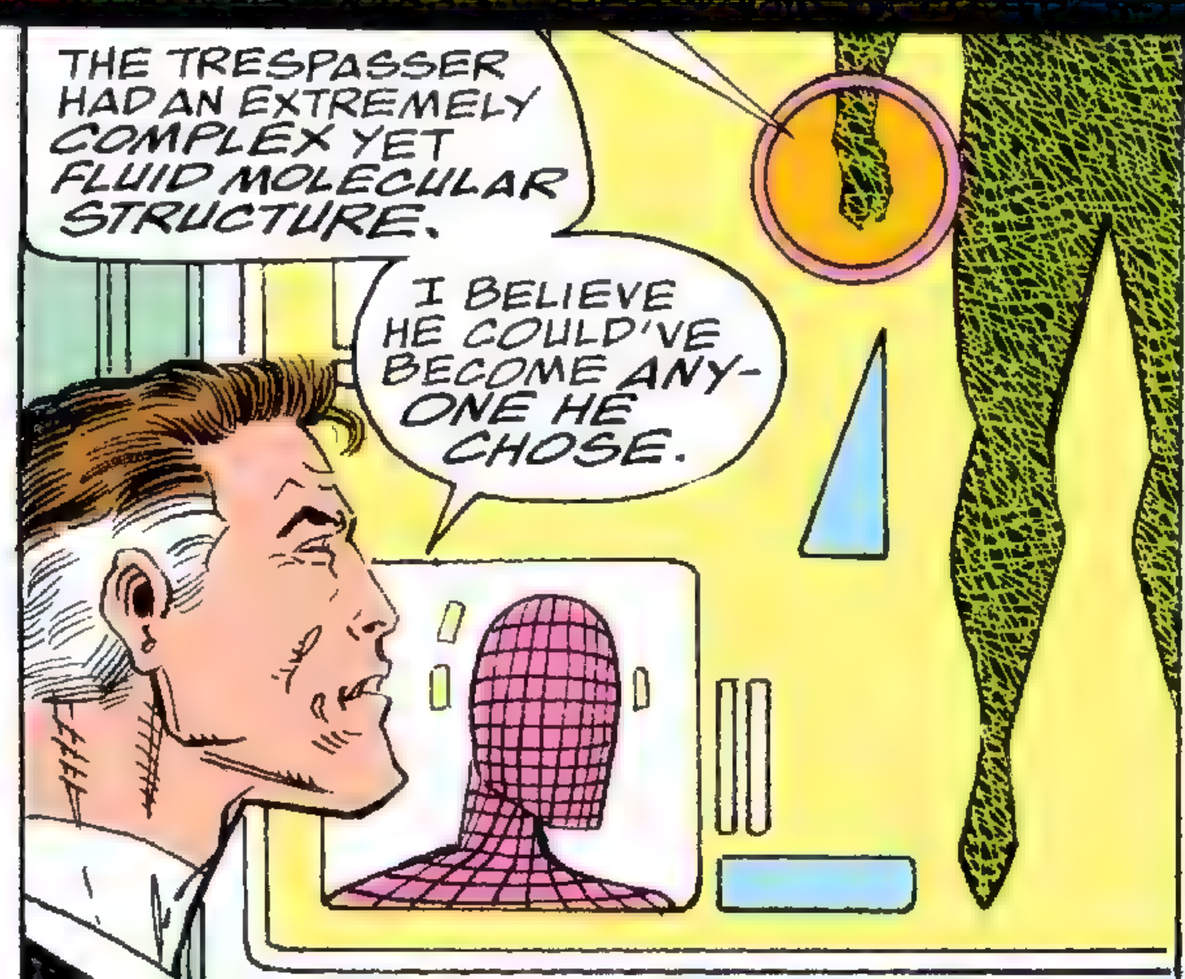
YES, THE LAB SENSORS AUTOMATICALLY SCANNED MY ASSAILANT WHEN HE ENTERED THE ROOM.
AS FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIS ATTACK...

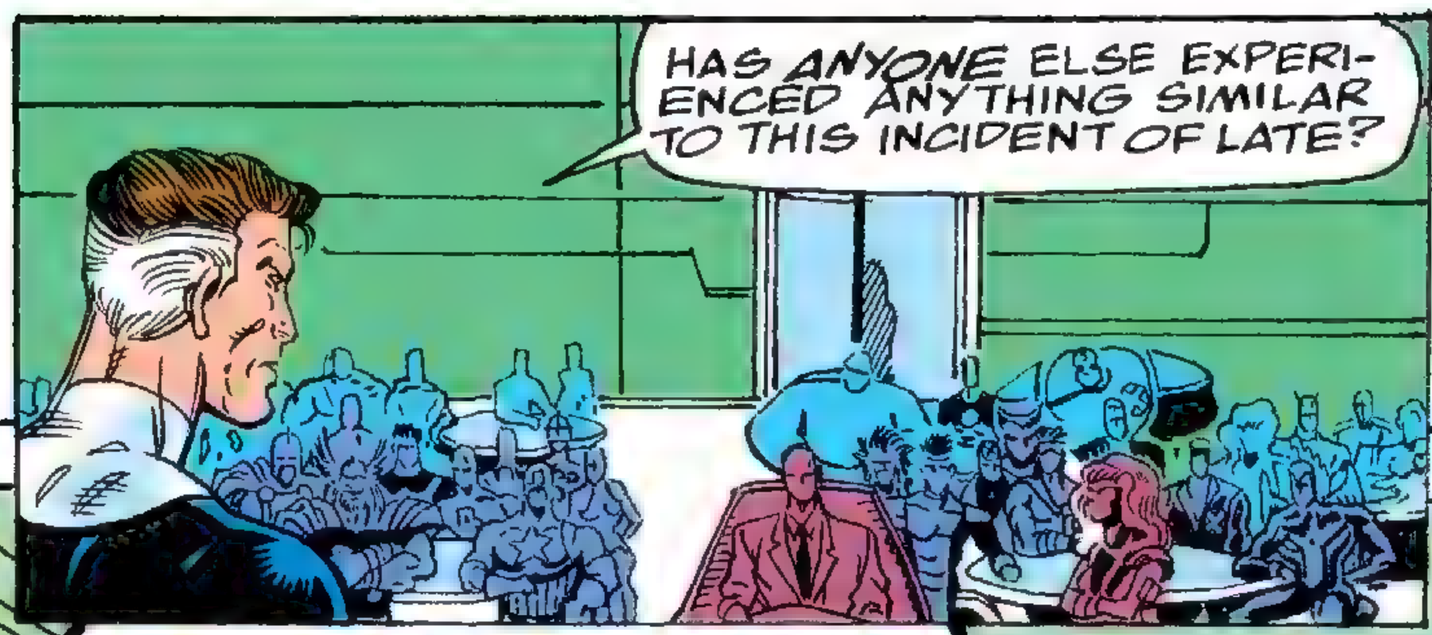



...I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION HE CAME TO TAKE OVER MY EXISTENCE.
TO REPLACE ME.




WAS THE INTRUDER TRULY CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT?
YOUR POWERS ALONE...


THE TRESPASSER HAD AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX YET FLUID MOLECULAR STRUCTURE.
I BELIEVE HE COULD'VE BECOME ANY-ONE HE CHOSE.


HAS ANYONE ELSE EXPERIENCED ANYTHING SIMILAR TO THIS INCIDENT OF LATE?

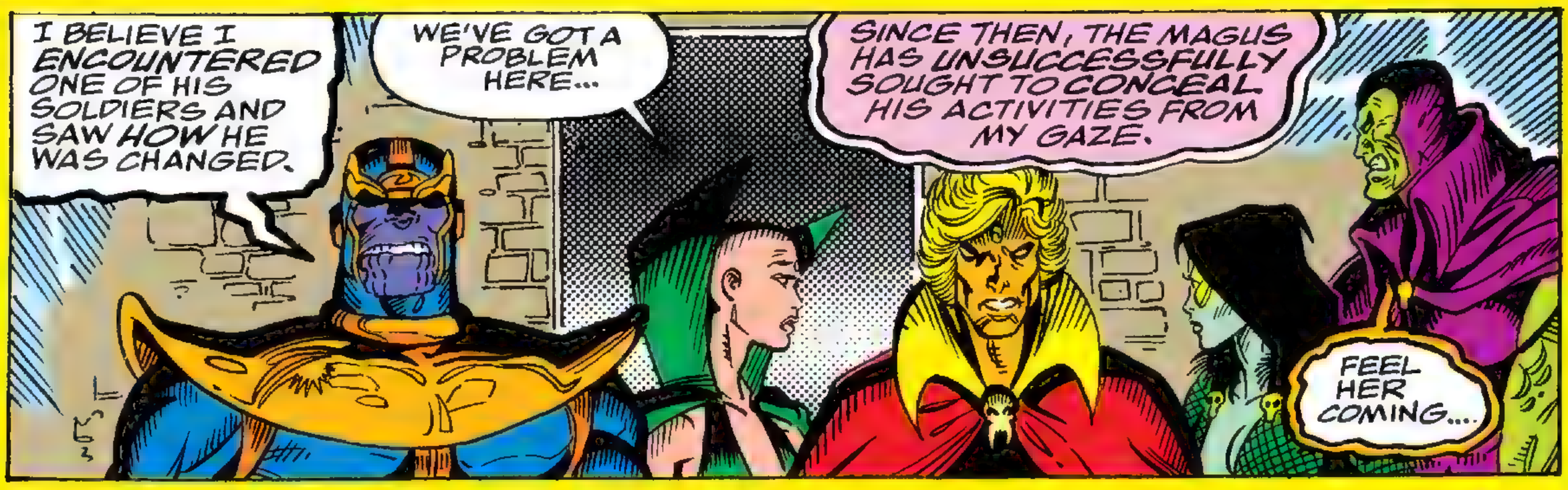
I HAVE!

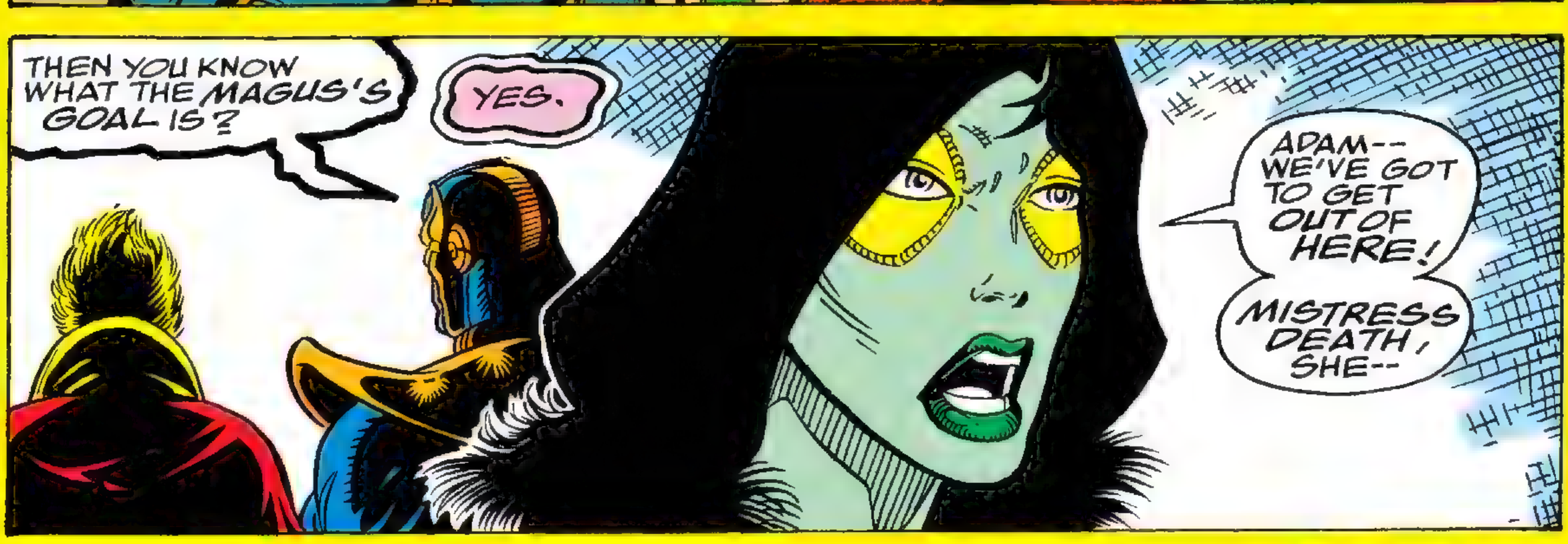
WOLVERINE!
HOW'D YA MANAGE T'GET IN HERE WITHOUT SETTIN' OFF A DOZEN ALARMS?!
I GOT MY WAYS.

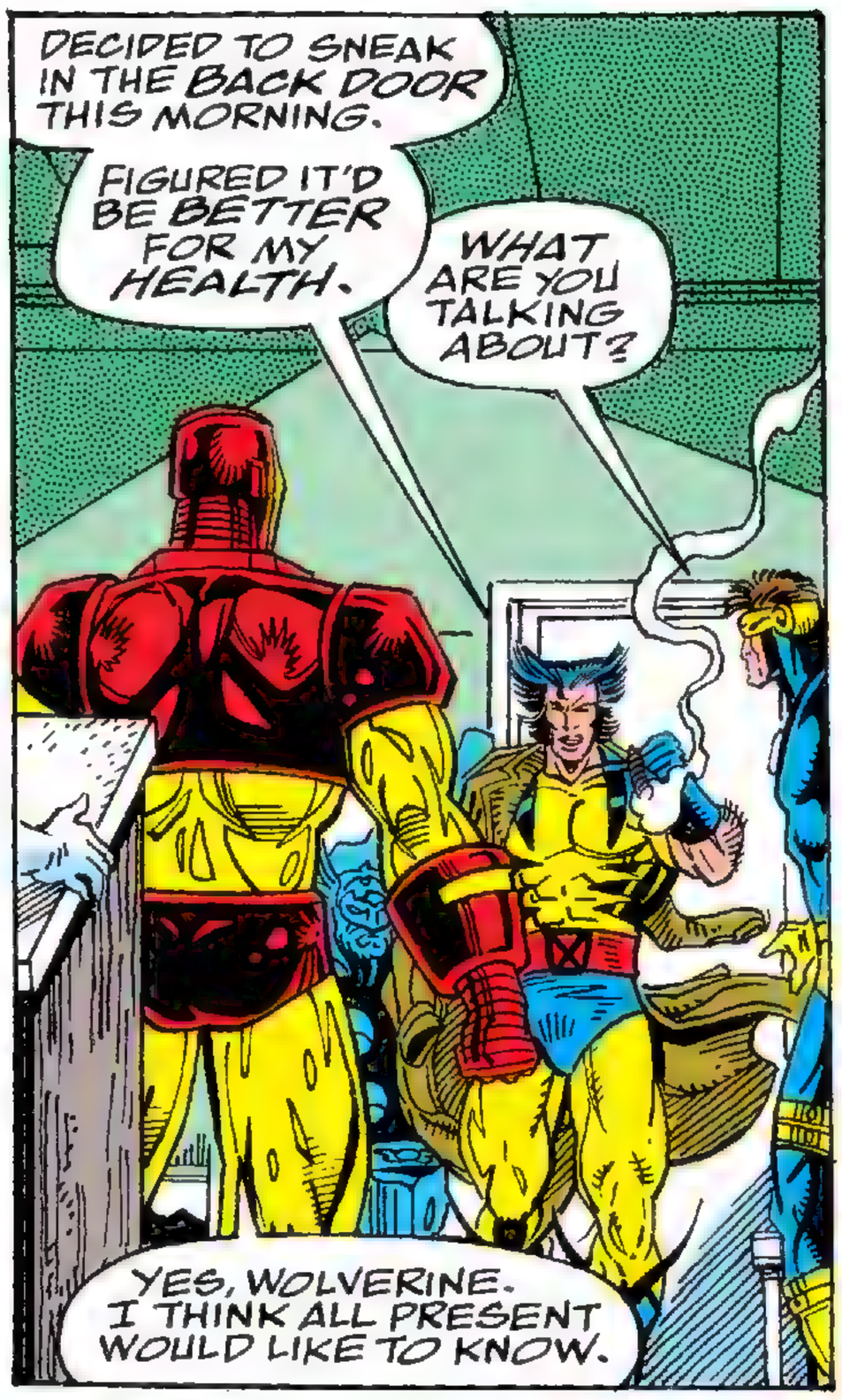
FROM THE CROSS-ROADS..?
THE MAGUS WANDERED FAR DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.
HE FINALLY SELECTED A BARREN REGION TO CALL HIS OWN.

"THERE HE SET UP A FORTRESS FROM WHICH TO EXECUTE HIS ULTIMATE PLAN.

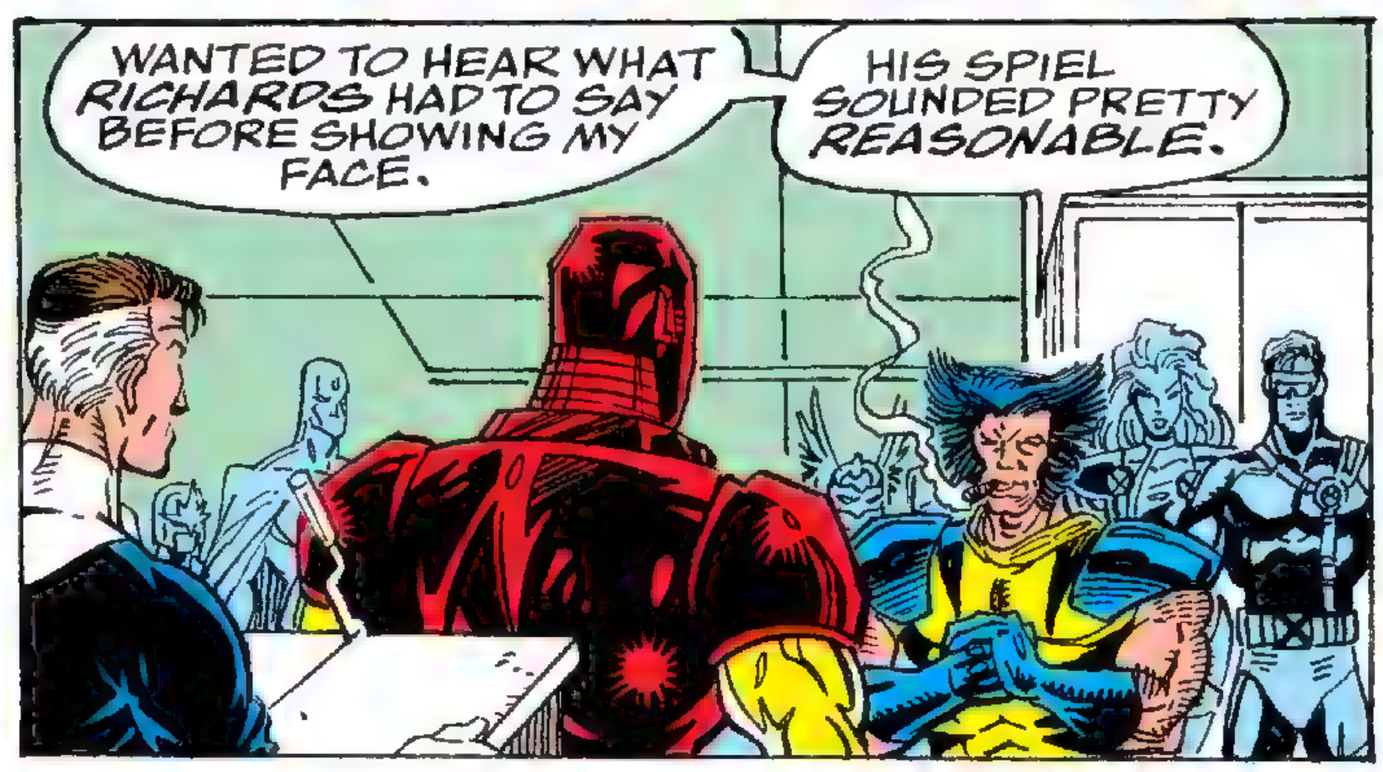
"FROM A NEARBY DIMENSION HE GATHERED THE SOLDIERS OF HIS ARMY.
"THEN HE ALTERED THEM IN UNSPEAKABLE WAYS."

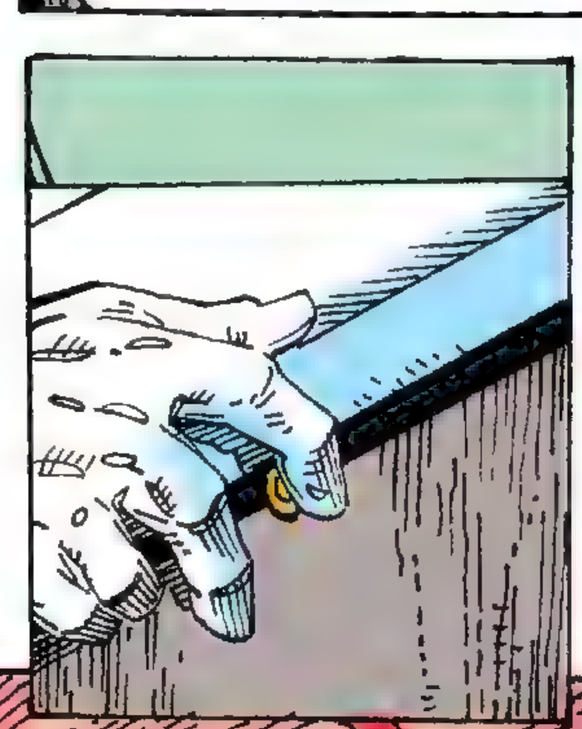

I BELIEVE I ENCOUNTERED ONE OF HIS SOLDIERS AND SAW HOW HE WAS CHANGED.
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE...
SINCE THEN, THE MAGUS HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT TO CONCEAL HIS ACTIVITIES FROM MY GAZE.
FEEL HER COMING....


THEN YOU KNOW WHAT THE MAGUS'S GOAL IS?
YES.
ADAM-- WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
MISTRESS DEATH, SHE--

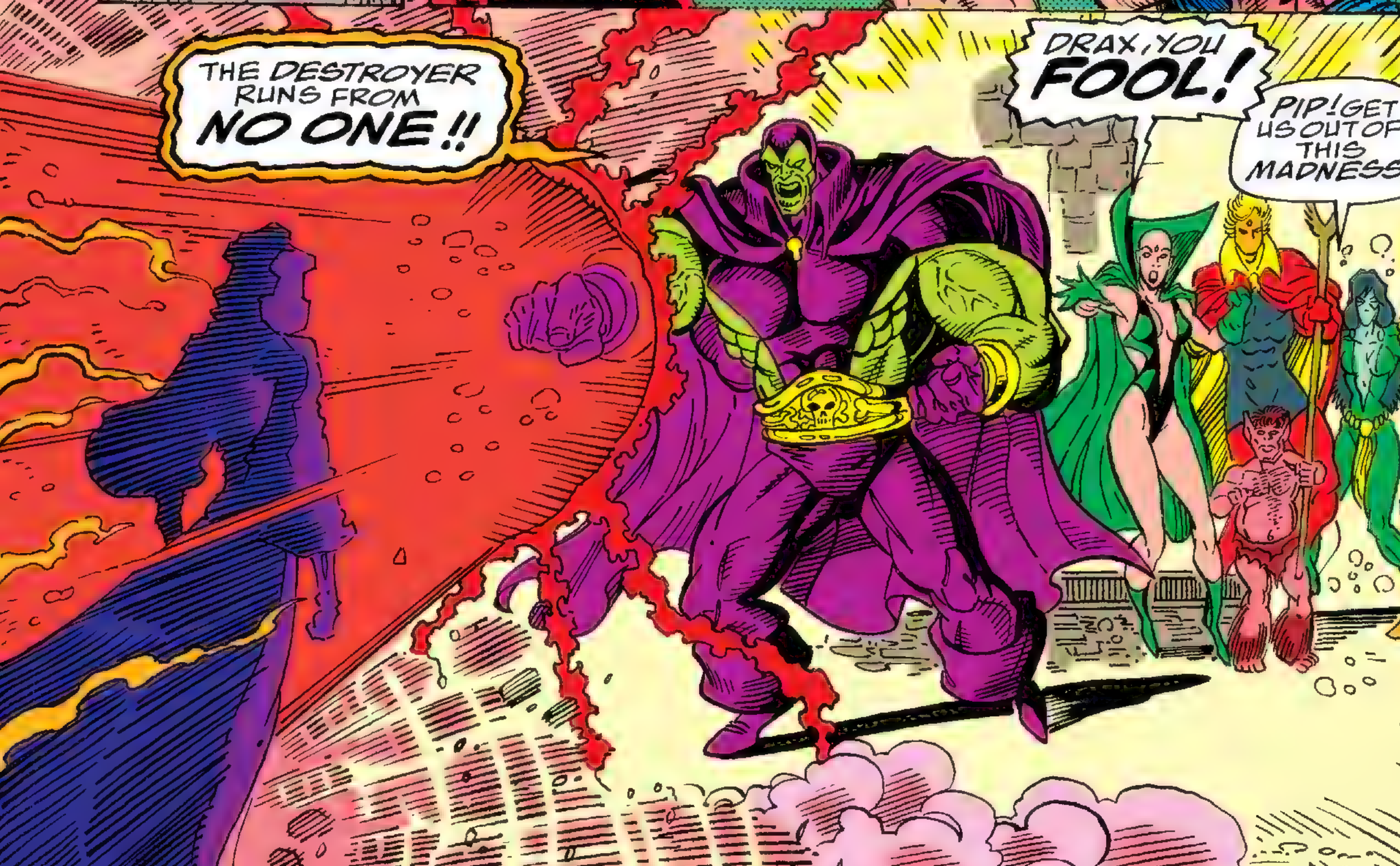

DECIDED TO SNEAK IN THE BACK DOOR THIS MORNING.
FIGURED IT'D BE BETTER FOR MY HEALTH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YES, WOLVERINE. I THINK ALL PRESENT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

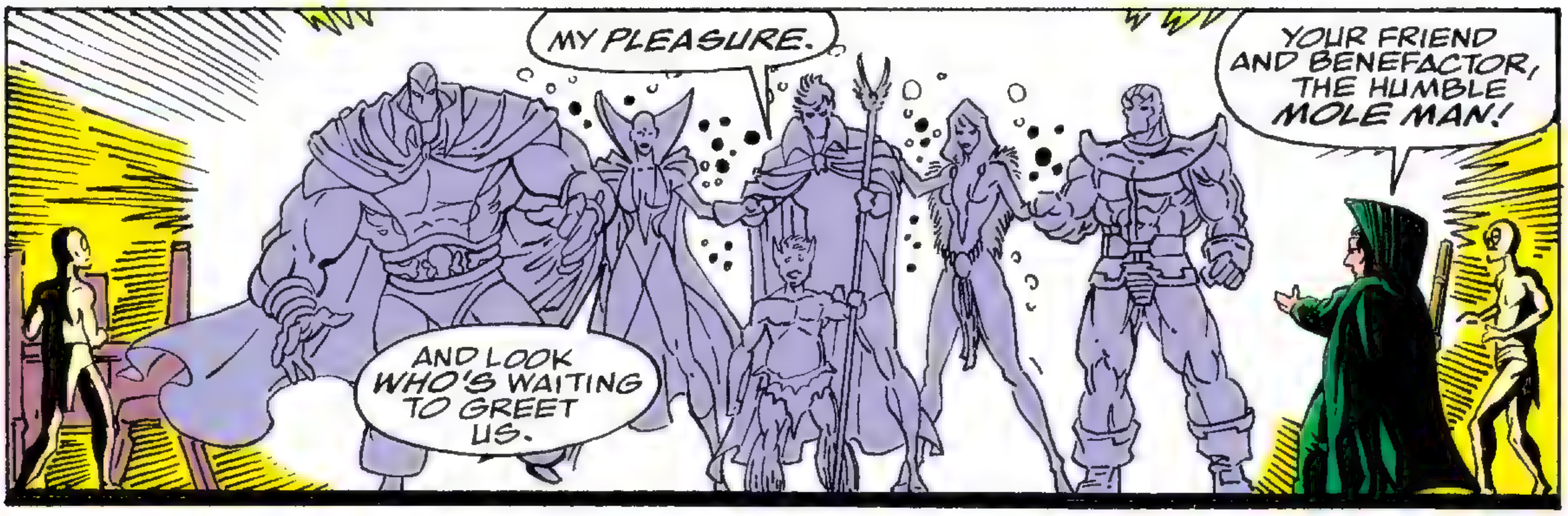
THOUGHT I'D BEST CHECK OUT THE PLAYERS BEFORE THROWING IN MY ANTE.
ARE YOU SAYING...


WANTED TO HEAR WHAT RICHARDS HAD TO SAY BEFORE SHOWING MY FACE.
HIS SPIEL SOUNDED PRETTY REASONABLE.

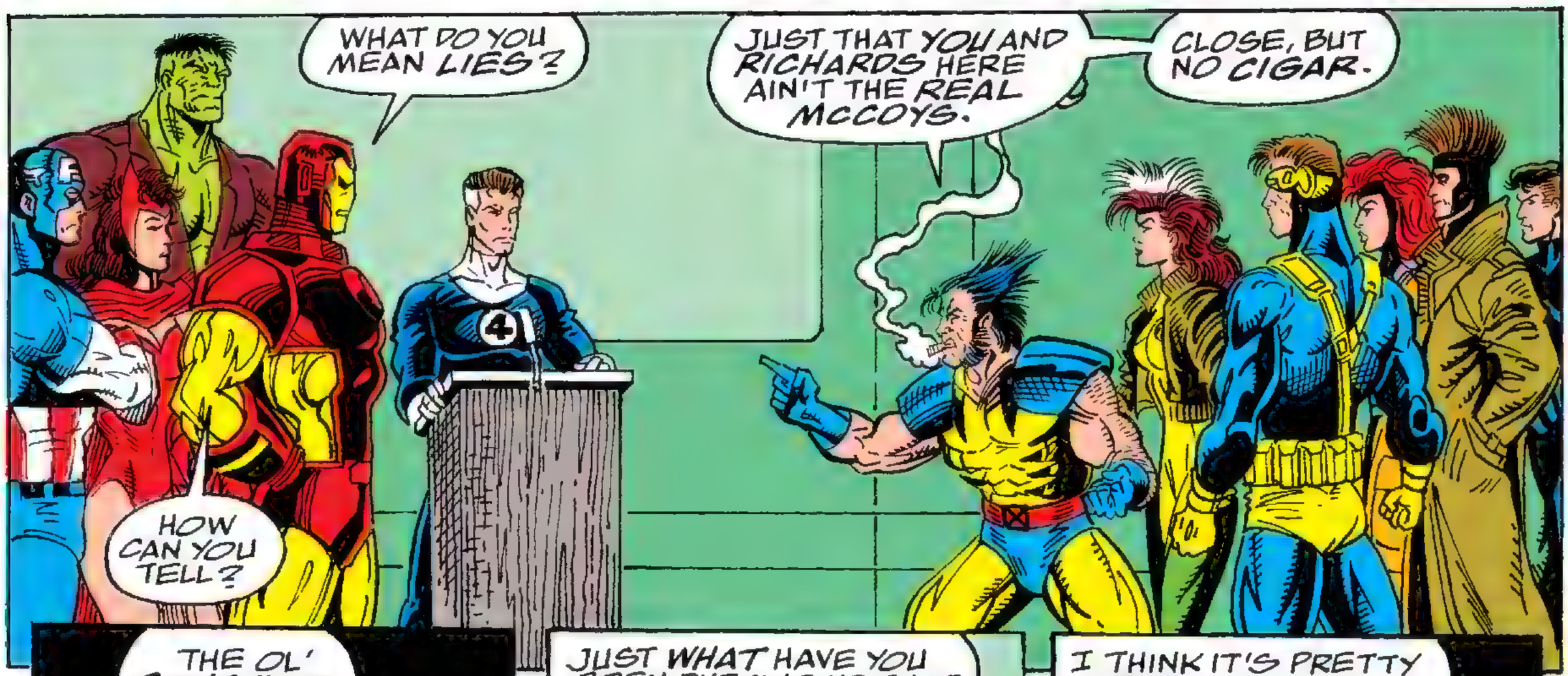


TOO BAD IT'S A PACK OF LIES.

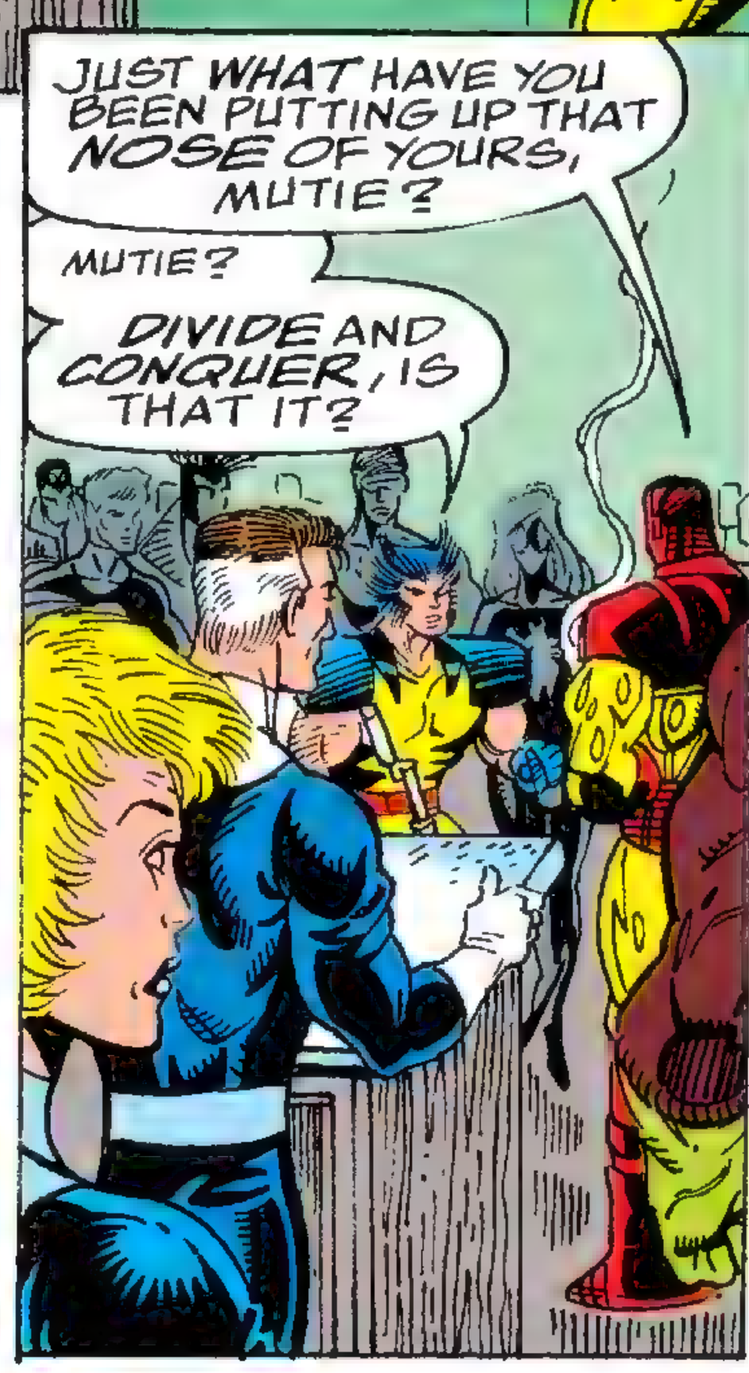

THE DESTROYER RUNS FROM NO ONE!!
DRAX, YOU FOOL!
PIP! GET US OUT OF THIS MADNESS!


MY PLEASURE.
YOUR FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR, THE HUMBLE MOLE MAN!
AND LOOK WHO'S WAITING TO GREET US.

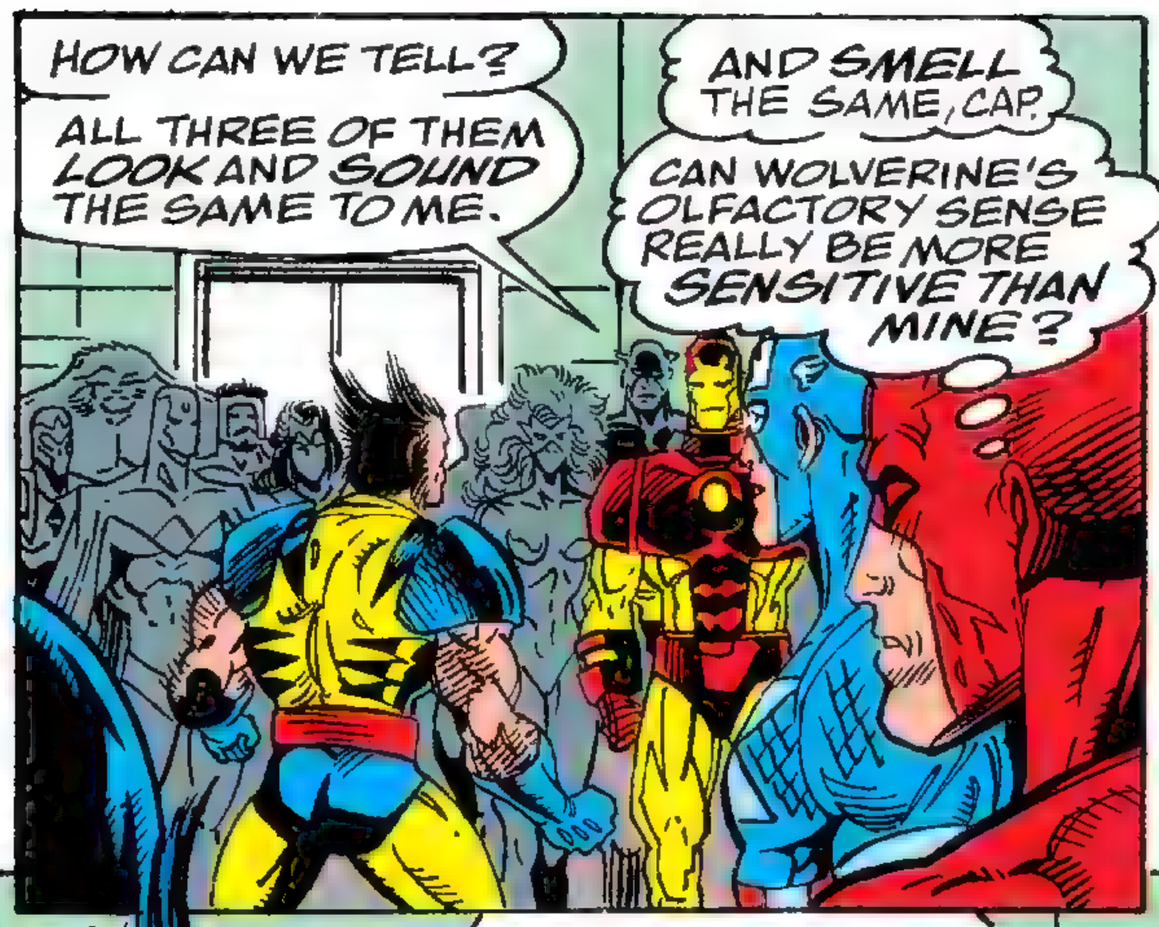
WOULD MISTRESS DEATH CARE TO KNOW WHAT THE MAGUS'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS?

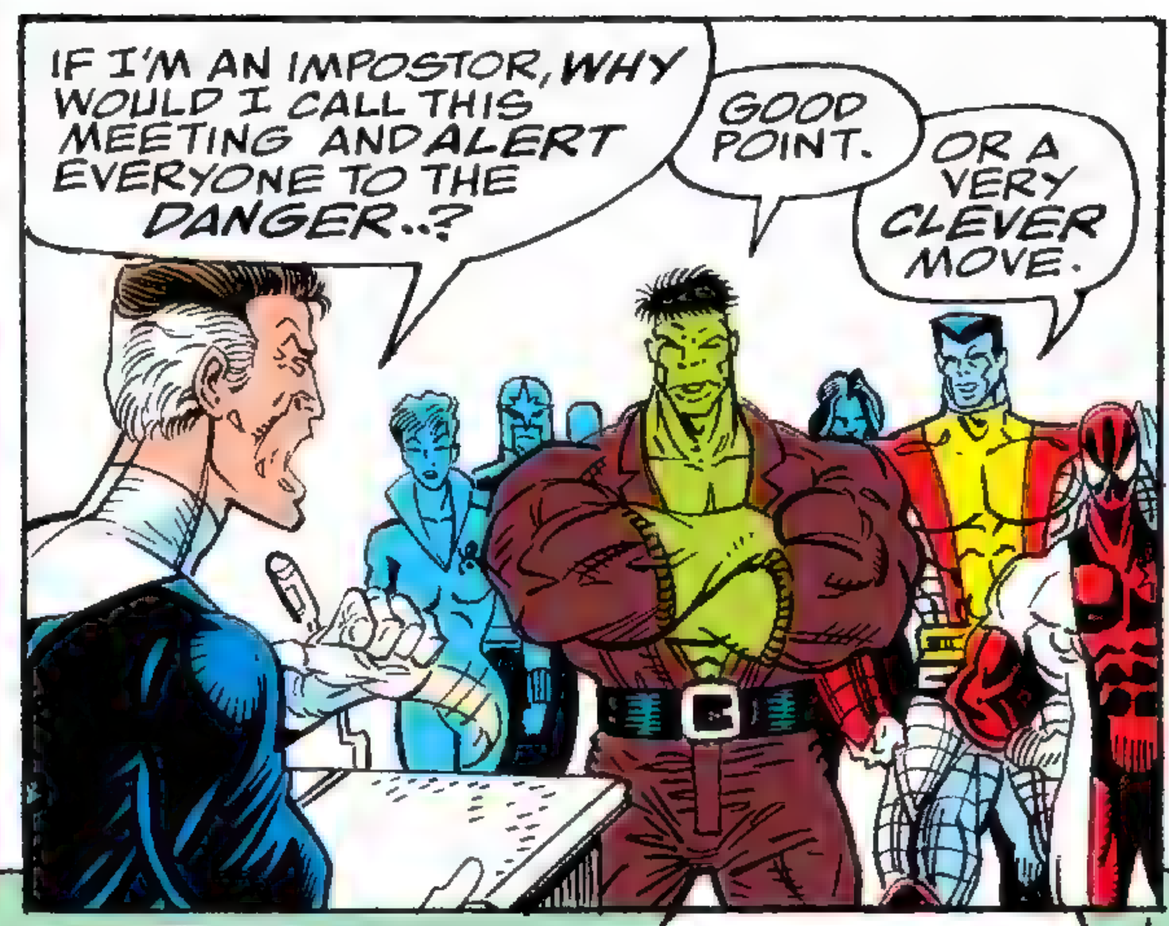

WHAT DO YOU MEAN LIES?
JUST THAT YOU AND RICHARDS HERE AIN'T THE REAL McCOYS.
CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?

THE OL' SENSE OF SMELL.
IT NEVER FAILS ME.


JUST WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN PUTTING UP THAT NOSE OF YOURS, MUTIE?
MUTIE?
DIVIDE AND CONQUER, IS THAT IT?

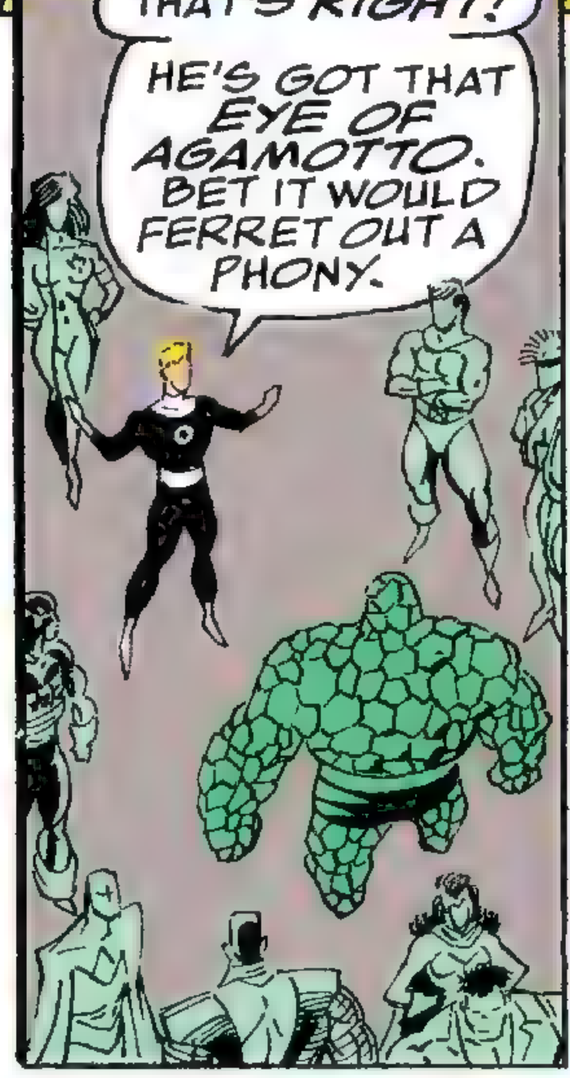
I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS WHO THE IMPOSTOR REALLY IS AROUND HERE.
YOU MAY AS WELL GIVE IT UP, PAL.

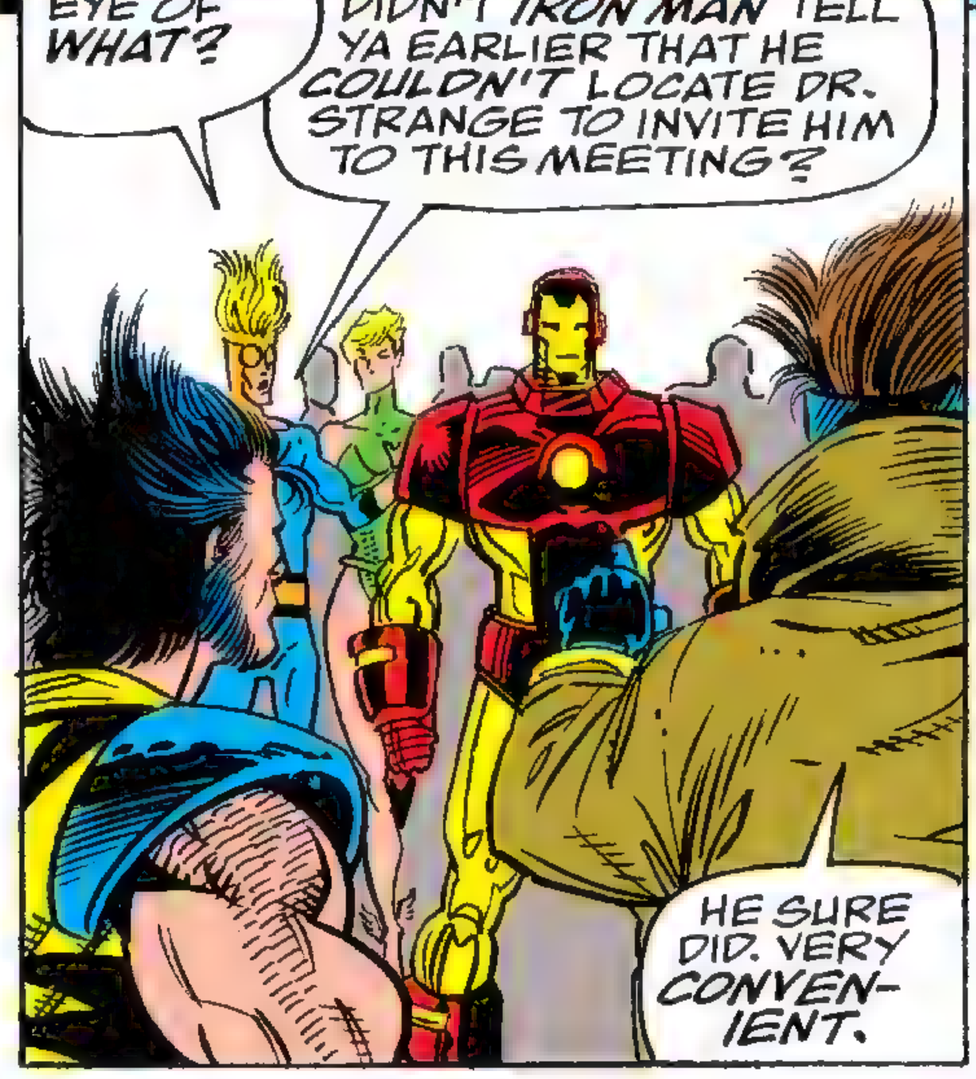

HOW CAN WE TELL?
ALL THREE OF THEM LOOK AND SOUND THE SAME TO ME.
AND SMELL THE SAME, CAP.
CAN WOLVERINE'S OLFACTORY SENSE REALLY BE MORE SENSITIVE THAN MINE?

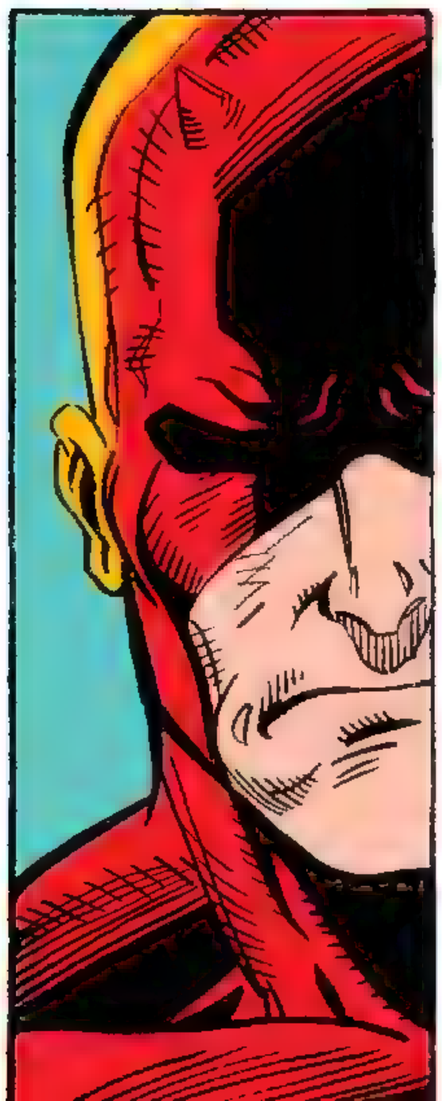

IF I'M AN IMPOSTOR, WHY WOULD I CALL THIS MEETING AND ALERT EVERYONE TO THE DANGER..?
GOOD POINT.
OR A VERY CLEVER MOVE.

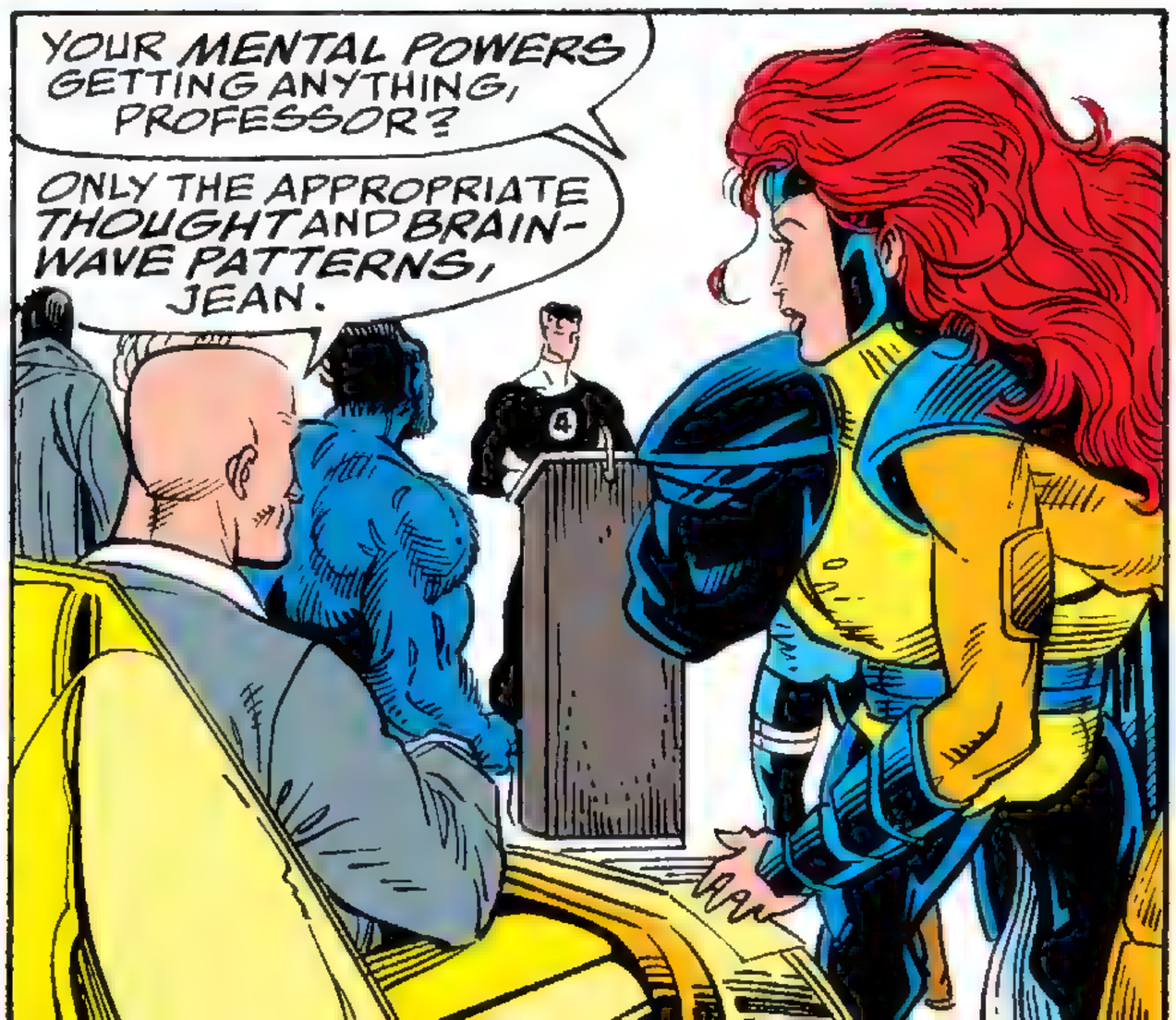
I'M TELLING YOU FOLKS, THESE TWO BOZOS ARE FAKES.
THE NOSE KNOWS, HUH?
SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF TEST WE COULD RUN?

WHERE'S DR. STRANGE?
HE'S BIG IN THE SIXTH SENSE DEPARTMENT.


THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S GOT THAT EYE OF AGAMOTTO. BET IT WOULD FERRET OUT A PHONY.


EYE OF WHAT?
DIDN'T IRON MAN TELL YA EARLIER THAT HE COULDN'T LOCATE DR. STRANGE TO INVITE HIM TO THIS MEETING?
HE SURE DID. VERY CONVEN-IENT.

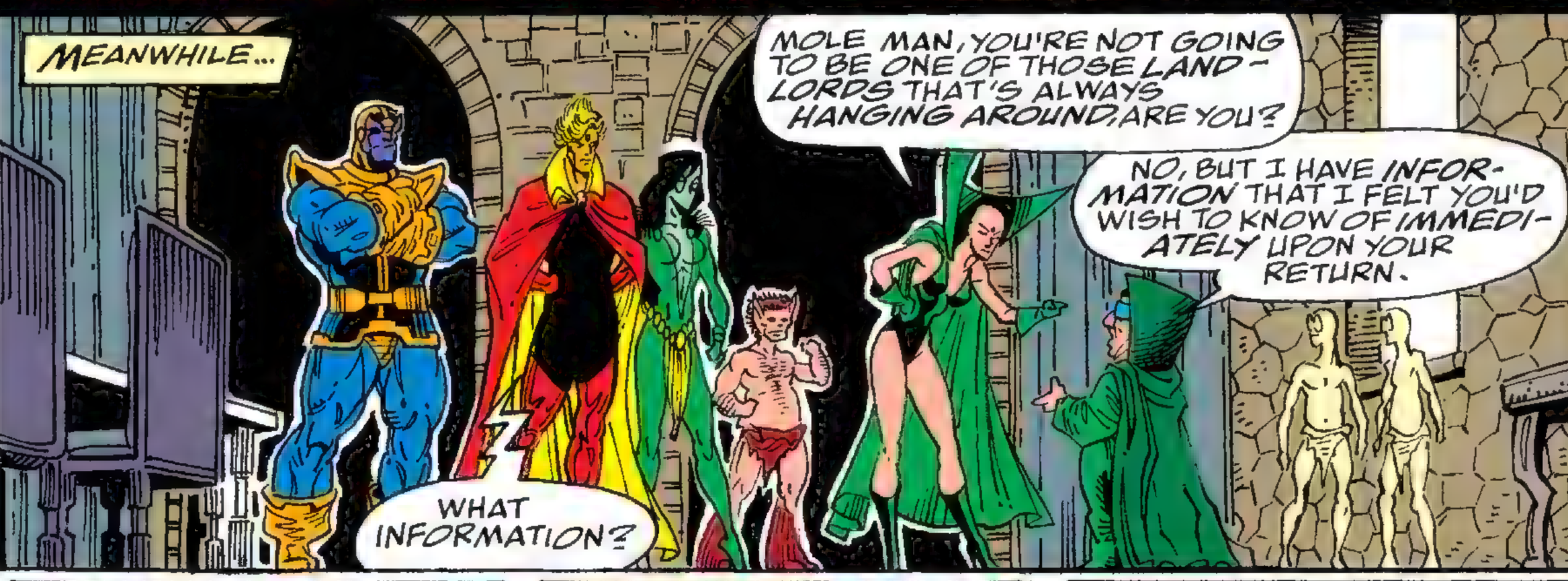


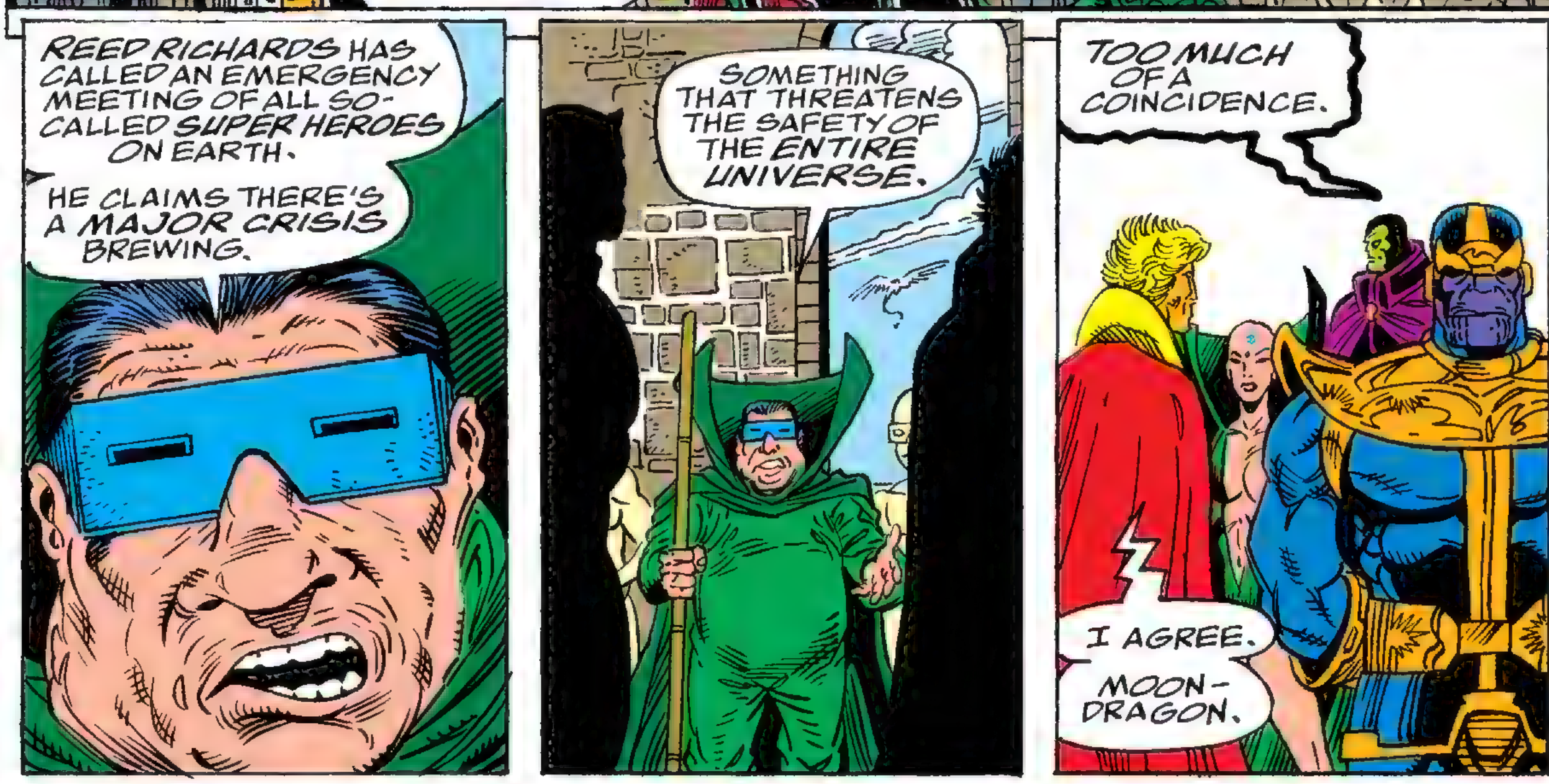

YOUR MENTAL POWERS GETTING ANYTHING, PROFESSOR?
ONLY THE APPROPRIATE THOUGHT AND BRAIN-WAVE PATTERNS, JEAN.

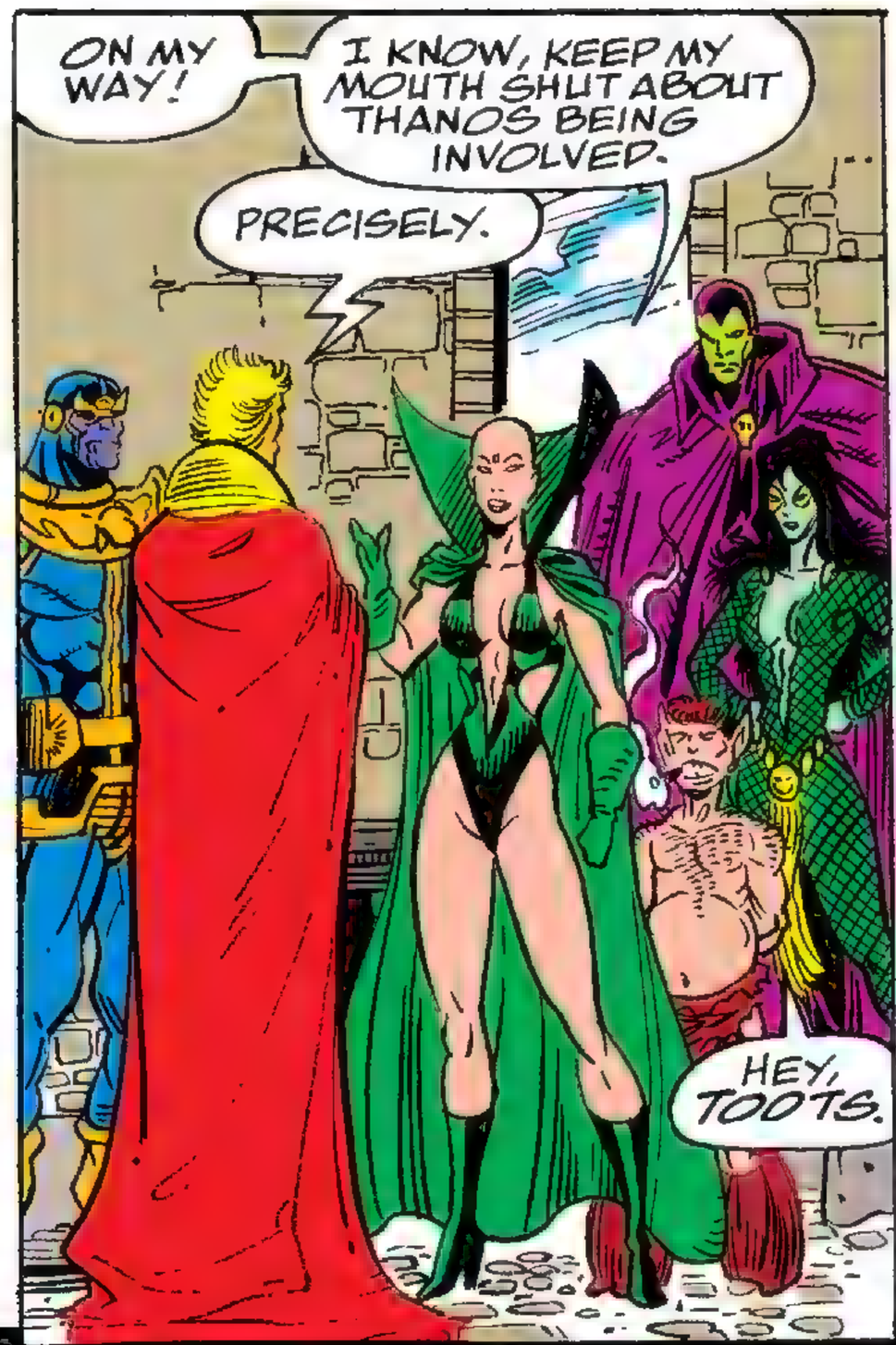
IF ONE OR MORE OF THESE MEN ARE IMPOSTORS, I CANNOT DETECT IT.
PERHAPS NONE OF THEM IS.

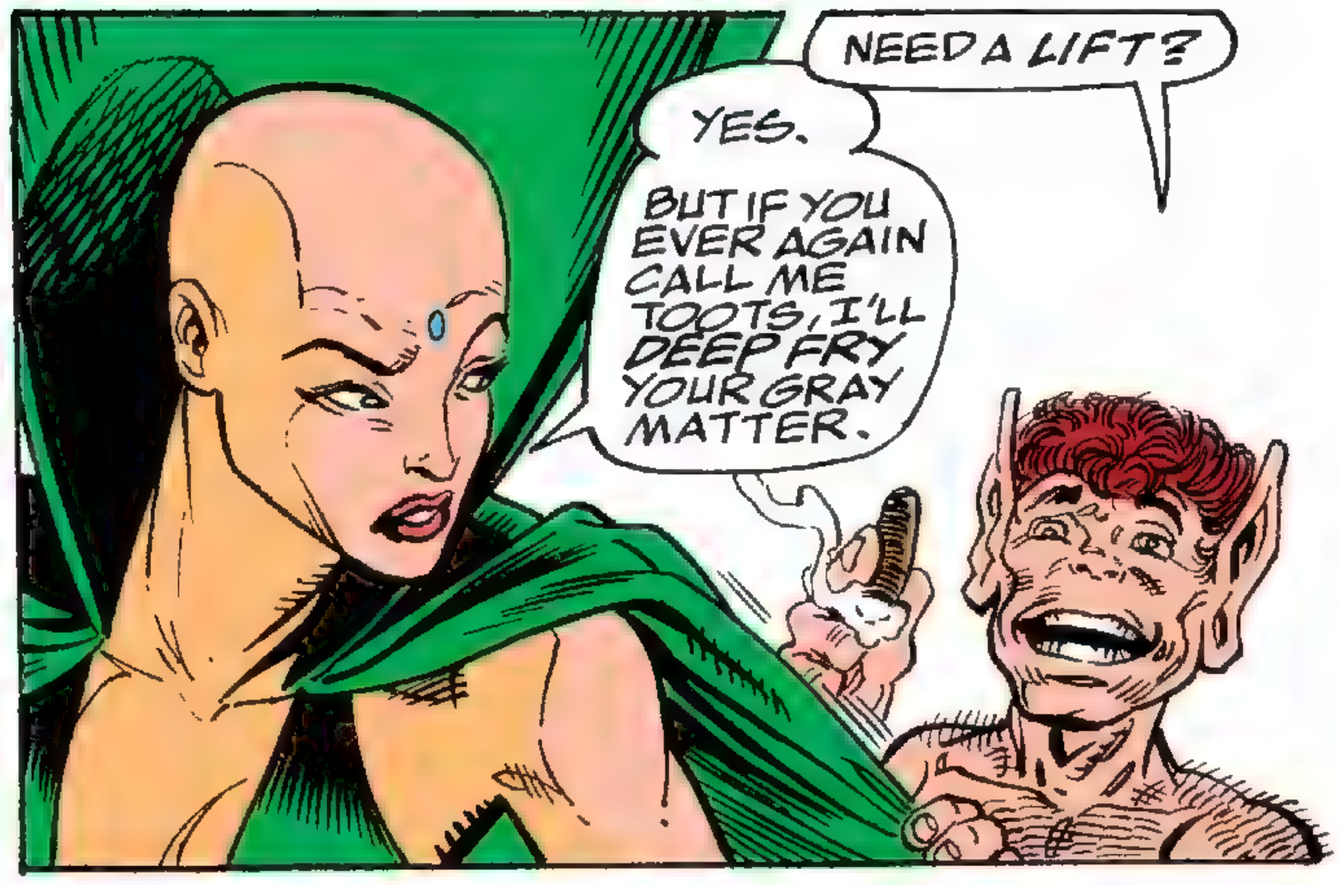
WHO SENT YA?
BACK OFF, SHORTY!
MAJOR NUTTI-NESS.
EVERYBODY JUST SETTLE DOWN!
I SAY GO WITH WOLVERINE!

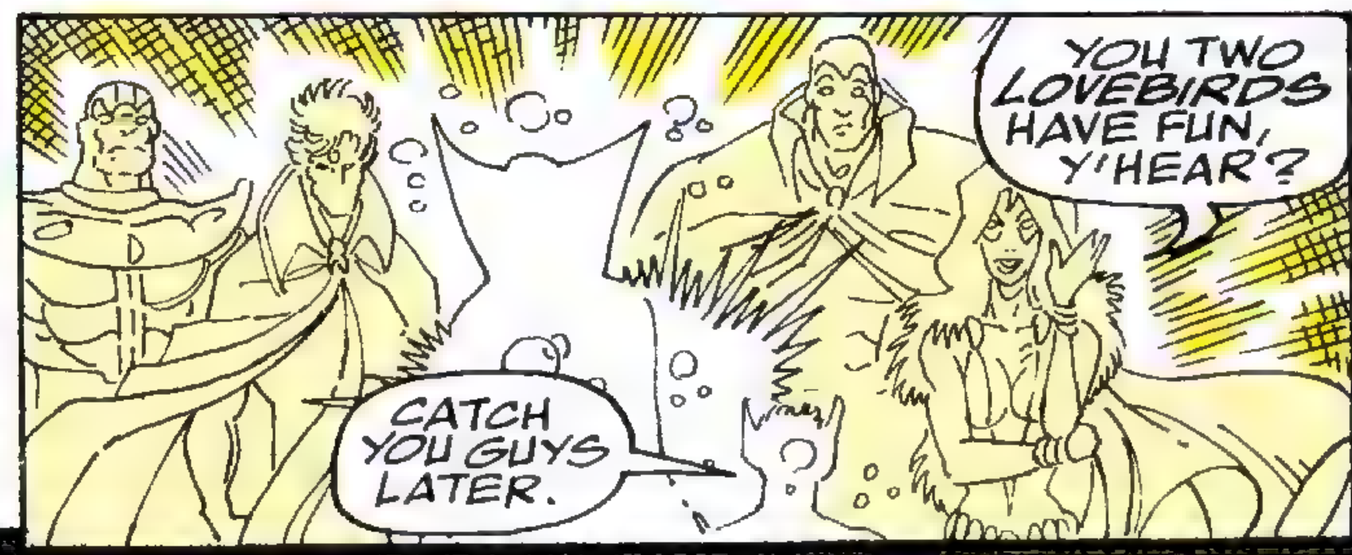
GOOD LORD!


MEANWHILE...
MOLE MAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE LAND-LORDS THAT'S ALWAYS HANGING AROUND, ARE YOU?
NO, BUT I HAVE INFORMATION THAT I FELT YOU'D WISH TO KNOW OF IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR RETURN.
WHAT INFORMATION?


REED RICHARDS HAS CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF ALL SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES ON EARTH.
HE CLAIMS THERE'S A MAJOR CRISIS BREWING.
SOMETHING THAT THREATENS THE SAFETY OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE.
I AGREE.
MOON-DRAGON.







RICHARDS AND IRON MAN ARE THE IMPOSTORS!

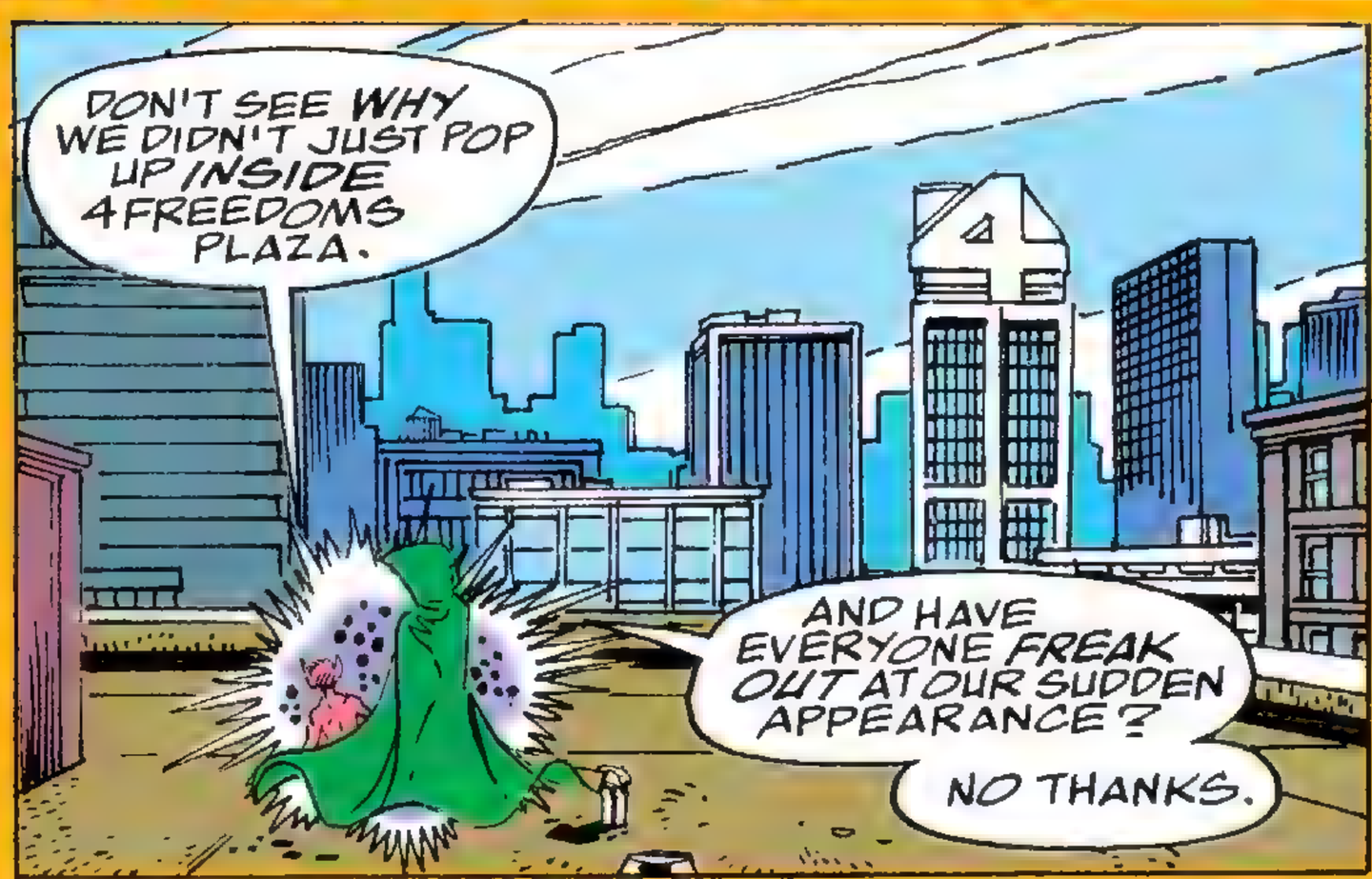
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE PODIUM!

ACKK!

CEASE YOUR FUTILE STRUGGLING, IMPOSTOR!
HEY! WATCH IT!!
HULK, NO!
LET GO OF ME!
GET OFF MY FOOT, YOU BLASTED IDIOT!
THAT TEARS IT!

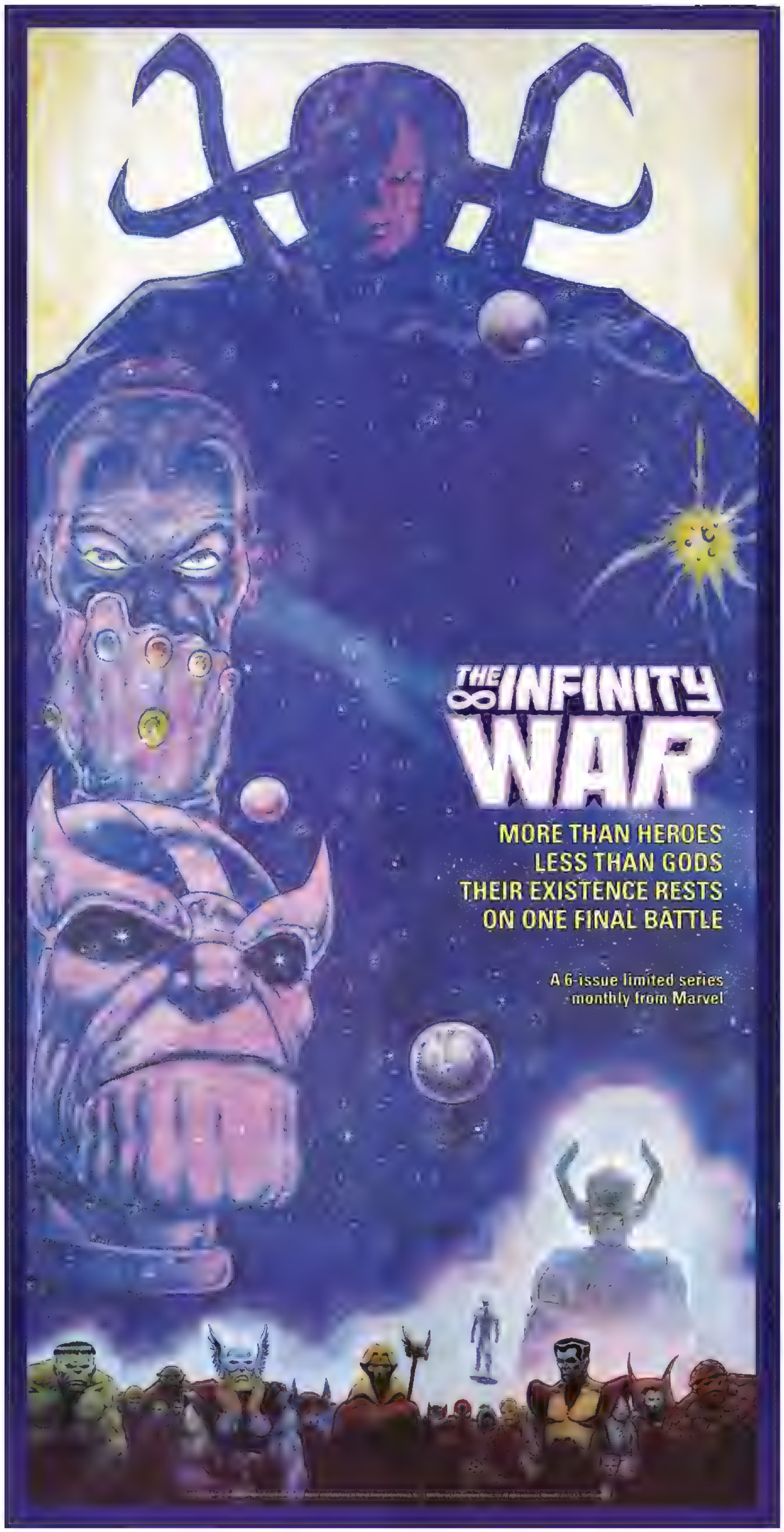
SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HAND BACK HERE!!

IT'S A GAMMA BOMB!



SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
BACK TO MONSTER ISLE?
YES.

ANOTHER MASTERFUL MOVE, SIRE!
ONE, I AM CERTAIN, THAT WILL SURPRISE EVEN YOU ONCE ITS FULL IMPACT IS REALIZED.
THIS GAME IS FAR FROM OVER.
IN FACT, THINGS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO GET INTERESTING!



INFINITY WAR PROMOTIONAL POSTER BY JIM STARLIN

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3
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INFINITY WAR
DEATH IN A DISTANT DIMENSION!
MILGROM

NEFARIOUS RHAPSODIES
Your shadow, the white one, whom you cannot accept, and who will never forget you.
Rolf Jacobsen
4 FREEDOMS PLAZA UNDERGOES ATOMIC URBAN RENEWAL.
JIM STARLIN WRITER
RON LIM PENCILER
AL MILGROM INKER
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORIST
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

WHILE AT THE EPICENTER OF THE BLAST SUE RICHARDS, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, STRIVES TO KEEP RADICAL CHANGE TO A MINIMUM.
MRS. RICHARDS, CAN THAT FORCE FIELD OF YOURS REALLY HOLD ALL THAT BACK?
ONLY REDIRECT IT AND IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO DO THAT.
THOR, THERE'S GOING TO BE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM WITH NUCLEAR RADIATION.
SAY NO MORE.

EVERYONE, STAND BACK!
I'VE GOT ONE CLEANSING WHIRLWIND TO WHIP UP.
THAT OUGHT TO DO THE JOB.
THE FALLOUT IS ON ITS WAY INTO OUTER SPACE.
GOOD.
NOW I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH MY HUSBAND, BUDDY.
DO YOU NOW?

YOU WANT ANSWERS, TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE.

WHAT THE?

STAND ASIDE!

LET ME--

REED!

IT'S THANOS!

LOOK OUT!

WHO WAS THAT?

THE BIG GUY'S NAMED THANOS OF TITAN.

HIS FRIEND...

SHE...

THE TITAN'S COMPANION LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE ADAM WARLOCK!

TRULY?

I THOUGHT HIM TO BE A HERO MOST GALLANT.

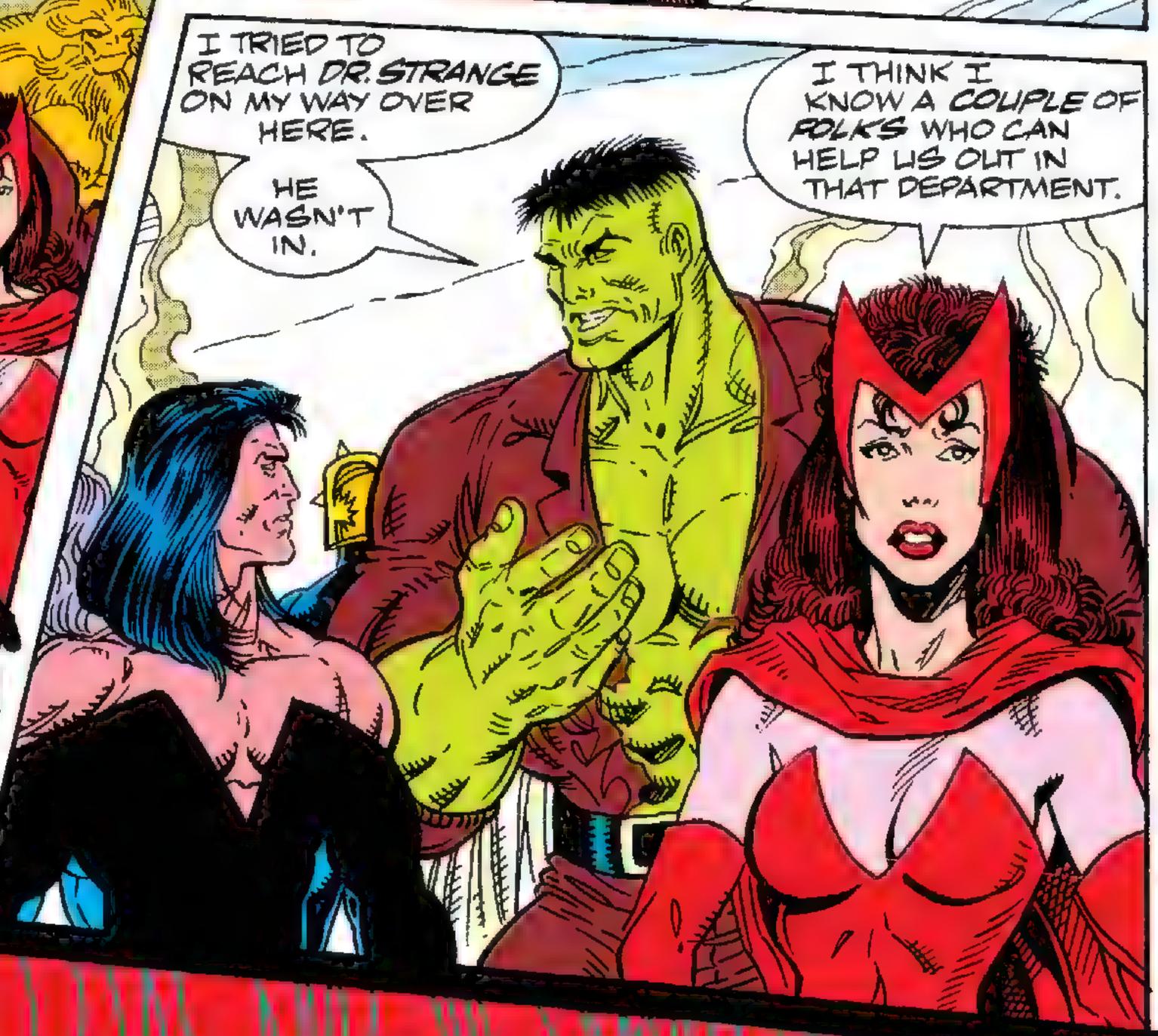
I WAS NEVER TOO SURE ABOUT HIM. BUT NOW...

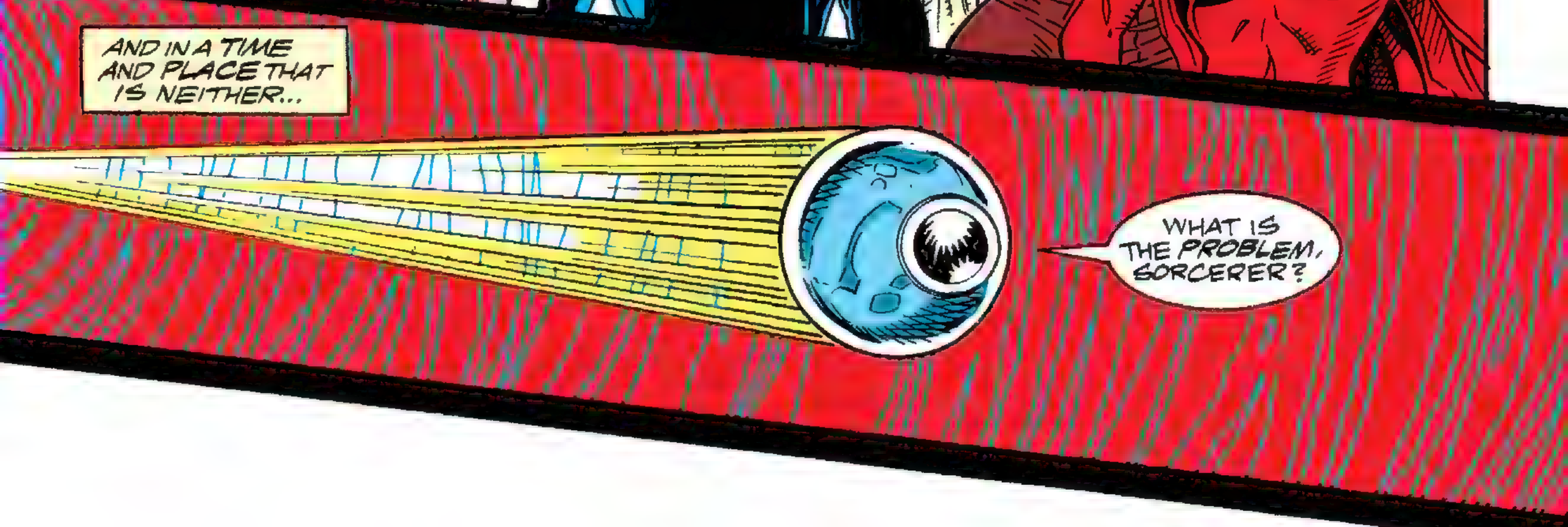
ADAM WHO?

WE HAVE TO GET UP TO SPEED ON WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
MRS. RICHARDS, DO YOU KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO WHAT THE FRAUDULENT PROF. RICHARDS WAS SAYING EARLIER?
ABOUT THAT COSMIC EVENT HE WAS STUDYING?
MAYBE THE LAB COMPUTER CAN TELL US.
AMAZING.

WHEN THANOS AND HIS COMPANION APPEARED I SENSED DEEP WAVES OF MYSTICAL ENERGY.
MAGIC?
A FEELING DEEPER THAN MERE SORCERY.

SOMETHING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MY MEAGER POWERS.
WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF A MYSTIC WHOSE TALENTS FAR EXCEED MY OWN.


I TRIED TO REACH DR. STRANGE ON MY WAY OVER HERE.
HE WASN'T IN.
I THINK I KNOW A COUPLE OF FOLKS WHO CAN HELP US OUT IN THAT DEPARTMENT.


AND IN A TIME AND PLACE THAT IS NEITHER...
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, SORCERER?

GALACTUS, THE TRAIL I FOLLOW FADES AND REAPPEARS PERIODICALLY THE FARTHER WE TRAVEL THIS DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.

I BROUGHT YOU ALONG ON THIS QUEST, DR. STRANGE, FOR RESULTS, NOT EXCUSES.

A LITTLE PATIENCE MIGHT PRESENTLY BE ADVISABLE, MASTER.

NOVA, THAT IS SOMETHING GALACTUS POSSESSES LITTLE OF.

TELL ME ABOUT IT, SURF.

"CONTINUE ON THE BEST YOU CAN, MYSTIC. BUT REMEMBER, TIME IS OUR ENEMY IN THIS ENTERPRISE."

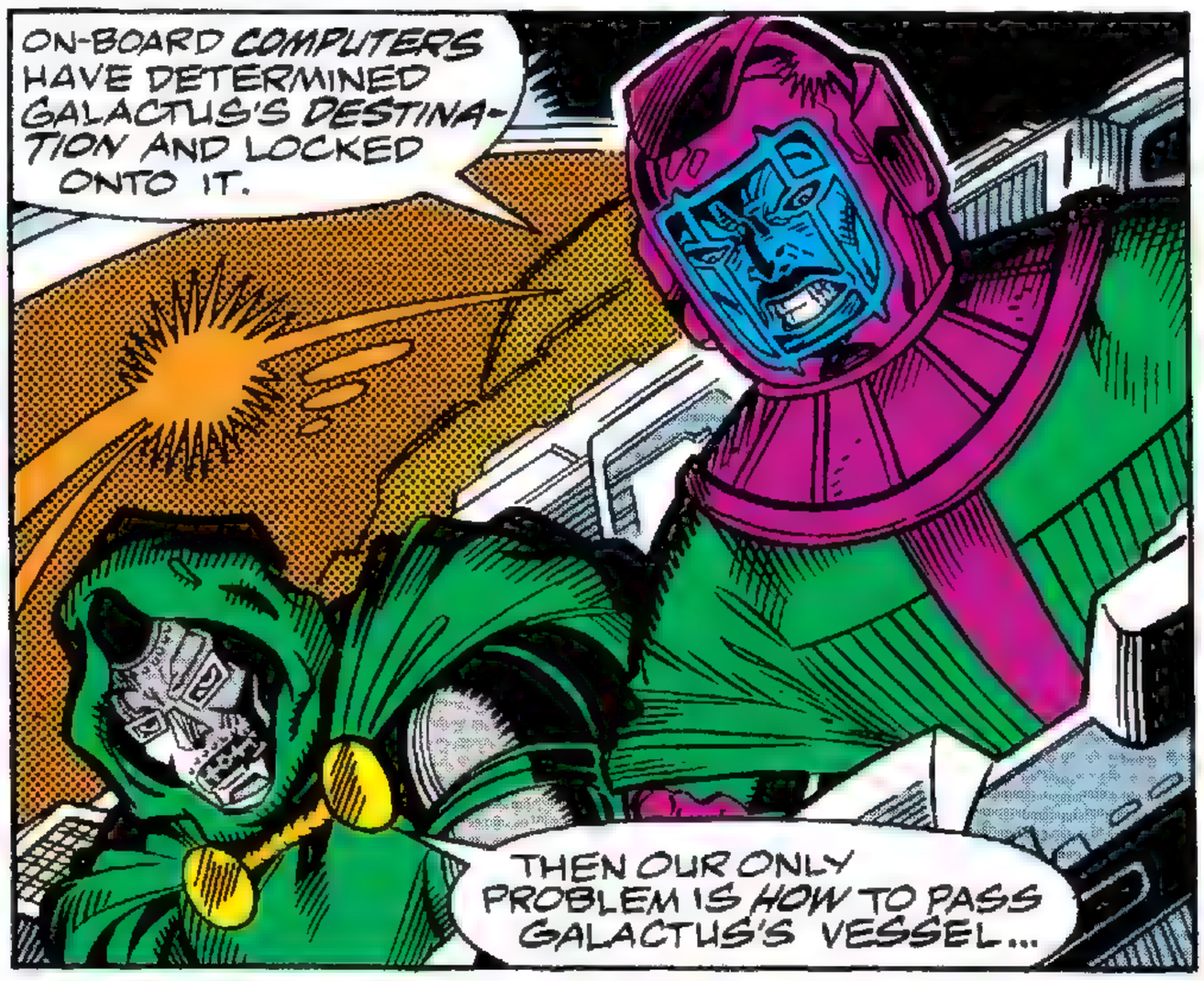
OUR PRESENT COURSE WILL DO US LITTLE GOOD, DOOM.

I KNOW, KANG.

WE MUST NOT LET GALACTUS BEAT US TO THE SOURCE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS AND POWERFUL ENERGIES.

BUT CAN WE FIND THEM WITHOUT HIM?

NOW? YES.



THE EMANATIONS ARE FAINT BUT ENOUGH FOR MY SENSORS TO DETECT.

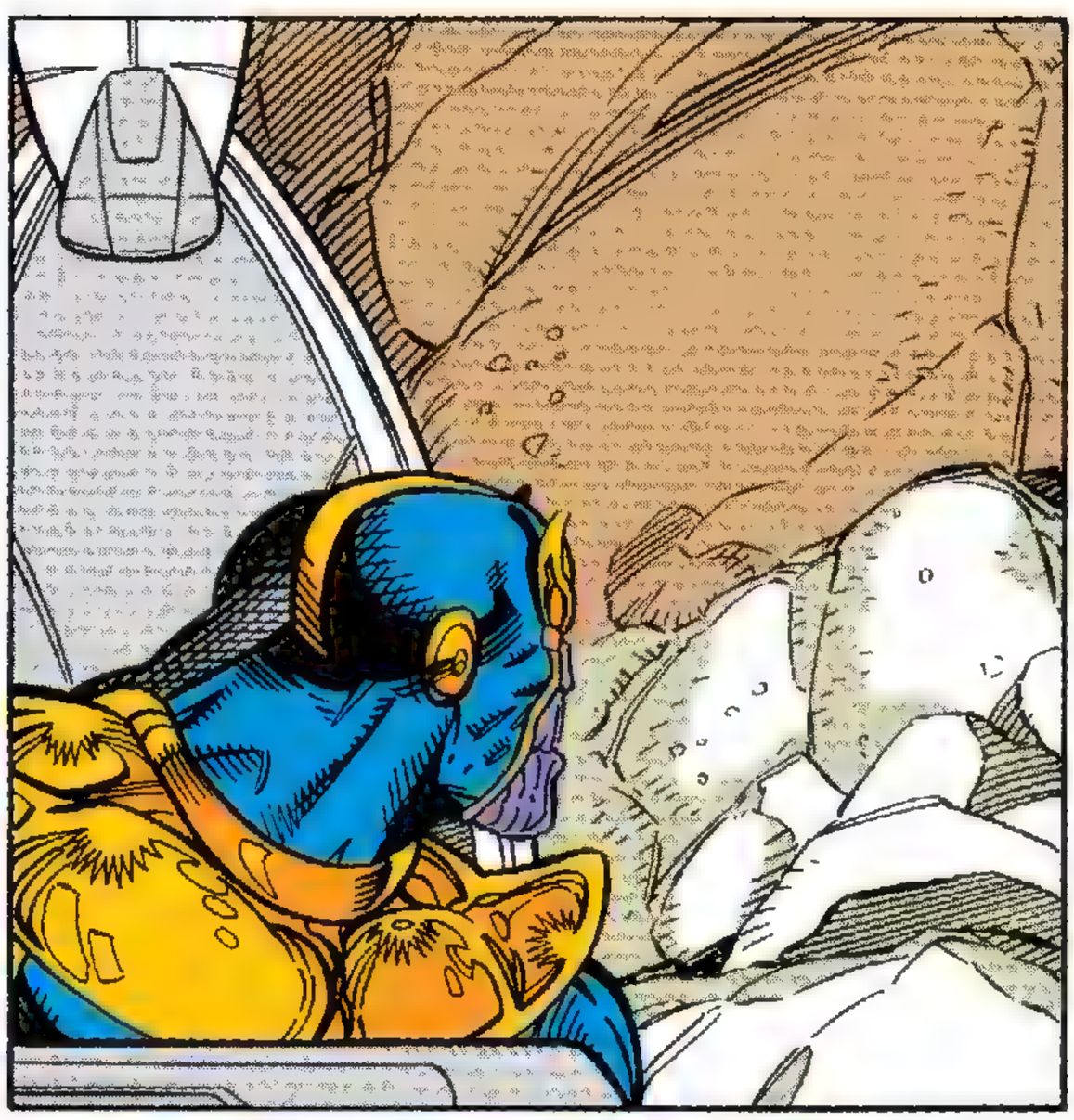
THEIR QUASI-MYSTICAL NATURE WILL ALLOW US TO TRACE THE BROADCASTS TO THEIR SOURCE.

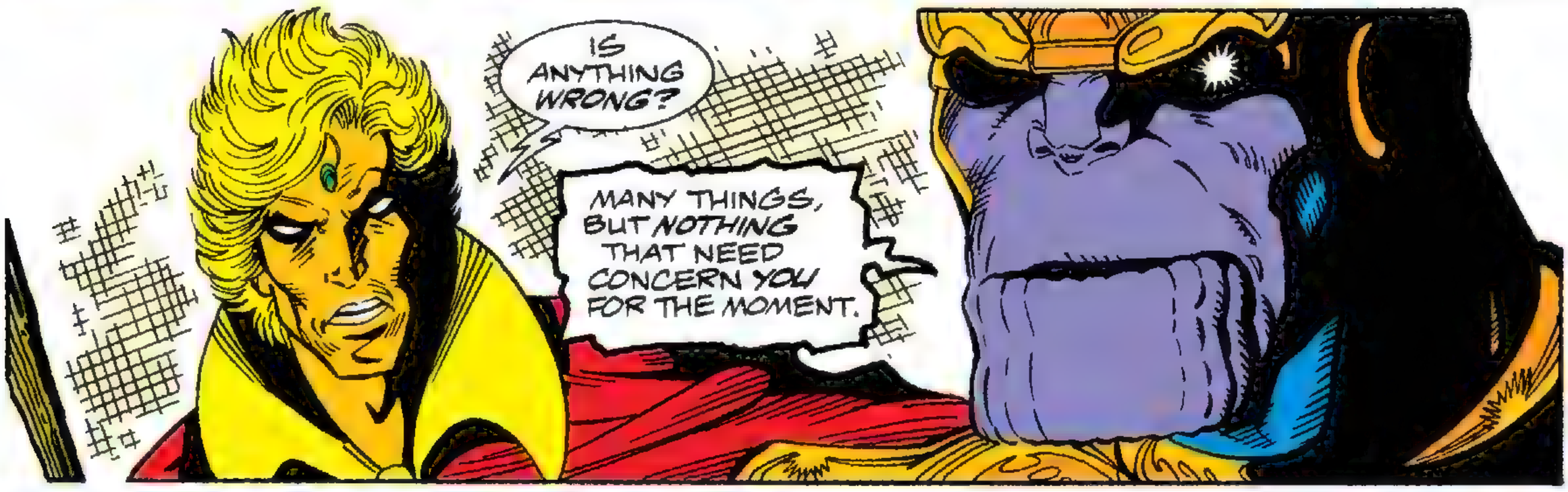
AND THEN?

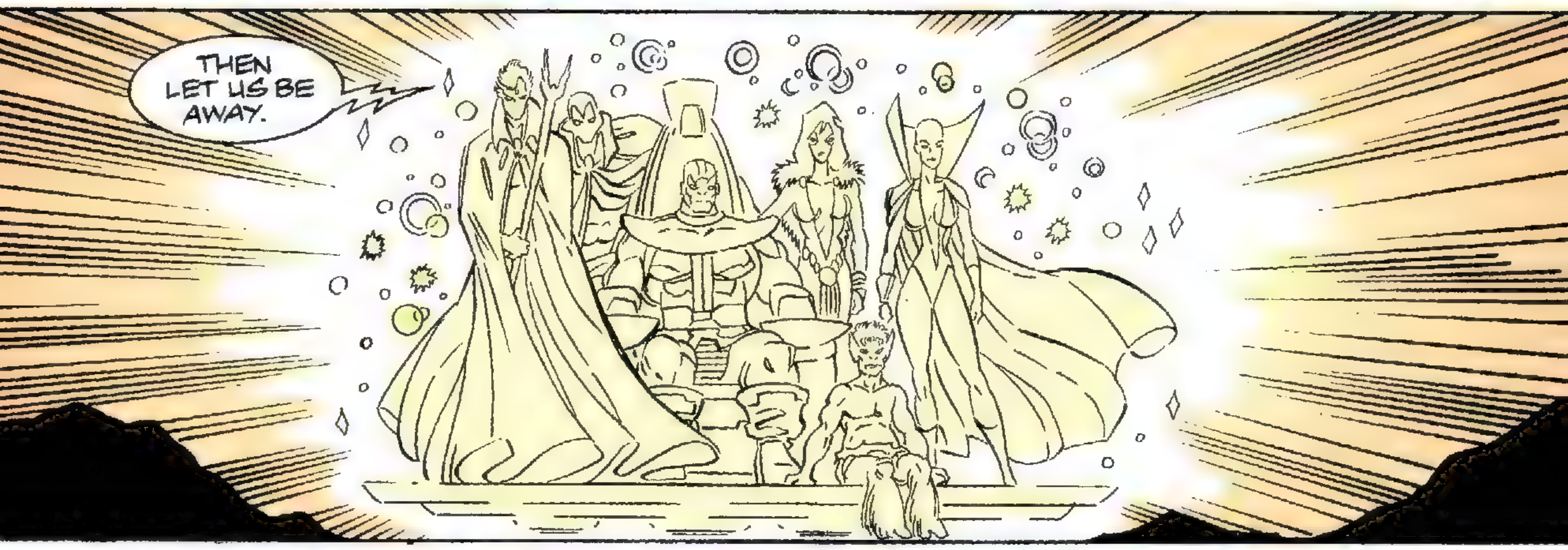
NEED I REALLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION?

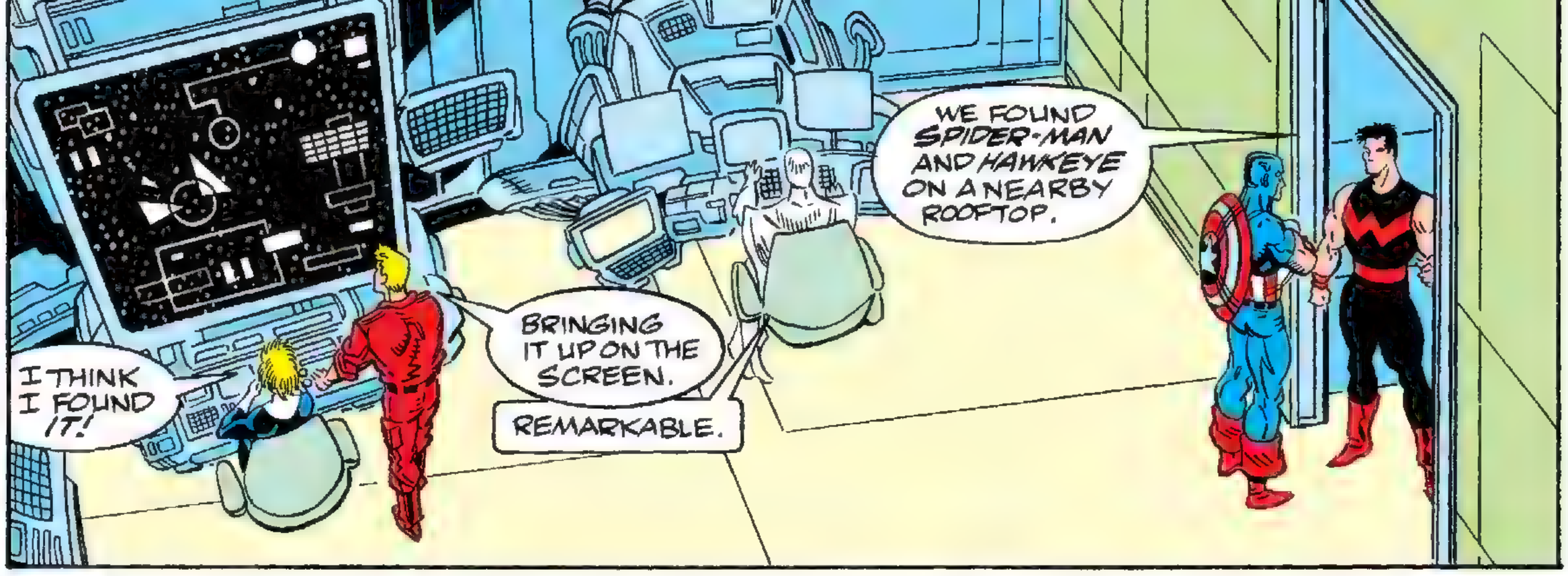
NO.

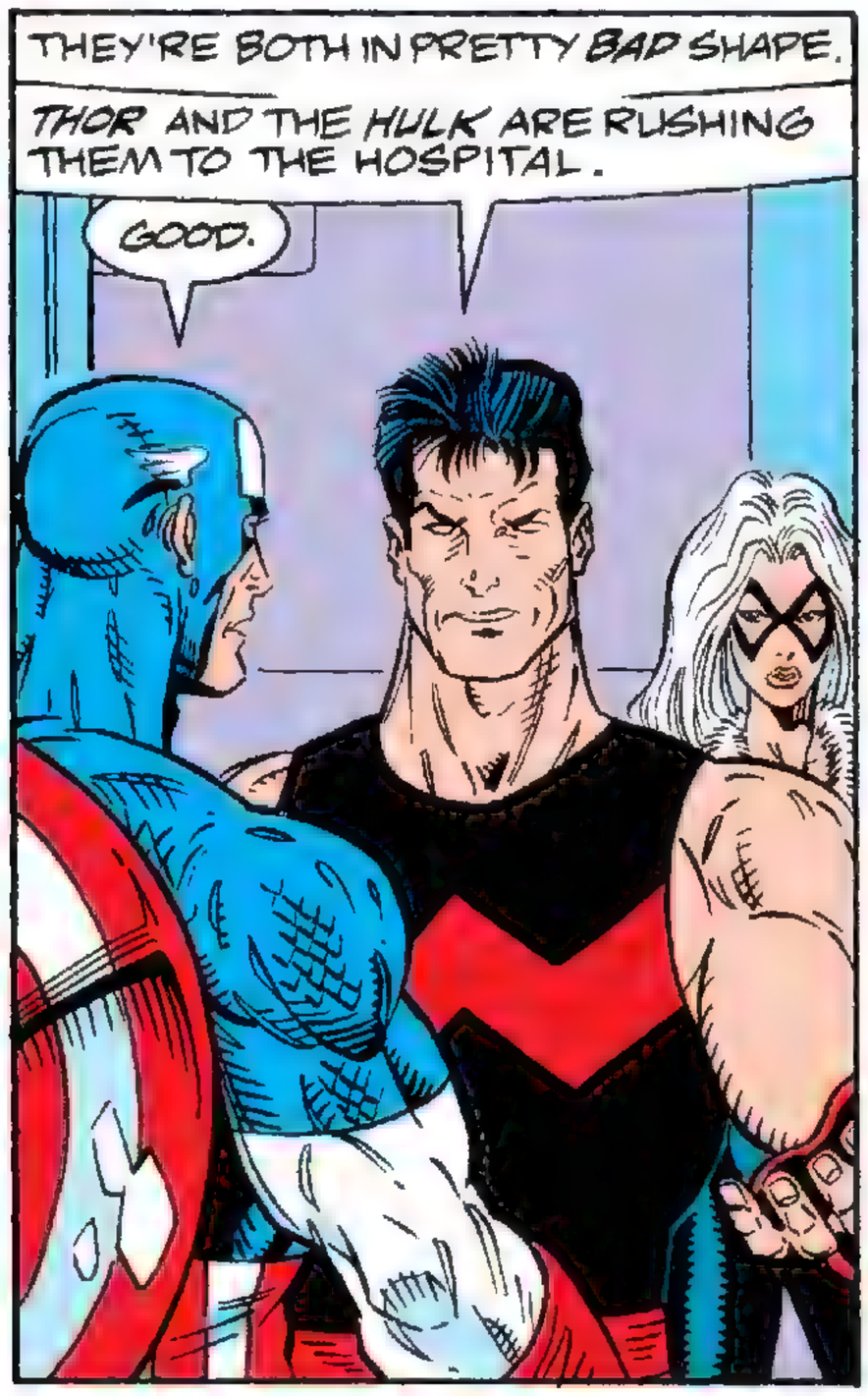
IT IS MY GUESS THAT--




IS ANYTHING WRONG?
MANY THINGS, BUT NOTHING THAT NEED CONCERN YOU FOR THE MOMENT.

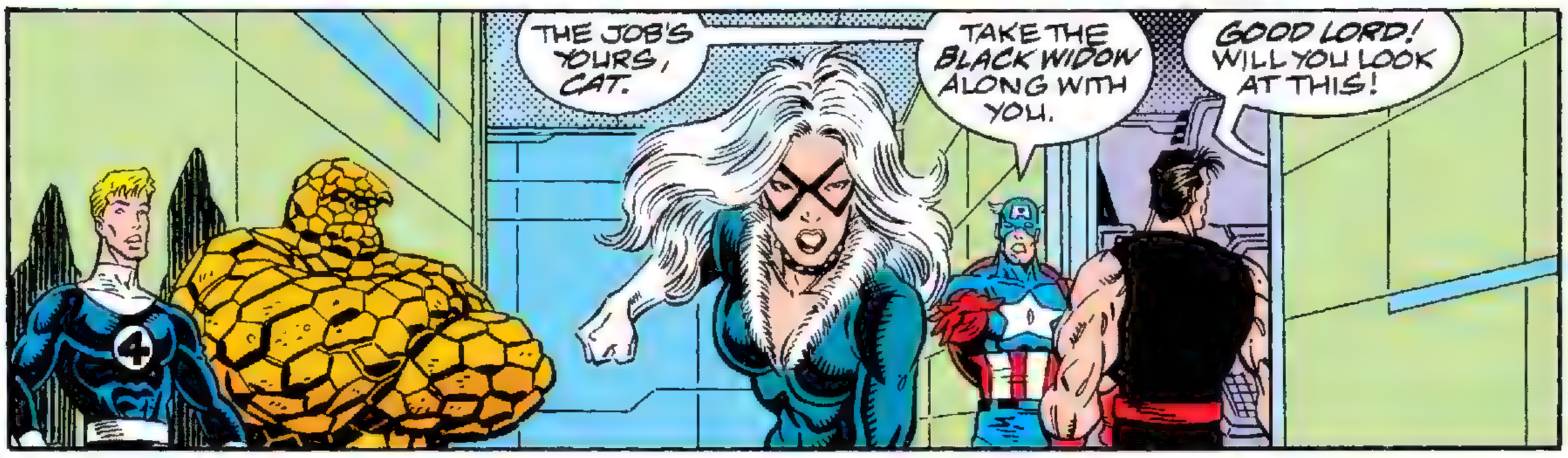

THEN LET US BE AWAY.

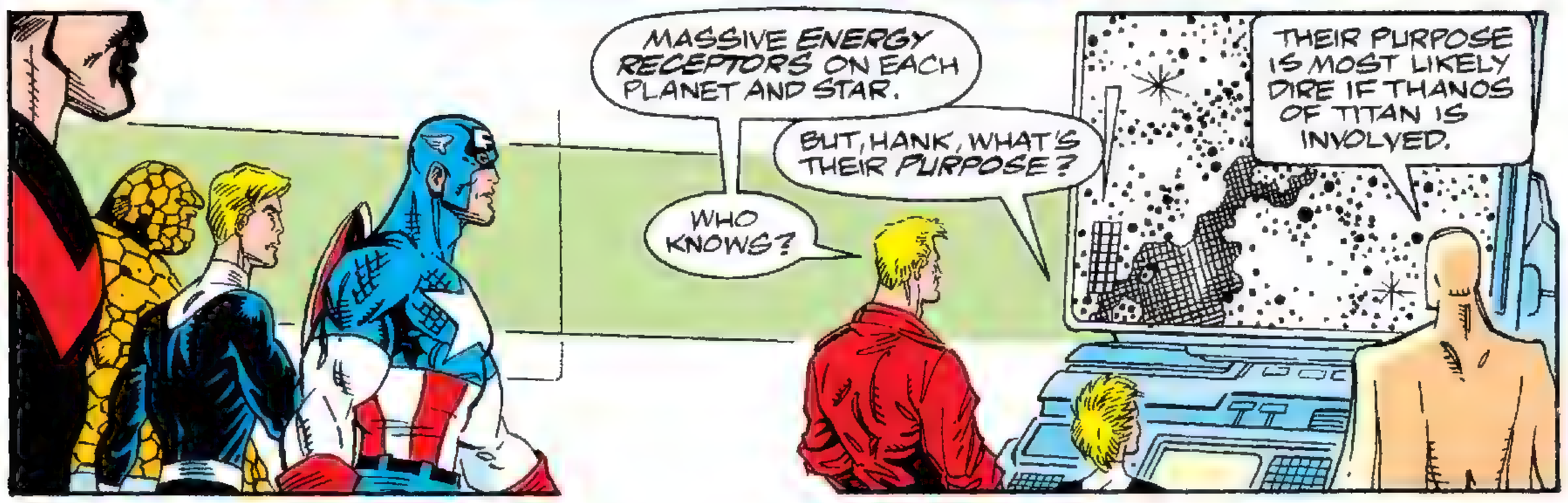

I THINK I FOUND IT!
BRINGING IT UP ON THE SCREEN.
REMARKABLE.
WE FOUND SPIDER-MAN AND HAWKEYE ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP.

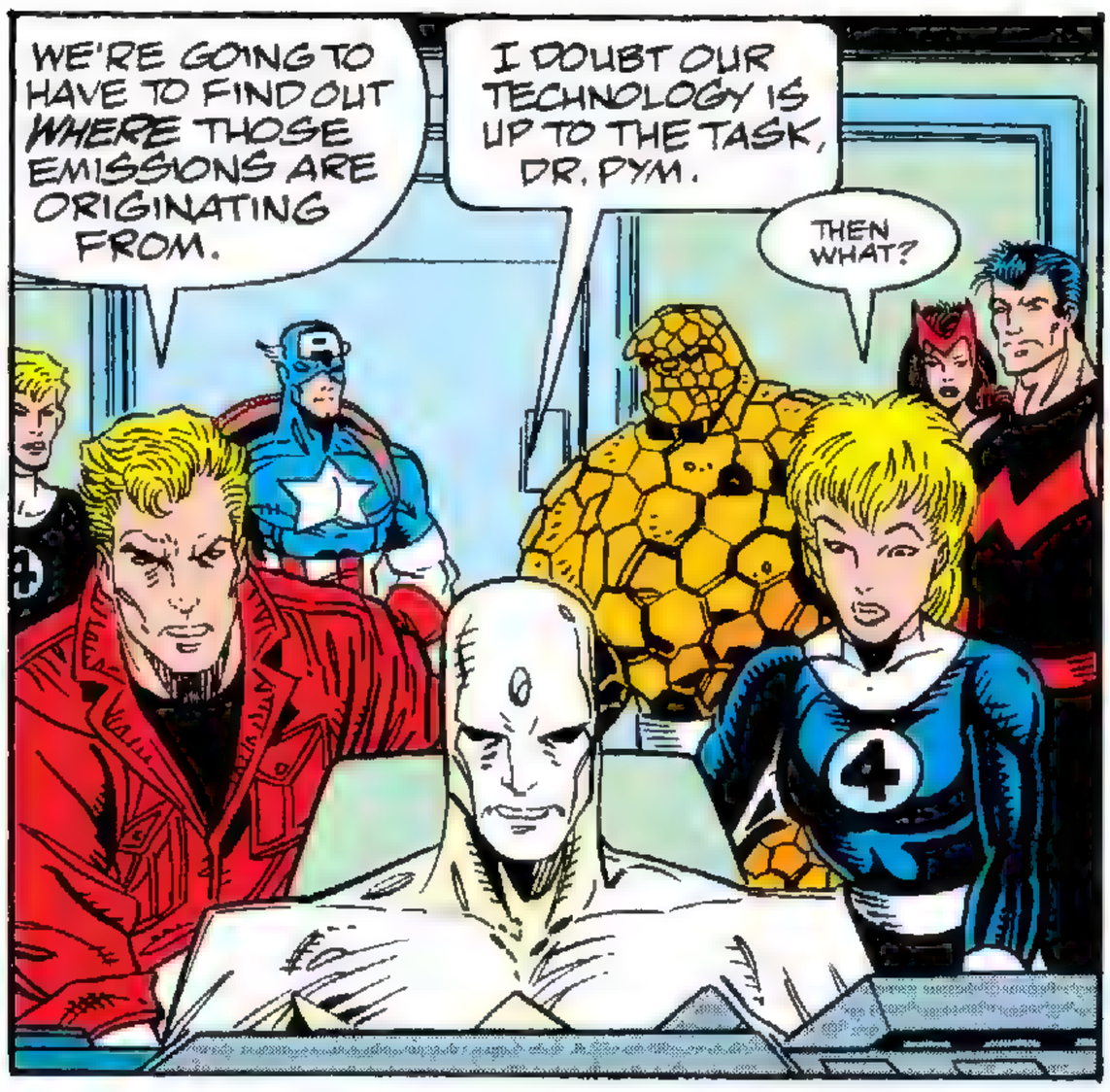

THEY'RE BOTH IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.
THOR AND THE HULK ARE RUSHING THEM TO THE HOSPITAL.
GOOD.

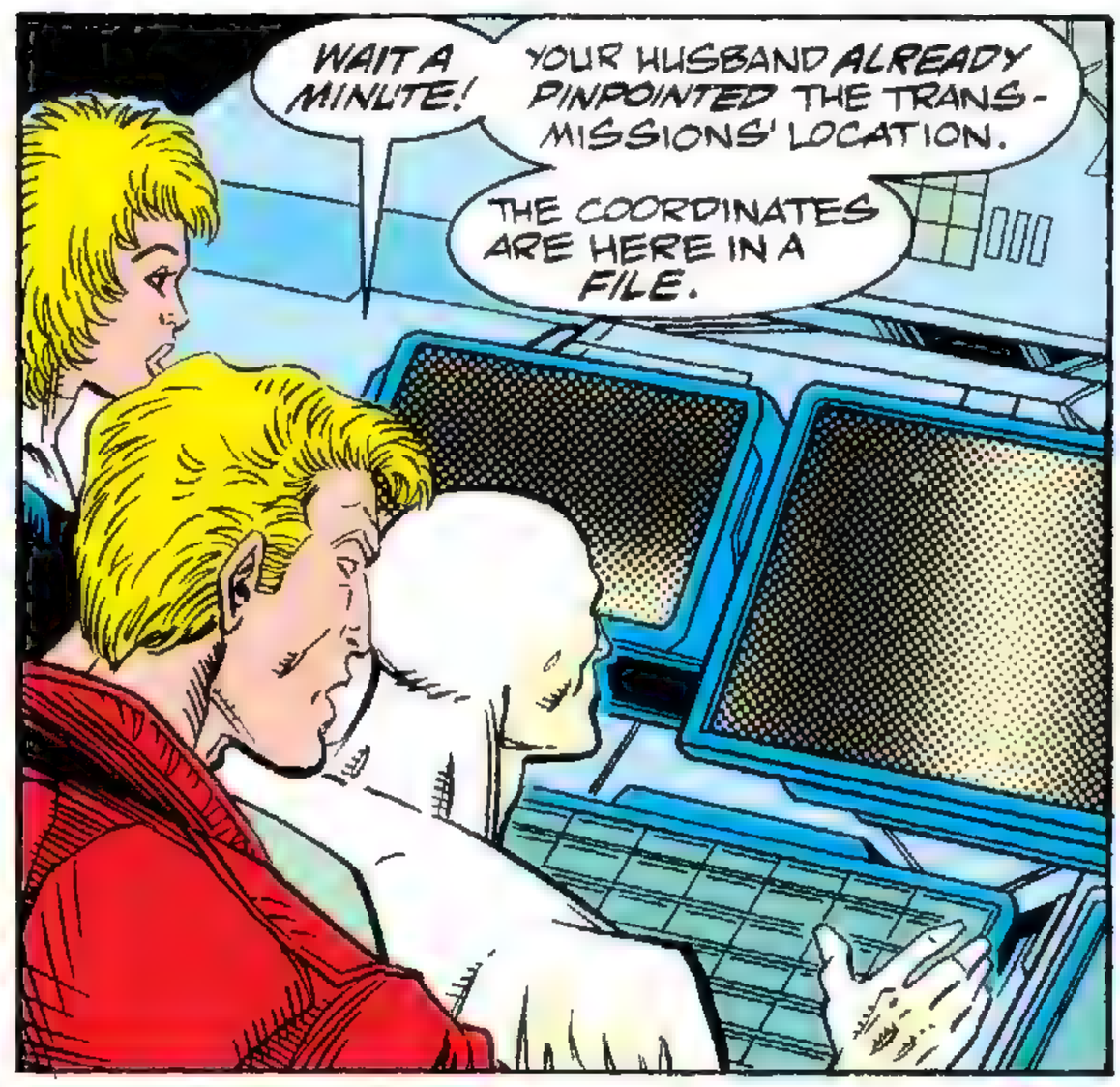
BUT HAVE THOR AND BANNER RETURN AS SOON AS THEY FINISH.
GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO SORELY NEED THEIR RAW POWER.

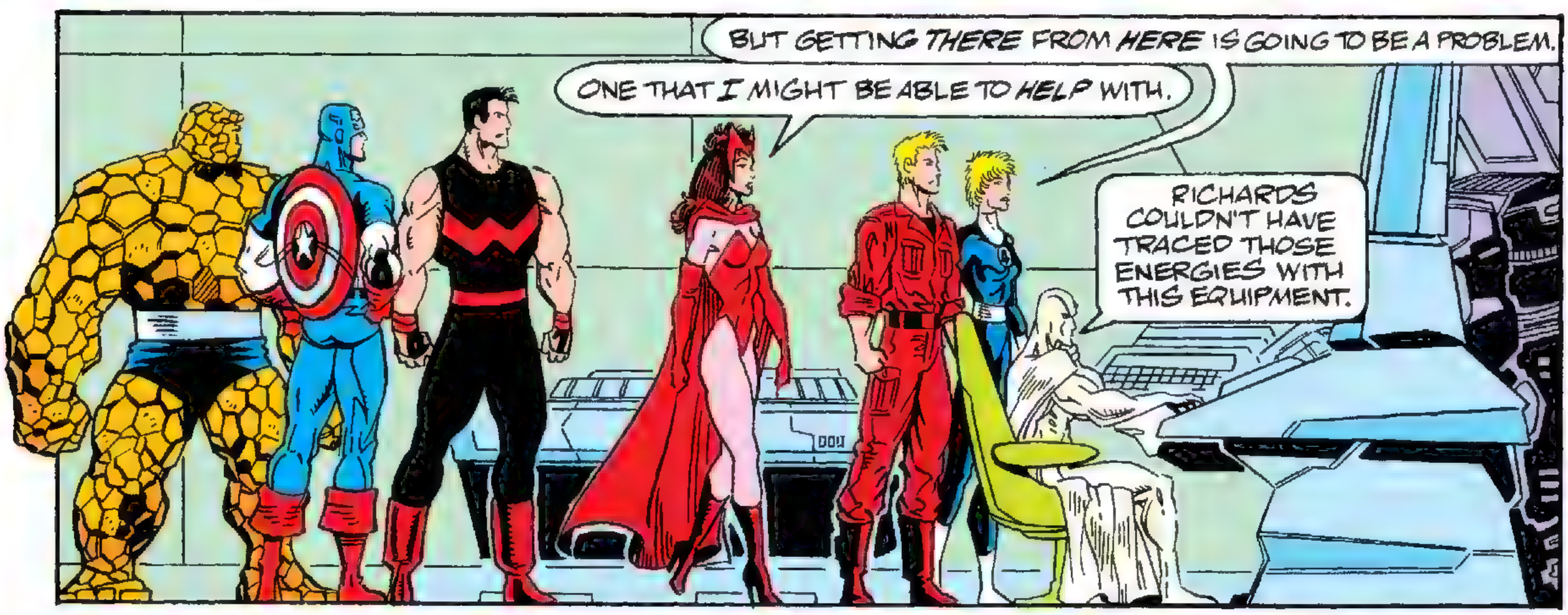
BUT SPIDER-MAN AND HAWKEYE ARE GOING TO NEED--
I KNOW, GUARDS.
CAP, YOU'VE GOT A VOLUNTEER.

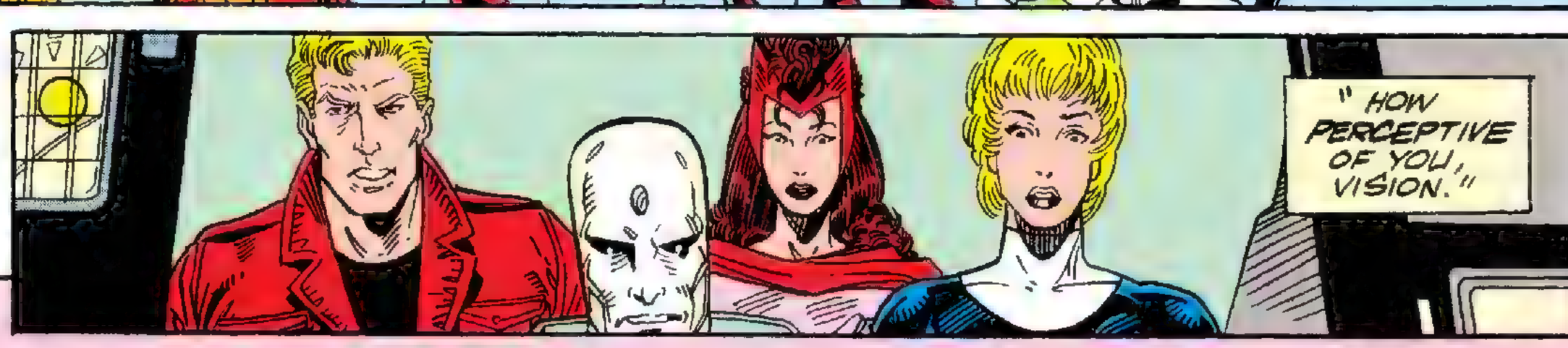

THE JOB'S YOURS, CAT.
TAKE THE BLACK WIDOW ALONG WITH YOU.
GOOD LORD! WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS!

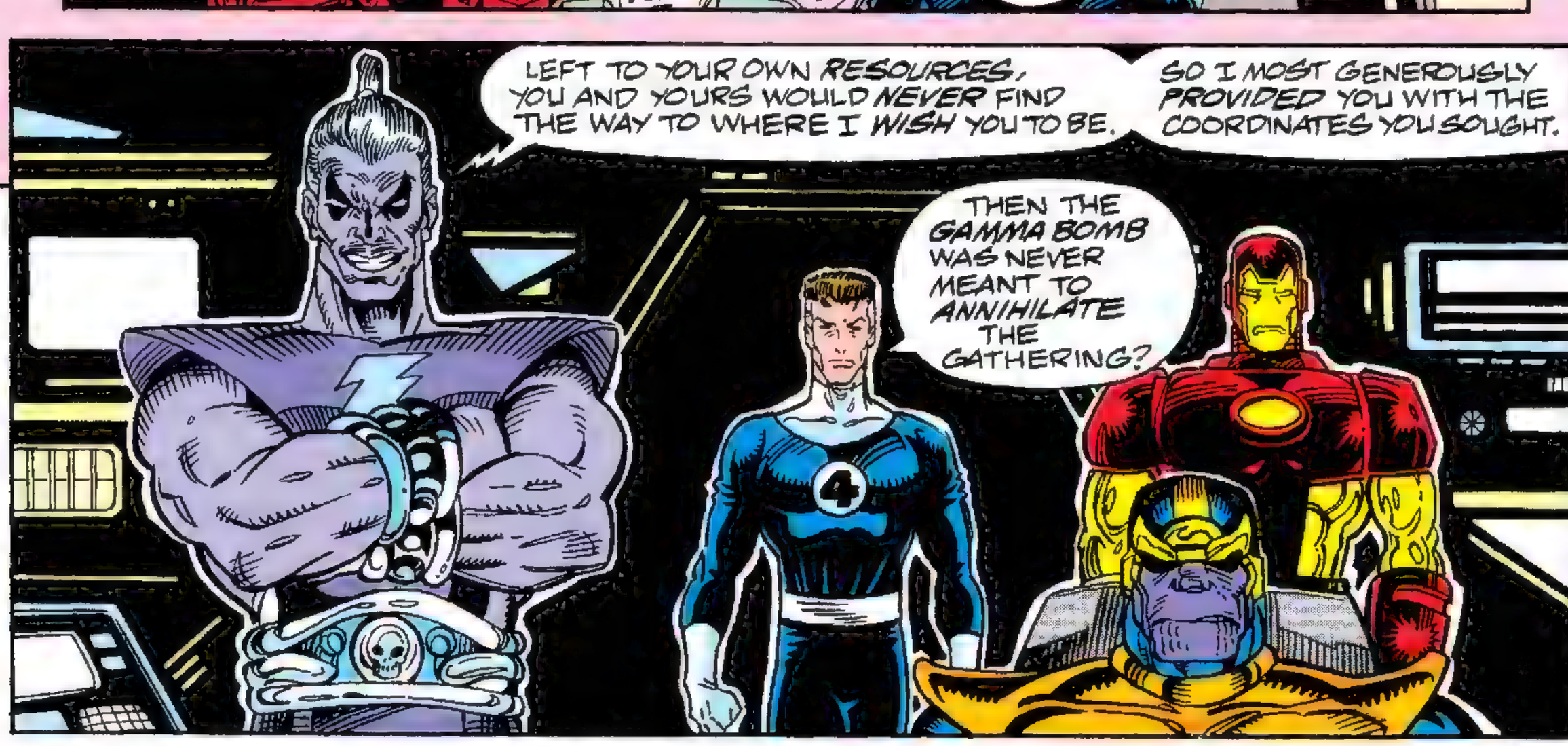

MASSIVE ENERGY RECEPTORS ON EACH PLANET AND STAR.
WHO KNOWS?
BUT, HANK, WHAT'S THEIR PURPOSE?
THEIR PURPOSE IS MOST LIKELY DIRE IF THANOS OF TITAN IS INVOLVED.


WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THOSE EMISSIONS ARE ORIGINATING FROM.
I DOUBT OUR TECHNOLOGY IS UP TO THE TASK, DR. PYM.
THEN WHAT?


WAIT A MINUTE!
YOUR HUSBAND ALREADY PINPOINTED THE TRANS-MISSIONS' LOCATION.
THE COORDINATES ARE HERE IN A FILE.


BUT GETTING THERE FROM HERE IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.
ONE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH.
RICHARDS COULDN'T HAVE TRACED THOSE ENERGIES WITH THIS EQUIPMENT.

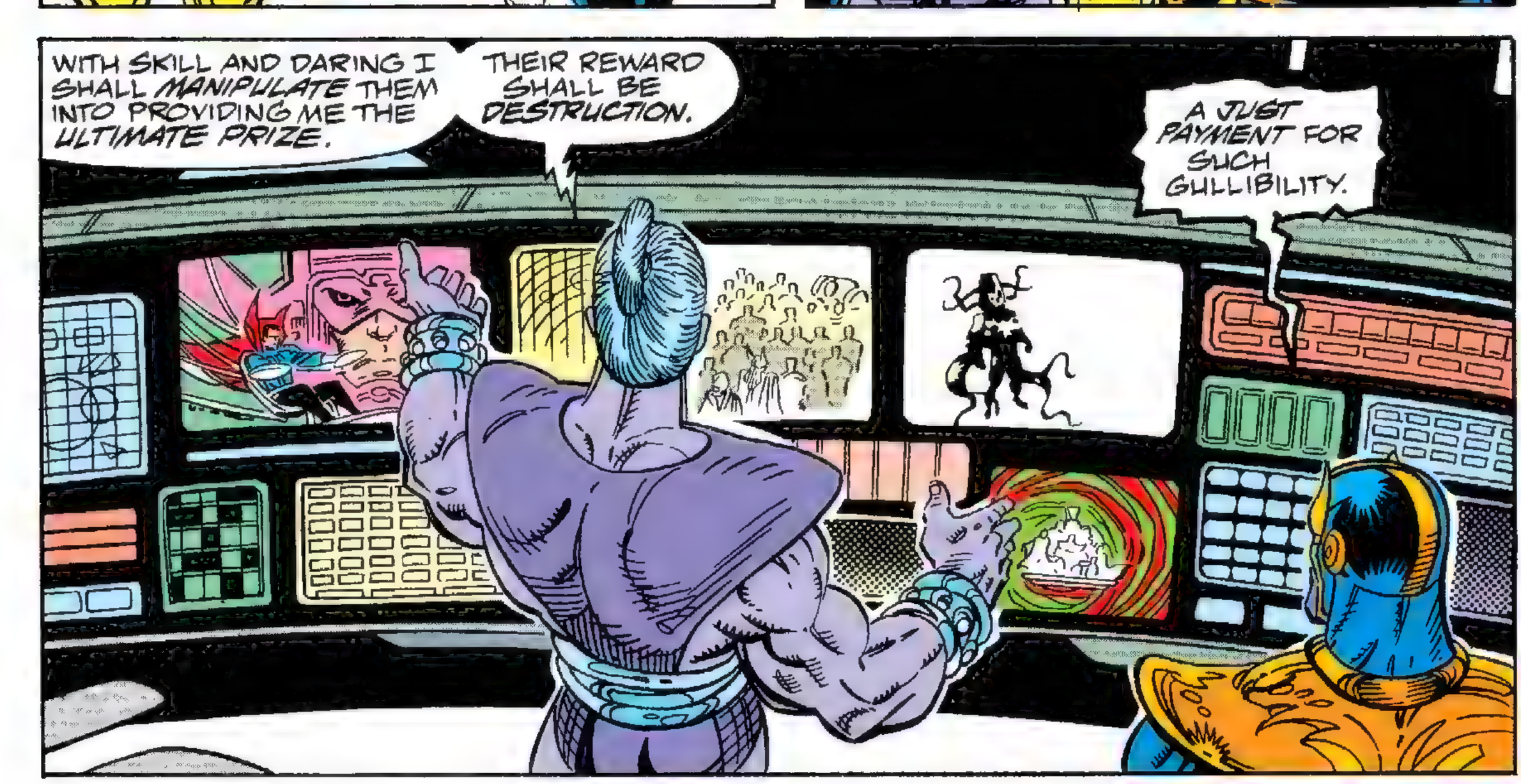

" HOW PERCEPTIVE OF YOU, VISION."


LEFT TO YOUR OWN RESOURCES, YOU AND YOURS WOULD NEVER FIND THE WAY TO WHERE I WISH YOU TO BE.
SO I MOST GENEROUSLY PROVIDED YOU WITH THE COORDINATES YOU SOUGHT.
THEN THE GAMMA BOMB WAS NEVER MEANT TO ANNIHILATE THE GATHERING?

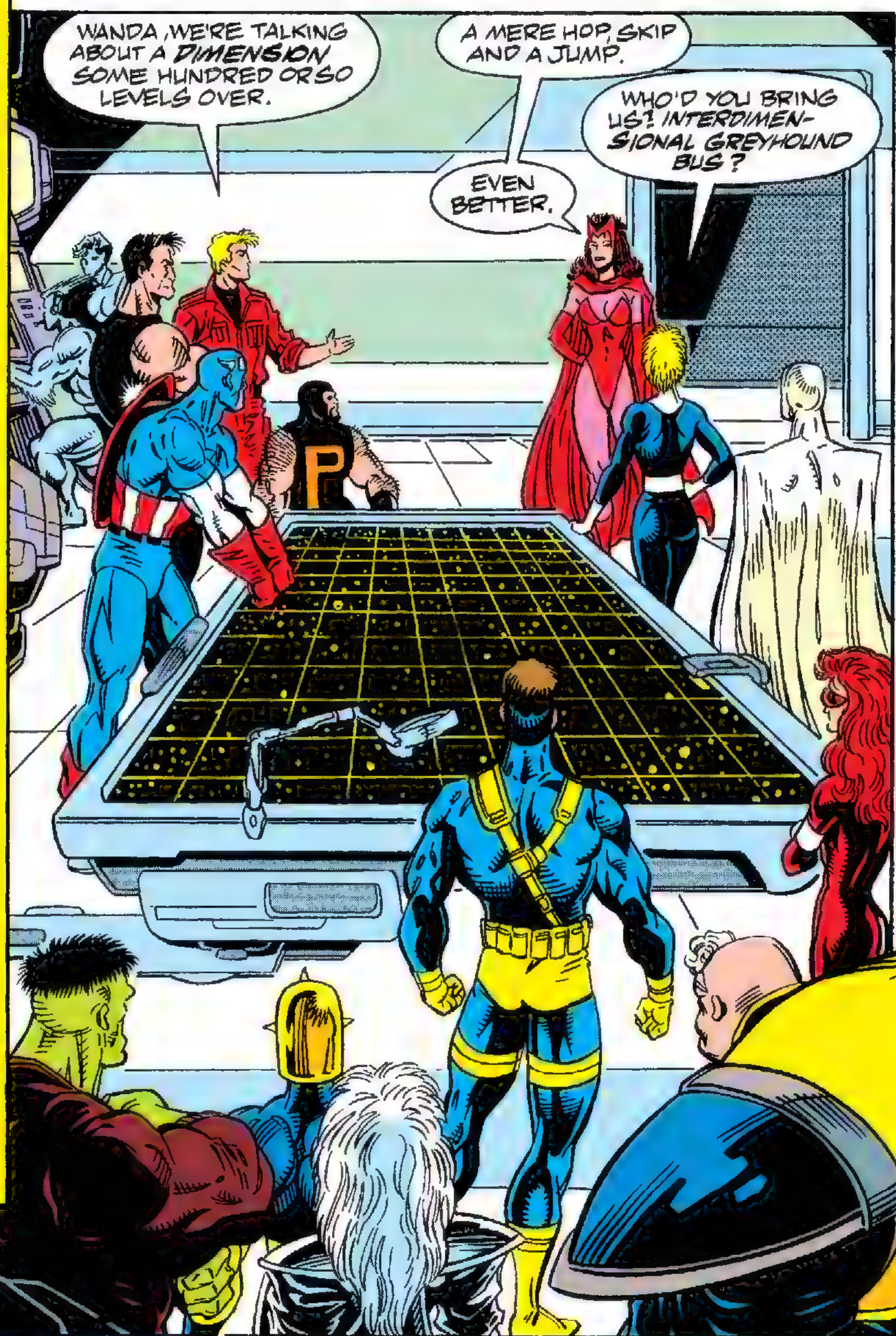
OF COURSE NOT, ONLY TO CONFUSE AND STIMULATE EARTH'S HONORABLE DEFENDERS.
ESPECIALLY CONFUSE.
FOR THAT IS THE ROLE I HAVE CHOSEN FOR THEM TO PLAY.
THEY ARE THE SPOILERS, THE HAVOC REAVERS, THE MUDDIERS OF WATER.

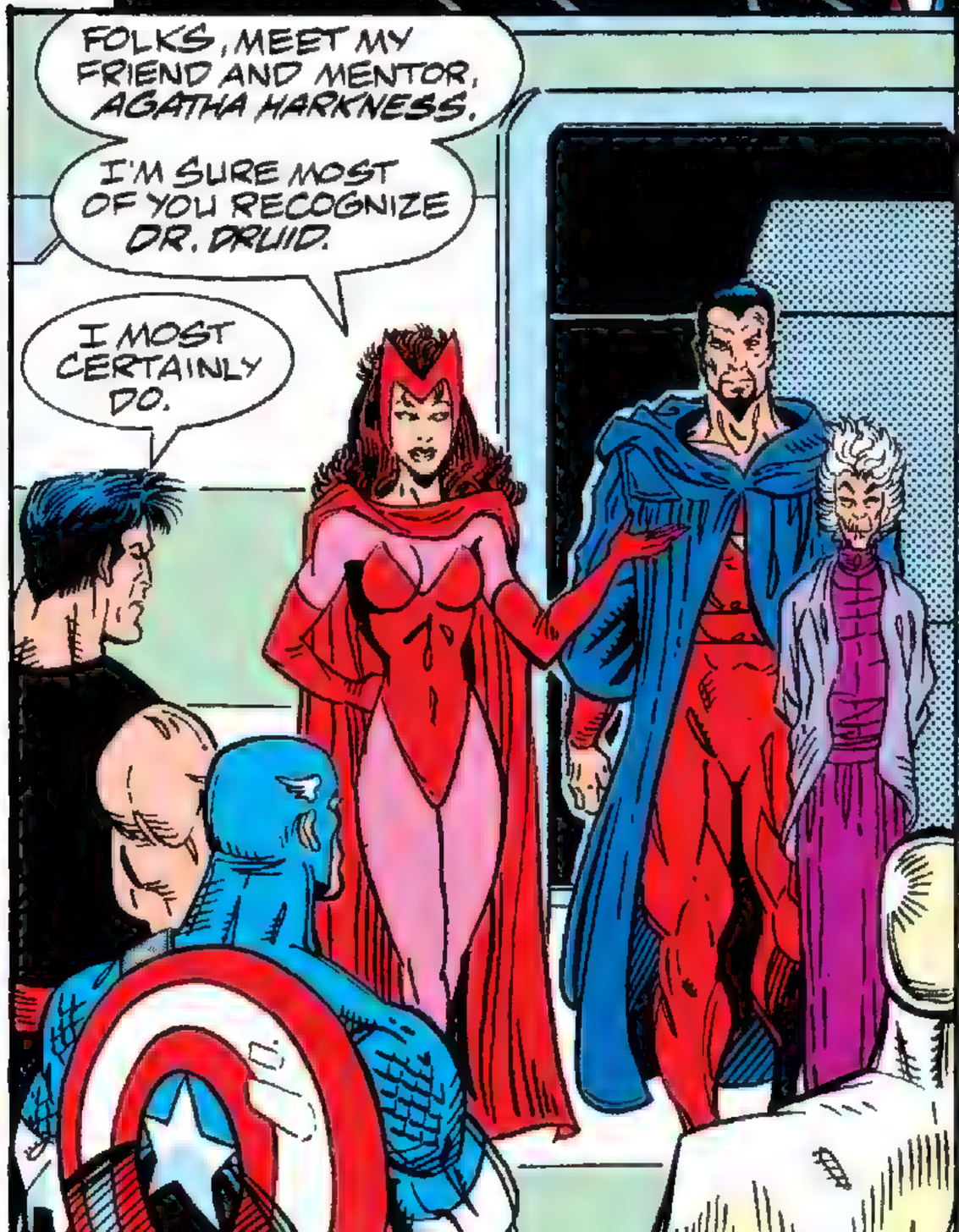
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE OF NO REAL CONSEQUENCE. MERE PAWNS.
BUT THERE ARE KINGS AND QUEENS IN MY GAME.

THANOS AND WARLOCK ARE MAJOR BOARD PIECES.
PIP, GAMORA, GALACTUS AND ETERNITY ARE USEFUL SECONDARY PLAYERS.


WITH SKILL AND DARING I SHALL MANIPULATE THEM INTO PROVIDING ME THE ULTIMATE PRIZE.
THEIR REWARD SHALL BE DESTRUCTION.
A JUST PAYMENT FOR SUCH GULLIBILITY.

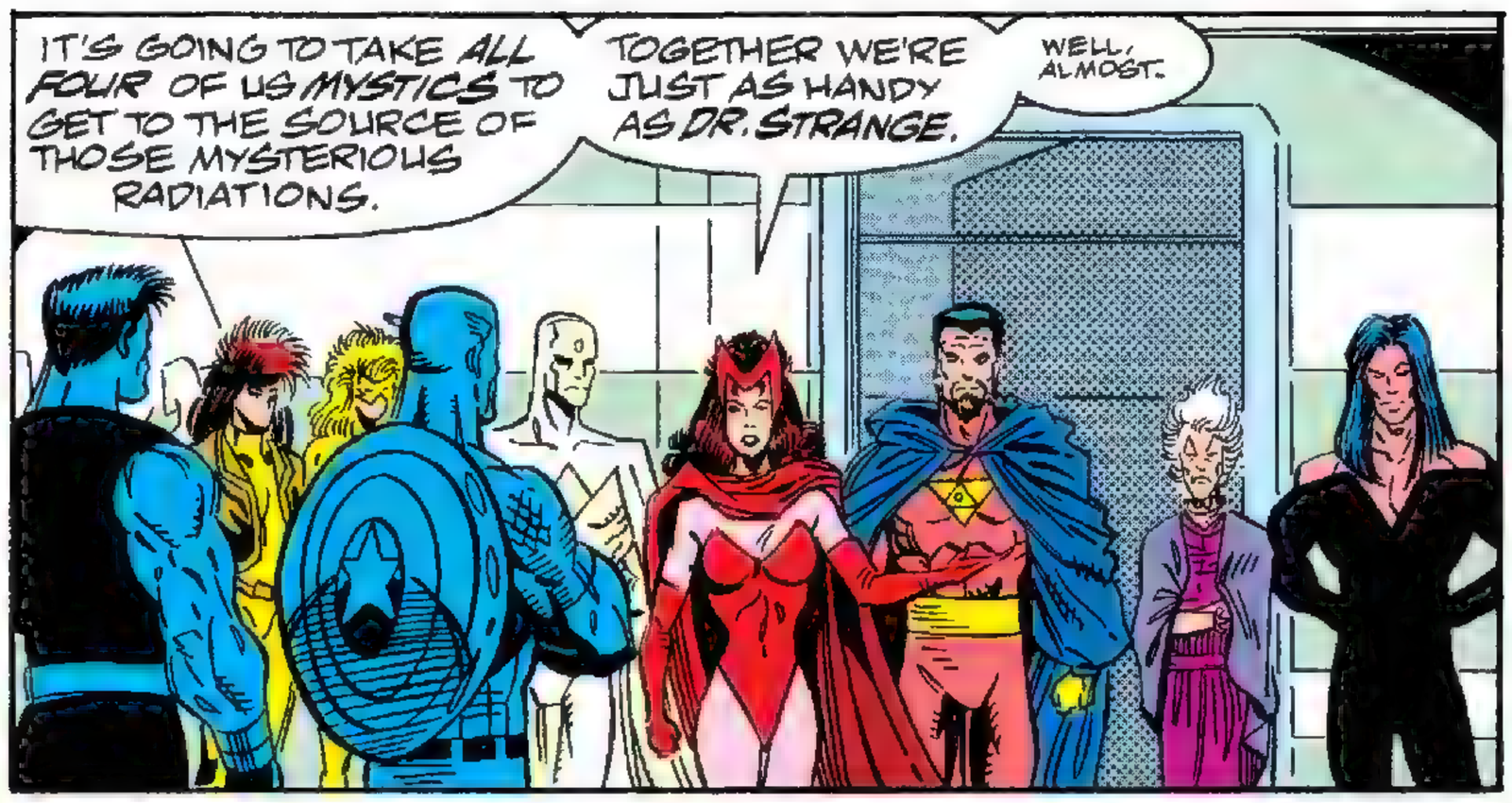
ALL MY DREAMS COME TRUE...

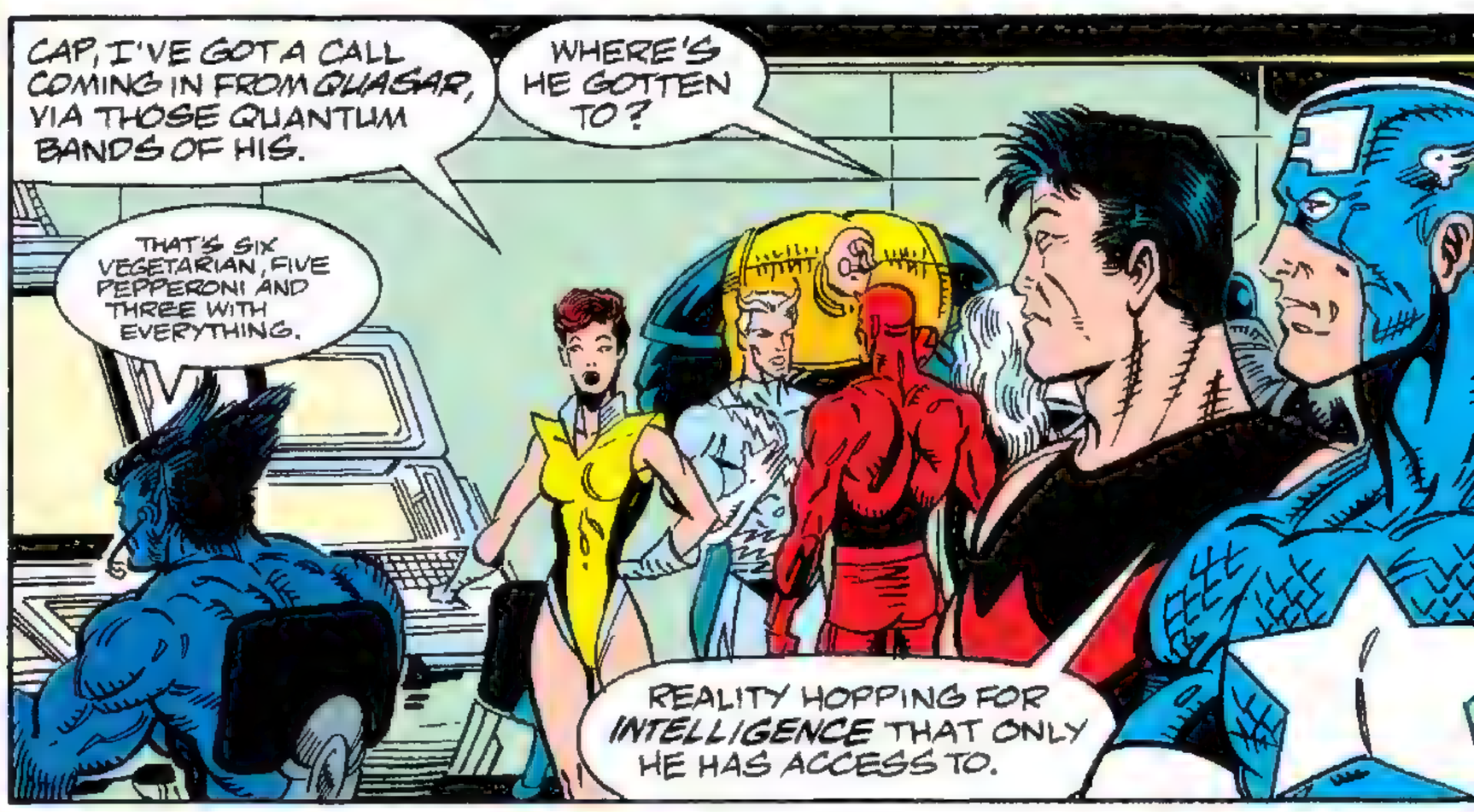

WANDA, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A DIMENSION SOME HUNDRED OR SO LEVELS OVER.
A MERE HOP, SKIP AND A JUMP.
WHO'D YOU BRING US? INTERDIMENSIONAL GREYHOUND BUS?
EVEN BETTER.


FOLKS, MEET MY FRIEND AND MENTOR, AGATHA HARKNESS.
I'M SURE MOST OF YOU RECOGNIZE DR. DRUID.
I MOST CERTAINLY DO.

DESPITE THE ALTERATIONS.
RADICAL CHANGES, TO BE SURE.
CAN HE BE TRUSTED, WANDA? REMEMBER LAST TIME...

THIS IS A TRULY CHANGED MAN WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU. I WILL VOUCH FOR HIM.
BESIDES, WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF HIS UNIQUE TALENTS.


IT'S GOING TO TAKE ALL FOUR OF US MYSTICS TO GET TO THE SOURCE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS RADIATIONS.
TOGETHER WE'RE JUST AS HANDY AS DR. STRANGE.
WELL, ALMOST.


CAP, I'VE GOT A CALL COMING IN FROM QUASAR, VIA THOSE QUANTUM BANDS OF HIS.
WHERE'S HE GOTTEN TO?
THAT'S SIX VEGETARIAN, FIVE PEPPERONI AND THREE WITH EVERYTHING.
REALITY HOPPING FOR INTELLIGENCE THAT ONLY HE HAS ACCESS TO.

I FIGURED SOME OF THOSE COSMIC ENTITIES HE KNOWS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A COUPLE OF LEADS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON.
THE KID HAVE ANY LUCK?

YEAH, ALL BAD.
WHAT HAPPENED?

IT TOOK SOME DOING, BUT I TRACED DOWN AN ASPECT OF ETERNITY IN THIS PLACE DESCRIBED AS THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS...
SO WHAT DID HE HAVE TO SAY?

NOT A WORD.

HE'S CATATONIC.

IT APPEARS TO BE INDUCED BY OUTSIDE FORCES.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT POWER IT TOOK TO ACCOMPLISH THIS NIGHTMARE.

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT I'VE LEARNED ALL I'M GOING TO HERE.

SO WHAT'S THE NEXT PLAN, CAP?

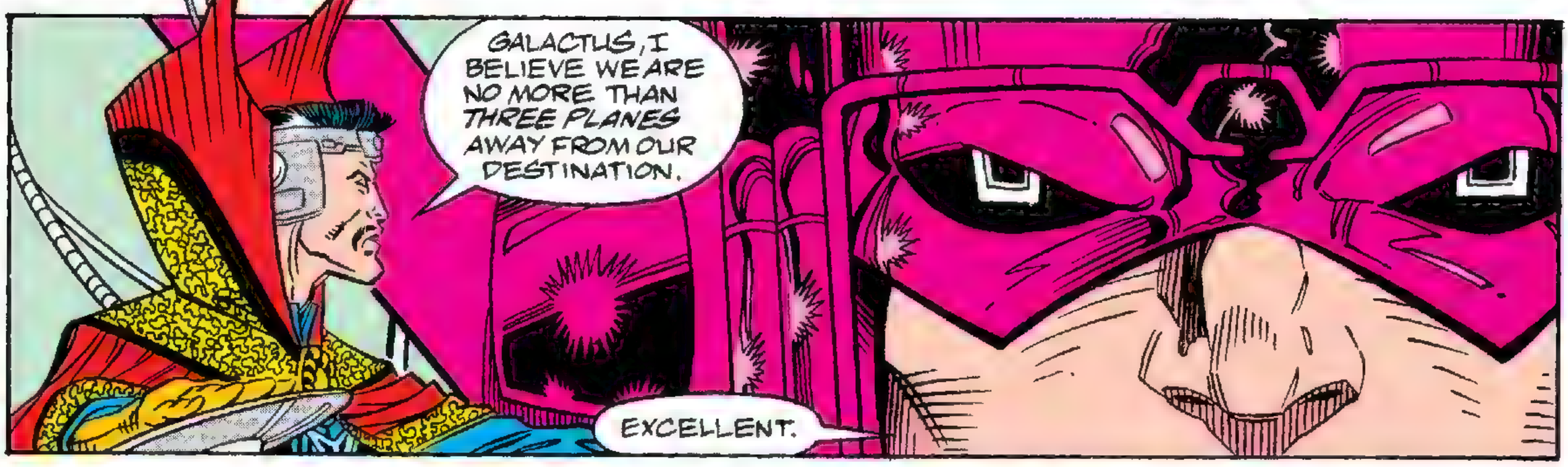
WE'LL BE HEADING OFF IN A HALF HOUR.

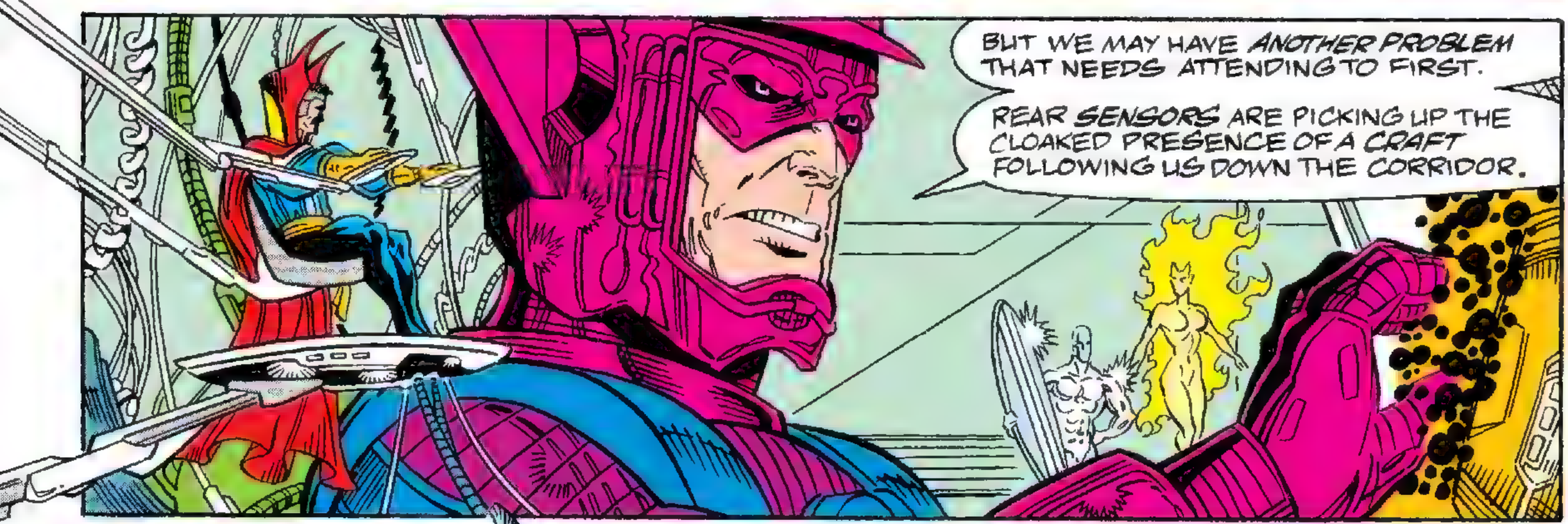
IF YOU WANT IN ON THE ACTION, BE HERE.

COUNT ME IN.

IT'S GOING TO BE BAD THIS TIME AROUND, ISN'T IT?

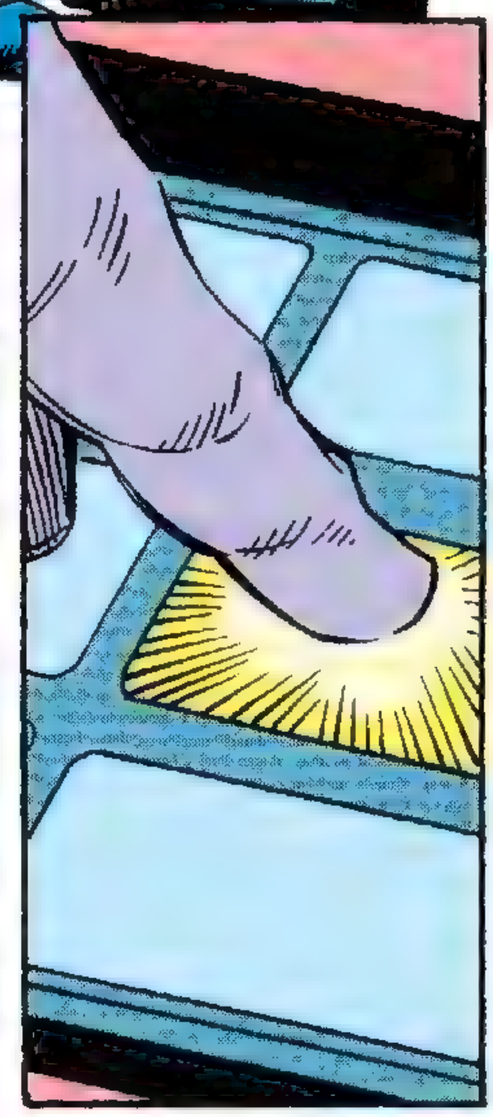
JAN, I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE THE WORST.

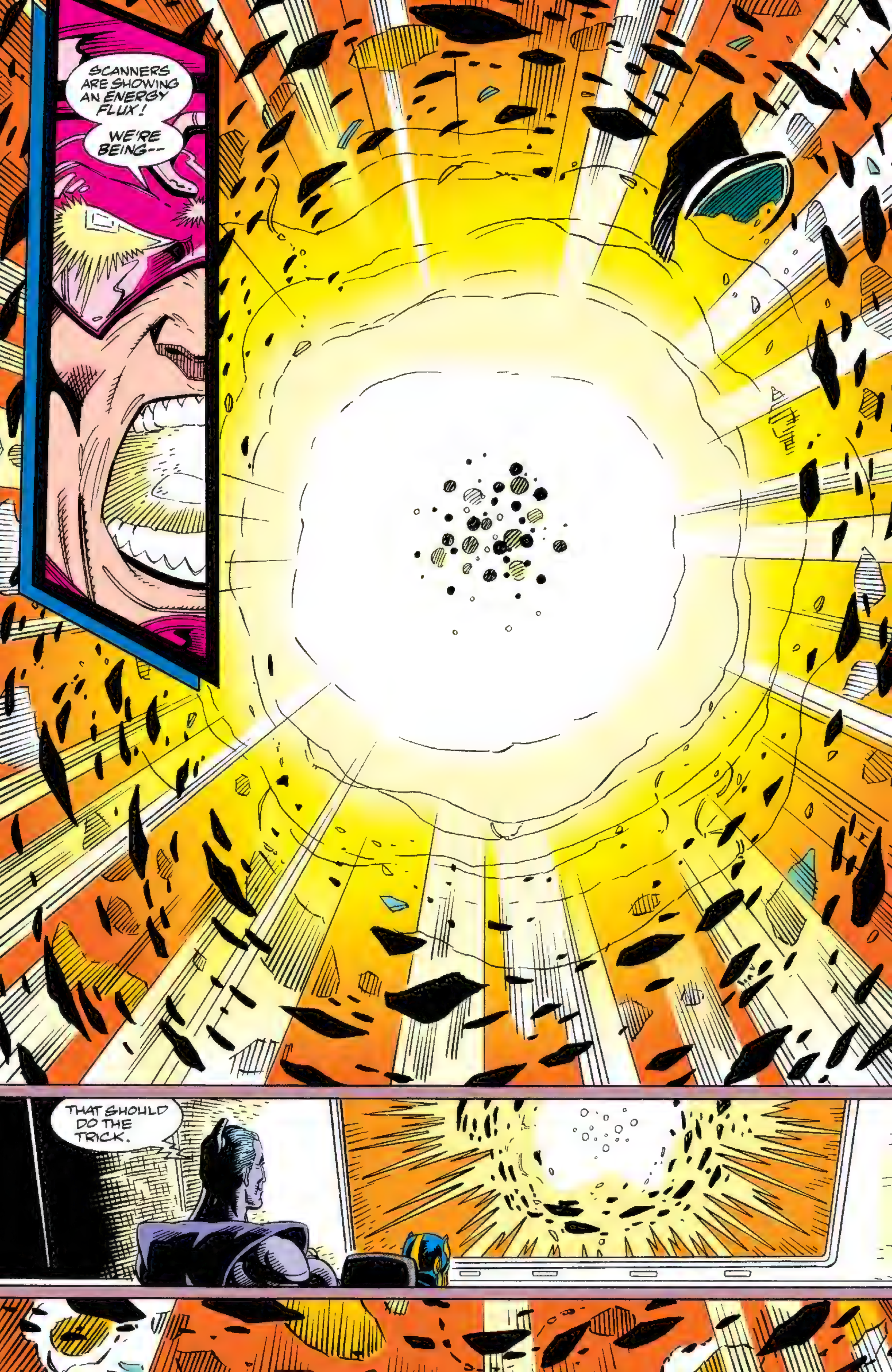

GALACTUS, I BELIEVE WE ARE NO MORE THAN THREE PLANES AWAY FROM OUR DESTINATION.
EXCELLENT.

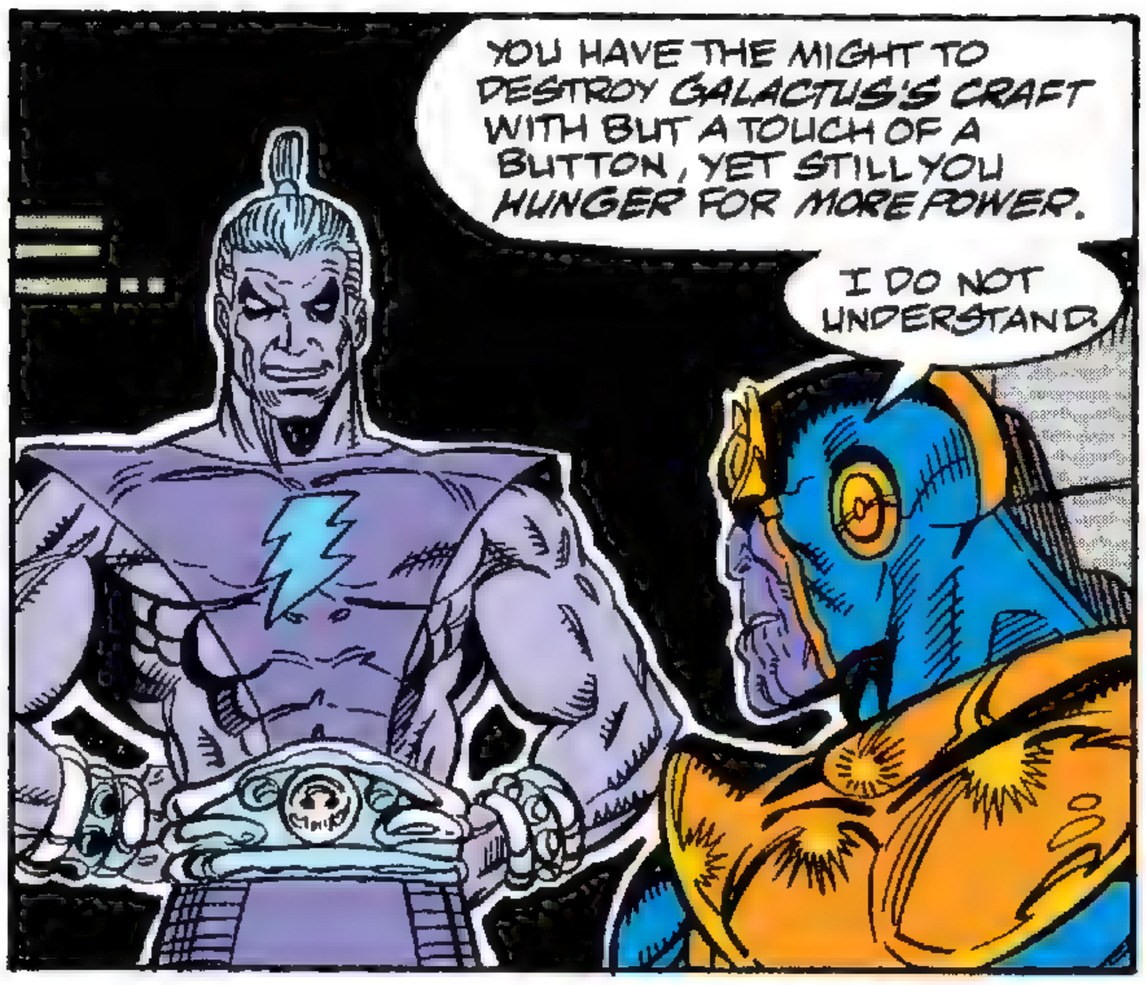

BUT WE MAY HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT NEEDS ATTENDING TO FIRST.
REAR SENSORS ARE PICKING UP THE CLOAKED PRESENCE OF A CRAFT FOLLOWING US DOWN THE CORRIDOR.

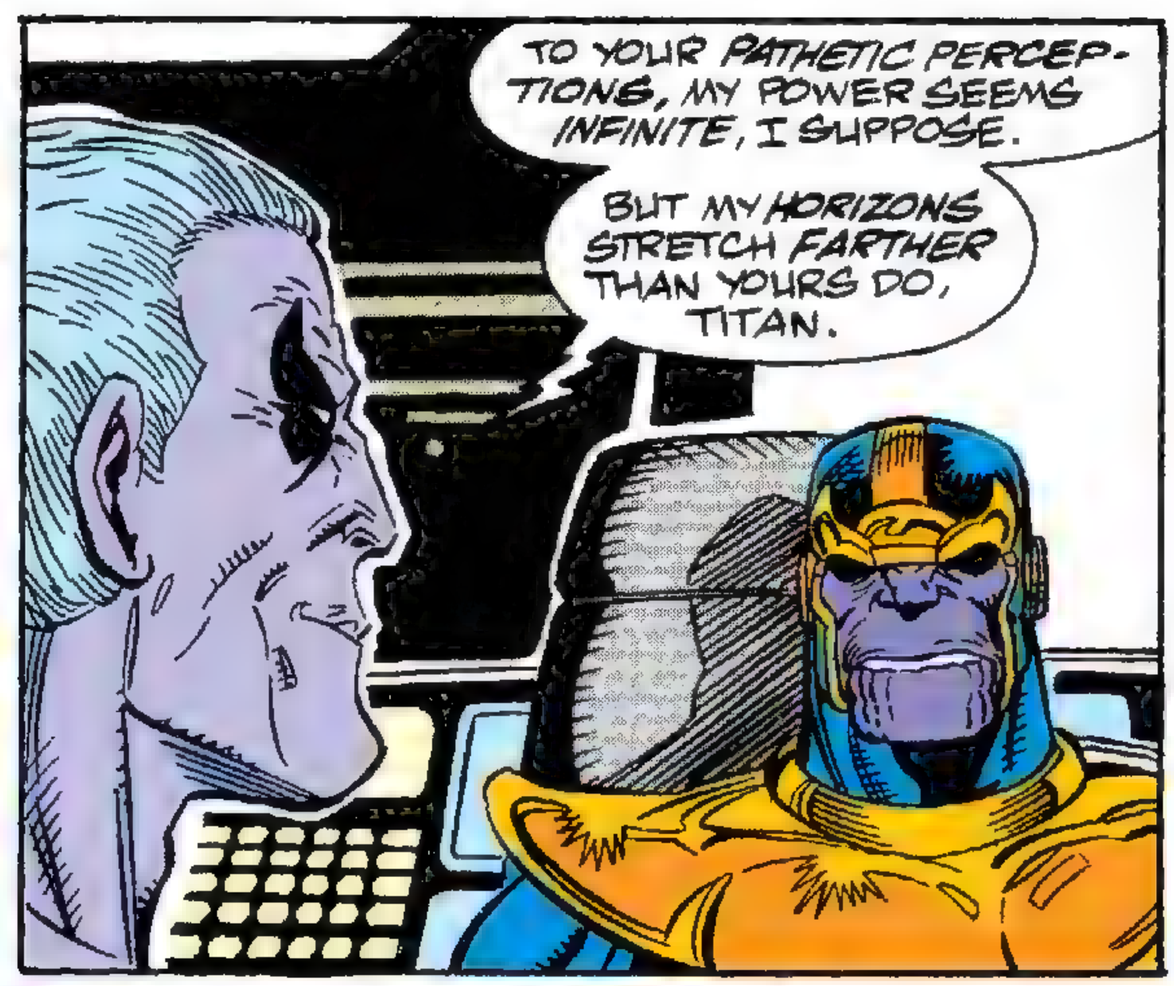
MASTER, GALACTUS'S CRAFT IS ABOUT TO CROSS INTO THE RELAY LEVEL.
HE'S RUNNING TOO FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT.

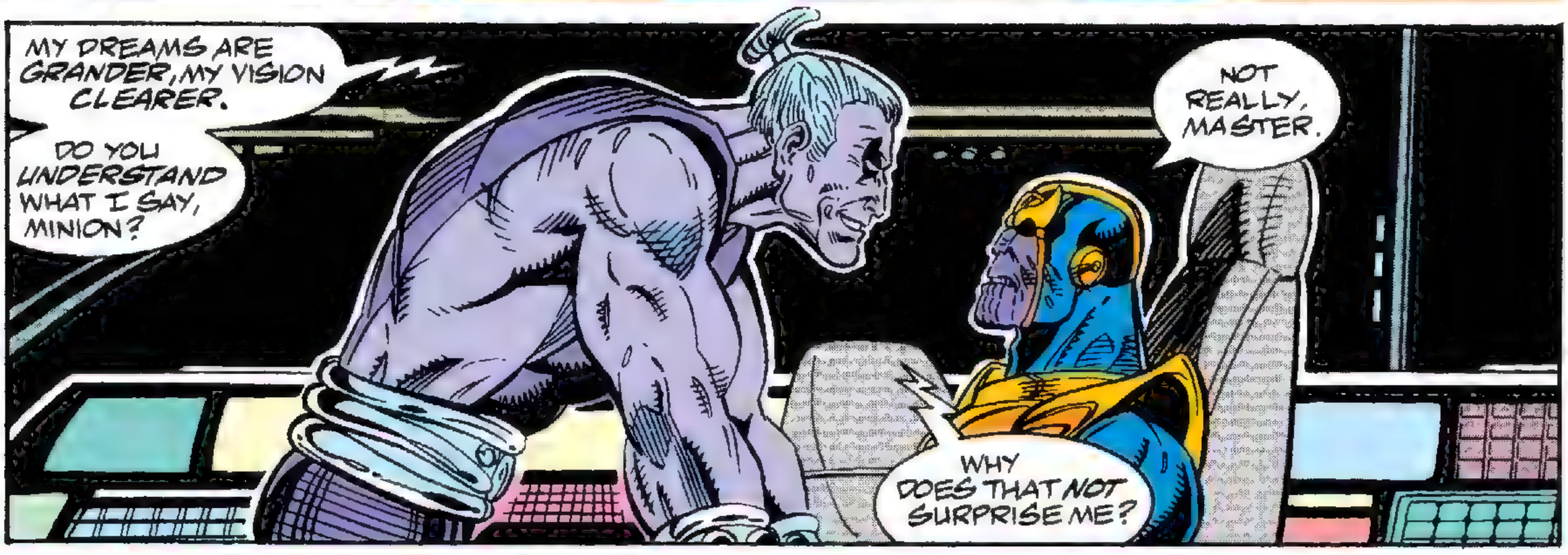
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SLOW MIGHTY GALACTUS UP A WEE BIT.

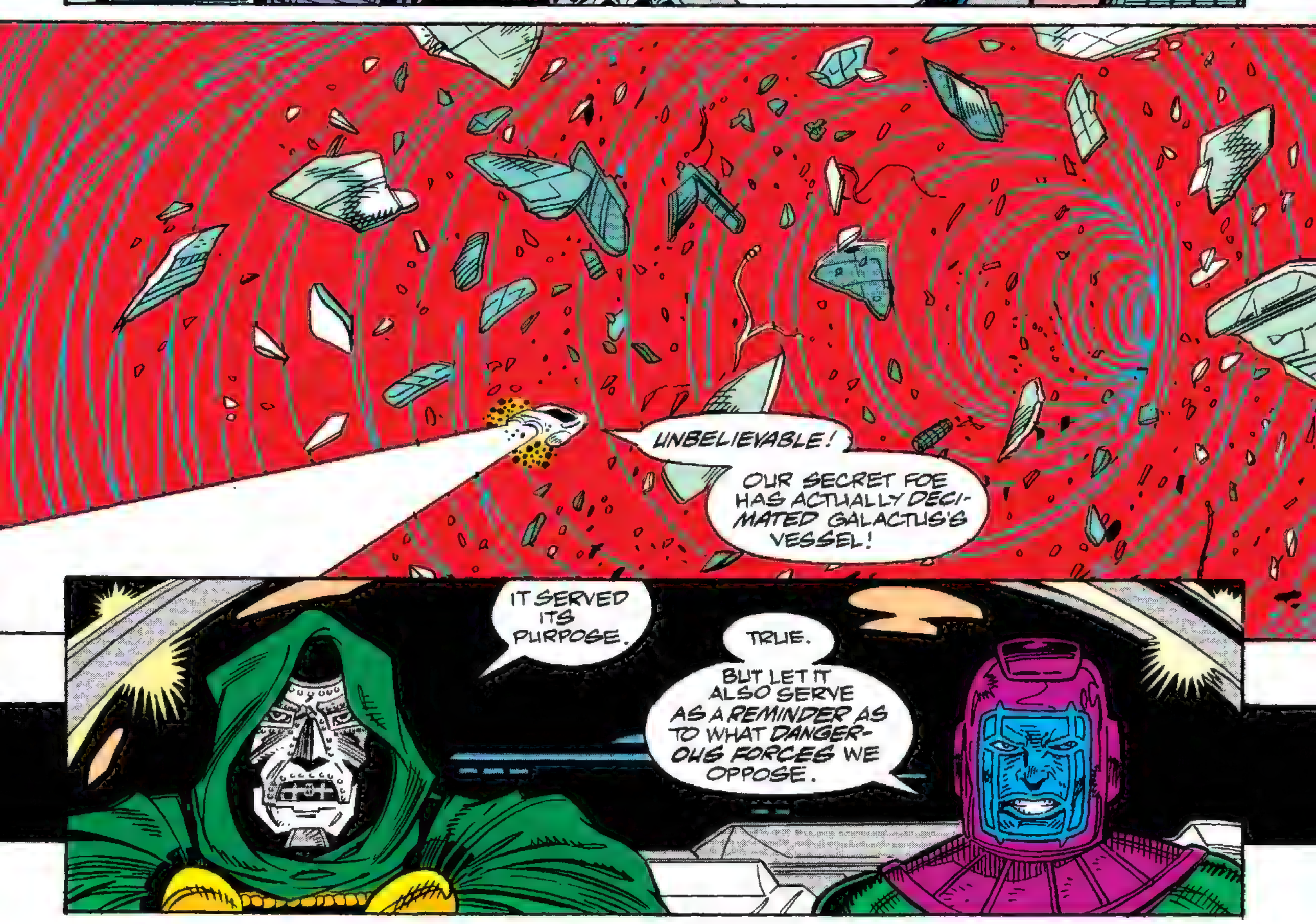



SCANNERS ARE SHOWING AN ENERGY FLUX!
WE'RE BEING--
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.


YOU HAVE THE MIGHT TO DESTROY GALACTUS'S CRAFT WITH BUT A TOUCH OF A BUTTON, YET STILL YOU HUNGER FOR MORE POWER.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

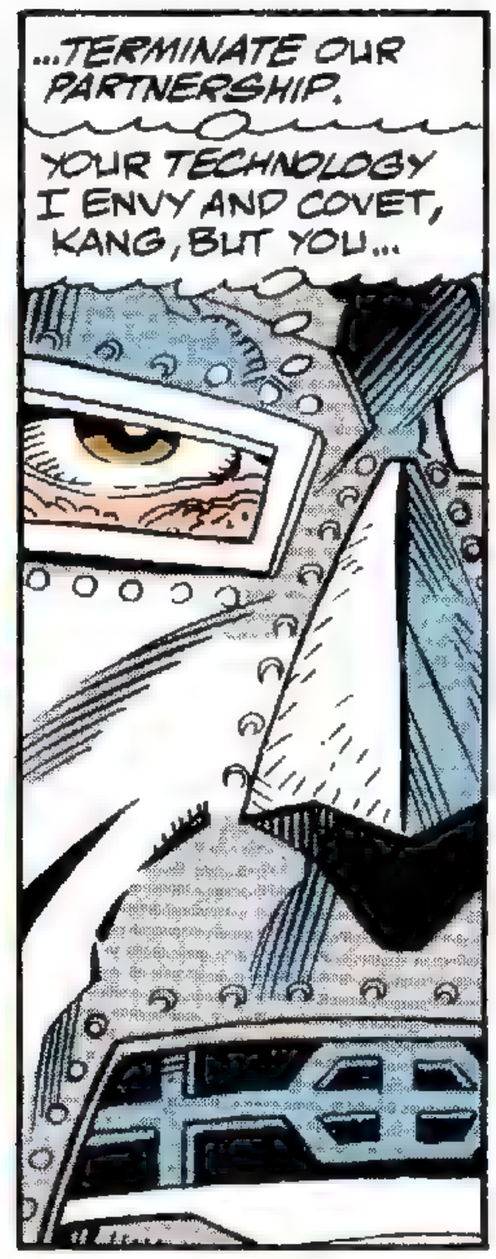

TO YOUR PATHETIC PERCEPTIONS, MY POWER SEEMS INFINITE, I SUPPOSE.
BUT MY HORIZONS STRETCH FARTHER THAN YOURS DO, TITAN.

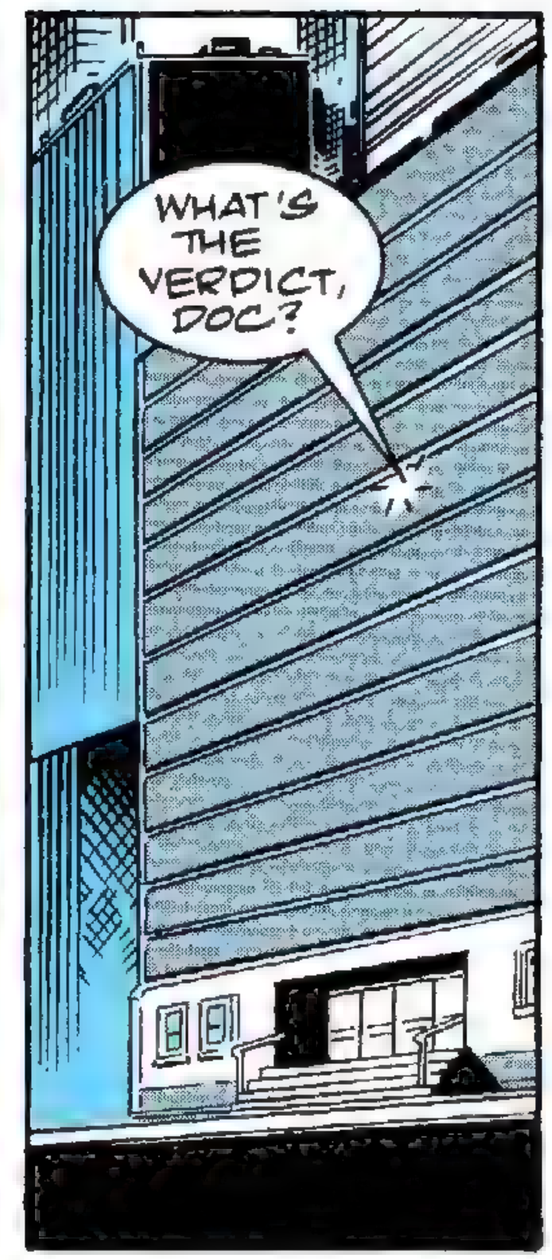

MY DREAMS ARE GRANDER, MY VISION CLEARER.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY, MINION?
NOT REALLY, MASTER.
WHY DOES THAT NOT SURPRISE ME?

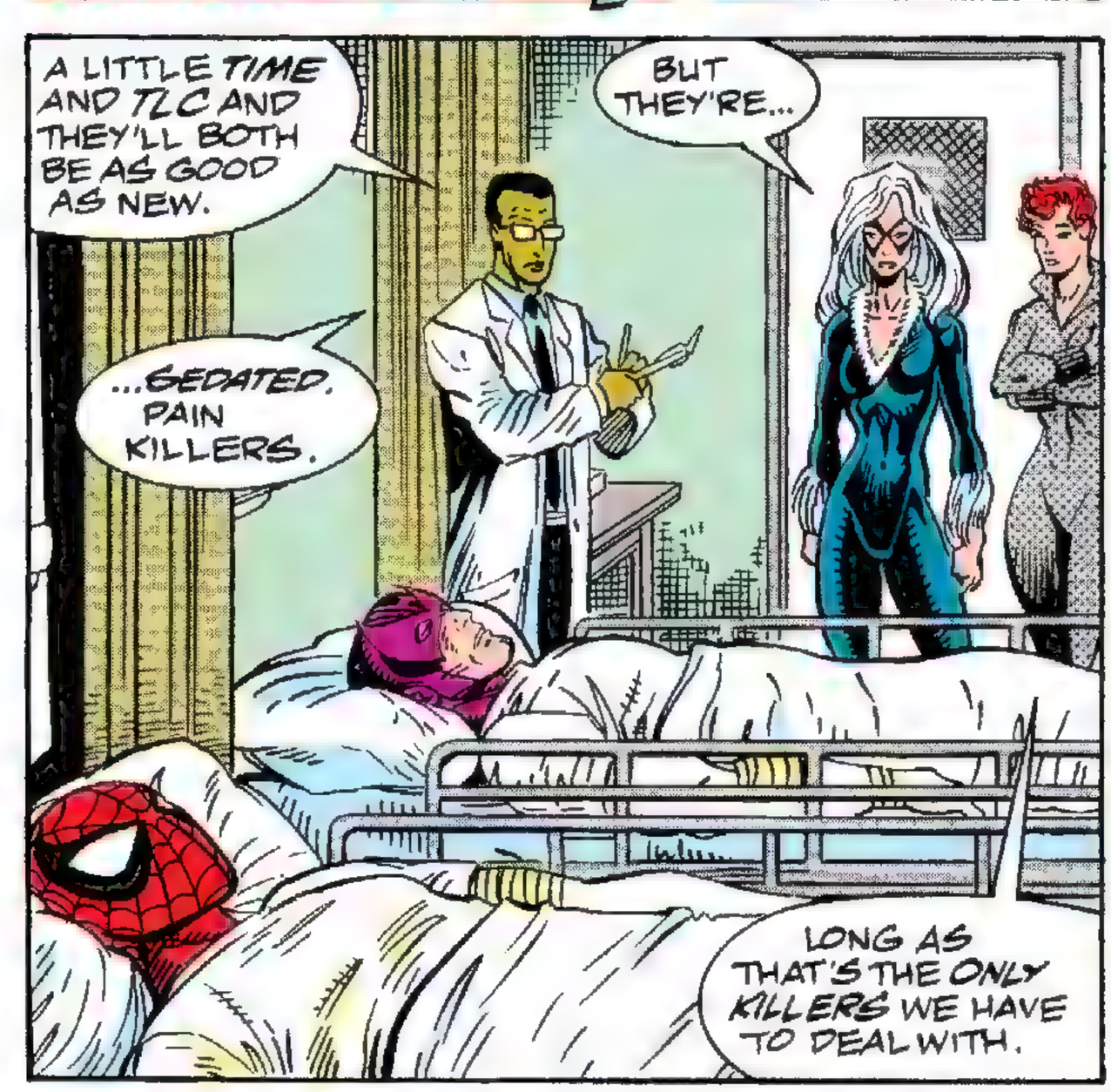

UNBELIEVABLE!
OUR SECRET FOE HAS ACTUALLY DECIMATED GALACTUS'S VESSEL!
IT SERVED ITS PURPOSE.
TRUE.
BUT LET IT ALSO SERVE AS A REMINDER AS TO WHAT DANGEROUS FORCES WE OPPOSE.

"LET US NOW CIRCUMVENT BEFALLING THE SAME FATE."

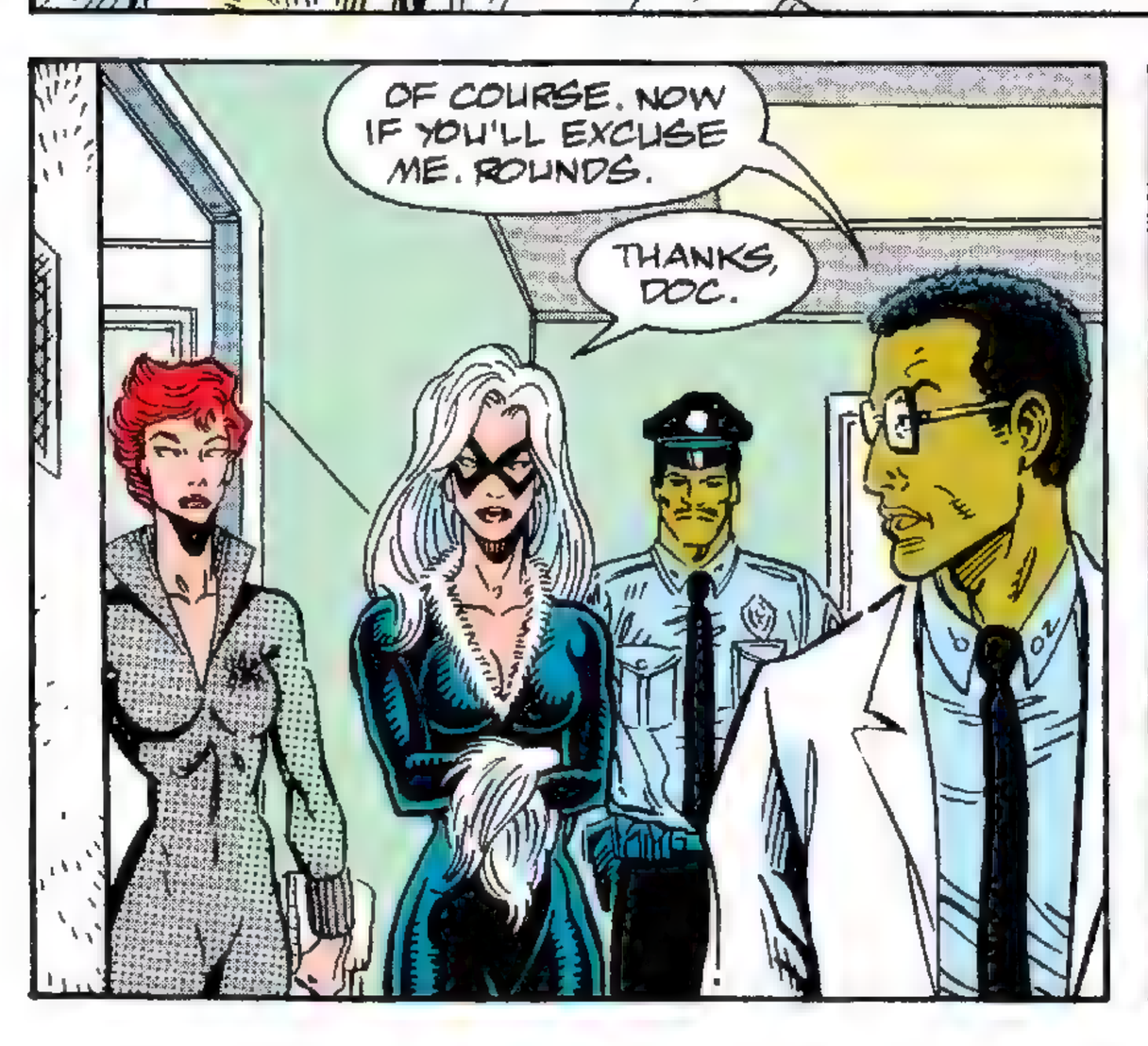
THE PRIZE WILL SOON BE OURS.
AND THEN, DOOM, I SHALL, WITH DEEPLY FELT SATISFACTION...

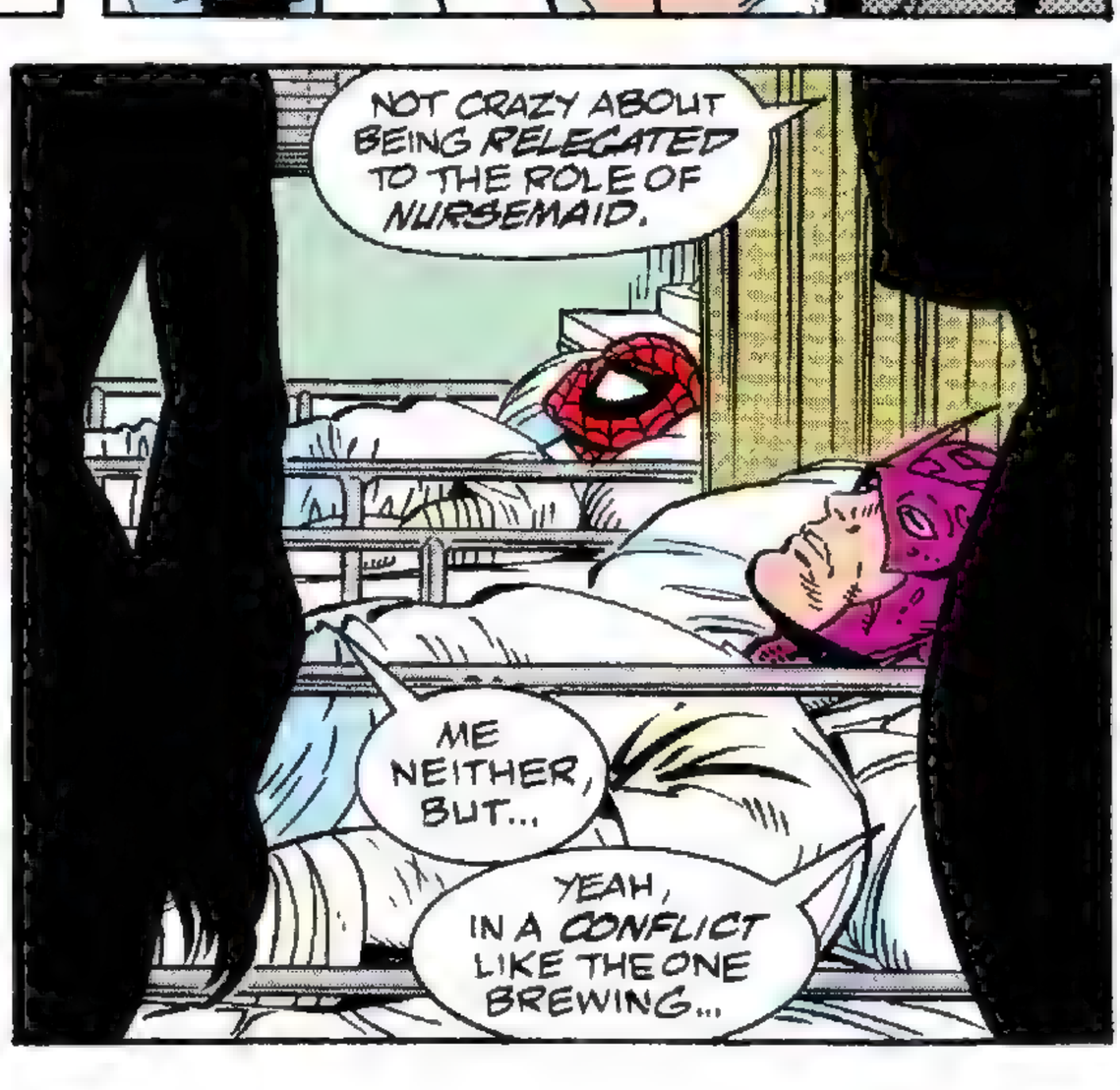

...TERMINATE OUR PARTNERSHIP.
YOUR TECHNOLOGY I ENVY AND COVET, KANG, BUT YOU...

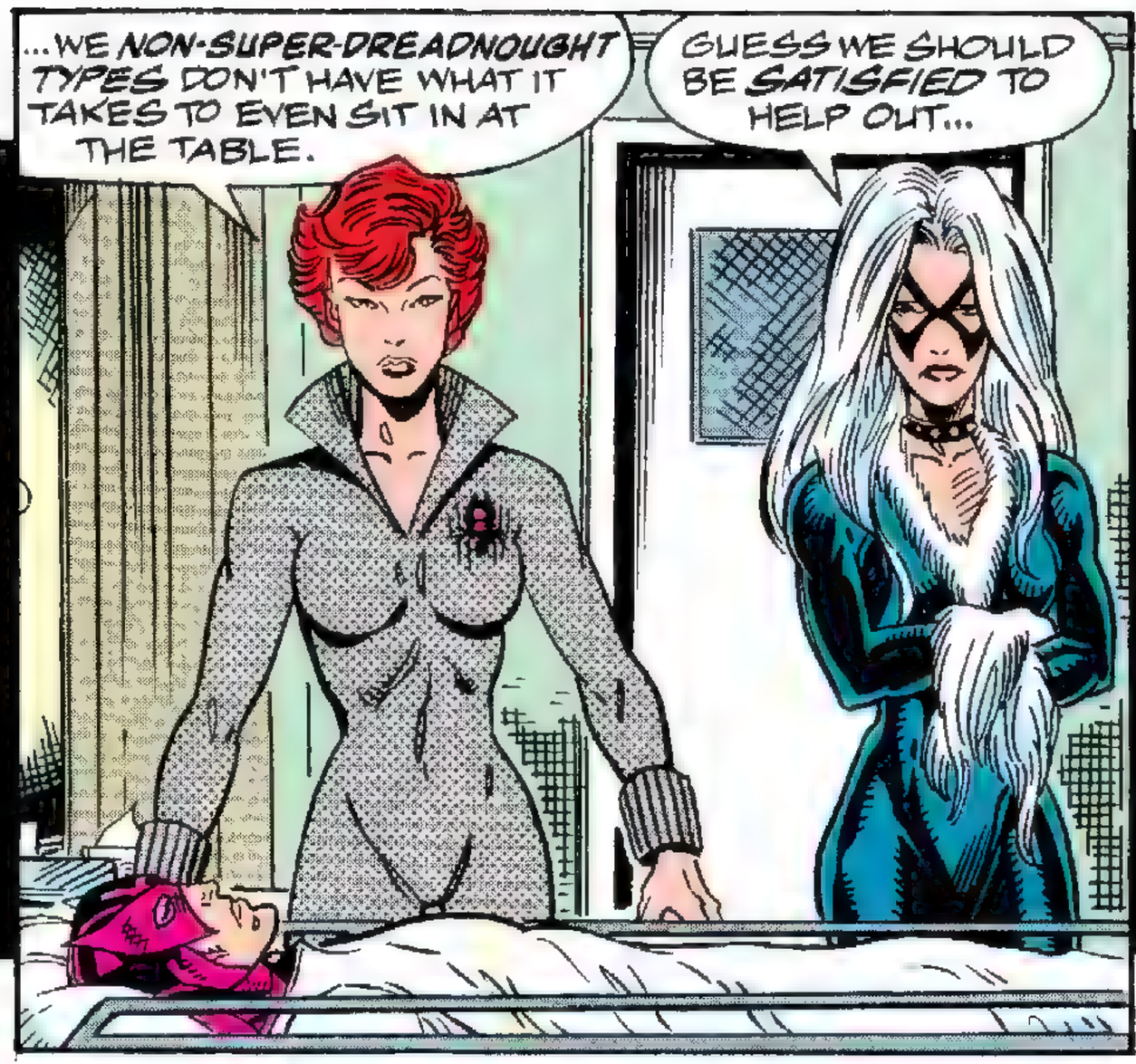

WHAT'S THE VERDICT, DOC?


A LITTLE TIME AND TLC AND THEY'LL BOTH BE AS GOOD AS NEW.
BUT THEY'RE...
...SEDATED, PAIN KILLERS.
LONG AS THAT'S THE ONLY KILLERS WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

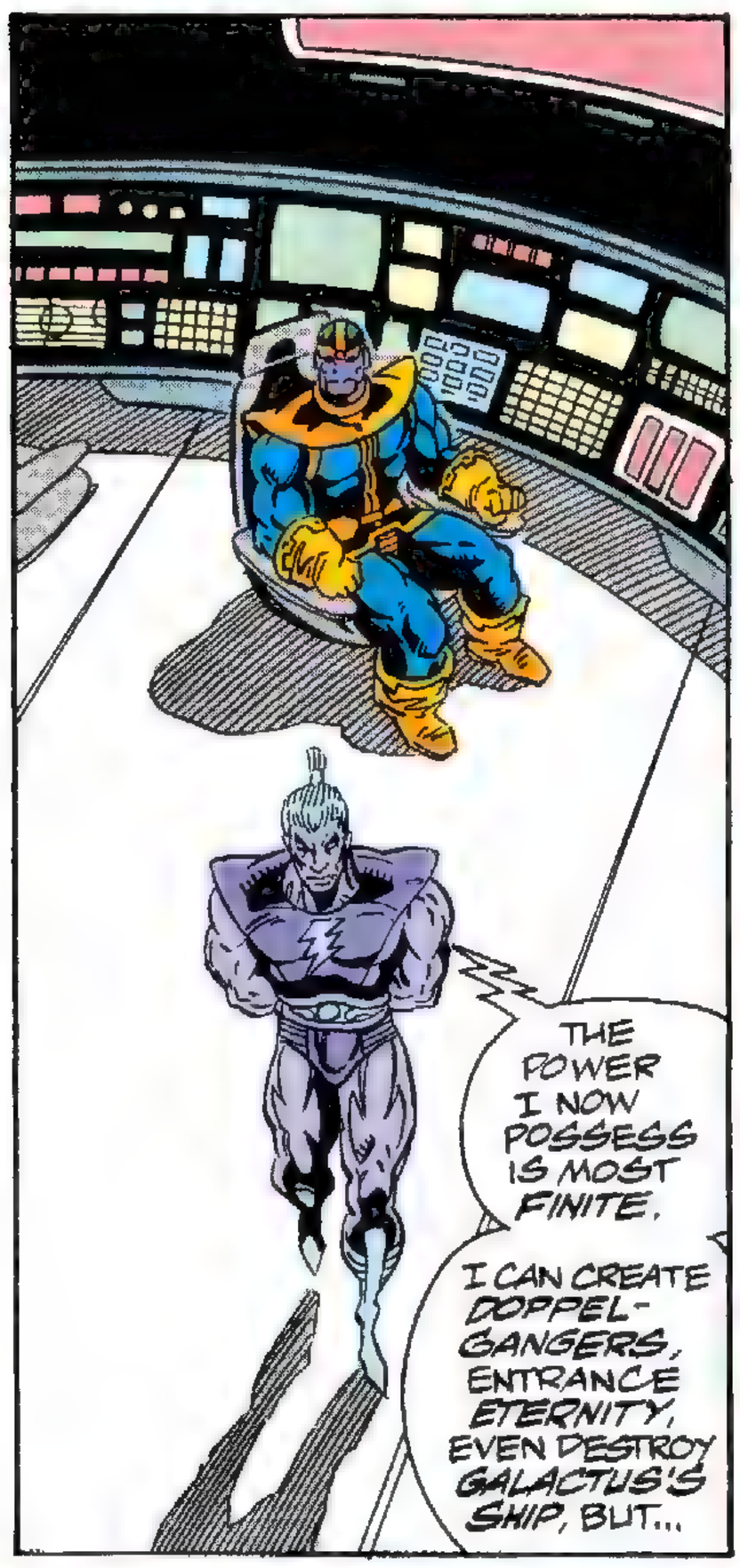
YES, I IMAGINE BOTH MEN HAVE ENEMIES WHO WOULD...
...GET THEIR BUTTS KICKED IF THEY SHOW UP HERE TONIGHT.

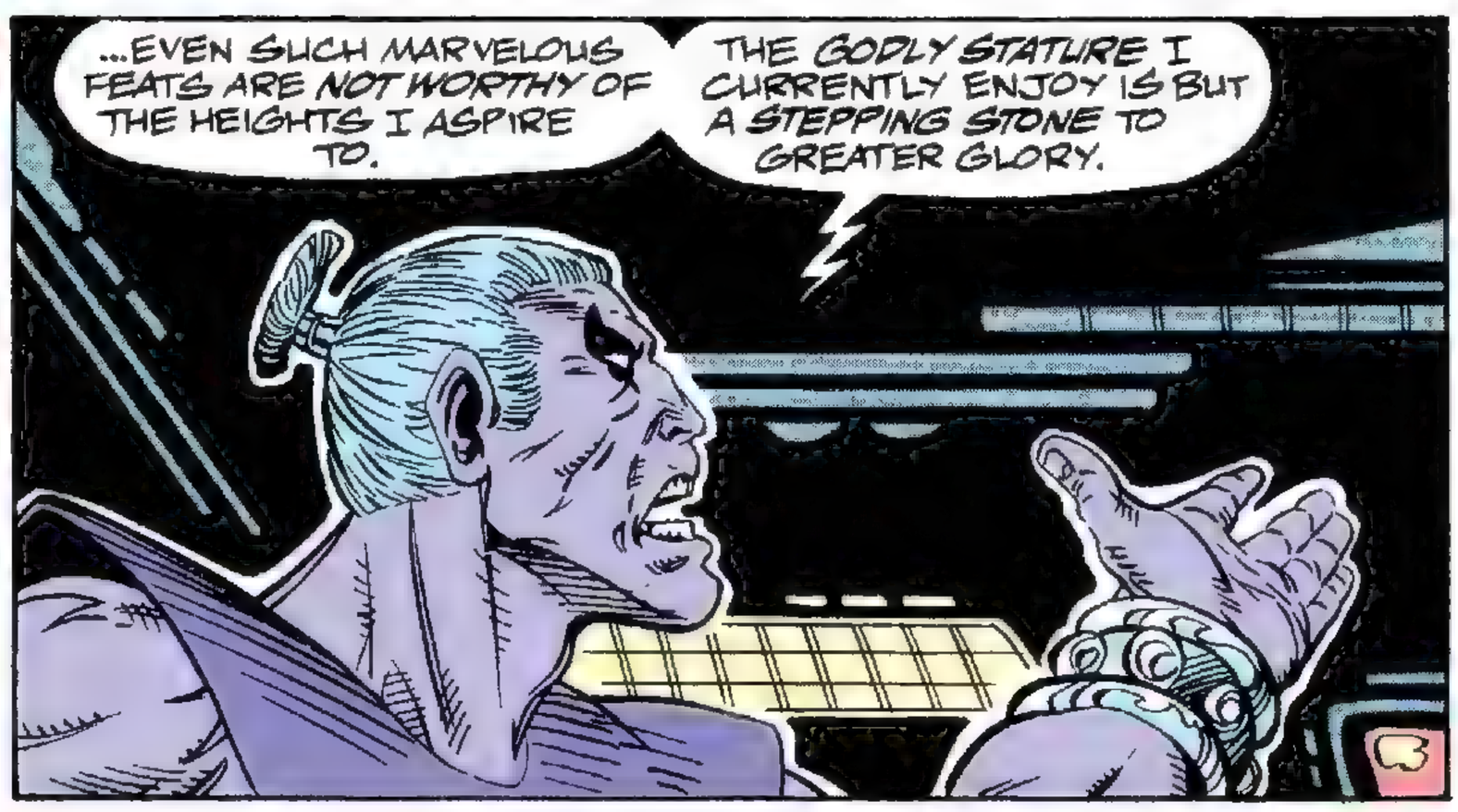

OF COURSE. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME. ROUNDS.
THANKS, DOC.


NOT CRAZY ABOUT BEING RELEGATED TO THE ROLE OF NURSEMAID.
ME NEITHER, BUT...
YEAH, IN A CONFLICT LIKE THE ONE BREWING...

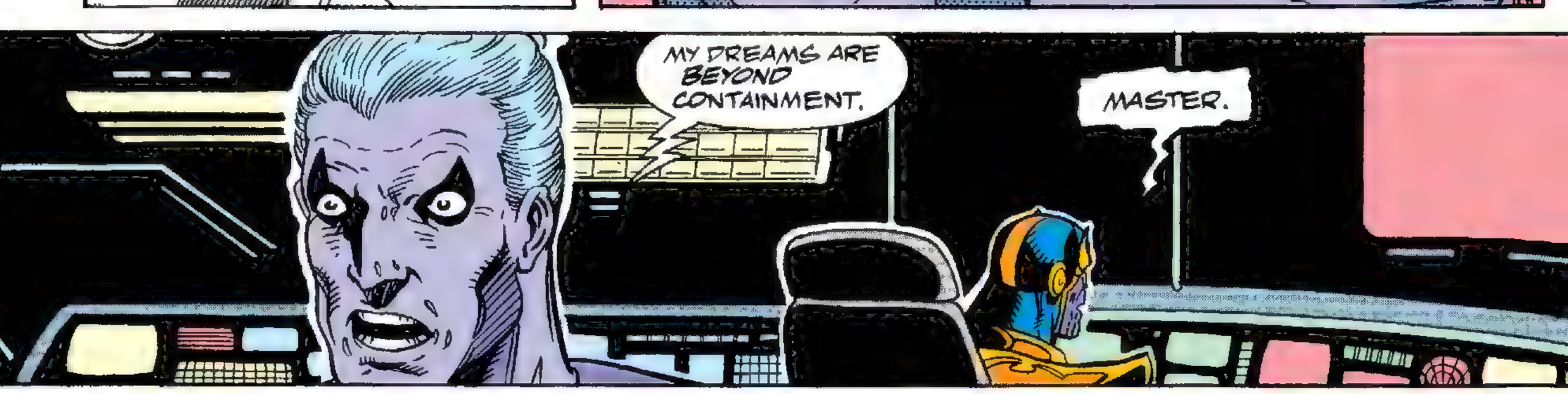

...WE NON-SUPER-DREADNOUGHT TYPES DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO EVEN SIT IN AT THE TABLE.
GUESS WE SHOULD BE SATISFIED TO HELP OUT...

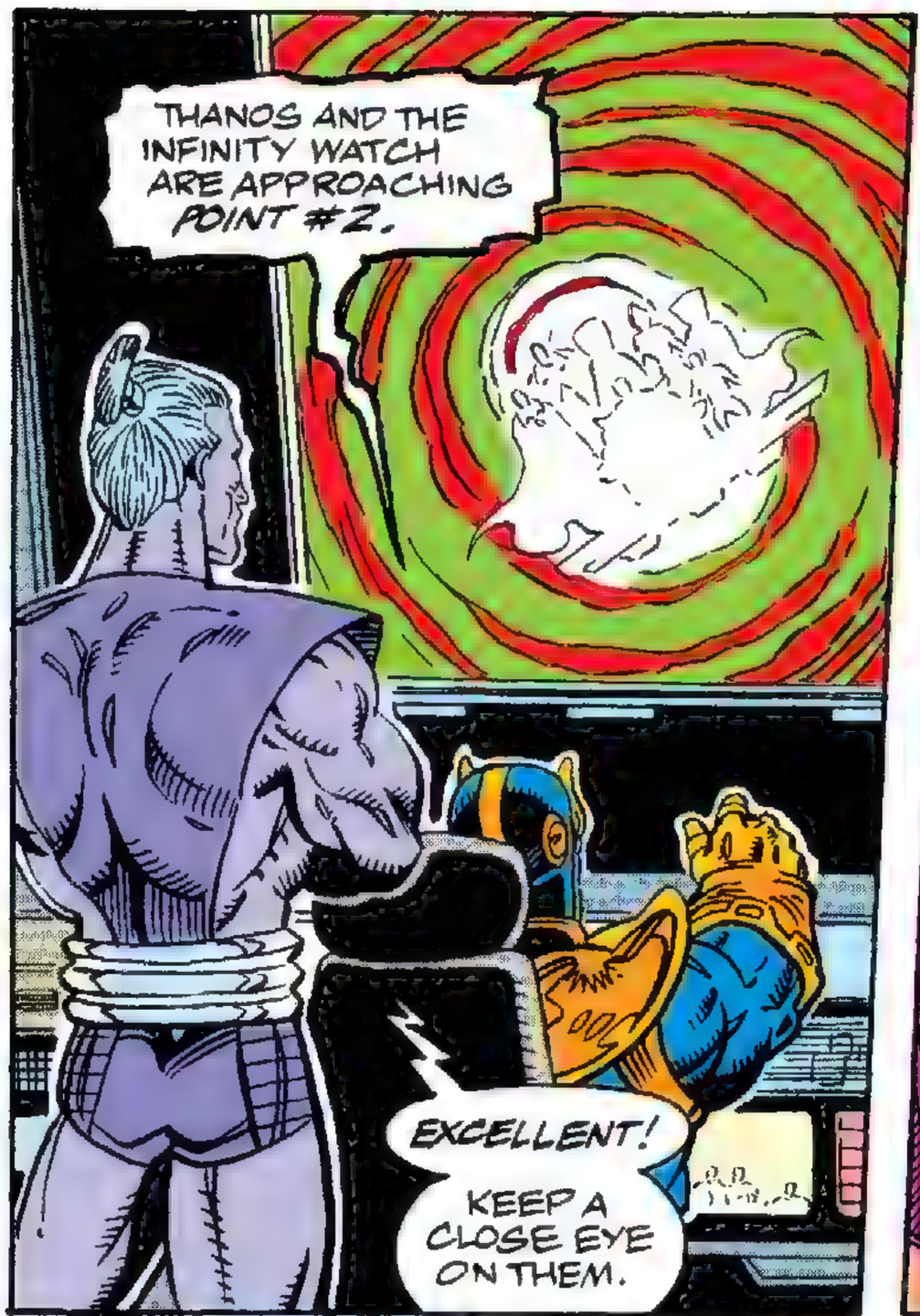
...ANY WAY WE CAN.

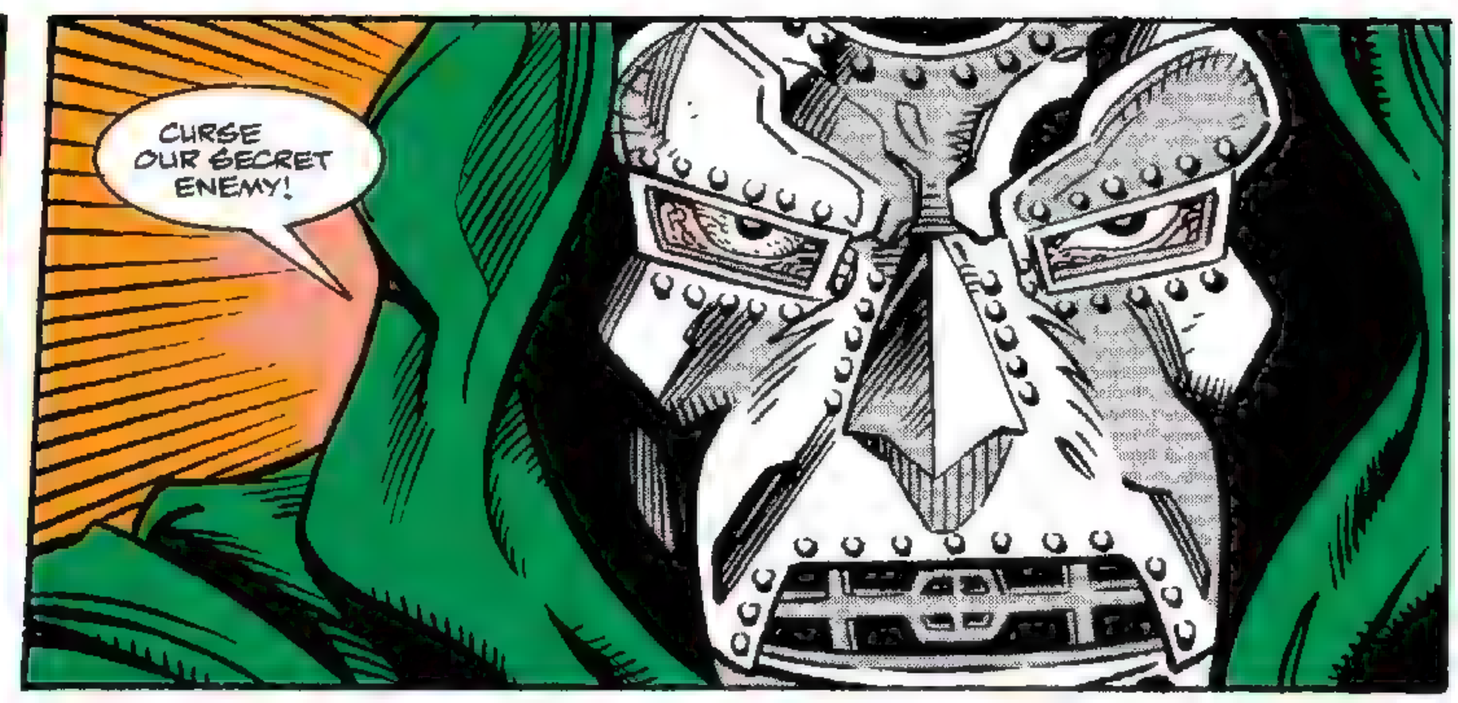

THE POWER I NOW POSSESS IS MOST FINITE.
I CAN CREATE DOPPEL-GANGERS, ENTRANCE ETERNITY, EVEN DESTROY GALACTUS'S SHIP, BUT...


...EVEN SUCH MARVELOUS FEATS ARE NOT WORTHY OF THE HEIGHTS I ASPIRE TO.
THE GODLY STATURE I CURRENTLY ENJOY IS BUT A STEPPING STONE TO GREATER GLORY.

I AM TRULY UNIQUE IN THIS OR ANY REALITY.
THERE IS NO DENYING THIS TRUTH.


MY DREAMS ARE BEYOND CONTAINMENT.
MASTER.

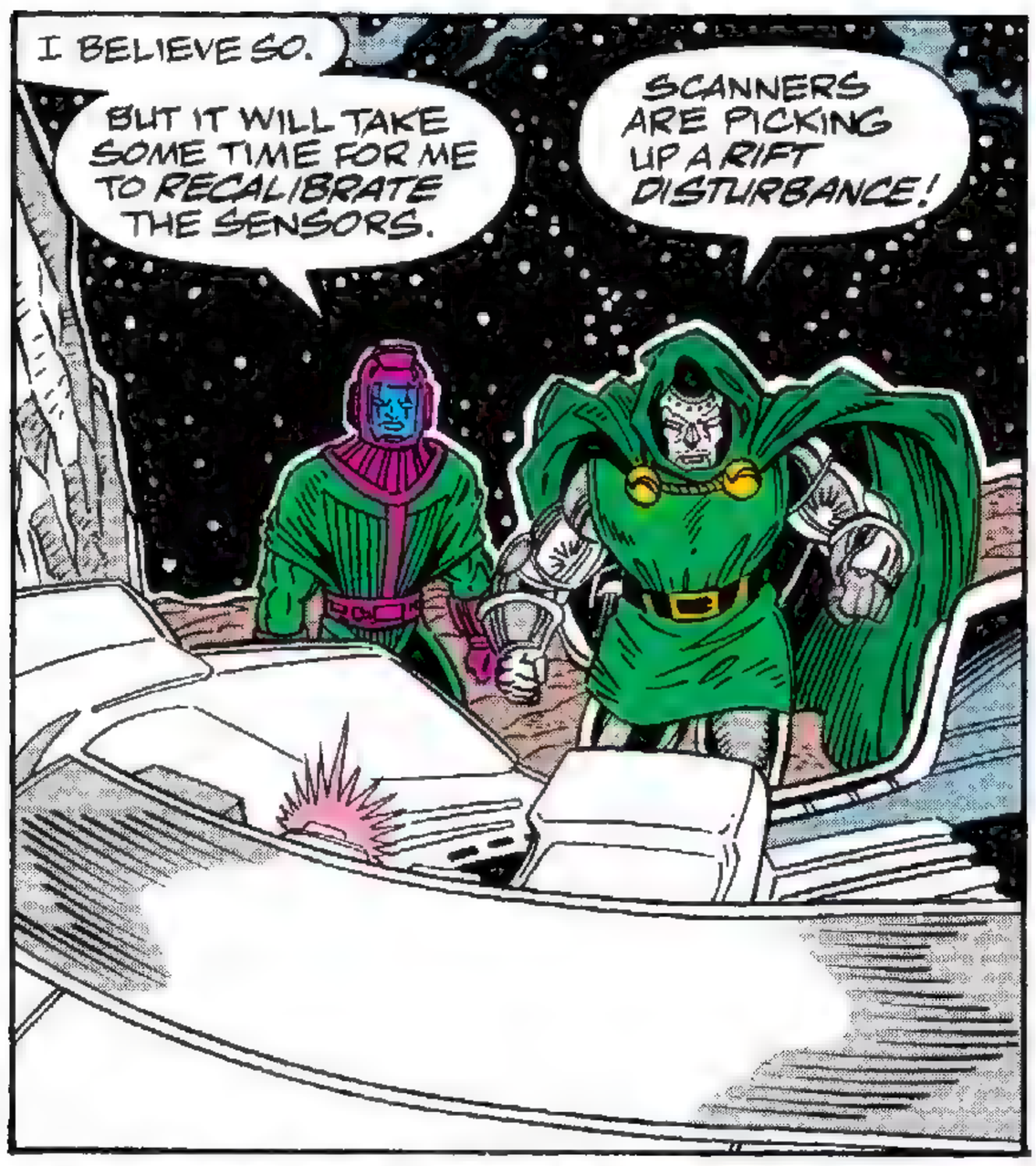




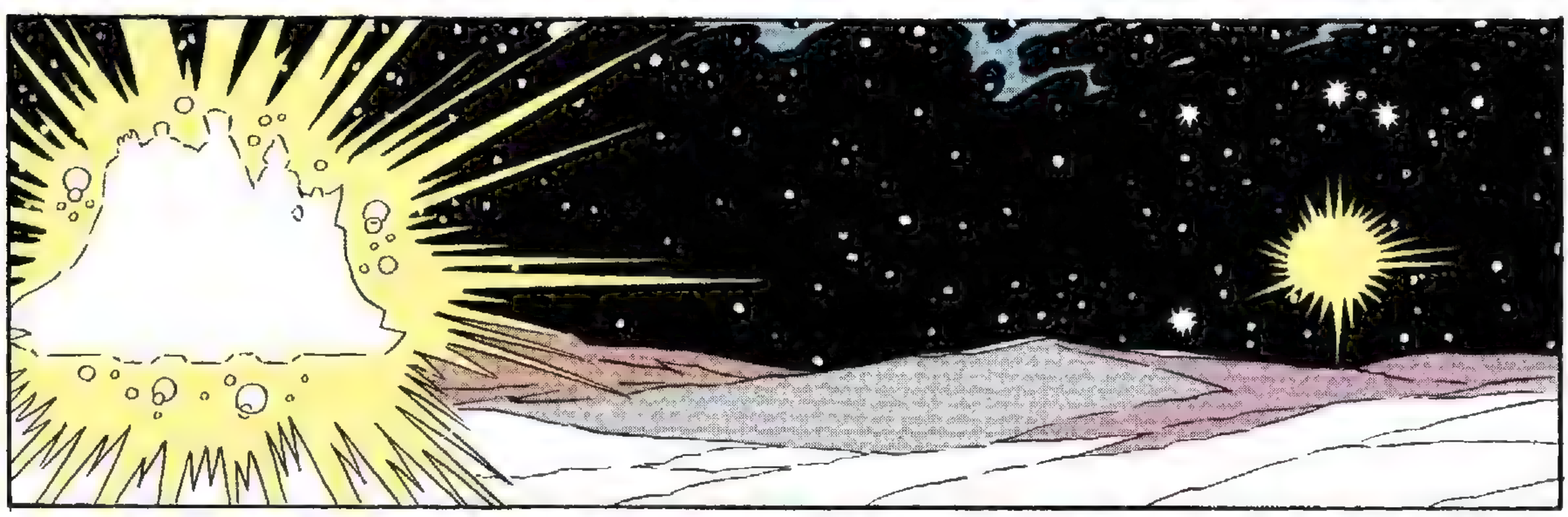
THE CONFIGURATION IS OBVIOUSLY A RELAY TRANSMITTER.

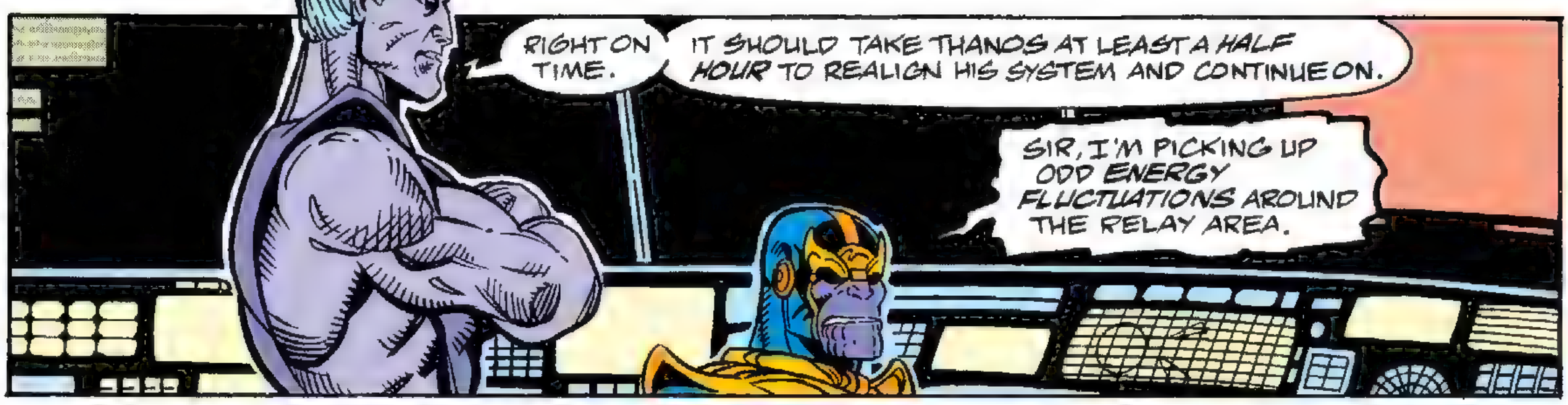
OUR TRUE GOAL LAYS FARTHER DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.

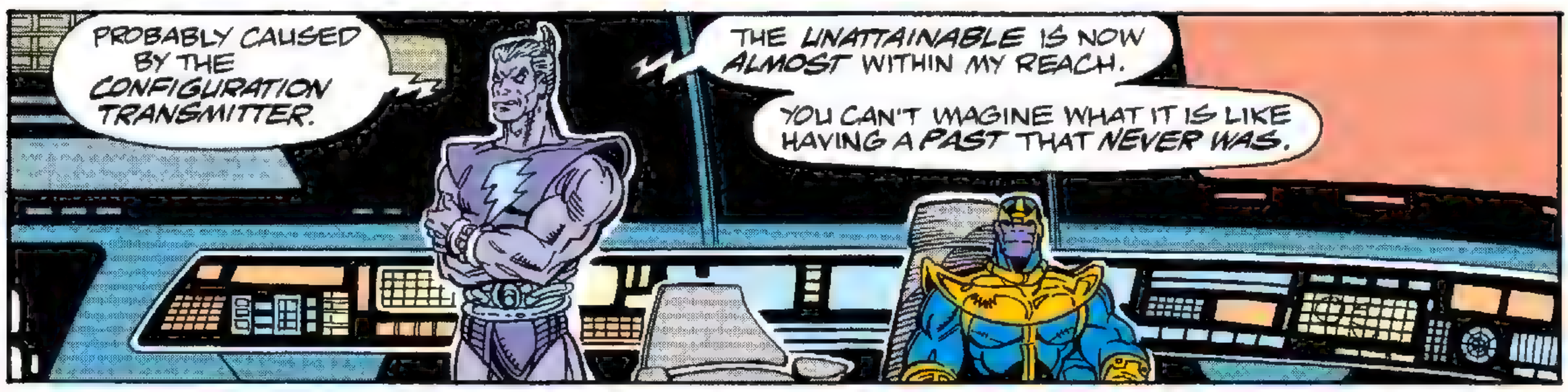
CAN WE TRACK THOSE ENERGIES FROM THIS POINT?


I BELIEVE SO.
BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR ME TO RECALIBRATE THE SENSORS.
SCANNERS ARE PICKING UP A RIFT DISTURBANCE!

IT APPEARS WE HAVE MORE VISITORS.
QUICKLY, ENGAGE THE CLOAKING SYSTEM.



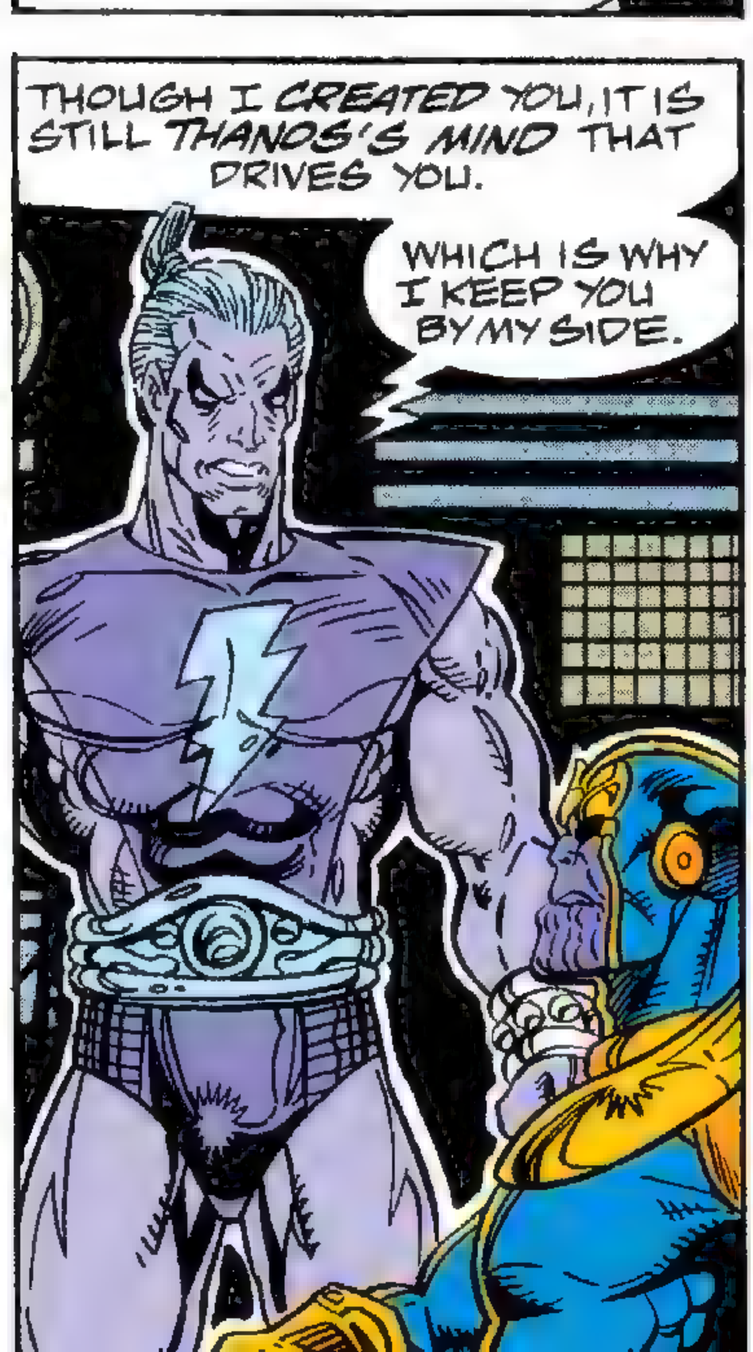

RIGHT ON TIME.
IT SHOULD TAKE THANOS AT LEAST A HALF HOUR TO REALIGN HIS SYSTEM AND CONTINUE ON.
SIR, I'M PICKING UP ODD ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS AROUND THE RELAY AREA.


PROBABLY CAUSED BY THE CONFIGURATION TRANSMITTER.
THE UNATTAINABLE IS NOW ALMOST WITHIN MY REACH.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT IS LIKE HAVING A PAST THAT NEVER WAS.

TO BE DENIED ALL MY YESTERDAYS AND MY TOMORROWS.
THAT WAS THE DOING OF THAT ACCURSED ADAM WARLOCK AND THANOS.

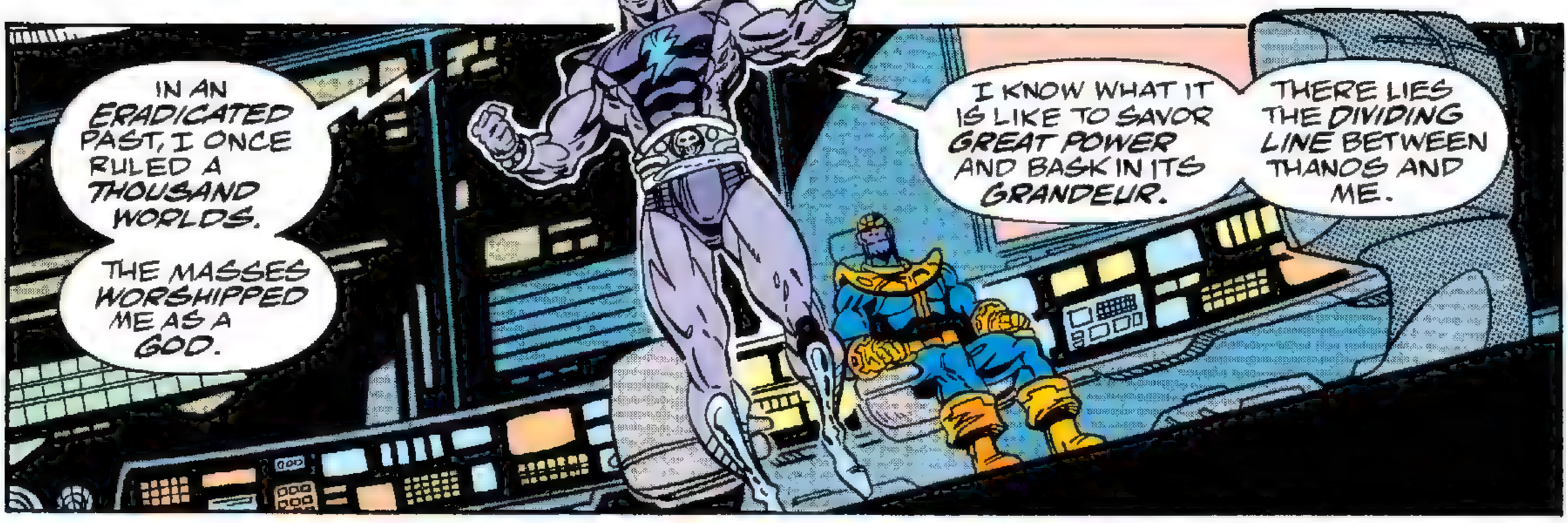
SOON, PEN-ULTIMATE POWER WILL BE MINE AND THEY SHALL PAY FOR THEIR INDIS-CRETIONS.
AND YOU, MASTER?

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN IGNORE THANOS'S WARNINGS ABOUT GAINING DIVINITY?

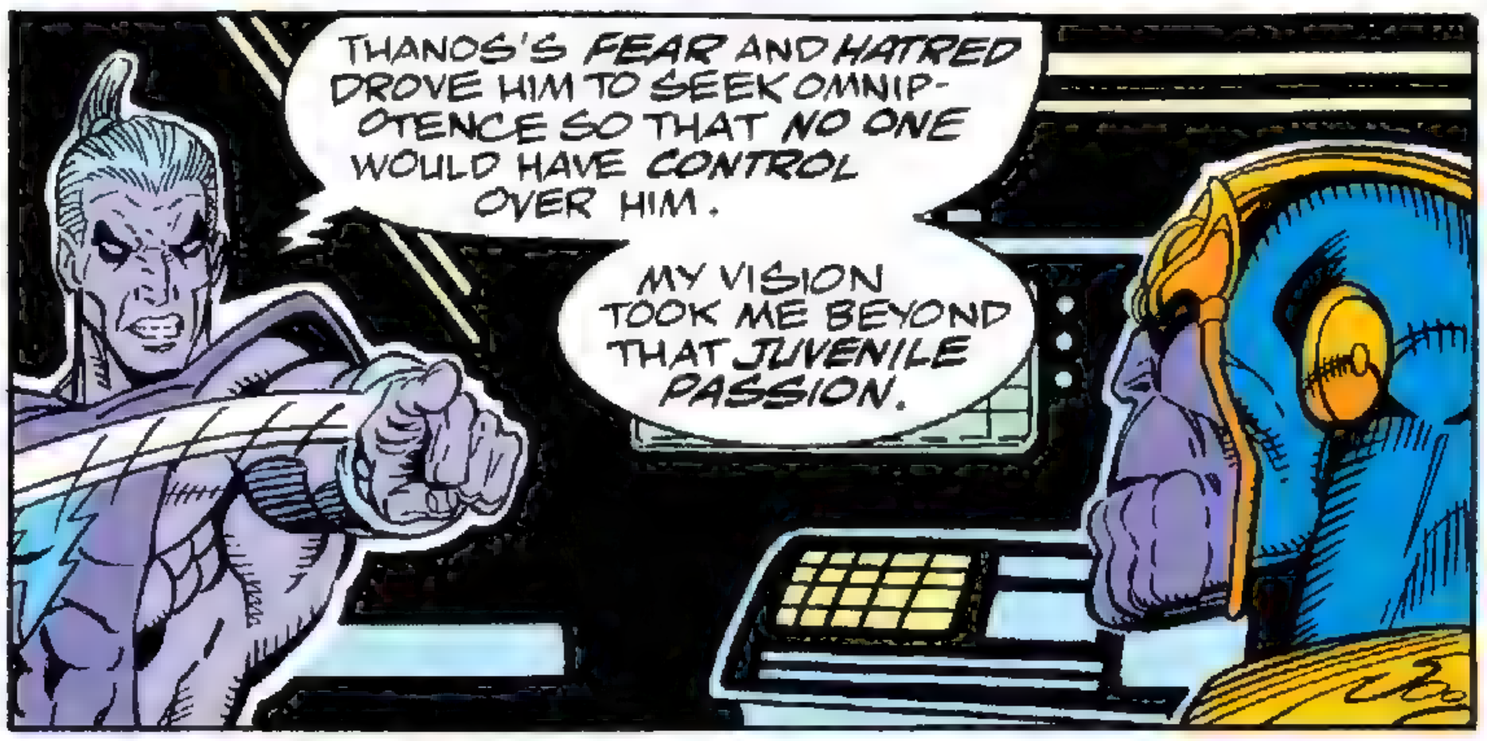

THOUGH I CREATED YOU, IT IS STILL THANOS'S MIND THAT DRIVES YOU.
WHICH IS WHY I KEEP YOU BY MY SIDE.

THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, MY THRALL.
THE ORIGINAL THANOS BETRAYED HIMSELF WHEN HE FINALLY GAINED OMNIPOTENCE.

HE SUBCONSCIOUSLY FELT UNWORTHY OF POSSESSING THE ULTIMATE TREASURE.
BUT I AM NOT SADDLED WITH SUCH A FATAL FLAW.

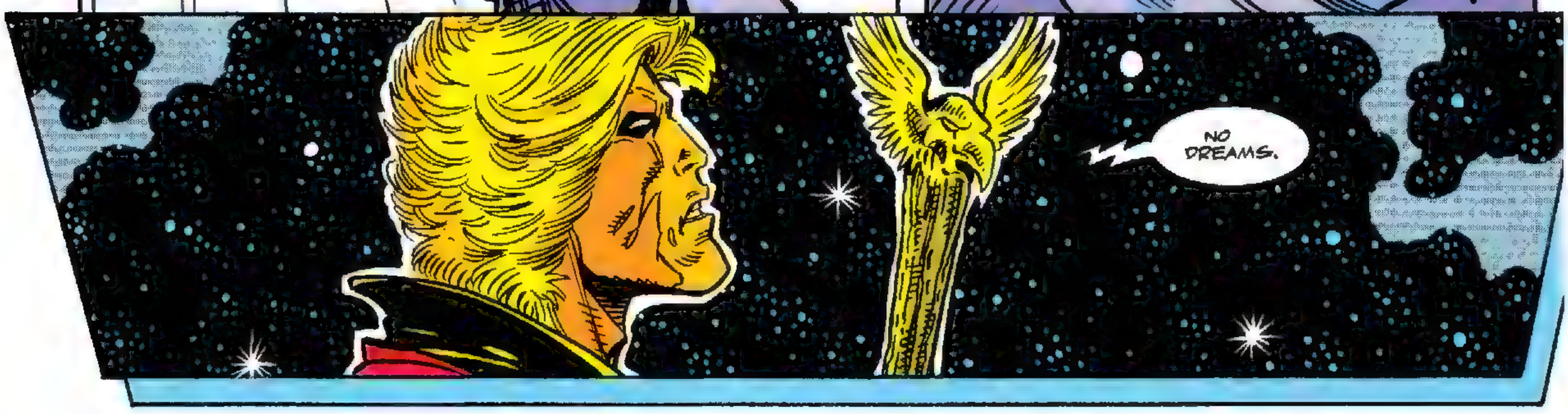

IN AN ERADICATED PAST, I ONCE RULED A THOUSAND WORLDS.
THE MASSES WORSHIPPED ME AS A GOD.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO SAVOR GREAT POWER AND BASK IN ITS GRANDEUR.
THERE LIES THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THANOS AND ME.

MY GOAL IS THE BENEFIT OF GREAT POWER AND...
...NOT THE POWER ITSELF.

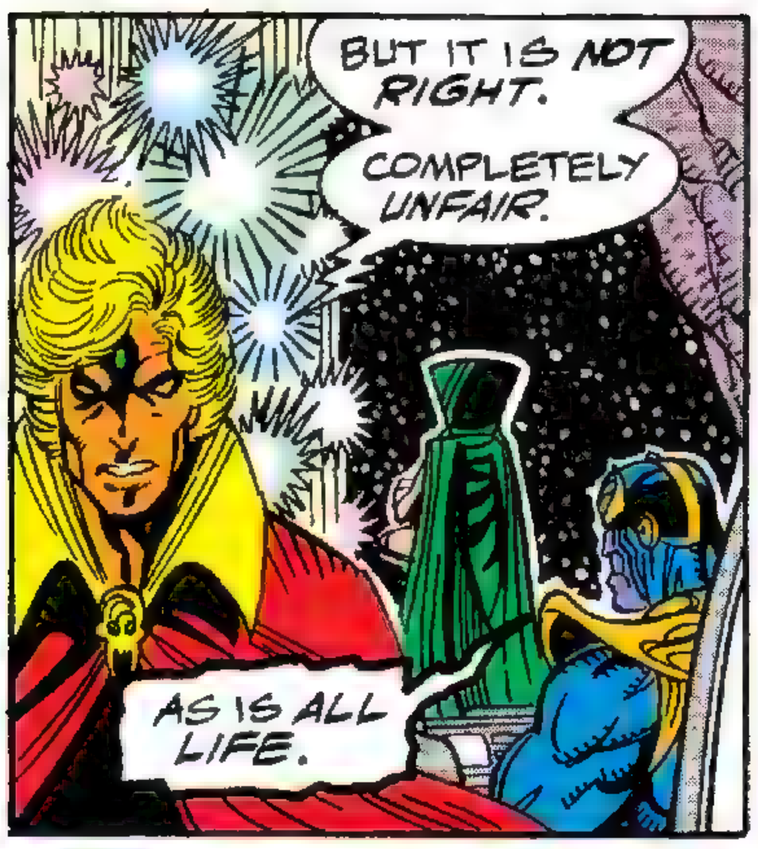

THANOS'S FEAR AND HATRED DROVE HIM TO SEEK OMNIPOTENCE SO THAT NO ONE WOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER HIM.
MY VISION TOOK ME BEYOND THAT JUVENILE PASSION.

THAT IS WHY I SHALL NOT FALL VICTIM TO THE SAME SNARES THAT TOPPLED THANOS'S DIVINE HUNGER.
WHY MY YEARNINGS WILL SEE FRUITION.

MY DREAMS ARE OF A MORE DURABLE WEAVE!


NO DREAMS.

WHAT ABOUT DREAMS?
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY SINCE MY BRIEF DELVING INTO OMNISCIENCE.
EXCEPT FOR THE ONE ABOUT THE MAGUS.
AND I'M CERTAIN HE SOMEHOW SENT IT TO TAUNT ME.
YOU PROBABLY LOST YOUR DREAMS WHEN YOU EXPELLED ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM YOUR SYSTEM.
I IMAGINE SO.
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE MAGUS DREAMS?
MY DREAMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WHAT YOU WOULD CALL UNAPPETIZING.
MOSTLY ABOUT DEATH.
THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF DREAMS.
PERHAPS FOR NORMAL PEOPLE.
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS LONGED TO BE NORMAL.
'TIS NOT YOUR LOT IN LIFE.
THEN WHAT DO YOU SEE TO BE MY FATE, TITAN?
THAT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO.


BUT IT IS NOT RIGHT.
COMPLETELY UNFAIR.
AS IS ALL LIFE.

WHICH I ONCE GAVE UP FOR THE SAKE OF THIS UNIVERSE.

BUT I DID GAIN THE BLISS OF SOUL WORLD FOR A WHILE.

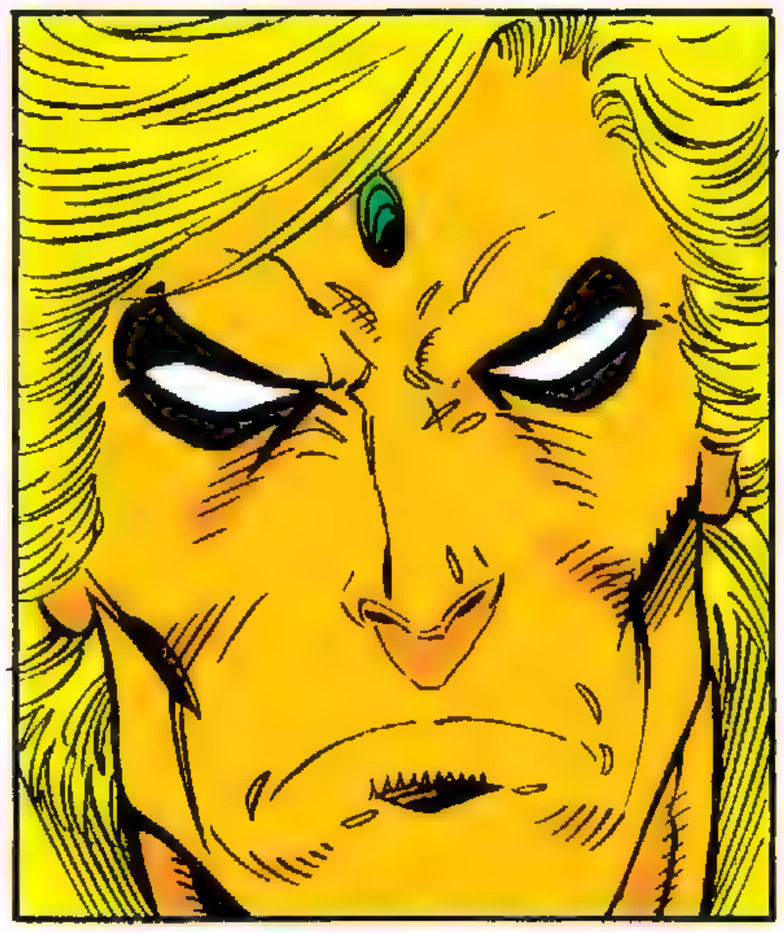
BUT THAT TOO WAS EVENTUALLY DENIED ME.

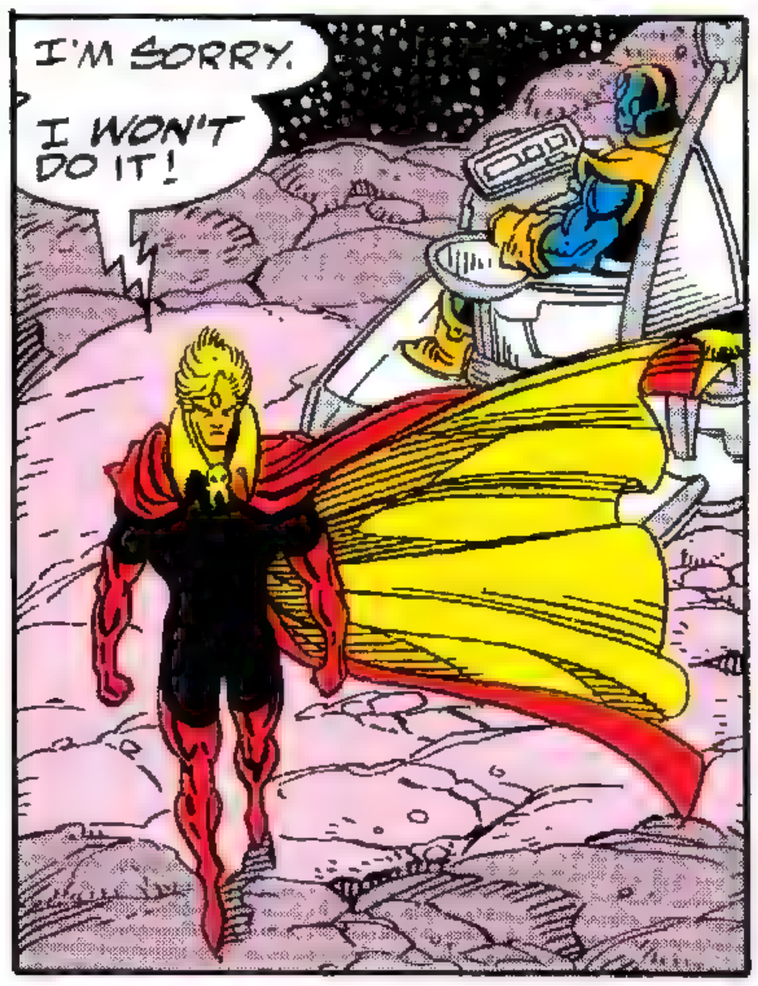
THIS FRAGILE REALITY ONCE AGAIN NEEDED SAVING FROM YOUR MAD AMBITIONS.

AND YOUR REWARD WAS GODHOOD.

WHICH I ALSO HAD TO FORSAKE FOR THE GOOD OF THIS WRETCHED ACTUALITY.

IS IT MY FAULT YOU WORK CHEAP?

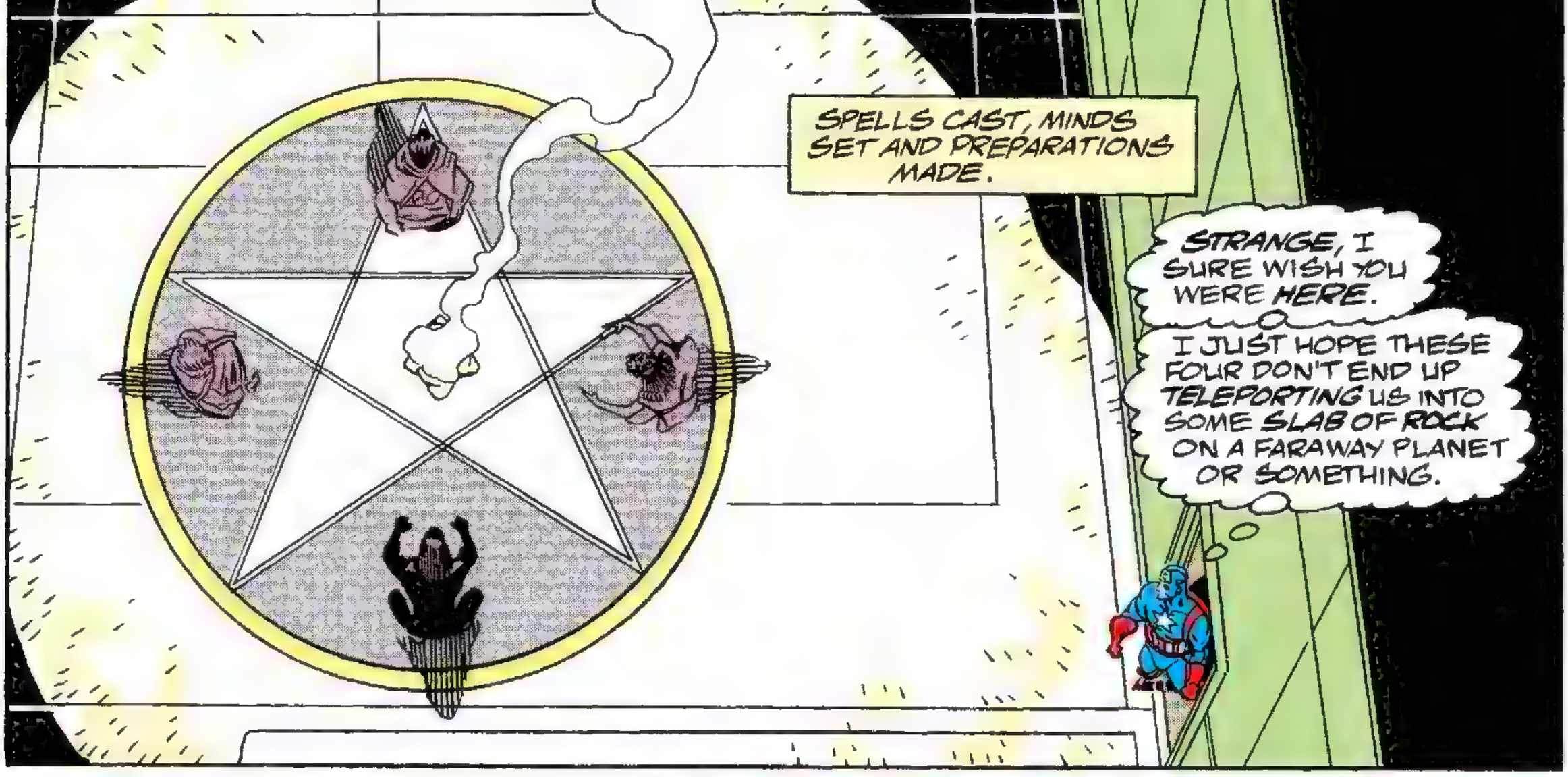


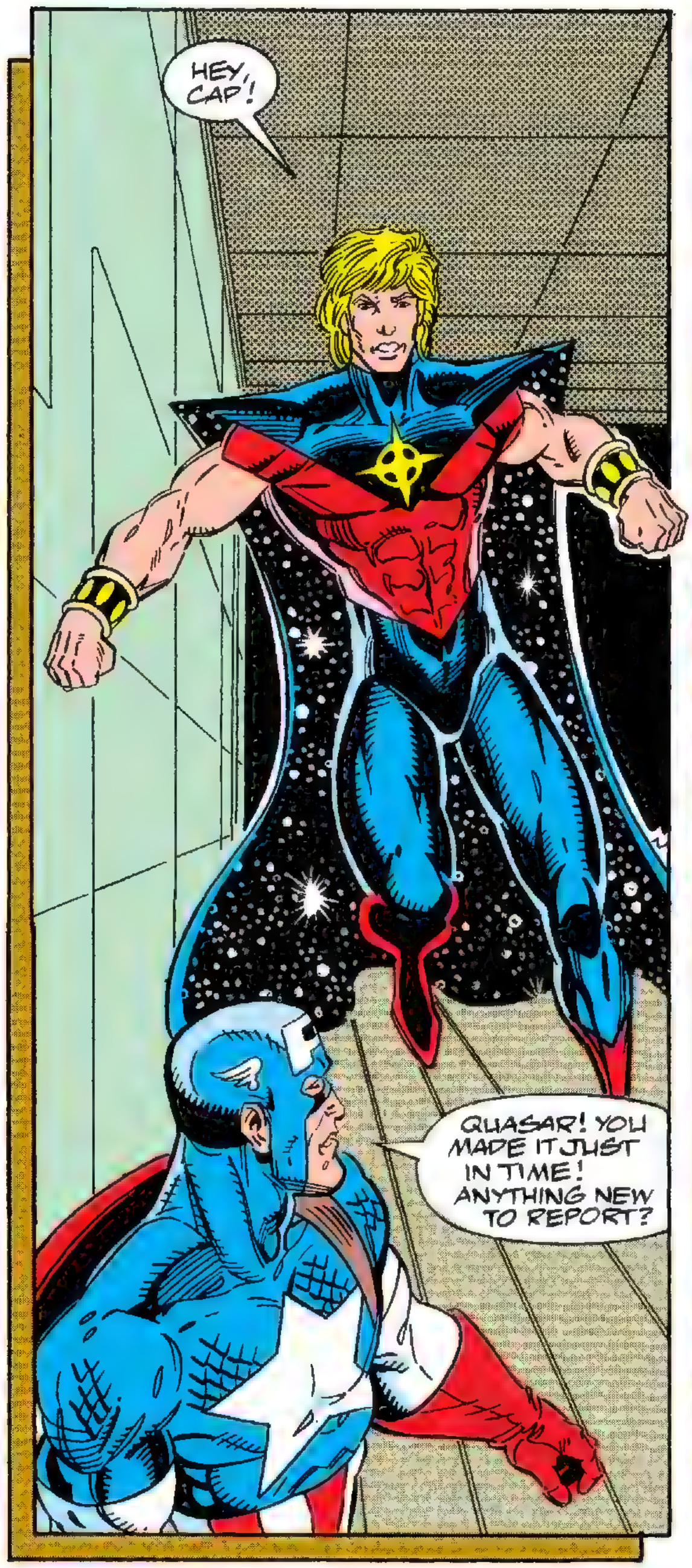

I'M SORRY.
I WON'T DO IT!

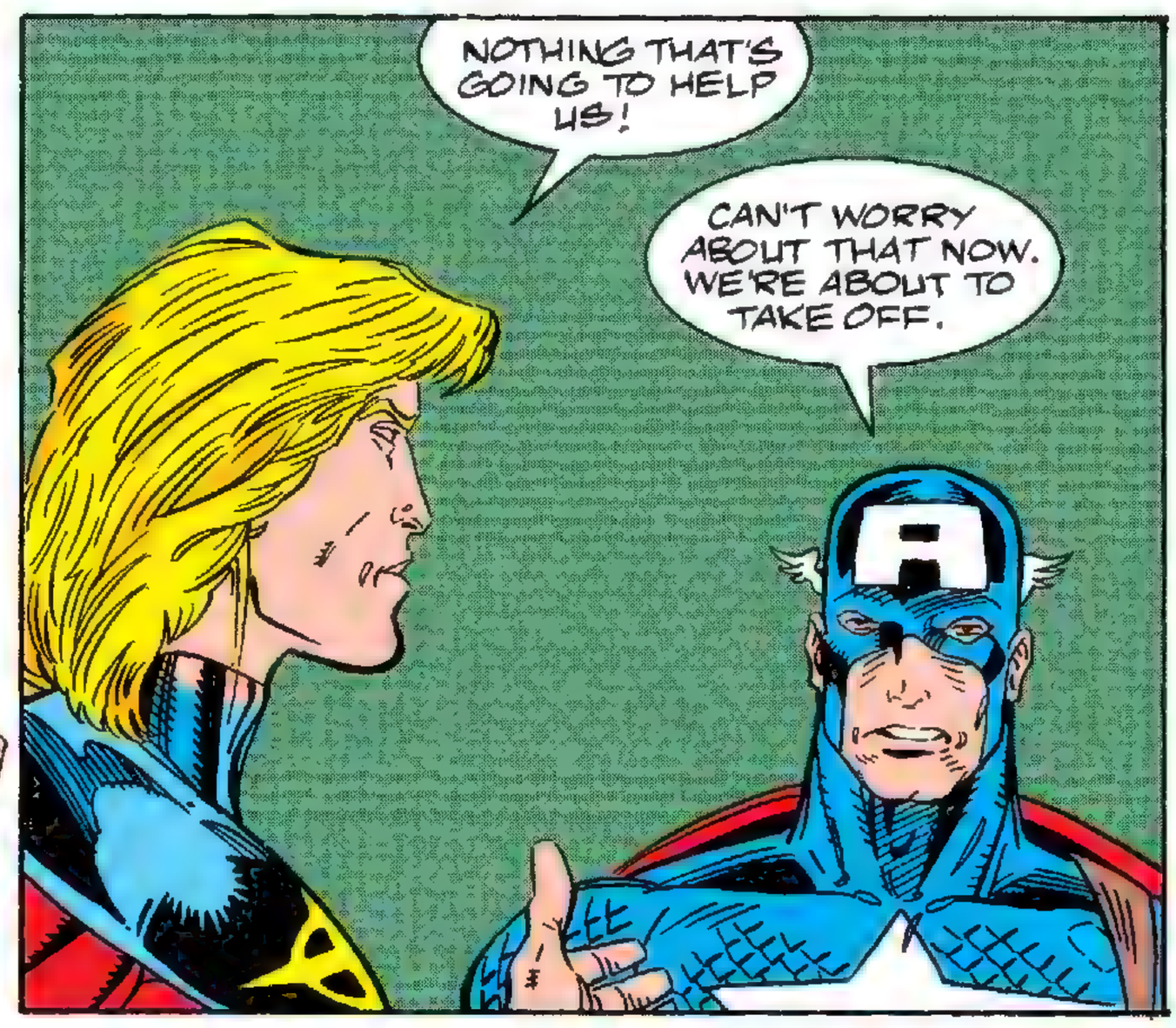
I'VE ALREADY SACRIFICED ENOUGH!

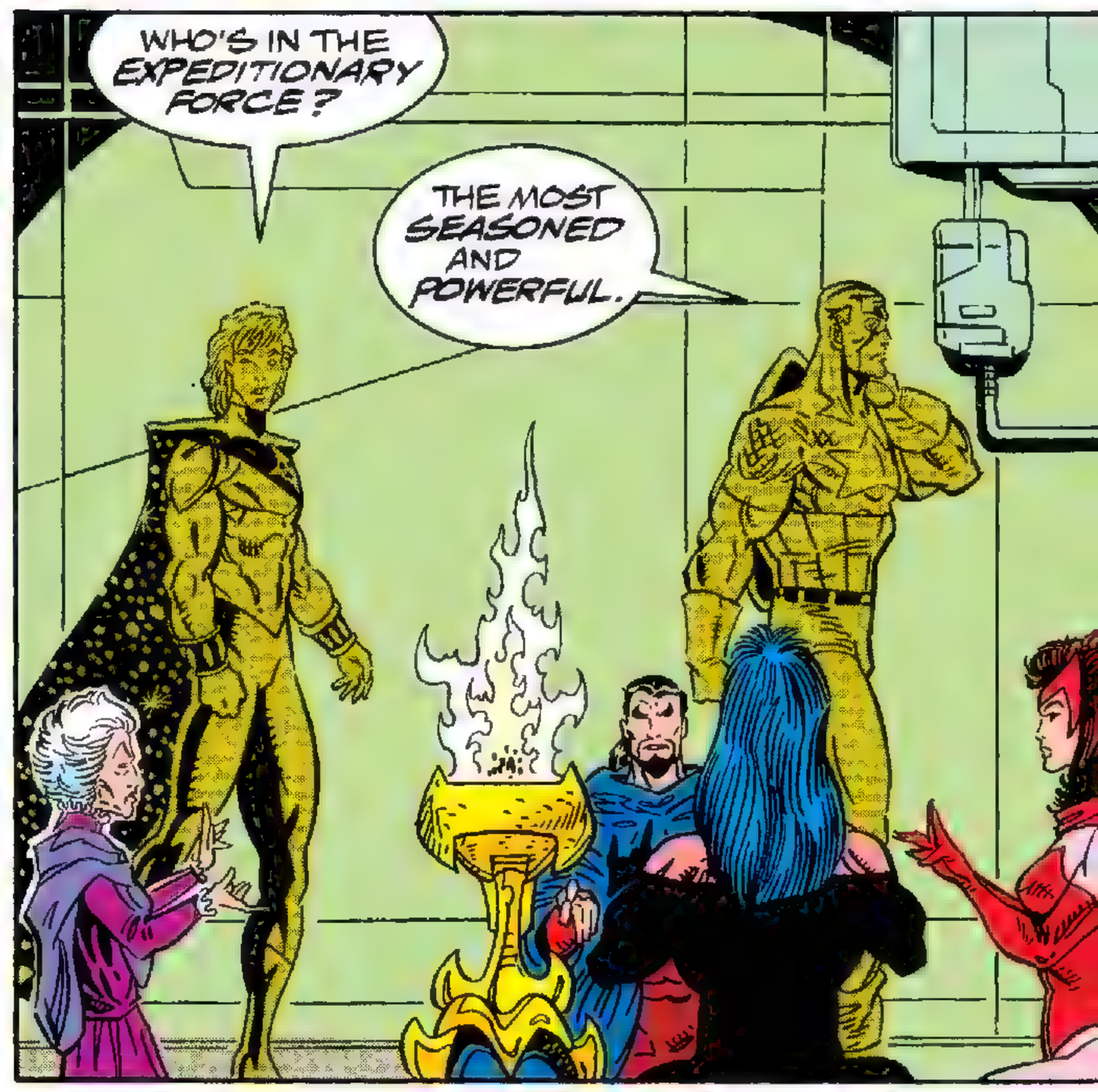
LET SOMEONE ELSE SAVE THE UNIVERSE THIS TIME AROUND.

NO ONE ELSE CAN.
WHEN THE TIME COMES, HE'LL DO WHAT HE MUST.
I KNOW.
YOU CAN DENY NEITHER YOUR WHITE NOR BLACK SHADOWS.
THE DUST OF THE PAST.
THE SIGN OF THE NEVER-ENDING.
THE SIGN OF THE FINITE.
THE BLOOD OF LIFE.

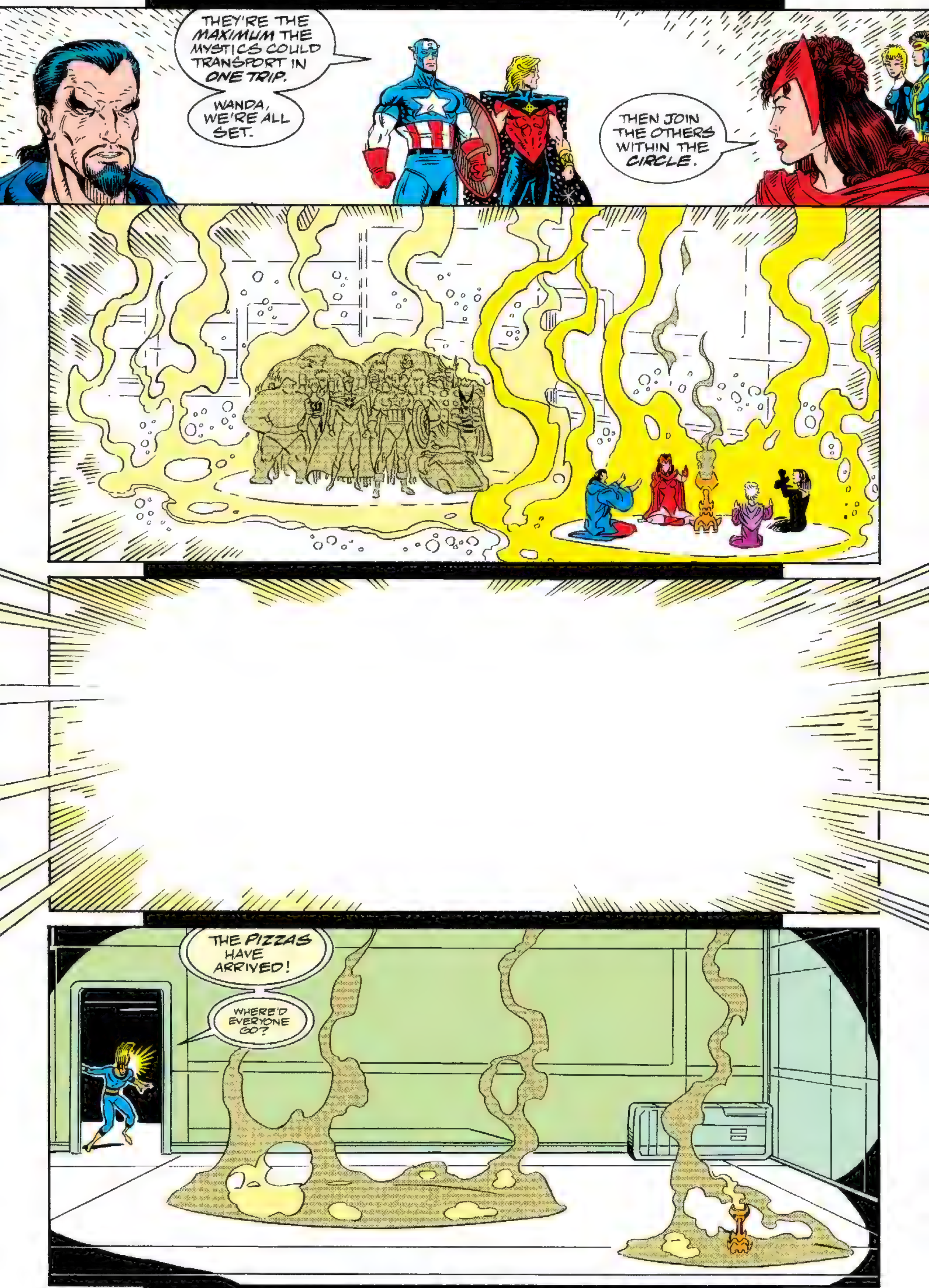

SPELLS CAST, MINDS SET AND PREPARATIONS MADE.
STRANGE, I SURE WISH YOU WERE HERE.
I JUST HOPE THESE FOUR DON'T END UP TELEPORTING US INTO SOME SLAB OF ROCK ON A FARAWAY PLANET OR SOMETHING.


HEY, CAP!
QUASAR! YOU MADE IT JUST IN TIME! ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT?

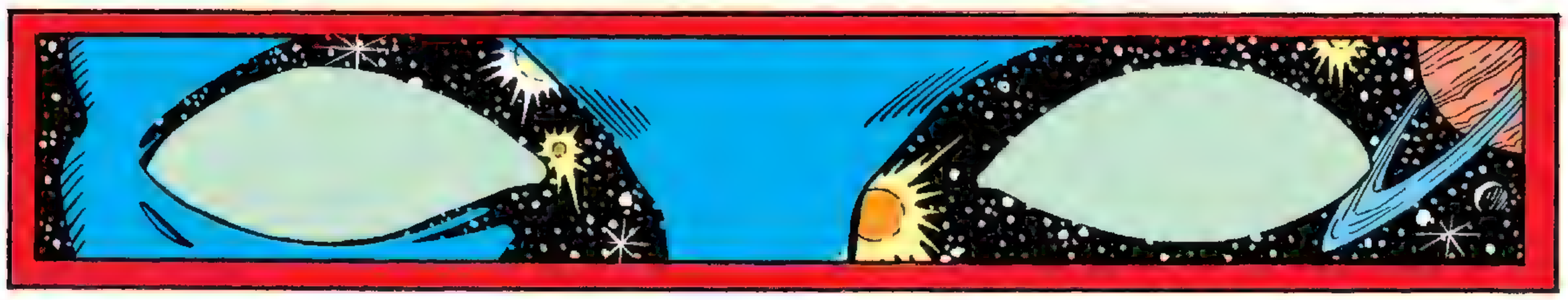

NOTHING THAT'S GOING TO HELP US!
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF.

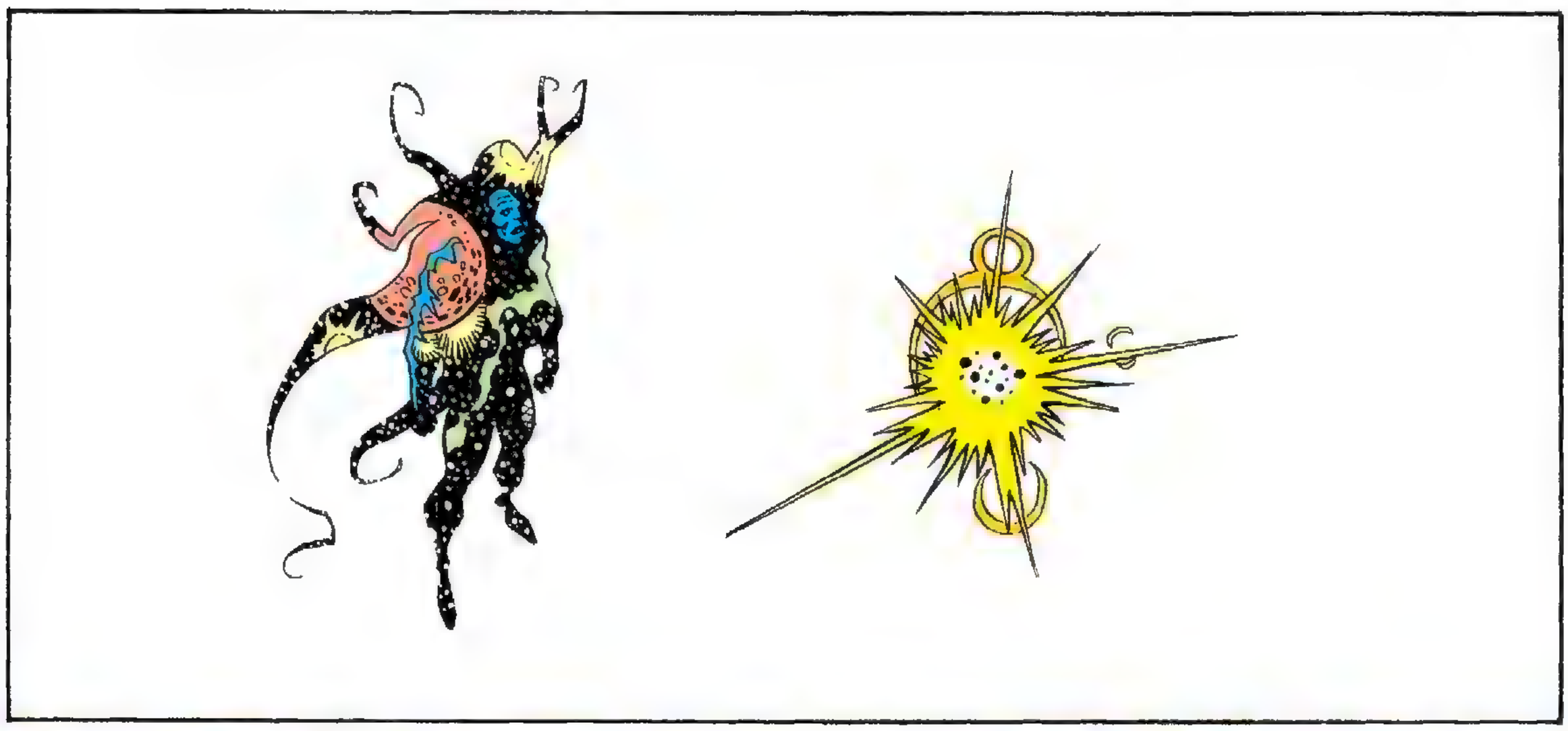

WHO'S IN THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?
THE MOST SEASONED AND POWERFUL.

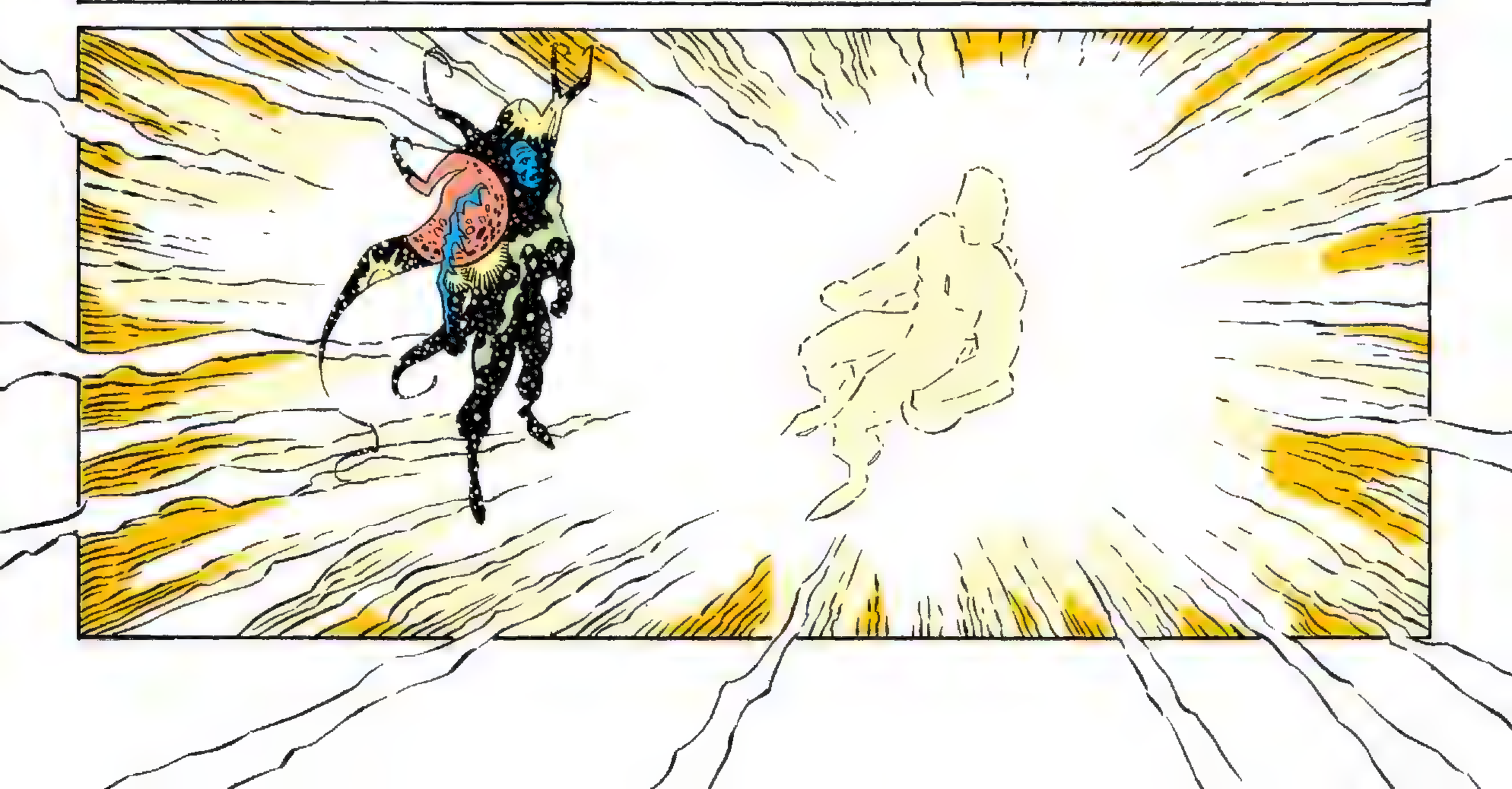
THEY OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF ANY BUSINESS THAT NEEDS ATTENDING TO.
LET'S HOPE.

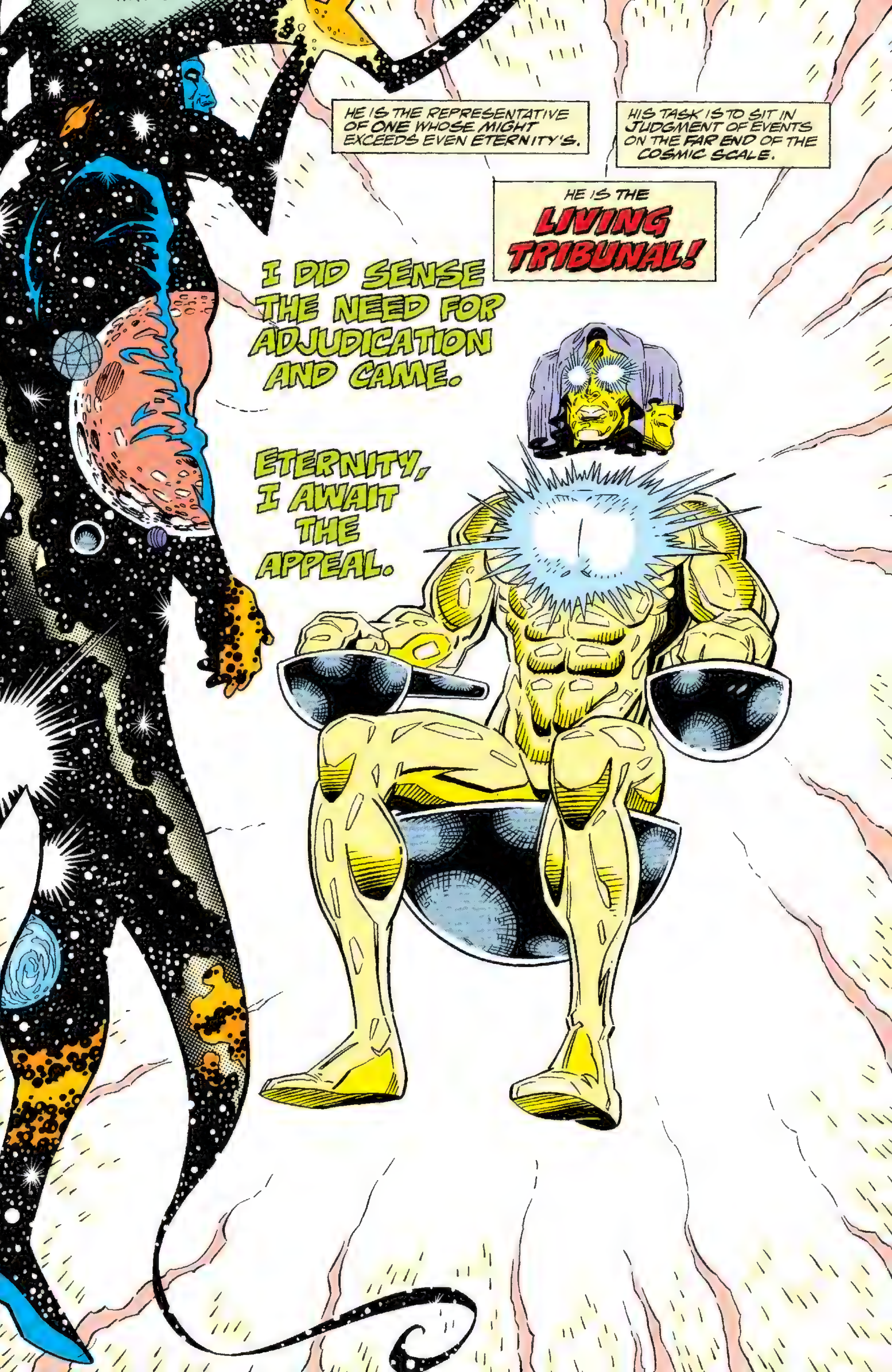

THEY'RE THE MAXIMUM THE MYSTICS COULD TRANSPORT IN ONE TRIP.
WANDA, WE'RE ALL SET.
THEN JOIN THE OTHERS WITHIN THE CIRCLE.
THE PIZZAS HAVE ARRIVED!
WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?

THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SHOULD REACH ITS DESTINATION IN EXACTLY 2 MINUTES, 31 SECONDS.
MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR US TO ASSURE OURSELVES OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FINAL PLAYER IN THIS LITTLE COMEDY OF ERRORS.

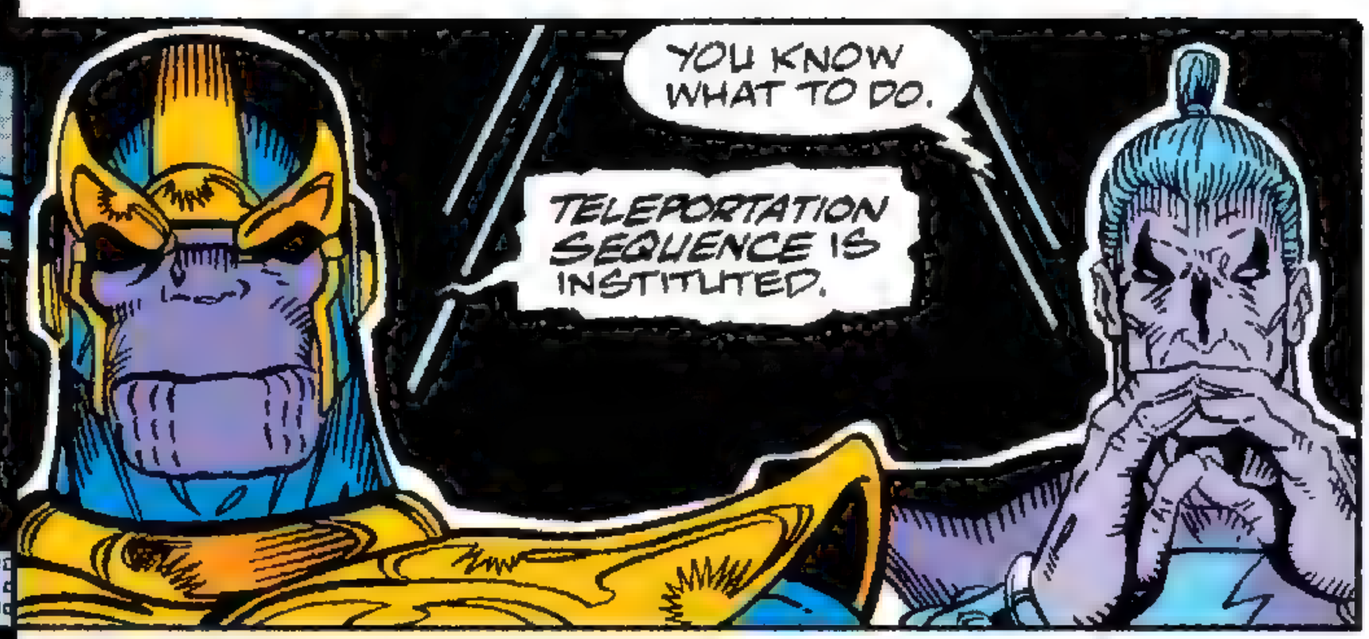


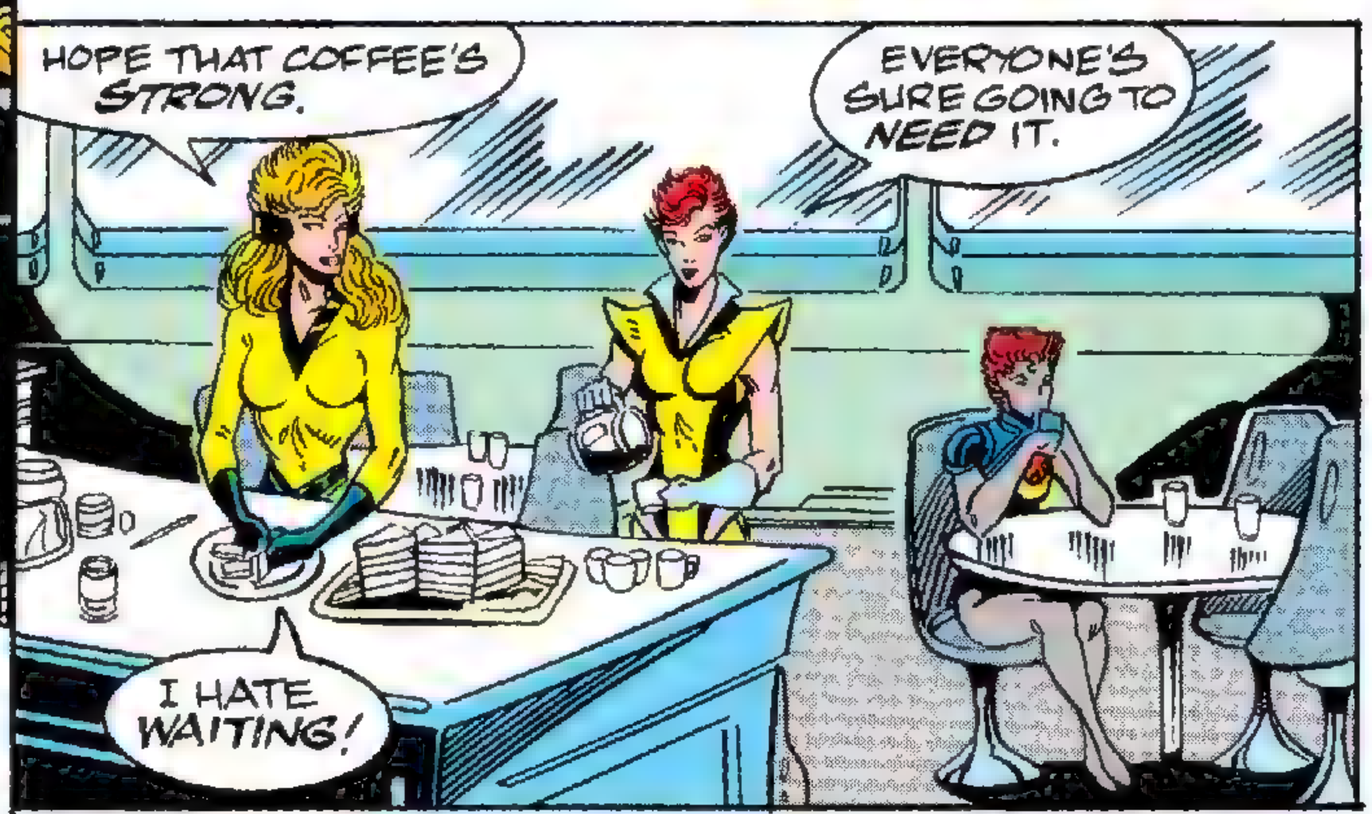





HE IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE WHOSE MIGHT EXCEEDS EVEN ETERNITY'S.
HIS TASK IS TO SIT IN JUDGMENT OF EVENTS ON THE FAR END OF THE COSMIC SCALE.
HE IS THE LIVING TRIBUNAL!
I DID SENSE THE NEED FOR ADJUDICATION AND CAME.
ETERNITY, I AWAIT THE APPEAL.

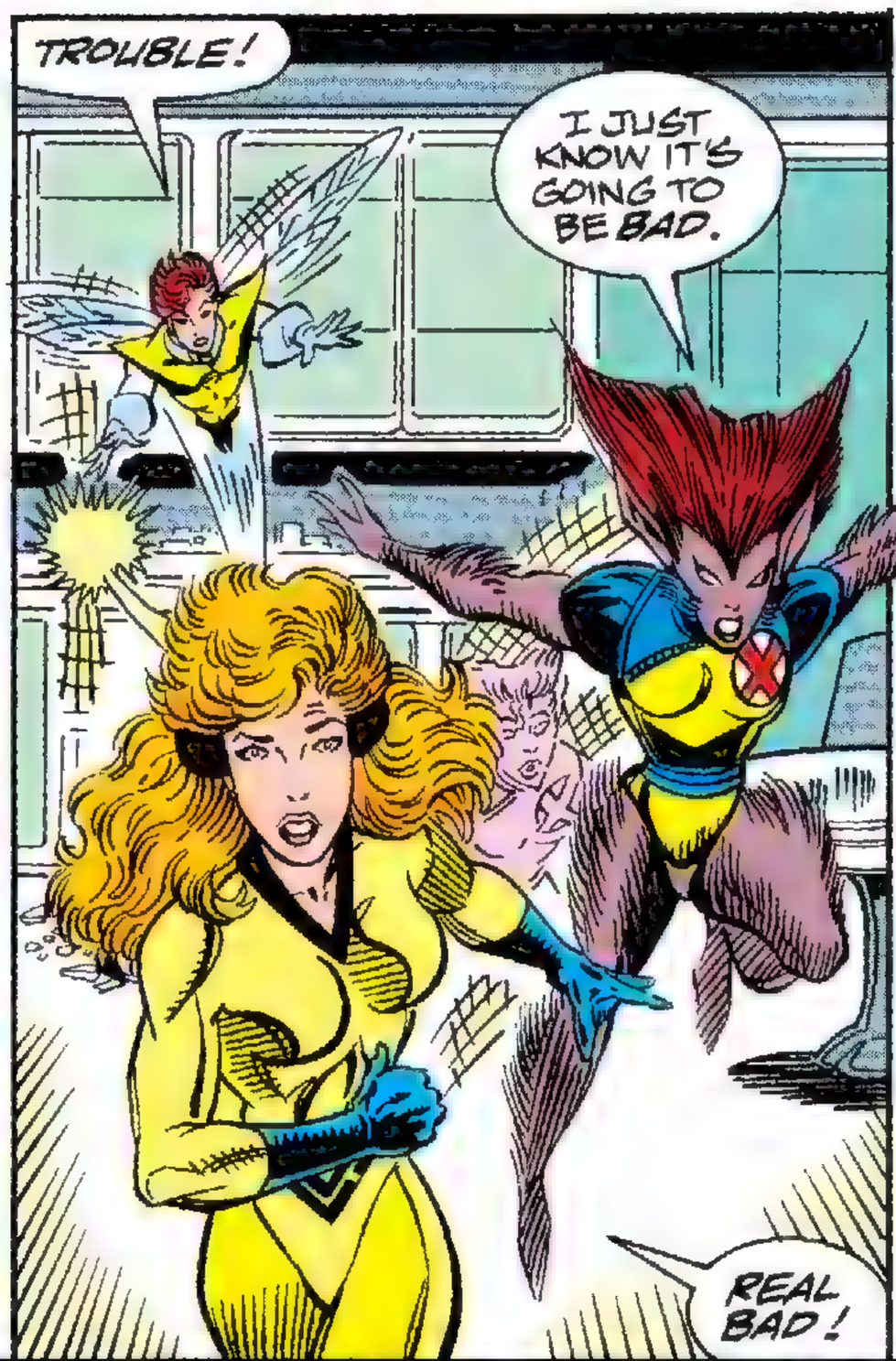
AS I KNEW YOU WOULD.
ENLIGHTENMENT AND DUTY TEND TO BREED PREDICTABILITY.
IN CHAOS THERE IS MORE SPONTANEITY.
SPEAKING OF CHAOS, I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO FOMENT A BIT OF IT.


YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TELEPORTATION SEQUENCE IS INSTITUTED.

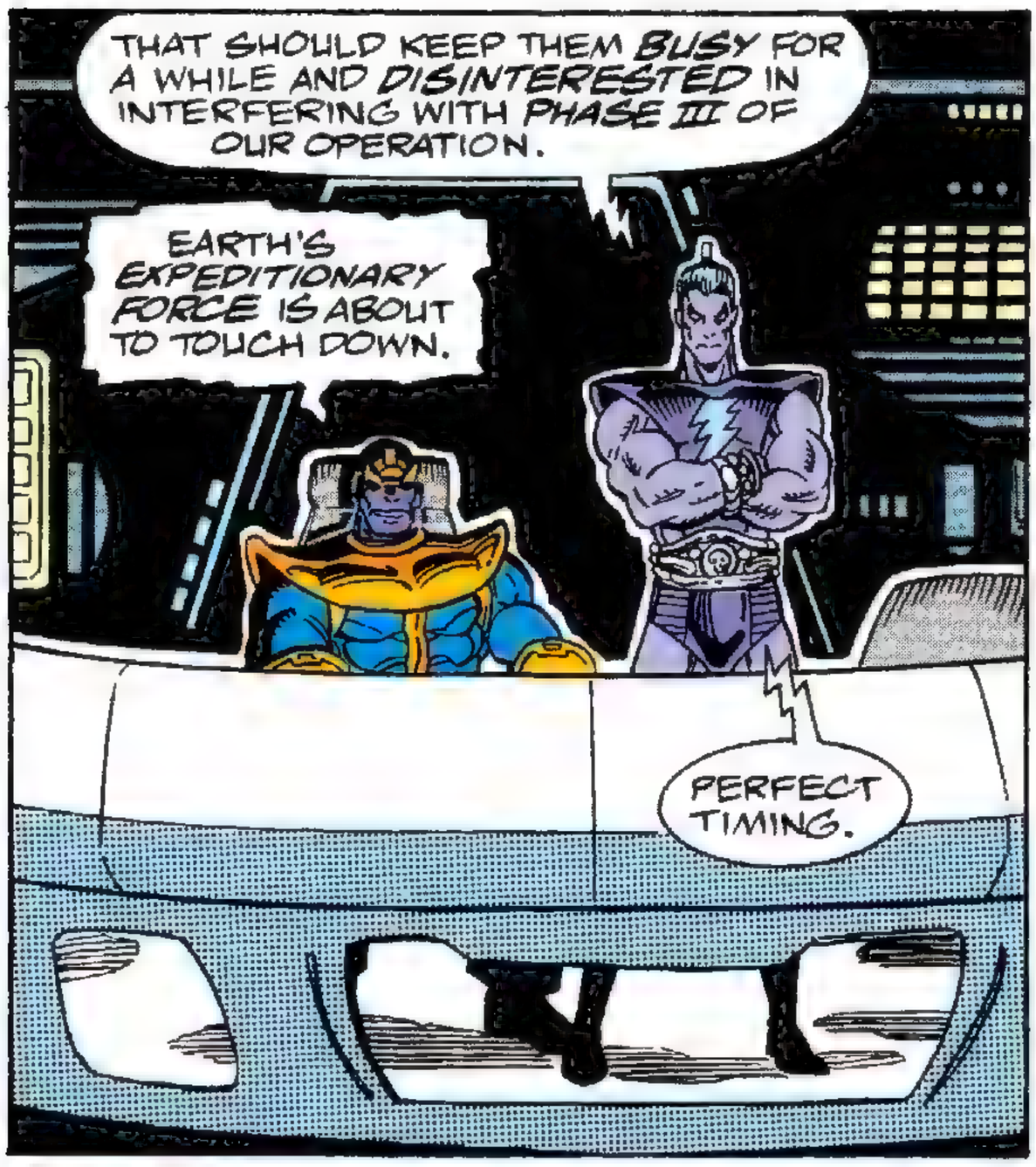

HOPE THAT COFFEE'S STRONG.
EVERYONE'S SURE GOING TO NEED IT.
I HATE WAITING!

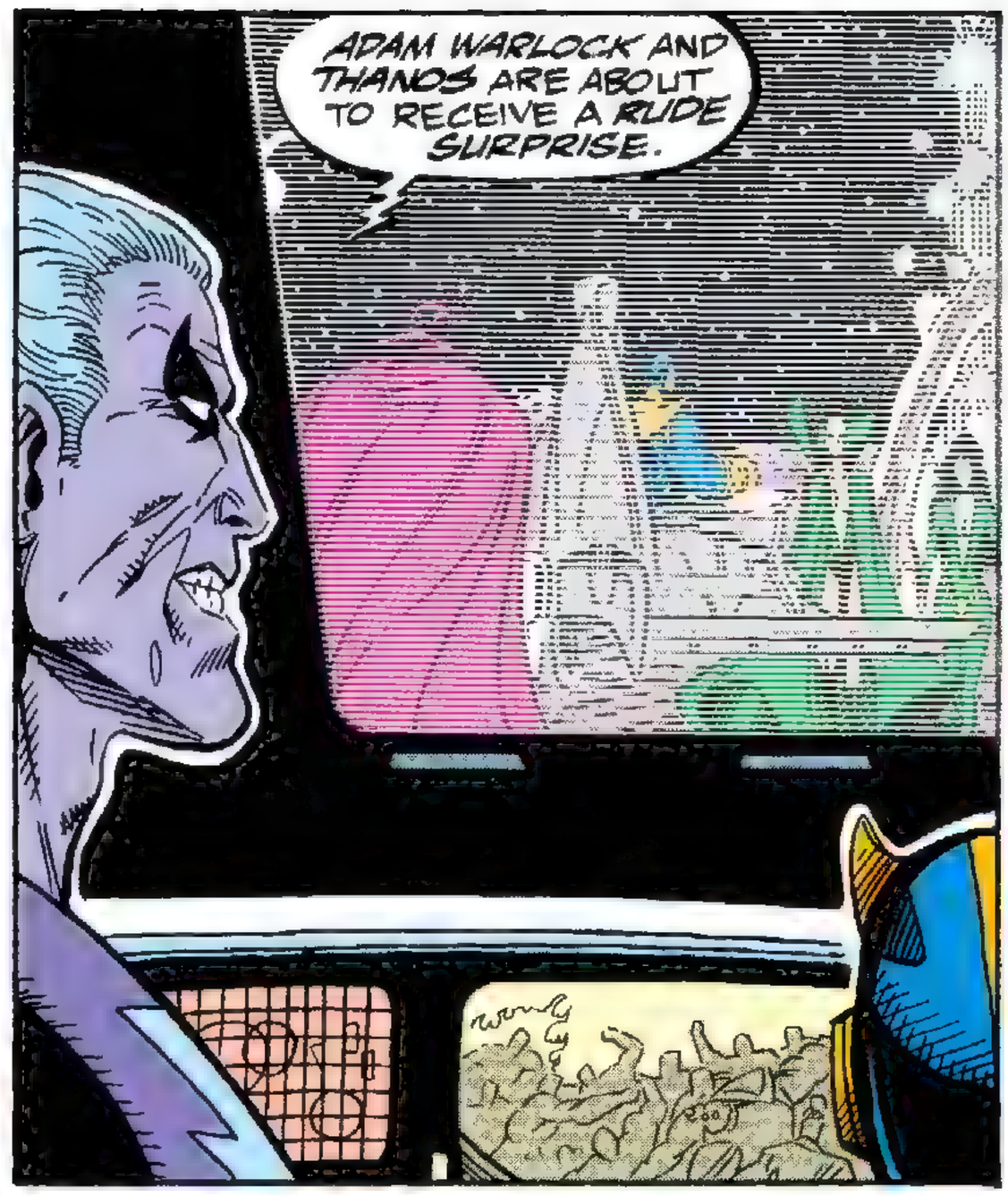
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
WITH THANOS INVOLVED, RAHNE, WHO KNOWS.

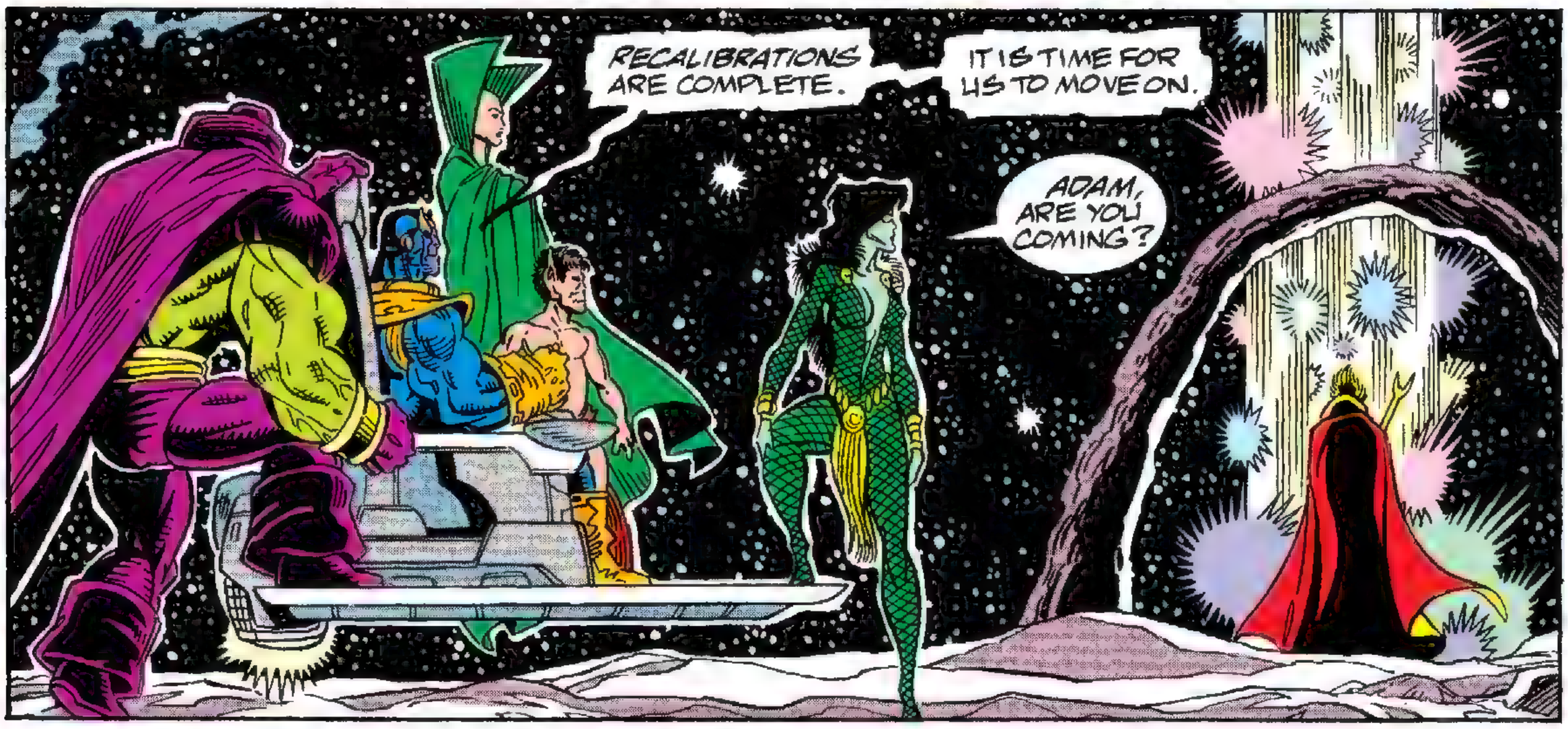
KA-THOOM
ALL WE CAN DO IS--
WHAT?!

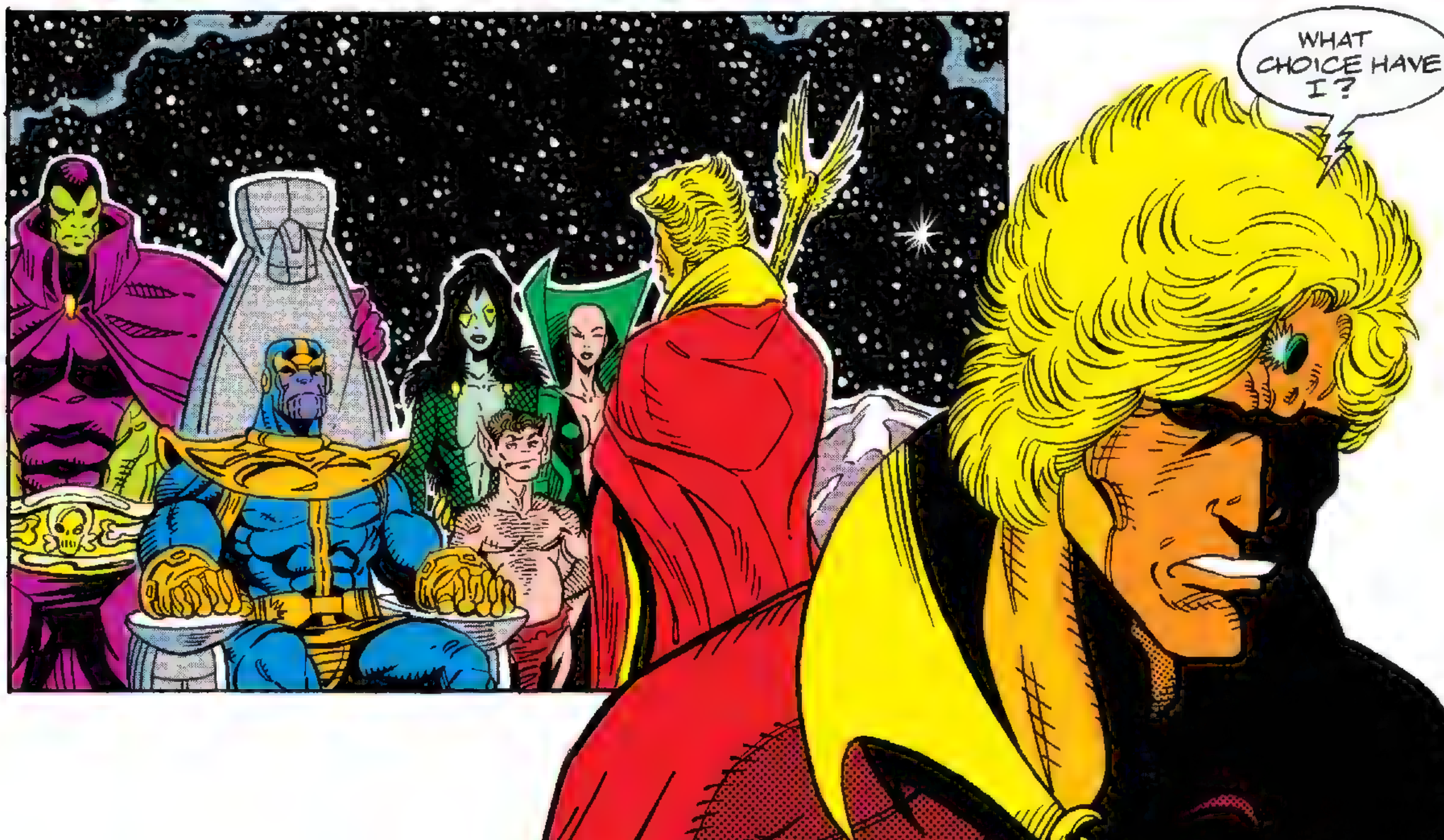

TROUBLE!
I JUST KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE BAD.
REAL BAD!

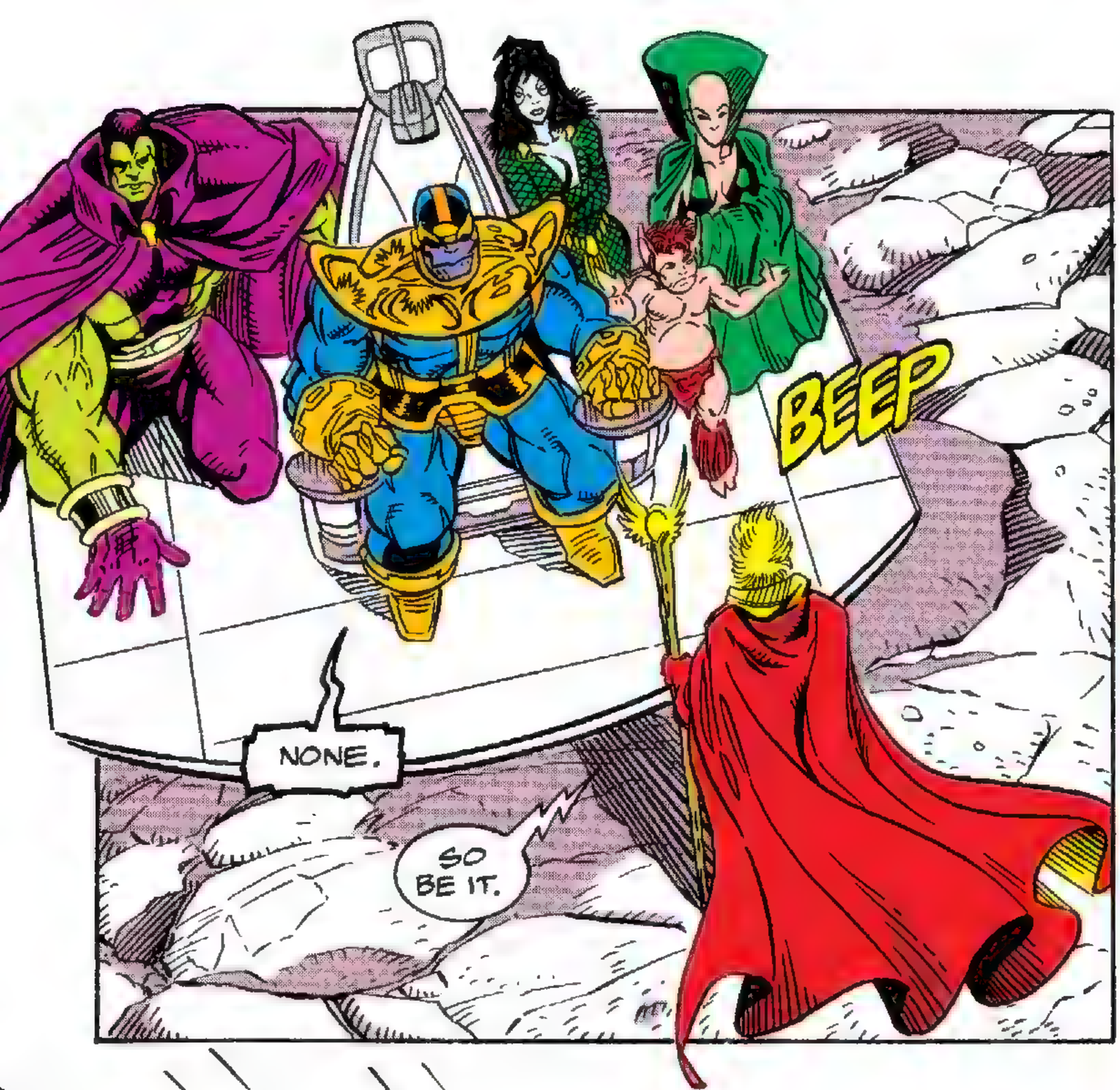
BY THE GREAT POWERS!

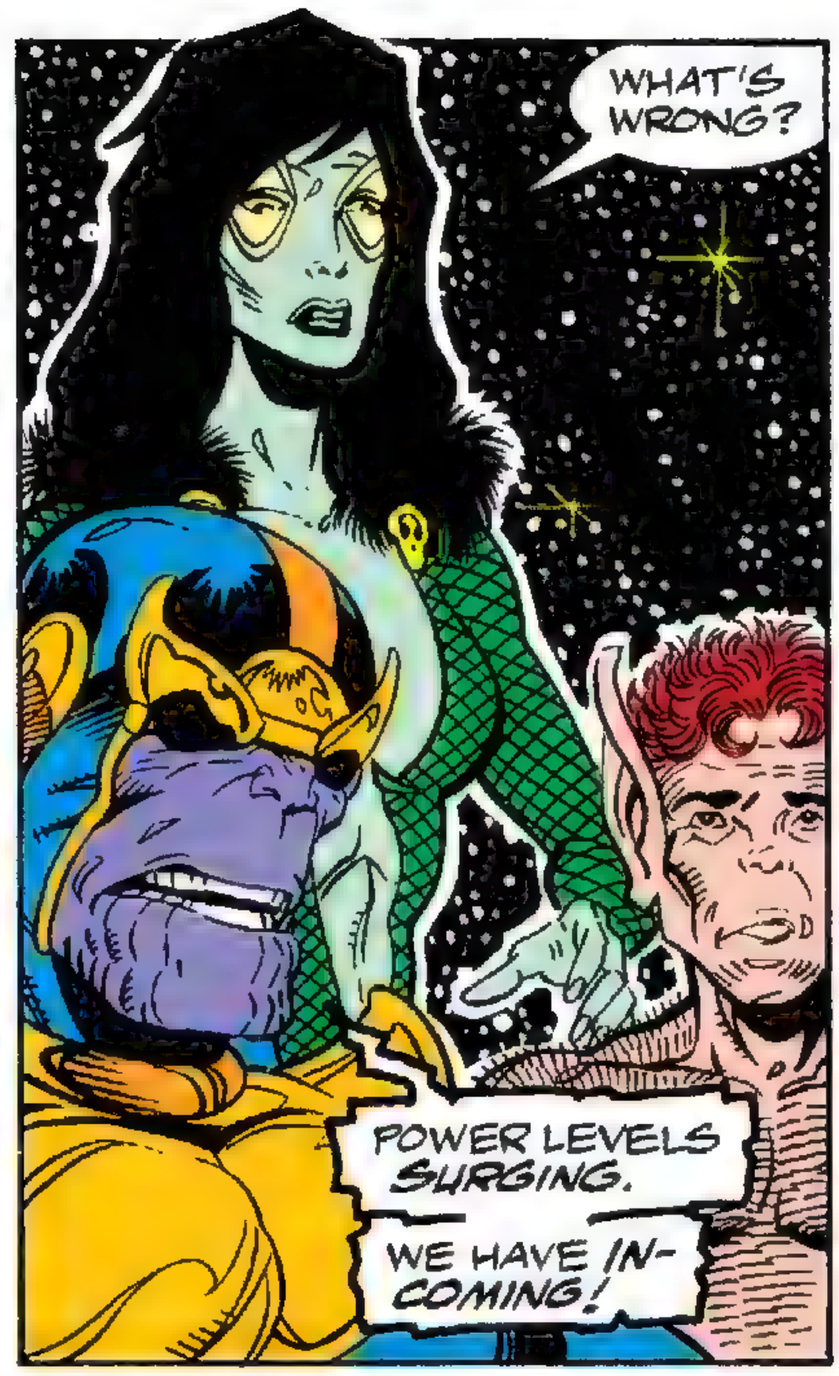

THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM BUSY FOR A WHILE AND DISINTERESTED IN INTERFERING WITH PHASE III OF OUR OPERATION.
EARTH'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS ABOUT TO TOUCH DOWN.
PERFECT TIMING.

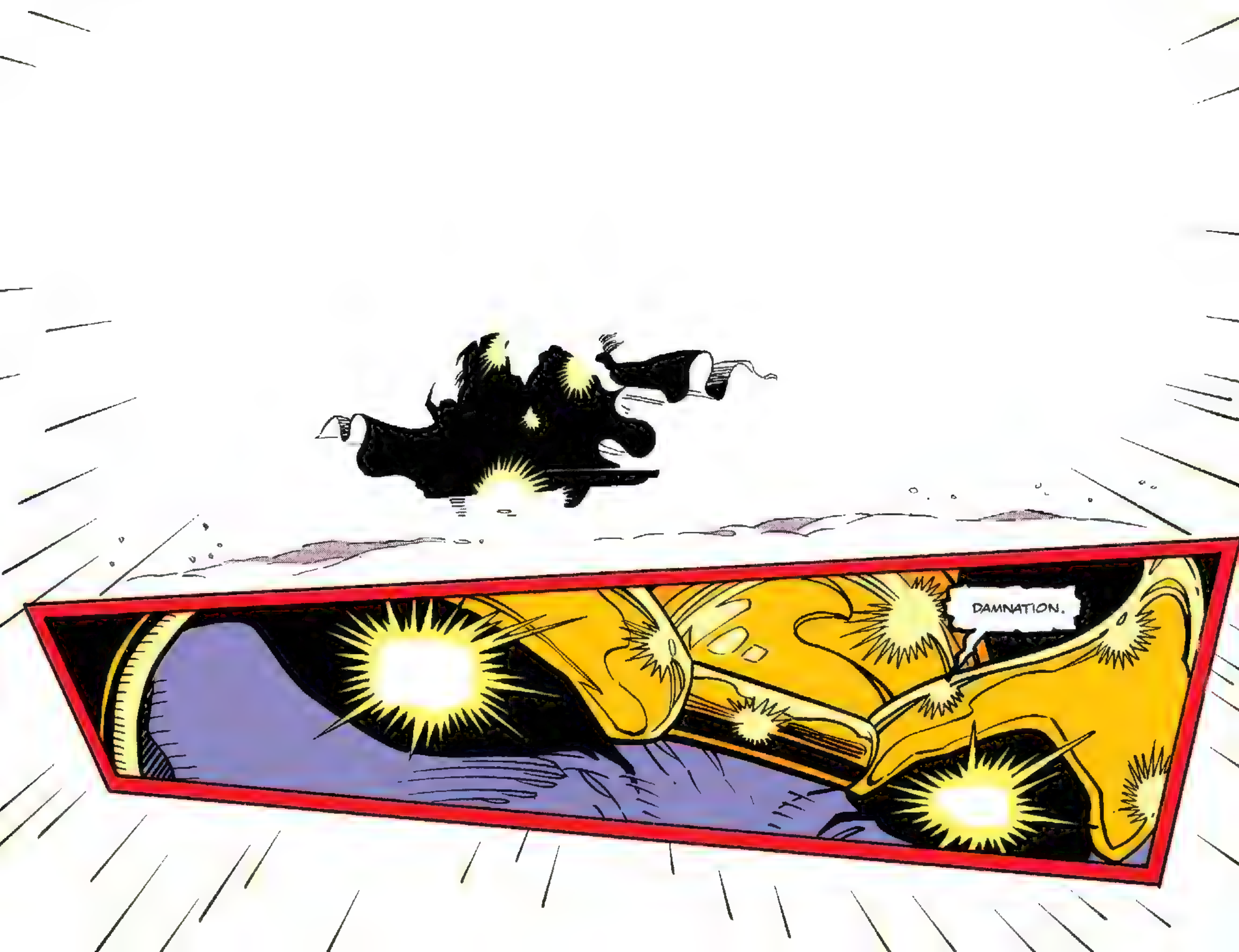

ADAM WARLOCK AND THANOS ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE A RUDE SURPRISE.


RECALIBRATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
IT IS TIME FOR US TO MOVE ON.
ADAM, ARE YOU COMING?

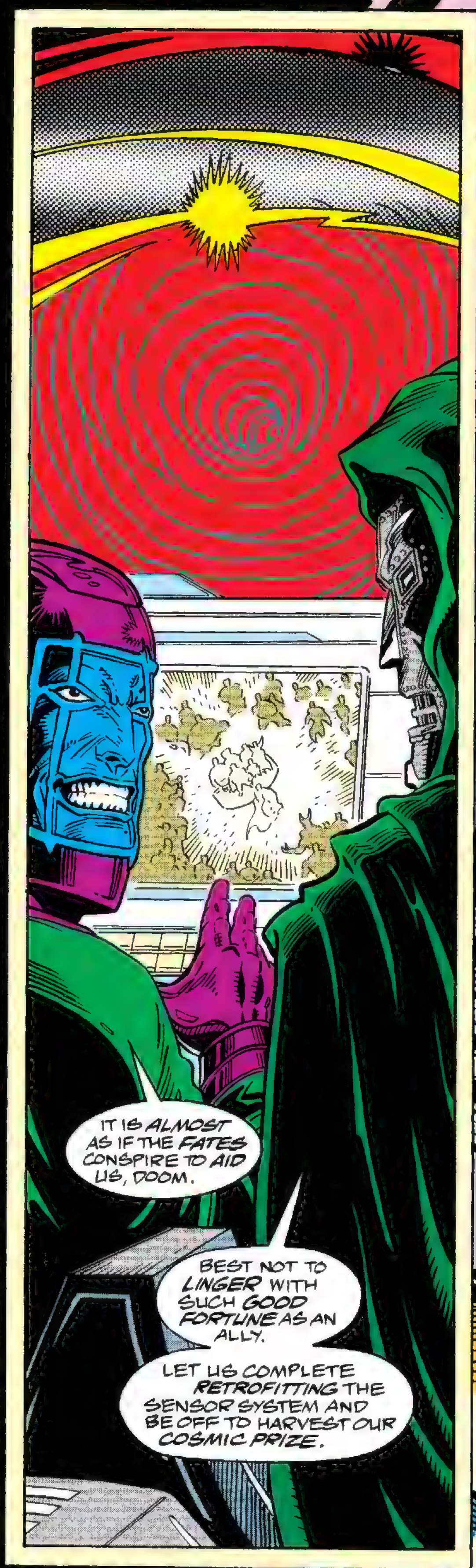

WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?


BEEP
NONE.
SO BE IT.


WHAT'S WRONG?
POWER LEVELS SURGING.
WE HAVE IN-COMING!


DAMNATION.

CAN WE TALK?



NOTHING.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW.

TO BE CONTINUED--!

***INFINITY WAR* POSTER** BY RON LIM, TERRY AUSTIN & TOM VINCENT

30TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1962-1992
MARVEL COMICS
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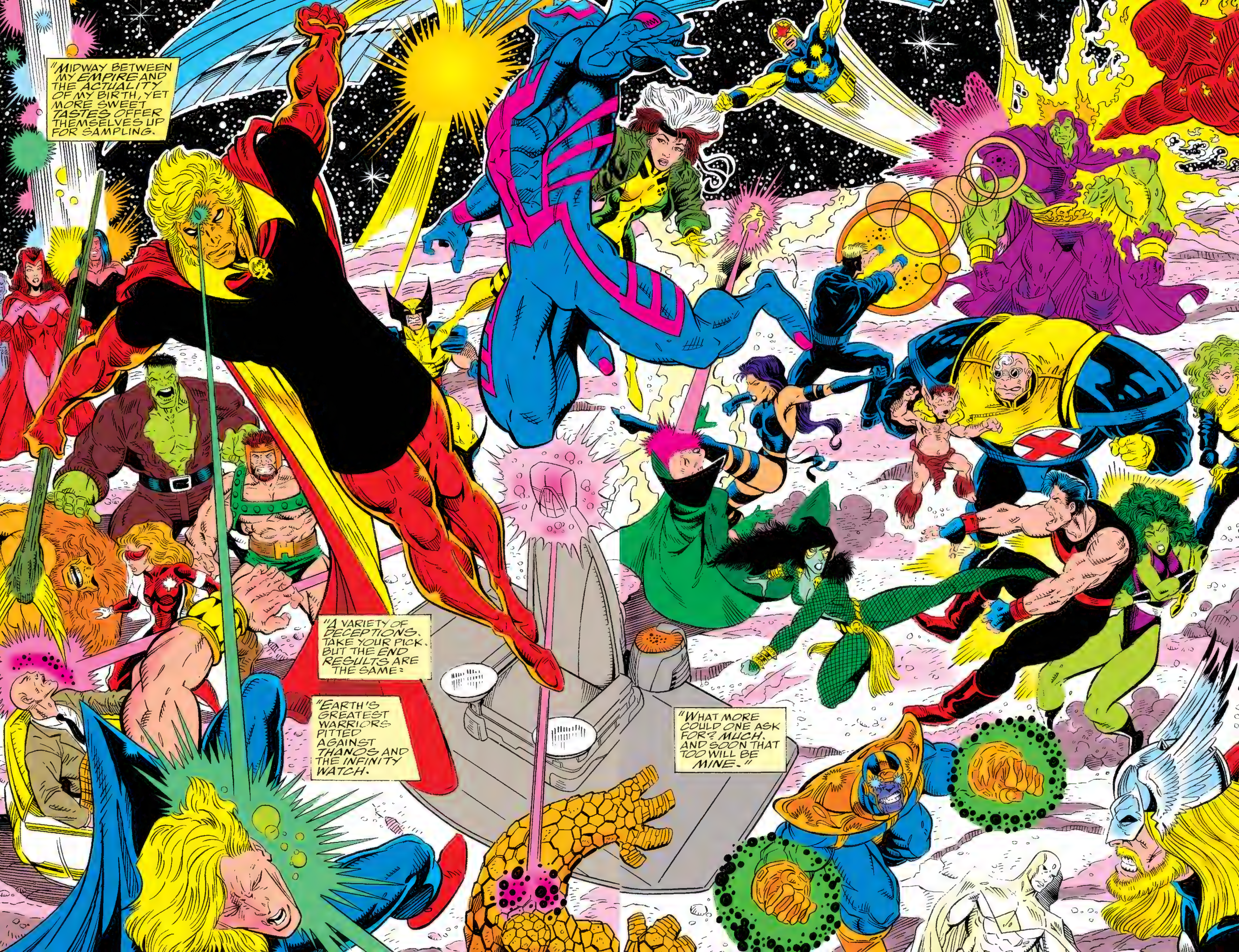
4 SEPT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INFINITY WAR
DOUBLE TROUBLE!

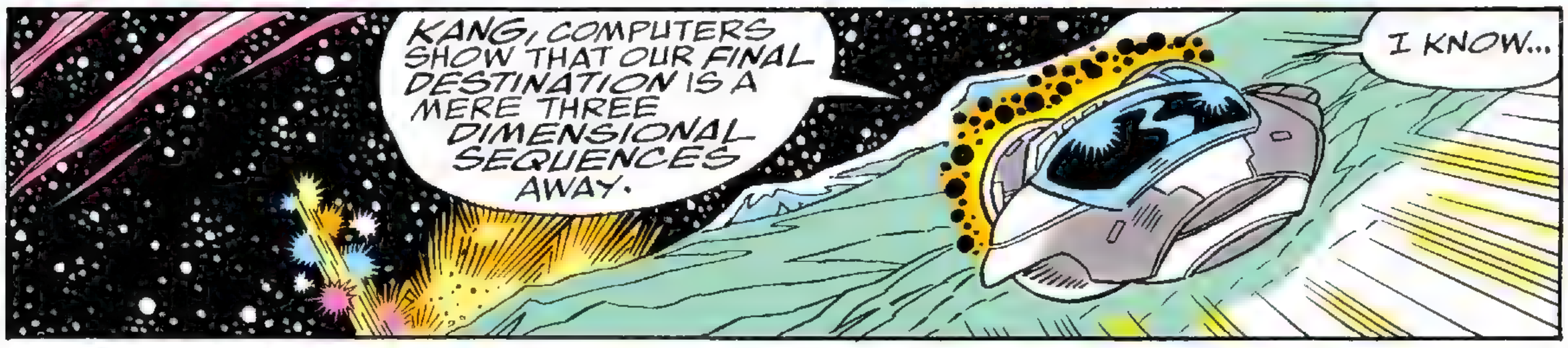
MORTIFEROUS ARTIFICE

JIM STARLIN WRITER | RON LIM PENCILS | AL MILGROM INKS | MORELLI LETTERS | LAUGHLIN & STEIN COLORS | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

"WITHIN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR, A BAND OF EARTH'S DEFENDERS FACES THE DARKNESS WHICH FESTERS WITHIN ALL SOULS.
"THE FACT THAT THIS PSYCHIC TRAUMA IS ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED BY OUTSIDE FORCES DOES NOT DIMINISH ITS HORROR.
"IT IS BUT A FRACTION OF THE MASTER TAPESTRY, BUT ONE TO BE GREATLY SAVORED.
"CHAOS HAS SUCH A HONEYED PIQUANCY."

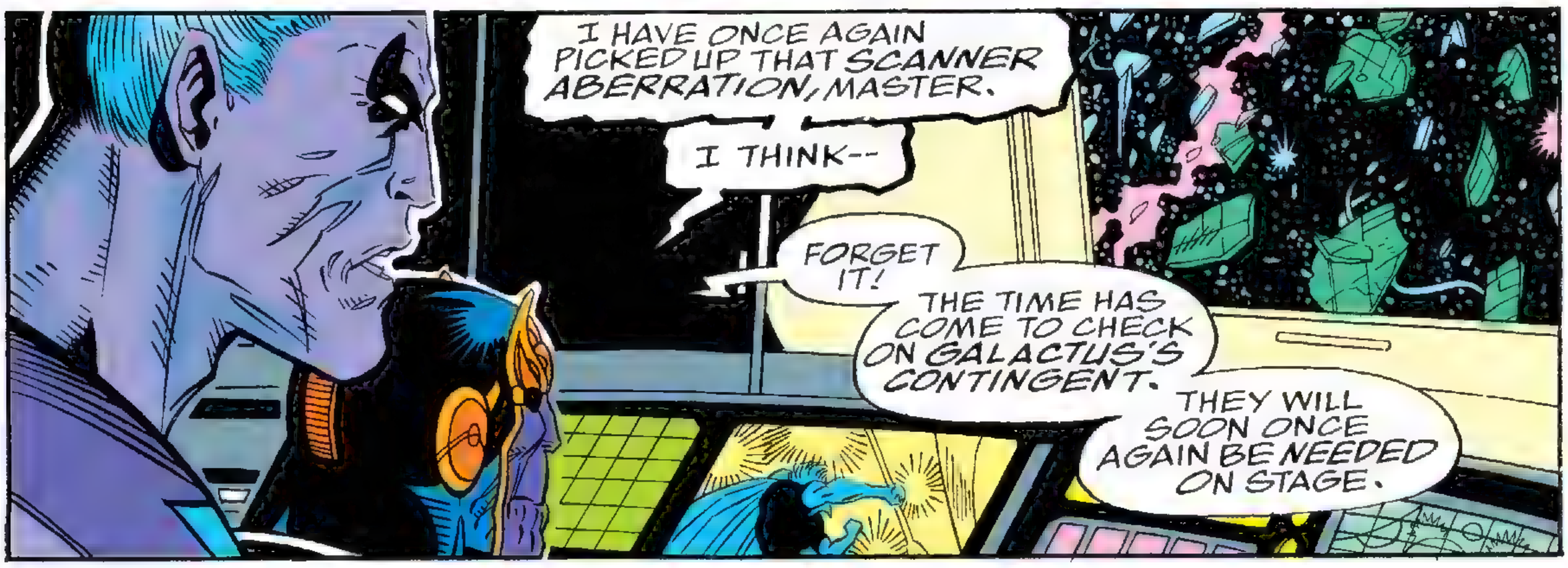

"MIDWAY BETWEEN MY EMPIRE AND THE ACTUALITY OF MY BIRTH, YET MORE SWEET TASTES OFFER THEMSELVES UP FOR SAMPLING.
"A VARIETY OF DECEPTIONS. TAKE YOUR PICK. BUT THE END RESULTS ARE THE SAME:
"EARTH'S GREATEST WARRIORS PITTED AGAINST THANOS AND THE INFINITY WATCH.
"WHAT MORE COULD ONE ASK FOR? MUCH. AND SOON THAT TOO WILL BE MINE."

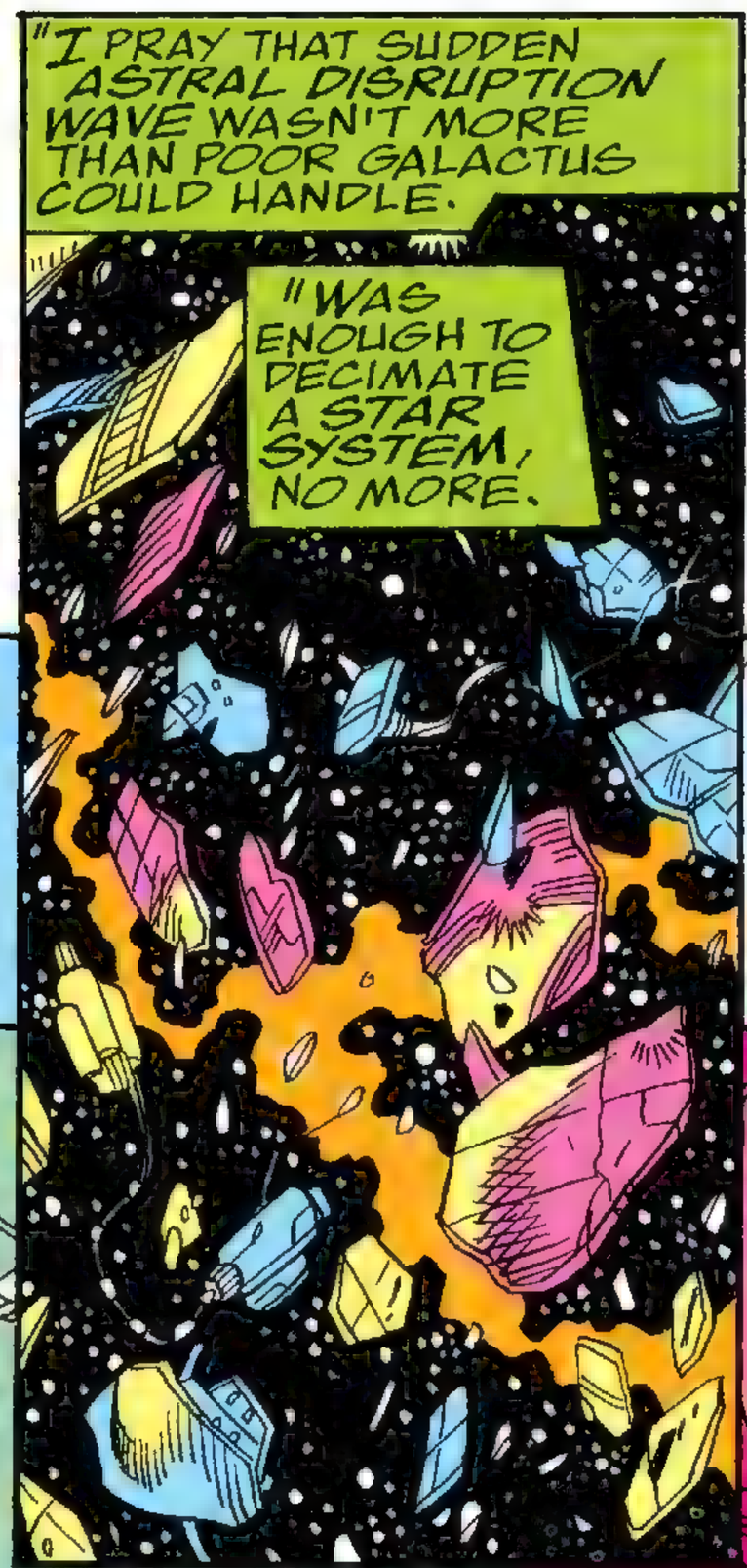
HOW GOES IT WITH PHASE III OF THE OPERATION, MY THRALL?
HARMONICS CONTINUE TO BUILD.
DESIRED LEVELS OF CONCENTRATION ARE IMMINENT.
APPRISE ME INSTANTLY OF FRUITION.

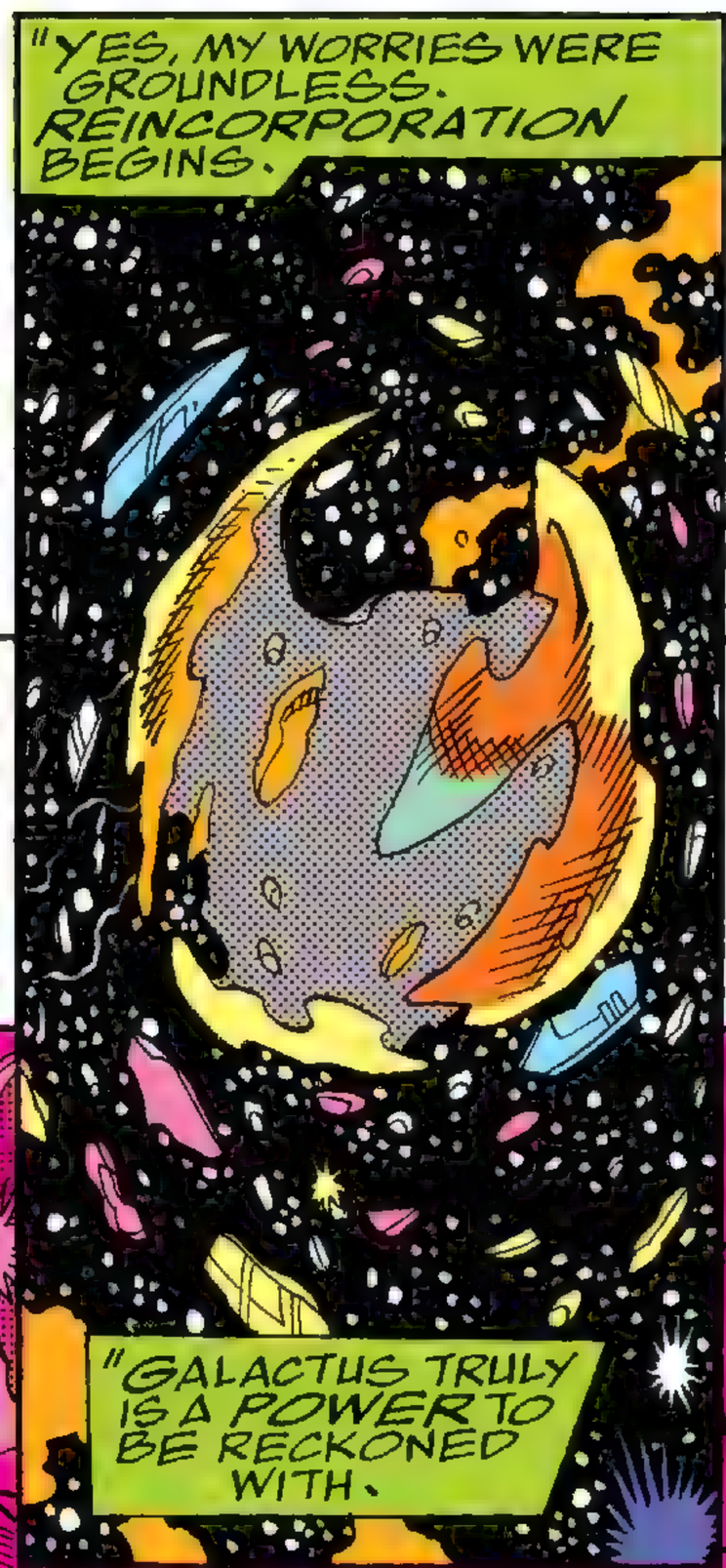

KANG, COMPUTERS SHOW THAT OUR FINAL DESTINATION IS A MERE THREE DIMENSIONAL SEQUENCES AWAY.
I KNOW...

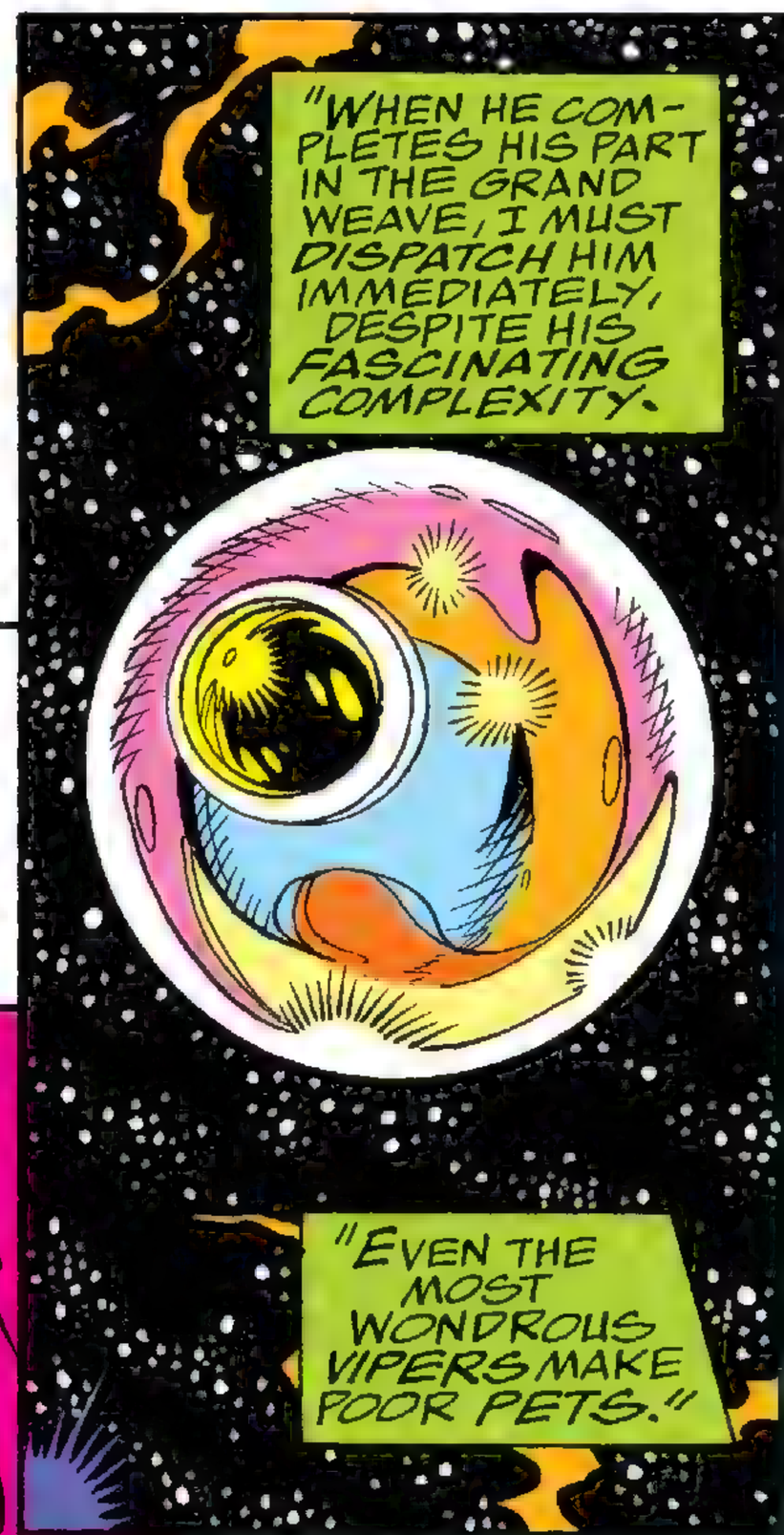
...YOU PRIMITIVE CRETIN!
I MAY HAVE INITIALLY NEEDED DOOM'S DATA TO BEGIN THIS QUEST AND HE HAS BEEN OF SOME ASSISTANCE SINCE, BUT...
...HIS MEDIEVAL MANNERS GRATE ON MY NERVES.
THE TIME TO DISPOSE OF HIM CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH.
PREPARE TO WARP.

TELEPORTATION ELEMENT ENGAGED, KANG.
YOU OVER-BEAR-ING PRIG.
SOON, KANG, SOON.


I HAVE ONCE AGAIN PICKED UP THAT SCANNER ABERRATION, MASTER.
I THINK--
FORGET IT!
THE TIME HAS COME TO CHECK ON GALACTUS'S CONTINGENT.
THEY WILL SOON ONCE AGAIN BE NEEDED ON STAGE.







CAN'T BELIEVE... WE ACTUALLY... SURVIVED THAT.

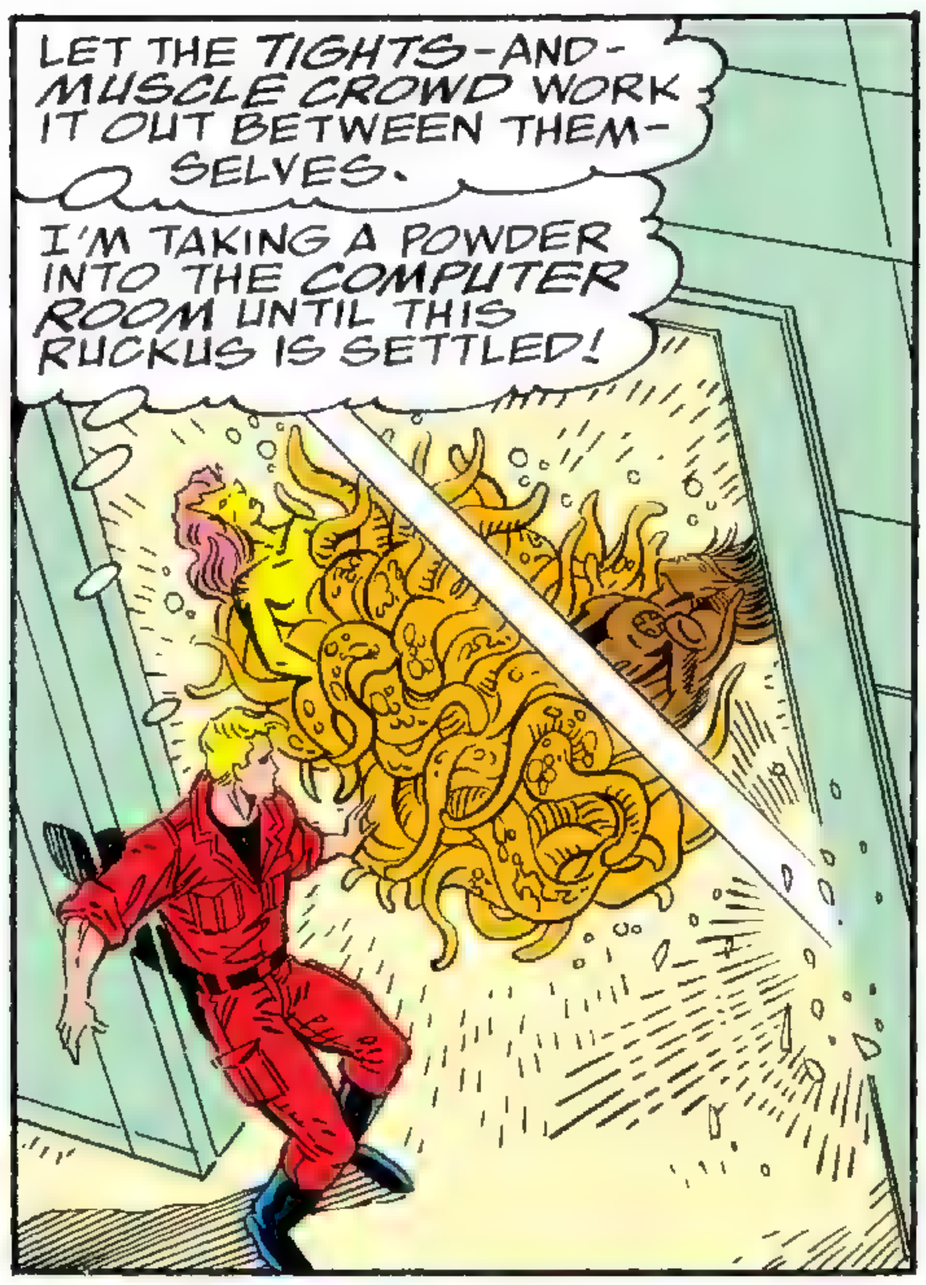
MY HIDDEN FOE HAS GREATLY UNDERESTIMATED MY MIGHT.

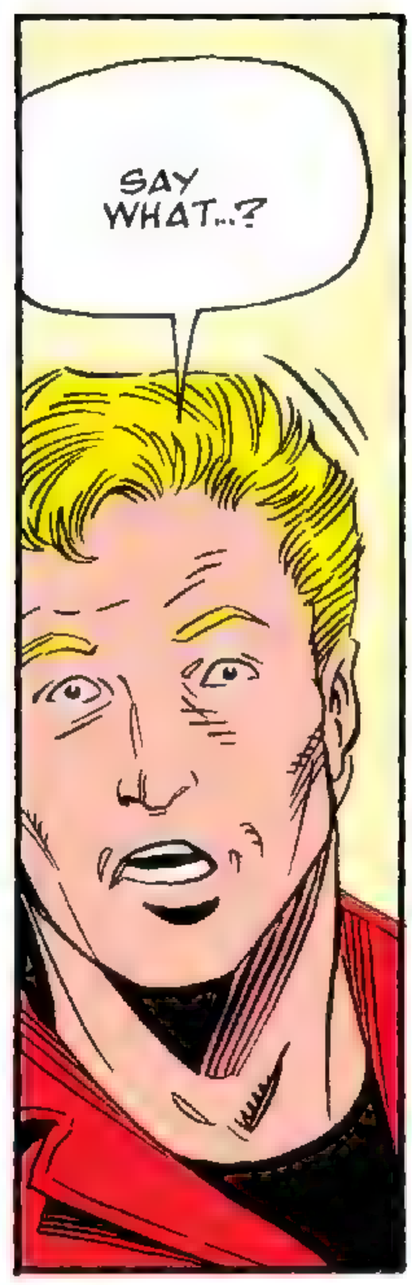
AN ERROR THAT SHALL COST HIM DEARLY.

GALACTUS'S POWER?

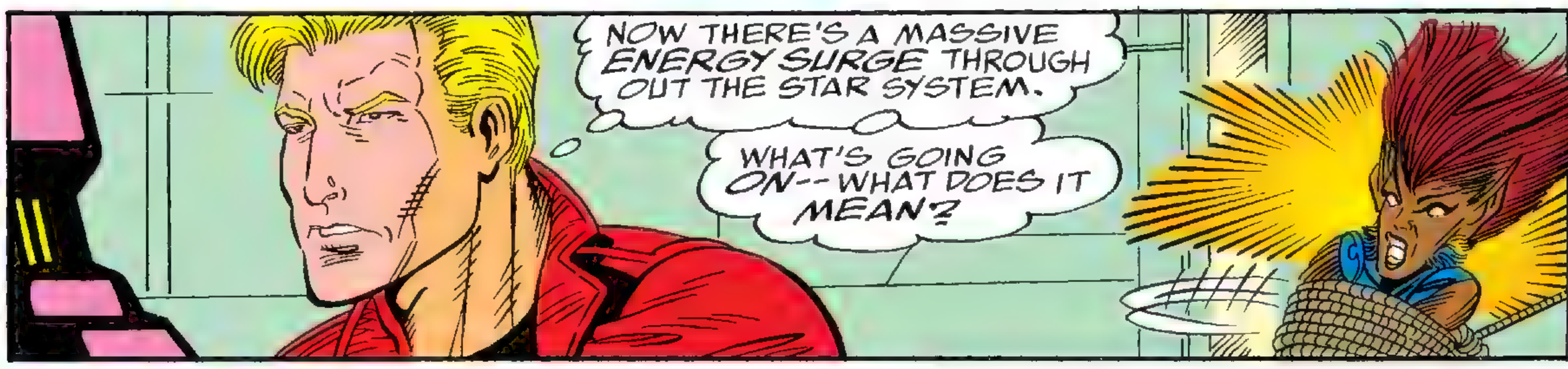
WHAT ELSE?

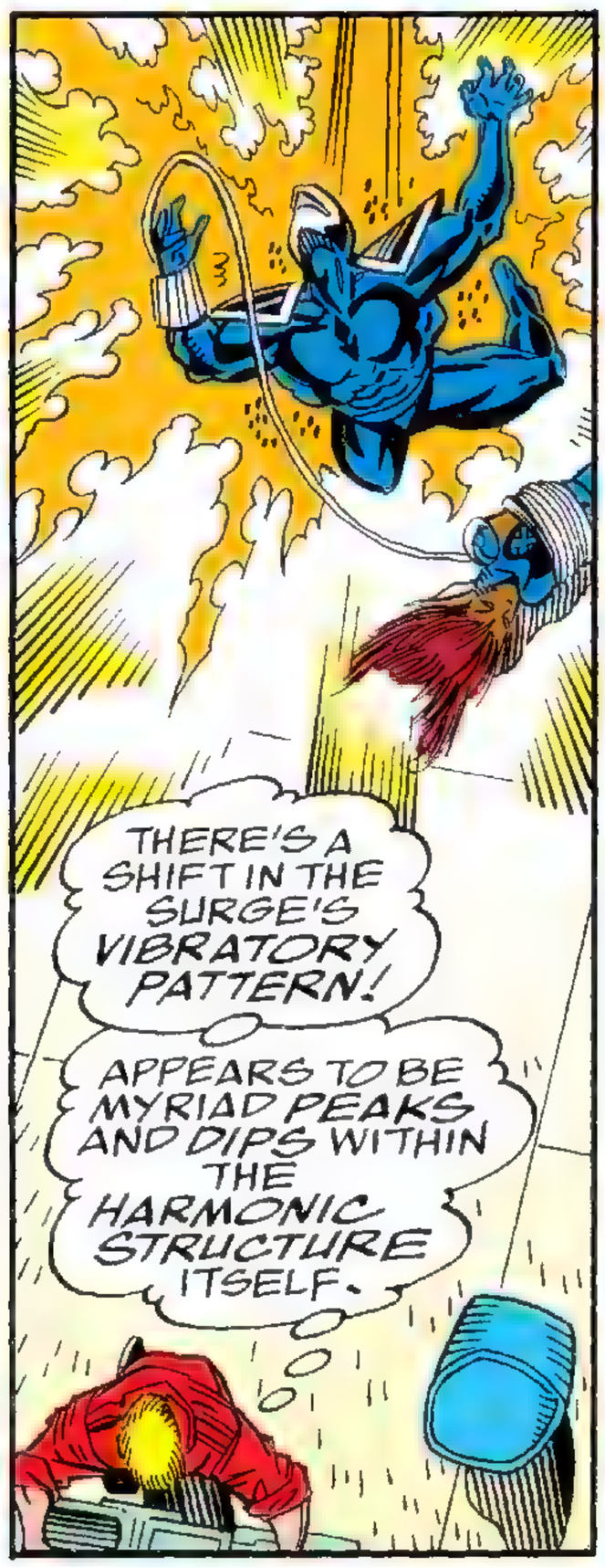
BUT HE HAS SHOWN THAT HE TOO IS A BEING OF VAST RESOURCES AND POWER.
I BEGIN TO PERCEIVE THE TRUE NATURE OF HIS INTRIGUES.
THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THWARTING THEIR CONSUMMATION MAY PROVE A DIFFICULT AND COSTLY FEAT.
WHAT'S GALACTUS LOOKING AT SO STRANGELY ??
NO!
HE'S NOT ACTUALLY CONSIDERING USING THE MOST AWESOME AND DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON IN HIS ARSENAL, AND THE UNIVERSE!
THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER--!
AND BACK AT 4FREEDOMS PLAZA, THE BATTLE CONTINUES...
A STRUGGLE SCIENTIST HANK PYM FINDS BEYOND HIS JOB CODE...
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WITHOUT SUPER POWERS OR WEAPONS, I WON'T LAST LONG AROUND HERE!

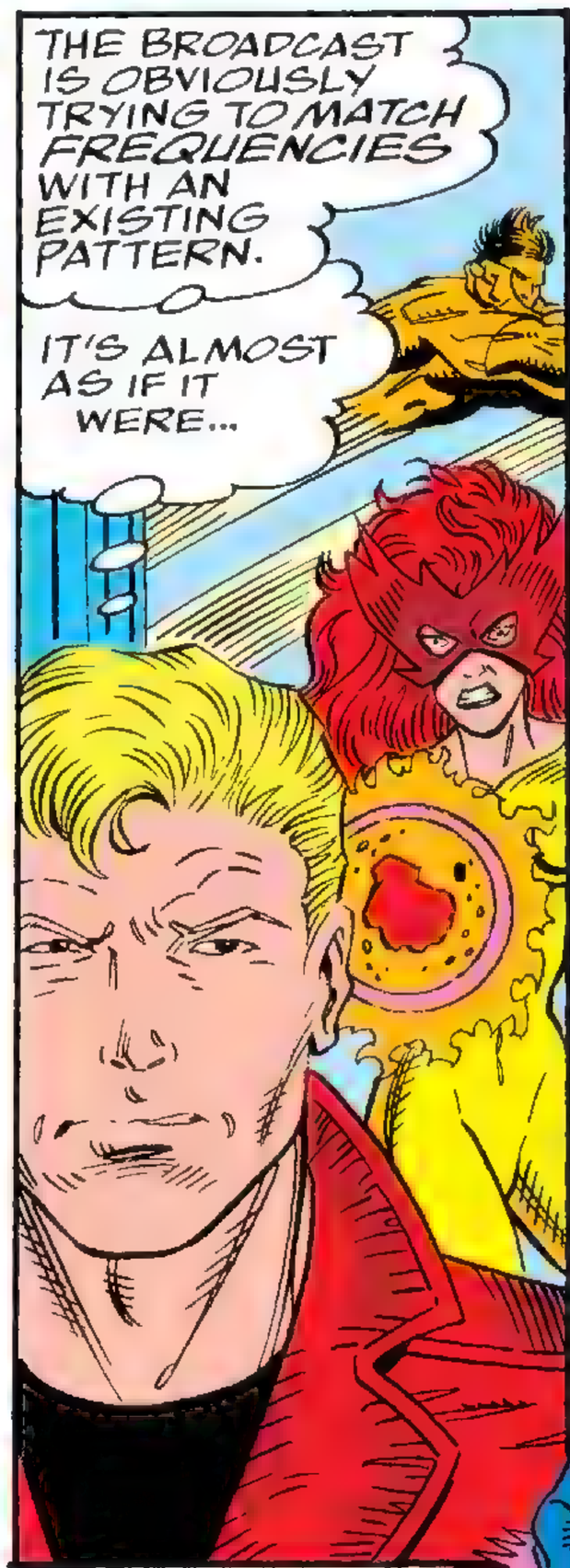

LET THE TIGHTS-AND-MUSCLE CROWD WORK IT OUT BETWEEN THEMSELVES.
I'M TAKING A POWDER INTO THE COMPUTER ROOM UNTIL THIS RUCKUS IS SETTLED!


SAY WHAT...?

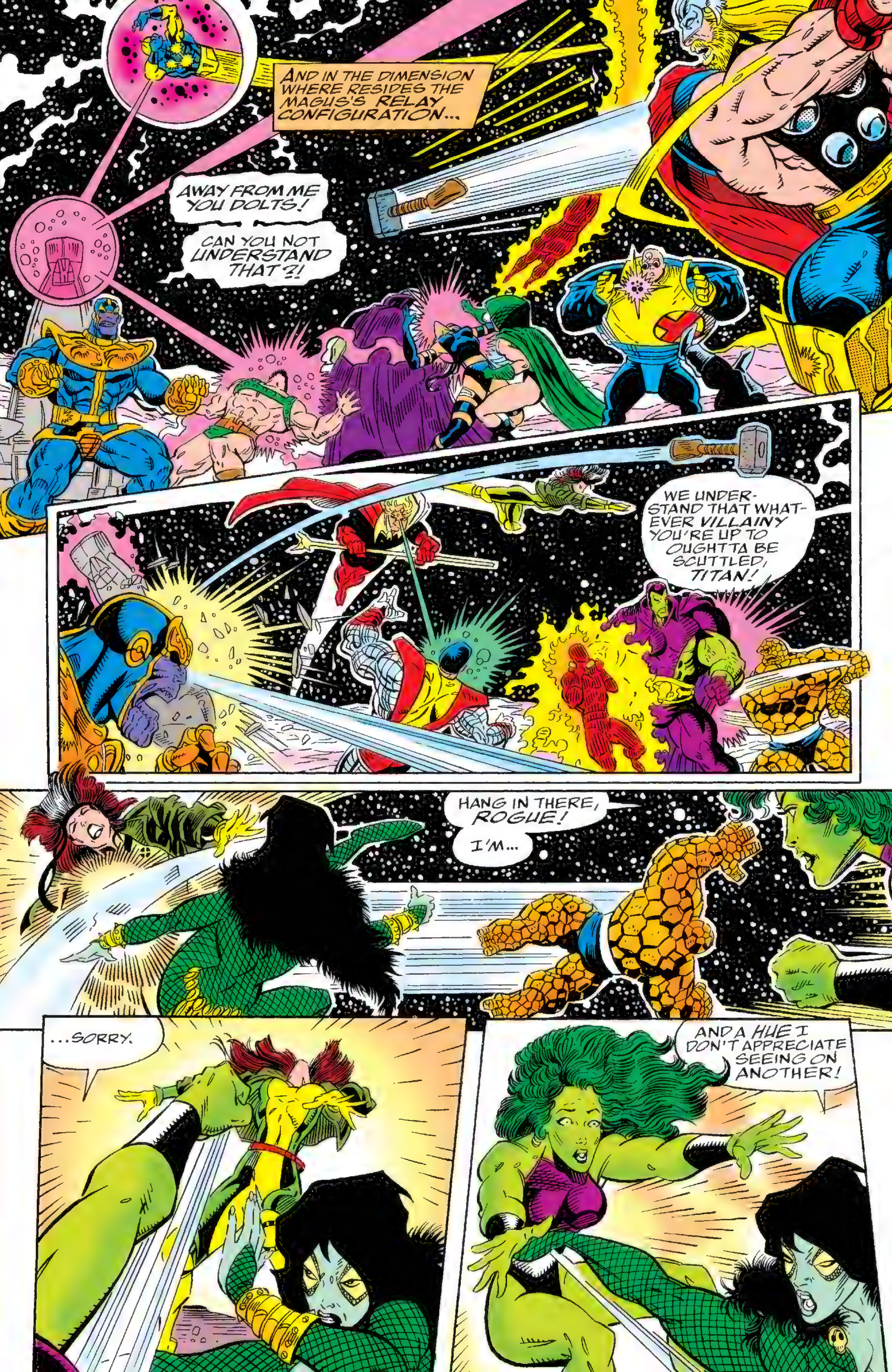
NEW TELEMETRY COMING IN ON RICHARDS' SCANNERS.
INCREDIBLE!
THEY'RE PICKING UP ENERGY BROADCASTS TO EVERY STAR SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY!


NOW THERE'S A MASSIVE ENERGY SURGE THROUGH OUT THE STAR SYSTEM.
WHAT'S GOING ON--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?


THERE'S A SHIFT IN THE SURGE'S VIBRATORY PATTERN!
APPEARS TO BE MYRIAD PEAKS AND DIPS WITHIN THE HARMONIC STRUCTURE ITSELF.


THE BROADCAST IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO MATCH FREQUENCIES WITH AN EXISTING PATTERN.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE...

GOOD LORD!


AND IN THE DIMENSION WHERE RESIDES THE MAGUS'S RELAY CONFIGURATION...
AWAY FROM ME YOU DOLTS!
CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT?!
WE UNDER-STAND THAT WHAT-EVER VILLAINY YOU'RE UP TO OUGHTTA BE SCUTTLED, TITAN!
HANG IN THERE, ROGUE!
I'M...
...SORRY.
AND A HUE I DON'T APPRECIATE SEEING ON ANOTHER!

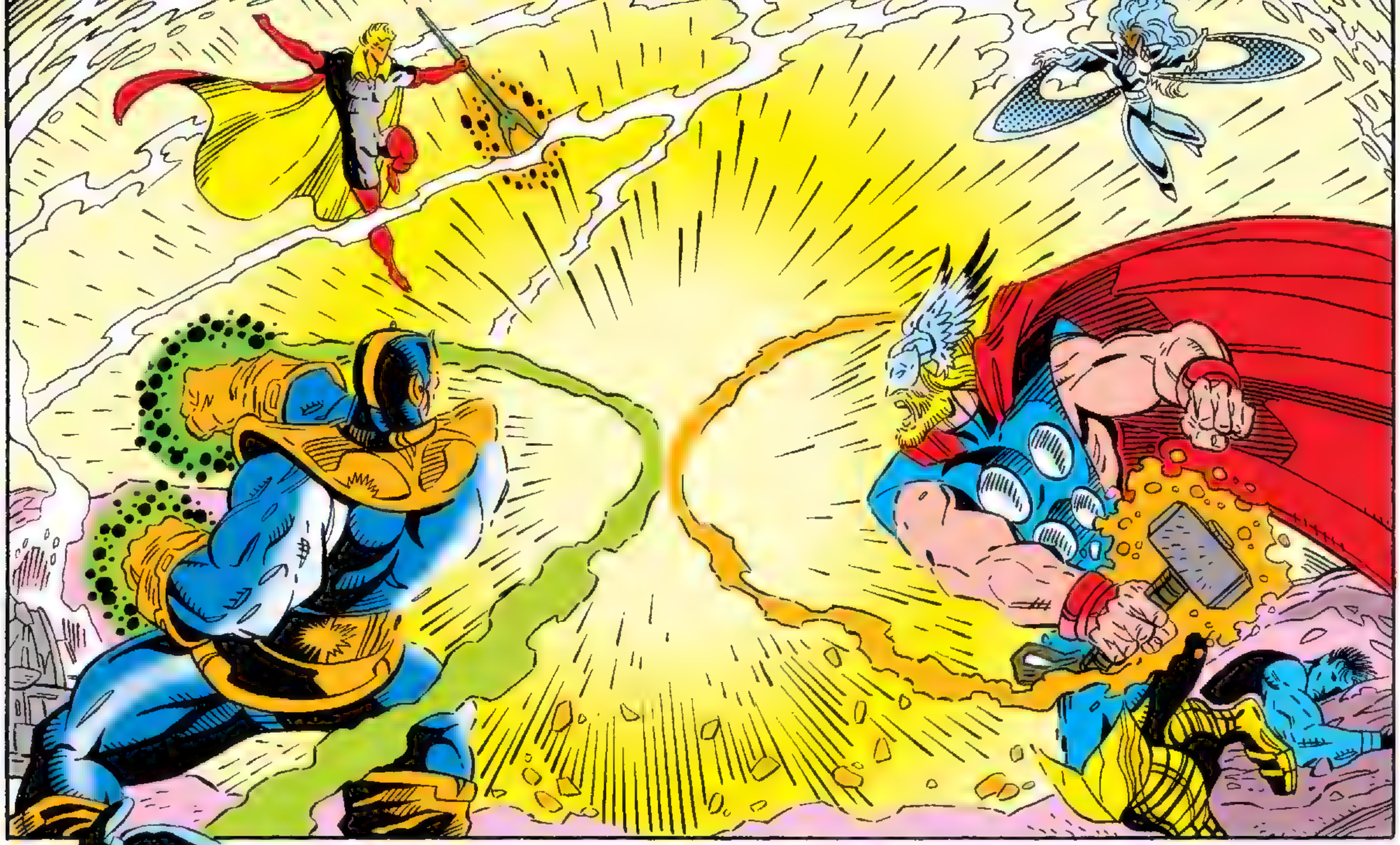
GOT HIM!
GOOD WORK, BOBBY!

HEY!
WHERE DID HE GO?

MUST BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE!
BUT WHERE?

GOTCHA!

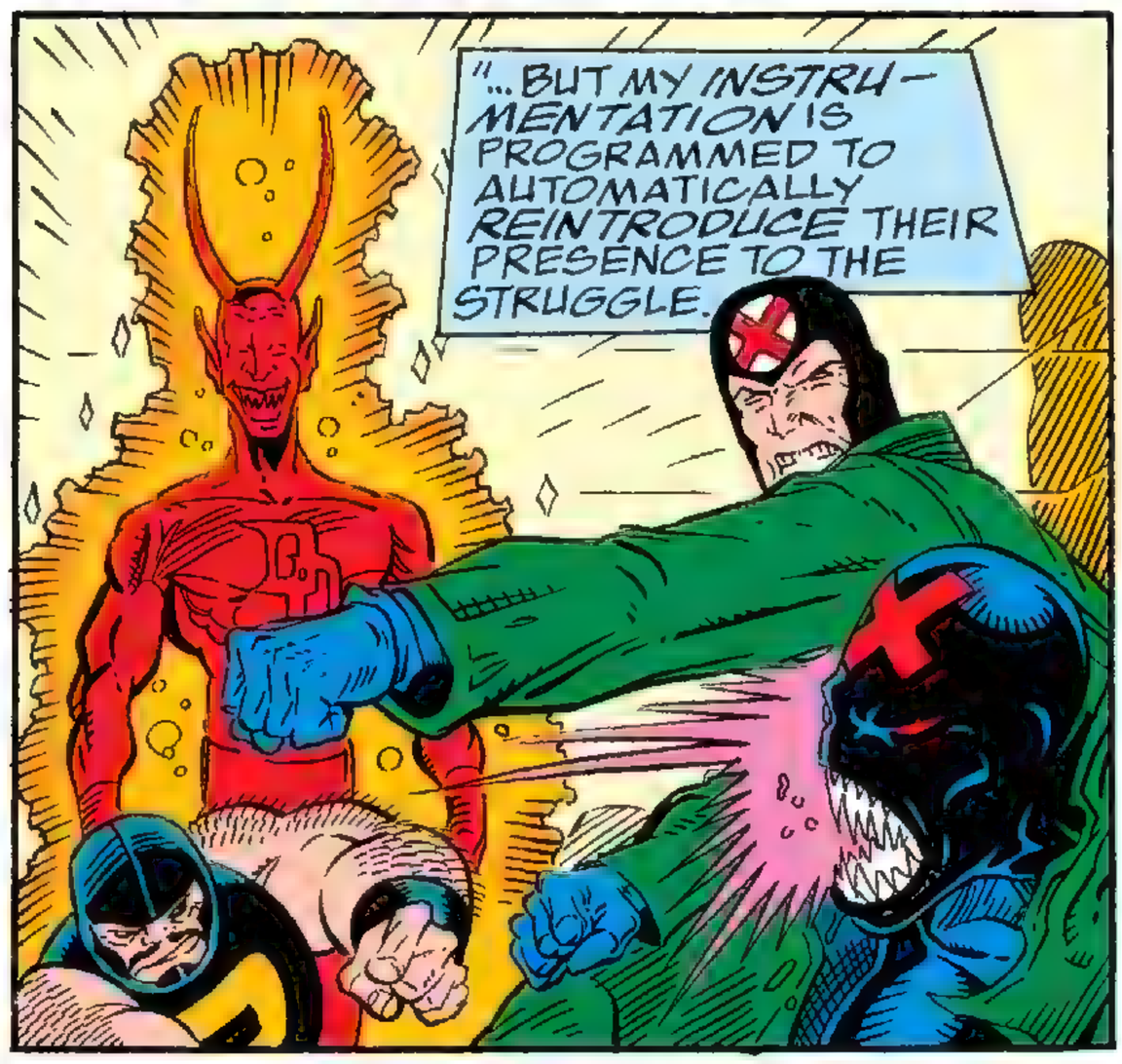
BEHIND YOU!
GOTCHA AGAIN!!
WOLVERINE! NOT WITH YOUR CLAWS!
AND FOR THE LAST TIME, SHORTY!
MS. RICHARDS?
SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, THANK YOU.

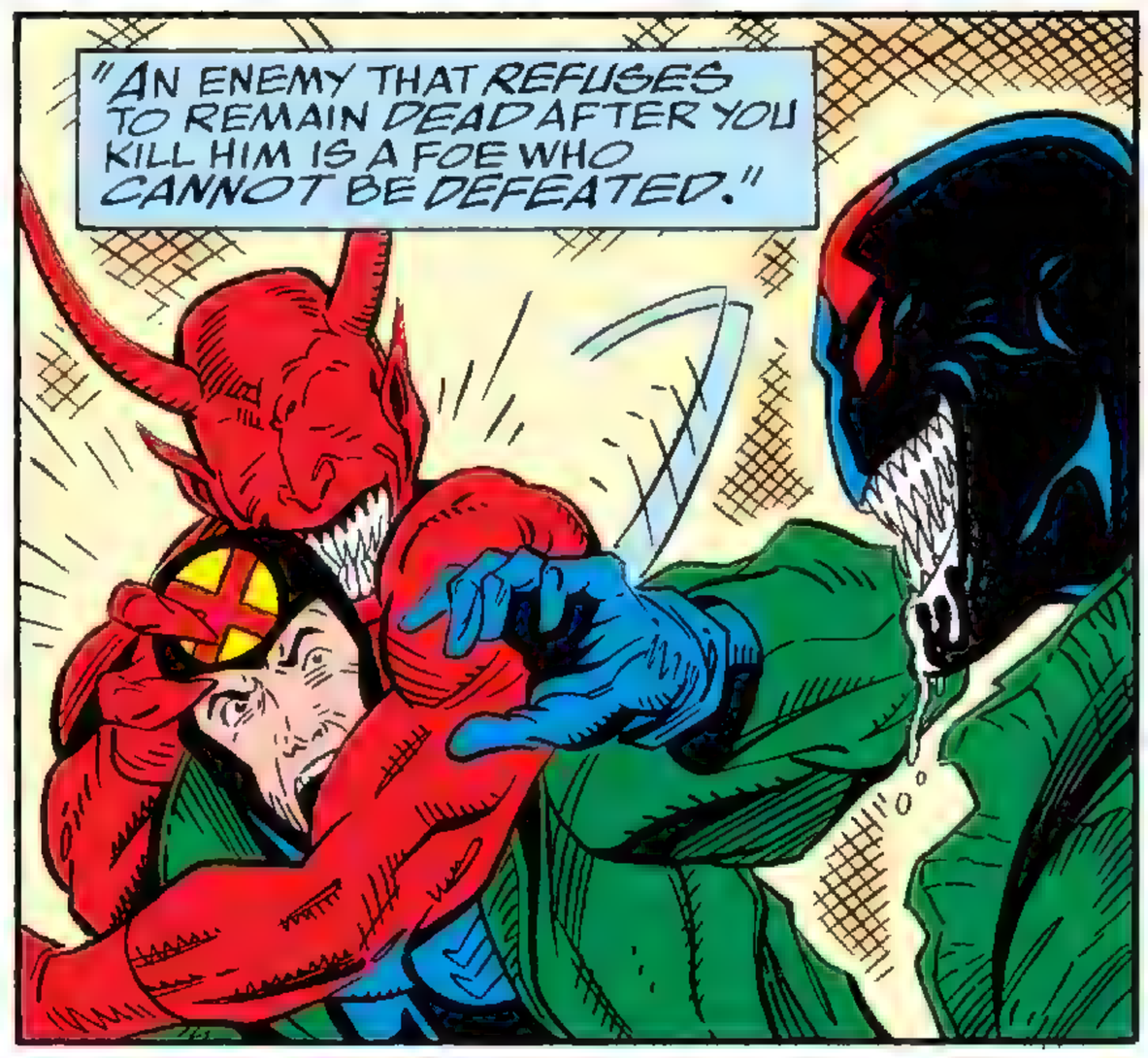


DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME MONITORING THE EARTHEN CONFLICT.
IT IS REALLY OF NO CONCERN TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
MY DOUBLES WILL PERFORM ADEQUATELY WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

"DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY POSSESS NOWHERE NEAR THE FIGHTING SPIRIT THE ORIGINALS DO, THE ADVANTAGE IS STILL THEIRS.

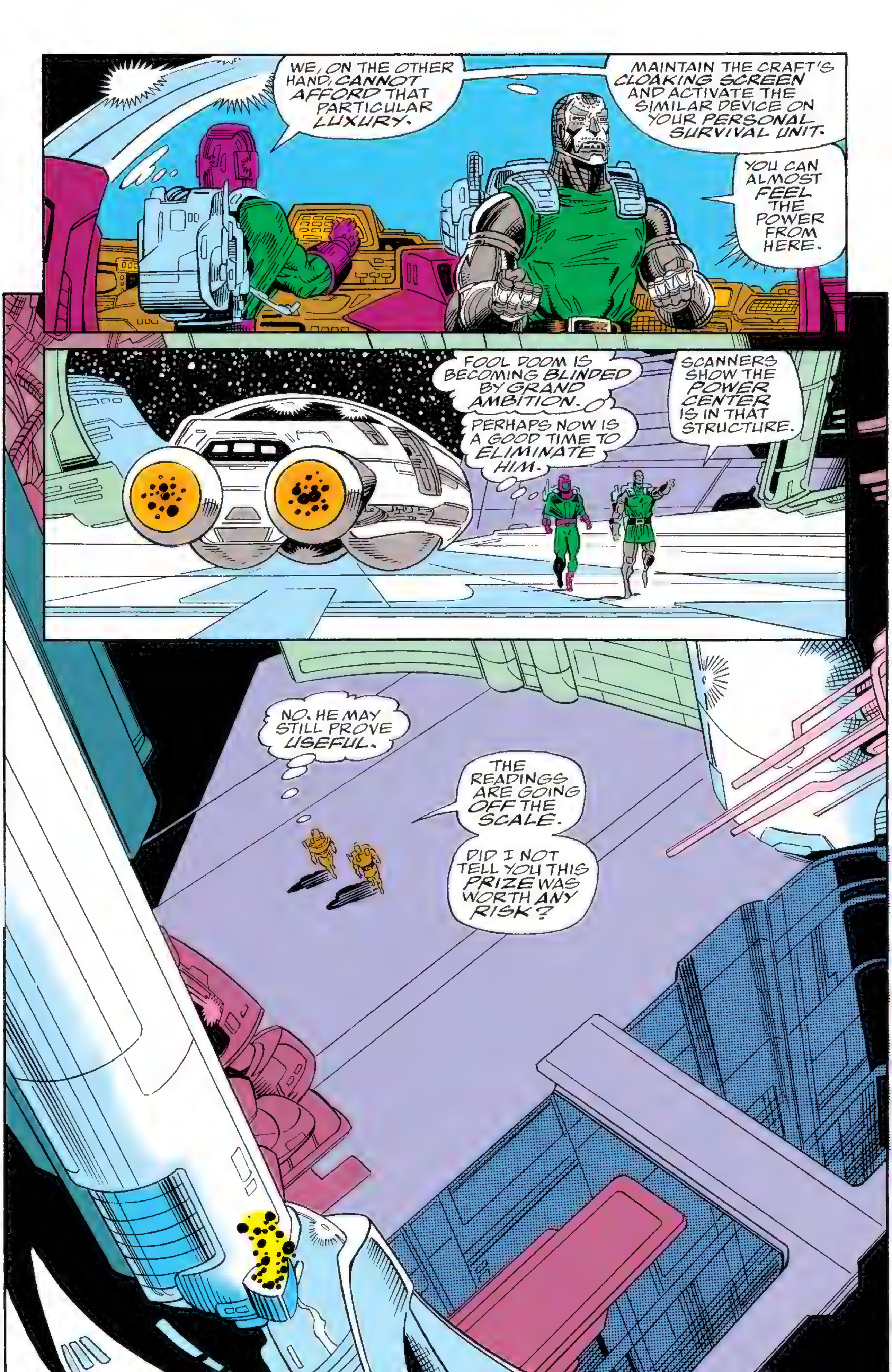
"THEY MAY FALL AND FADE FROM BATTLE...

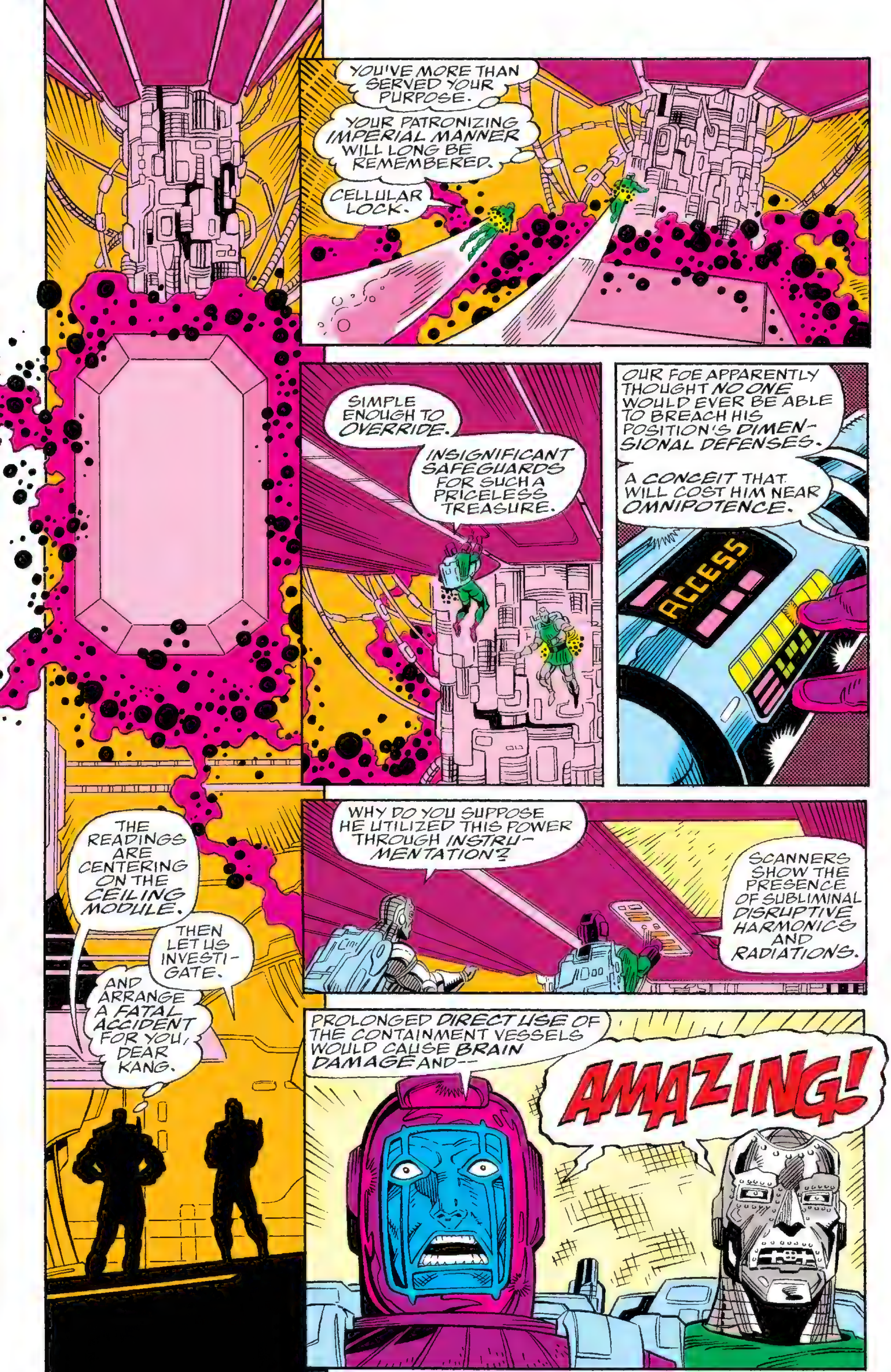

"...BUT MY INSTRU-MENTATION IS PROGRAMMED TO AUTOMATICALLY REINTRODUCE THEIR PRESENCE TO THE STRUGGLE.


"AN ENEMY THAT REFUSES TO REMAIN DEAD AFTER YOU KILL HIM IS A FOE WHO CANNOT BE DEFEATED."

BREAKING THROUGH TO THE DESIRED REALITY.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE LOCATING OUR MYSTERIOUS ADVERSARY'S STRONGHOLD.
INDEED. WITH MIGHT SUCH AS HIS, STEALTH NO LONGER NEED BE A CONSIDER-ATION.


WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CANNOT AFFORD THAT PARTICULAR LUXURY.
MAINTAIN THE CRAFT'S CLOAKING SCREEN AND ACTIVATE THE SIMILAR DEVICE ON YOUR PERSONAL SURVIVAL UNIT.
YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE POWER FROM HERE.
FOOL DOOM IS BECOMING BLINDED BY GRAND AMBITION.
PERHAPS NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO ELIMINATE HIM.
SCANNERS SHOW THE POWER CENTER IS IN THAT STRUCTURE.
NO. HE MAY STILL PROVE USEFUL.
THE READINGS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE.
DID I NOT TELL YOU THIS PRIZE WAS WORTH ANY RISK?


YOU'VE MORE THAN SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
YOUR PATRONIZING IMPERIAL MANNER WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED.
CELLULAR LOCK.
SIMPLE ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE.
INSIGNIFICANT SAFEGUARDS FOR SUCH A PRICELESS TREASURE.
OUR FOE APPARENTLY THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO BREACH HIS POSITION'S DIMENSIONAL DEFENSES.
A CONCEIT THAT WILL COST HIM NEAR OMNIPOTENCE.
ACCESS
THE READINGS ARE CENTERING ON THE CEILING MODULE.
THEN LET US INVESTIGATE.
AND ARRANGE A FATAL ACCIDENT FOR YOU, DEAR KANG.
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE UTILIZED THIS POWER THROUGH INSTRUMENTATION?
SCANNERS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF SUBLIMINAL DISRUPTIVE HARMONICS AND RADIATIONS.
PROLONGED DIRECT USE OF THE CONTAINMENT VESSELS WOULD CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE AND--
AMAZING!

INCREDIBLE DURABILITY, I MUST SAY.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PUT YOU THREE DOWN?

MORE THAN YOU CRETINS POSSESS.

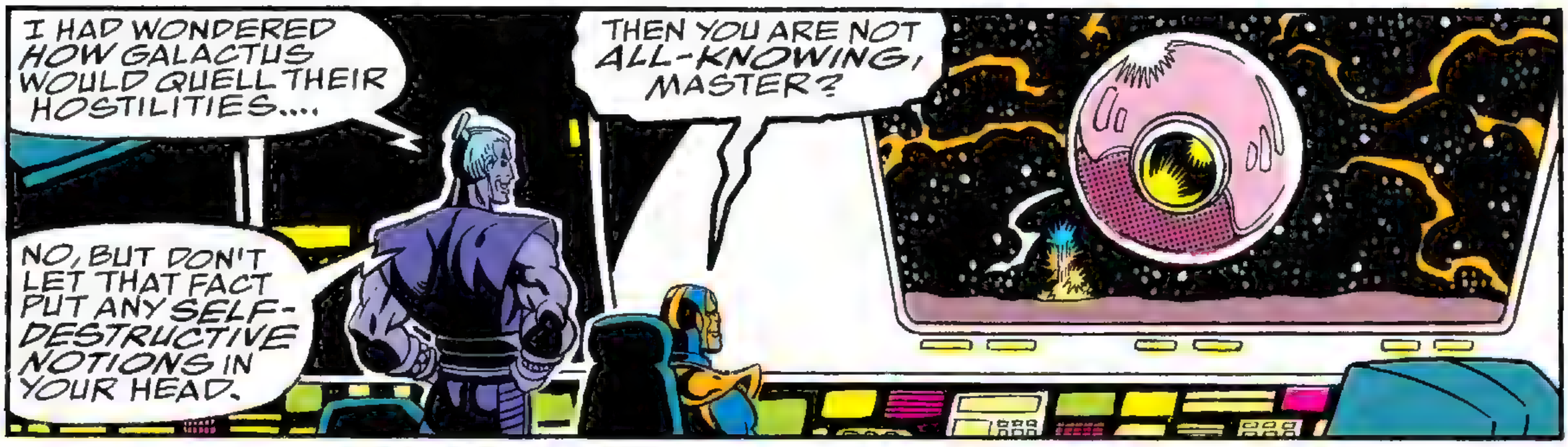
THAT WE SHALL SEE, TITAN.

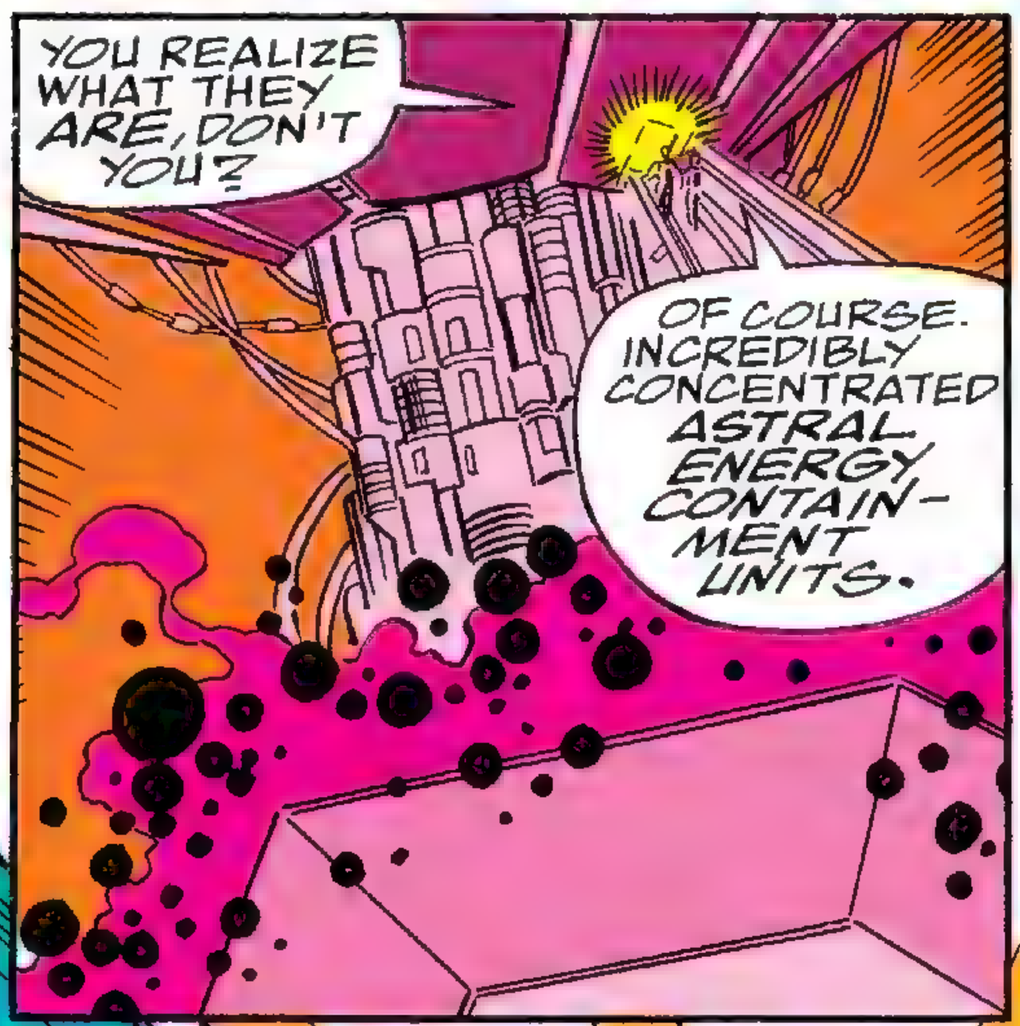
NO, WE SHALL NOT, OLYMPIAN.

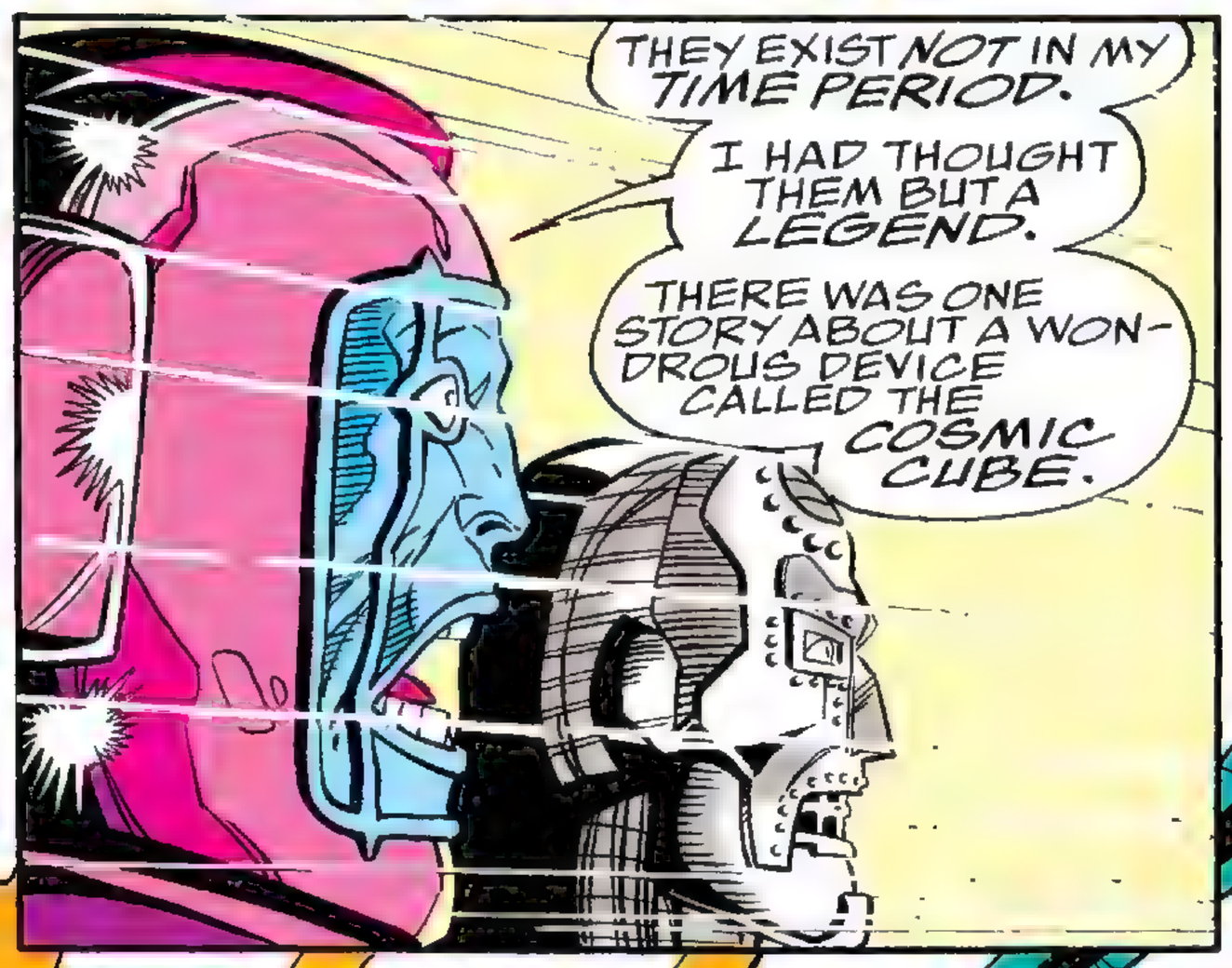
FOR ONE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR WHO WILL SADLY PUT AN END TO ALL THIS DELIGHTFUL MAYHEM.

GALACTUS.

A STASIS FIELD AND TRANSPORT BEAM SHOULD PUT AN END TO THEIR PETTY SQUABBLING.
THANOS, WARLOCK AND MANY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
THEIR PRESENCE IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
BUT THEY MAY POSSESS INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OF SOME USE.
TRUE, FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON THIS AFFAIR MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL.
VERY WELL...







WELL, KANG, YOU ARE NOW LOOKING AT FIVE COSMIC CUBES!

NOT ALL CUBES, BUT ALL PROTECTED FROM THEFT BY POWERFUL EXPLOSIVES SET TO IGNITE IF TAMPERING OCCURS.

THIS IS A SAFEGUARD I CANNOT OVERRIDE FROM HERE.

THEN WE MUST SEIZE OUR ENEMY'S CONTROL CENTER.

WHICH I SUSPECT WILL BE NO EASY ACCOMPLISHMENT.

ONE WE MAY FAIL AT...

...WHICH IS WHY WE SHALL LEAVE BEHIND A TIMED EXPLOSIVE CHARGE OF OUR OWN.

EXCEPT DOOM.

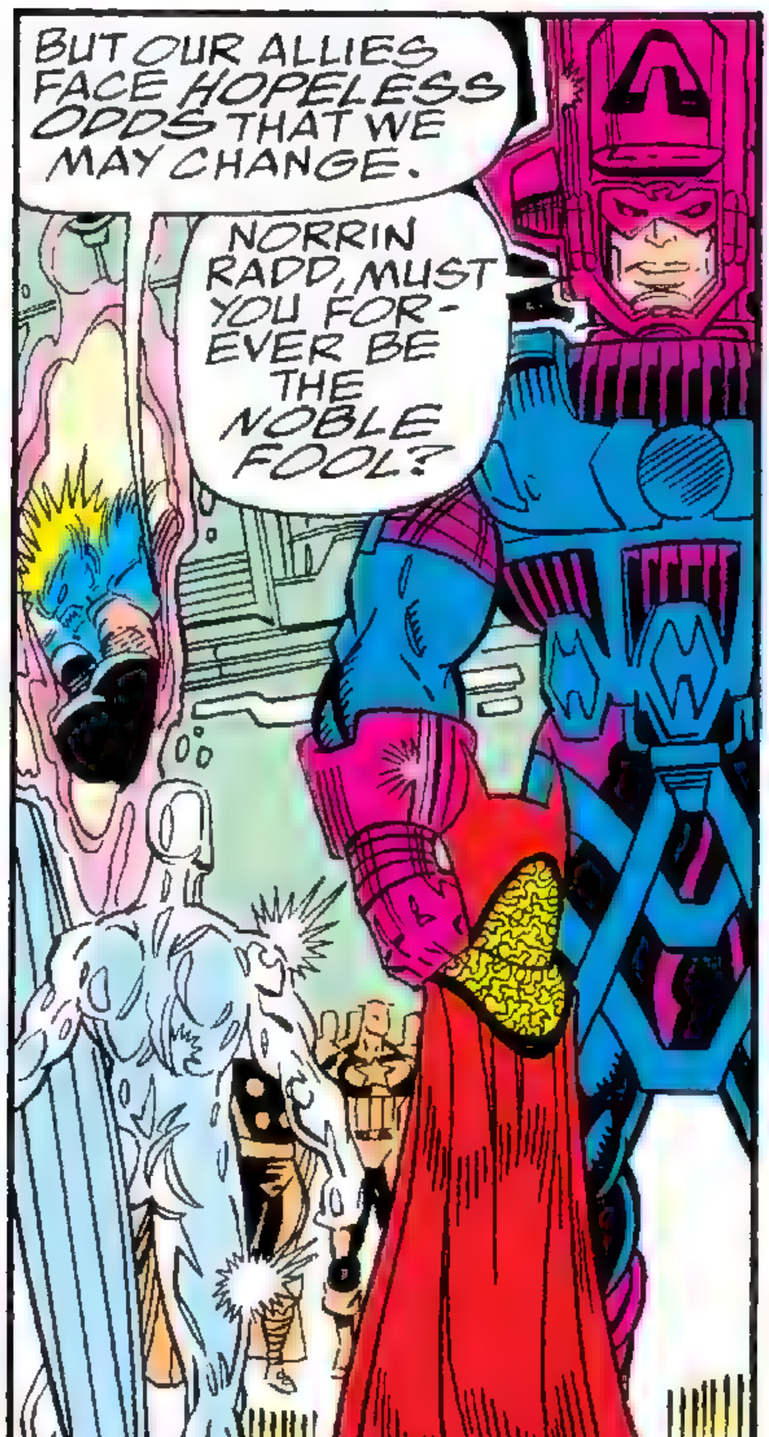
IF SUCH POWER BE DENIED TO KANG, LET NO MAN POSSESS IT.

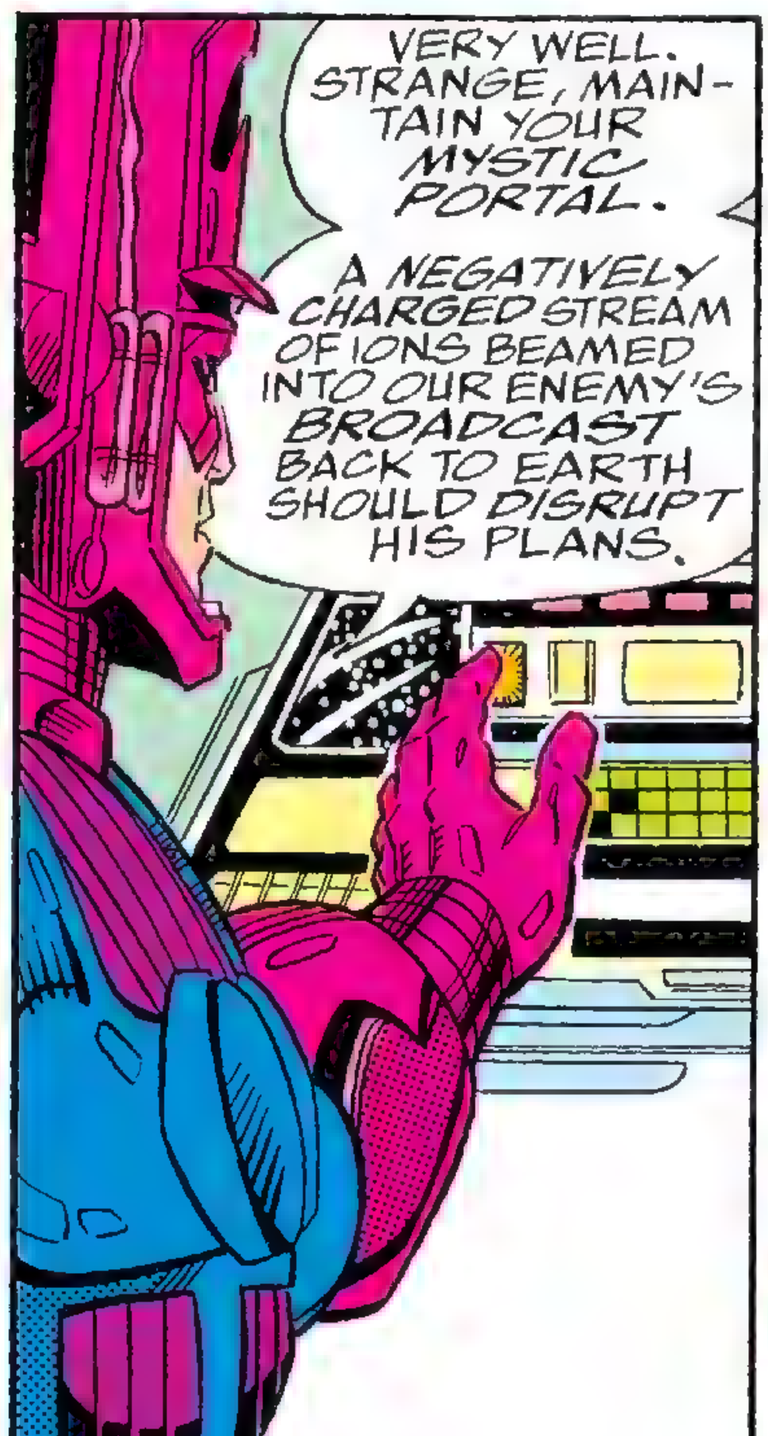
I KNEW THE PRESENCE OF EARTH'S HEROES MEANT BIG TROUBLE BACK HOME.

GALACTUS, WE MUST RETURN TO OUR OWN REALITY AND AID OUR FRIENDS.

IMPOSSIBLE.

I CURRENTLY HAVE NEED OF STRANGE'S TALENTS.





CRYSTAL! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.

STRANGEST METAMORPHOSIS I EVER SAW.

META-WHAT?

THE QUICKEST WAY TO GAIN THE INTELLIGENCE I SEEK IS THROUGH A CEREBRAL SCAN OF ALL RECENT MEMORIES.

STEADY YOURSELVES, MORTALS.

THIS UNIT IS NOT ADEQUATELY INSULATED FOR THE SENSITIVITIES OF YOUR FRAIL SYSTEMS.

AT FIRST ALL EXPERIENCE NO MORE THAN A MILD FEELING OF DISORIENTATION, HARDLY NOTICEABLE...

THEN A FLOOD OF DIVERSE MEMORIES POURS INWARD·NONE ESCAPES THE ONSLAUGHT.
DOZENS OF PERSPECTIVES COLLIDE AND MERGE.
A DEVASTATING EXPERIENCE.
BUT AN ENLIGHTENING ONE.

INTERESTING.

VERY INTERESTING.

THANOS! HE'S ON THE SIDE OF THE--

--ANGELS THIS TIME!

ANYONE GOT AN ASPIRIN?

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS FOR A CHANGE?

DISTASTEFUL.

BUT IT IS MY UNIVERSE AS WELL.

WHAT'S THANOS UP TO NOW?

PROBABLY THE SAME THING GALACTUS IS DOING-- TRYING TO FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE.

UNUSUAL DATA YOUR SENSORS ARE PICKING UP.

IT WOULD APPEAR THE MAGUS HAS UPPED THE ANTE IN THIS GAME.

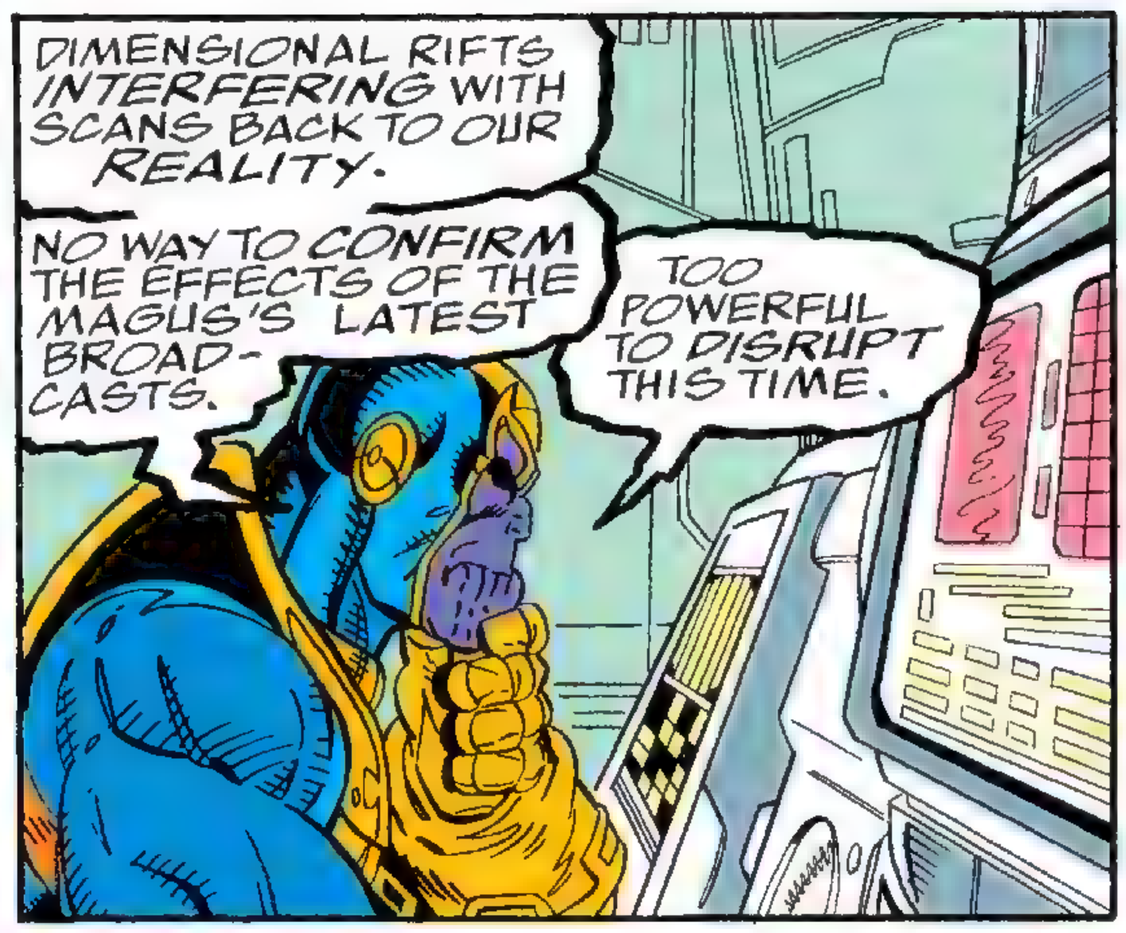
OUR COMPANIONS ARE GOING TO BE UPSET WHEN THEY FIND OUT.

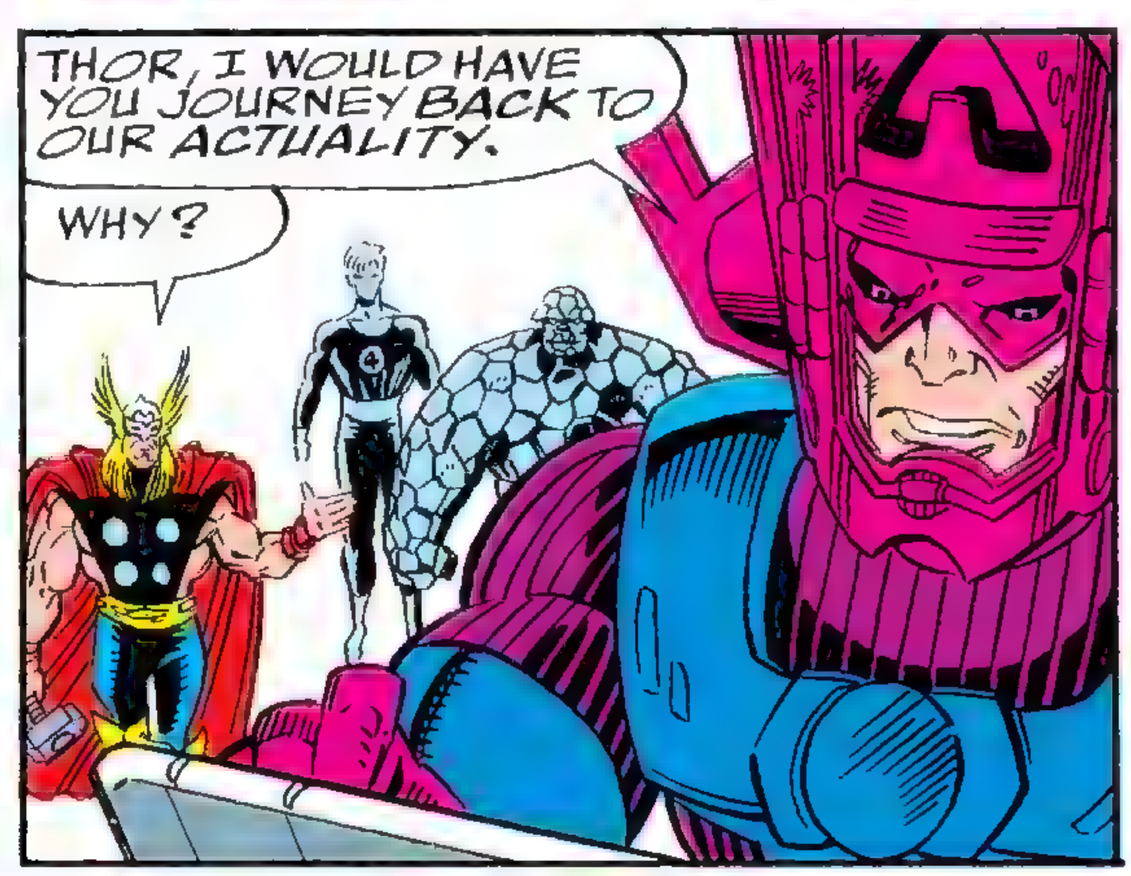
WELL, WITH GALACTUS ON THE JOB, WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

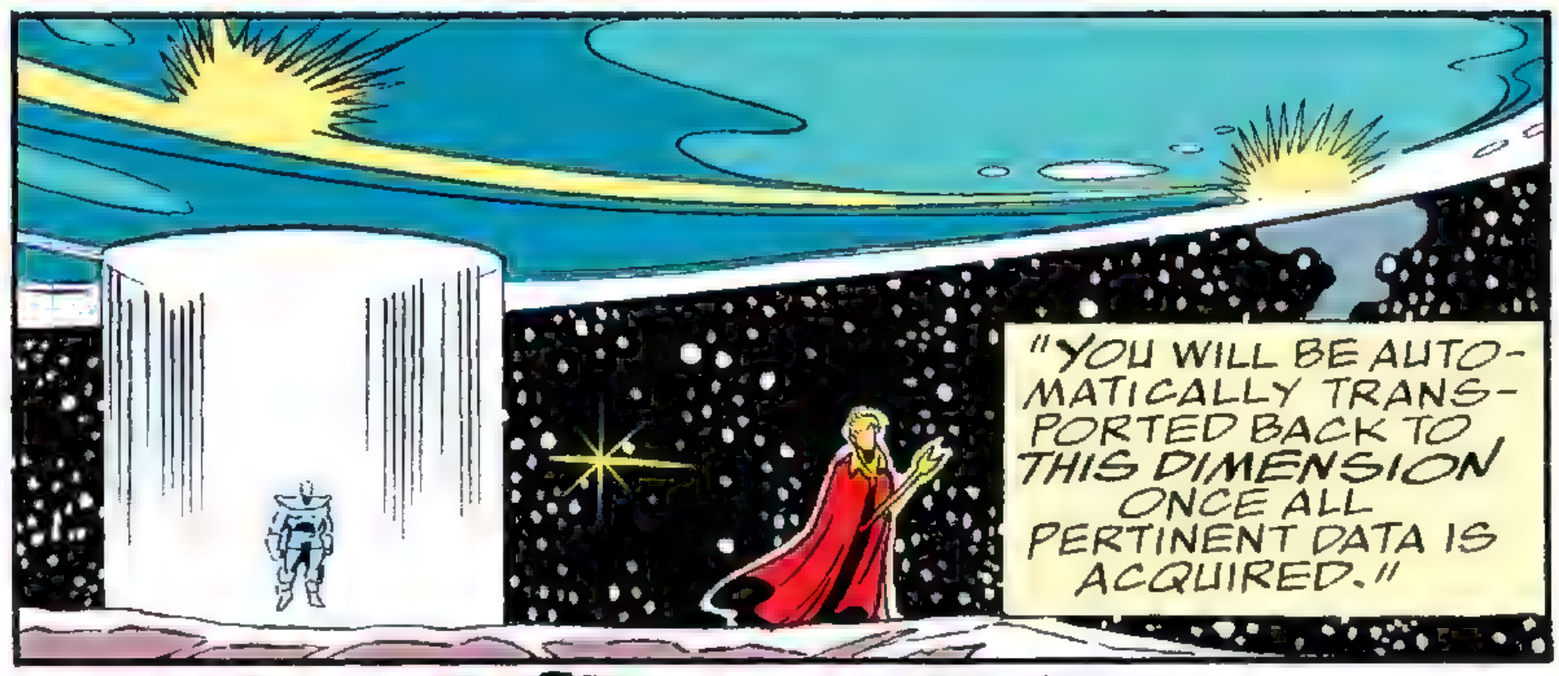
HE CAN KICK ANYONE'S TAIL WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.

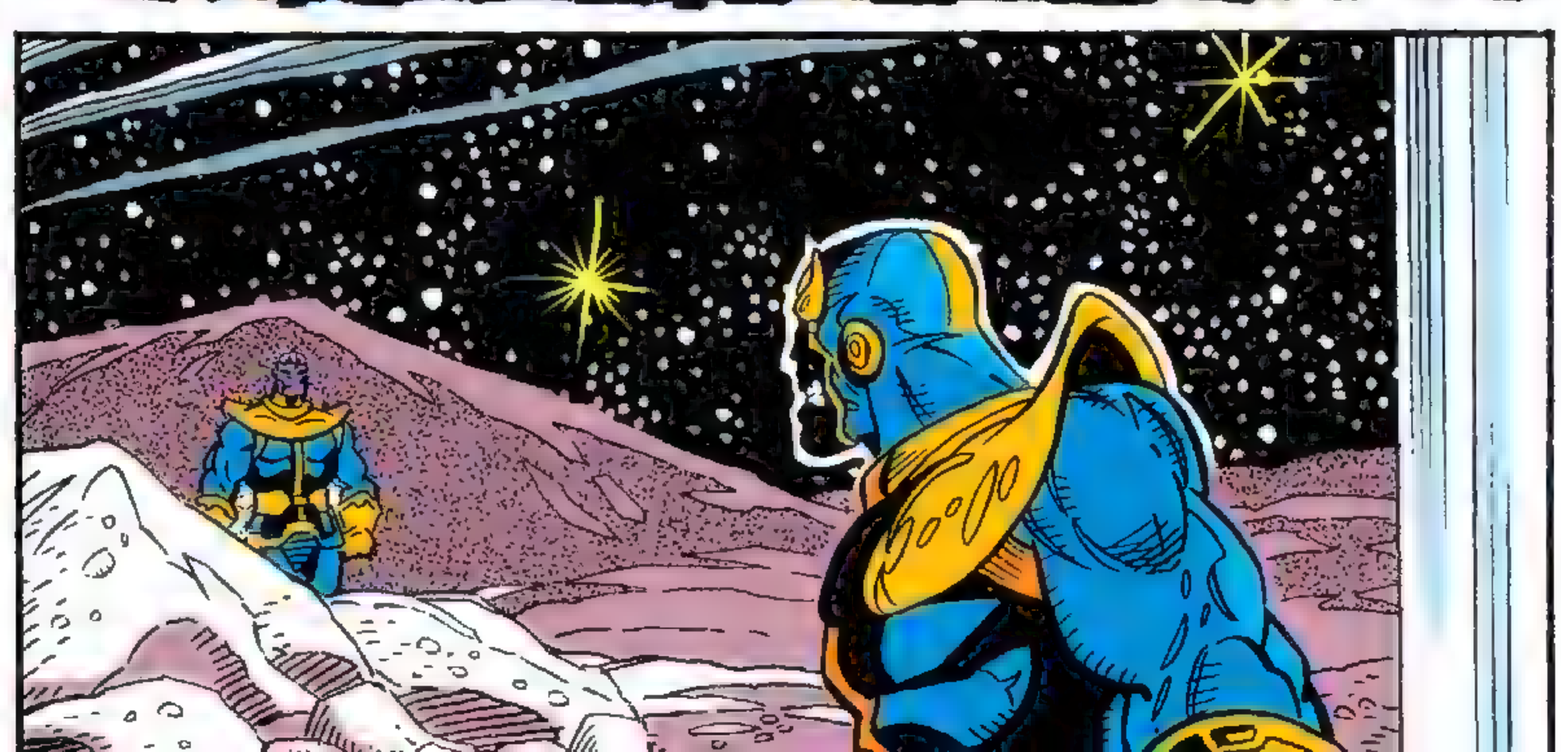
POWER ALONE WILL NOT WIN THIS DAY.

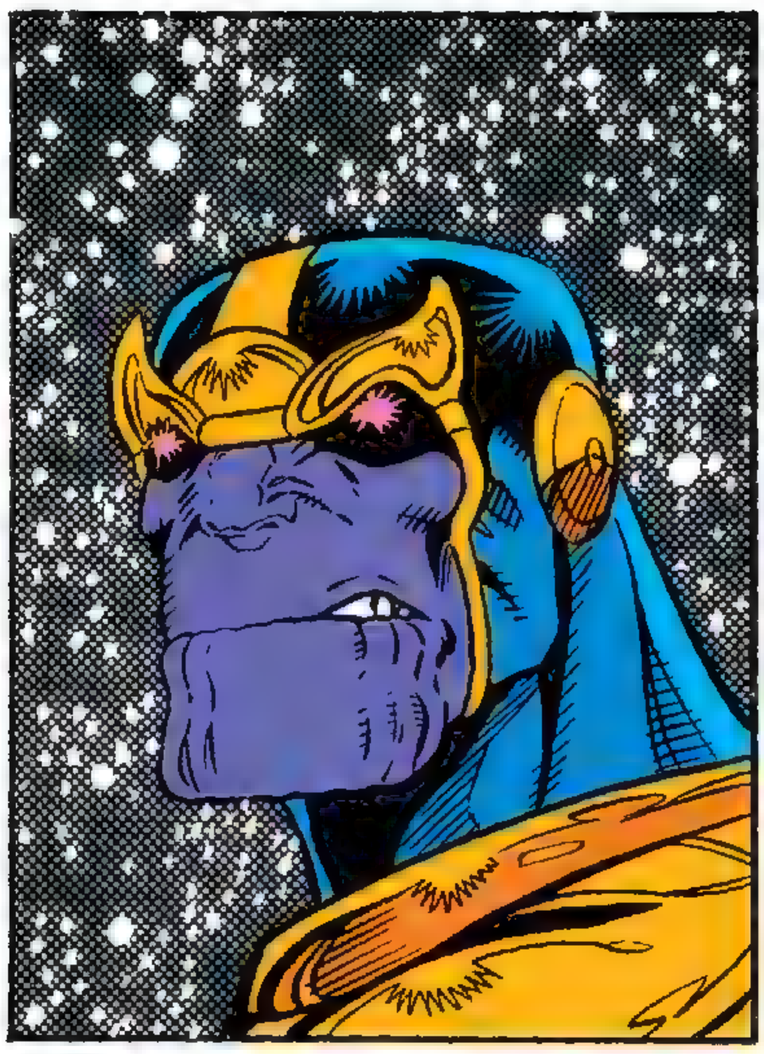
IS HE SAYING WHAT I THINK HE'S SAYING?

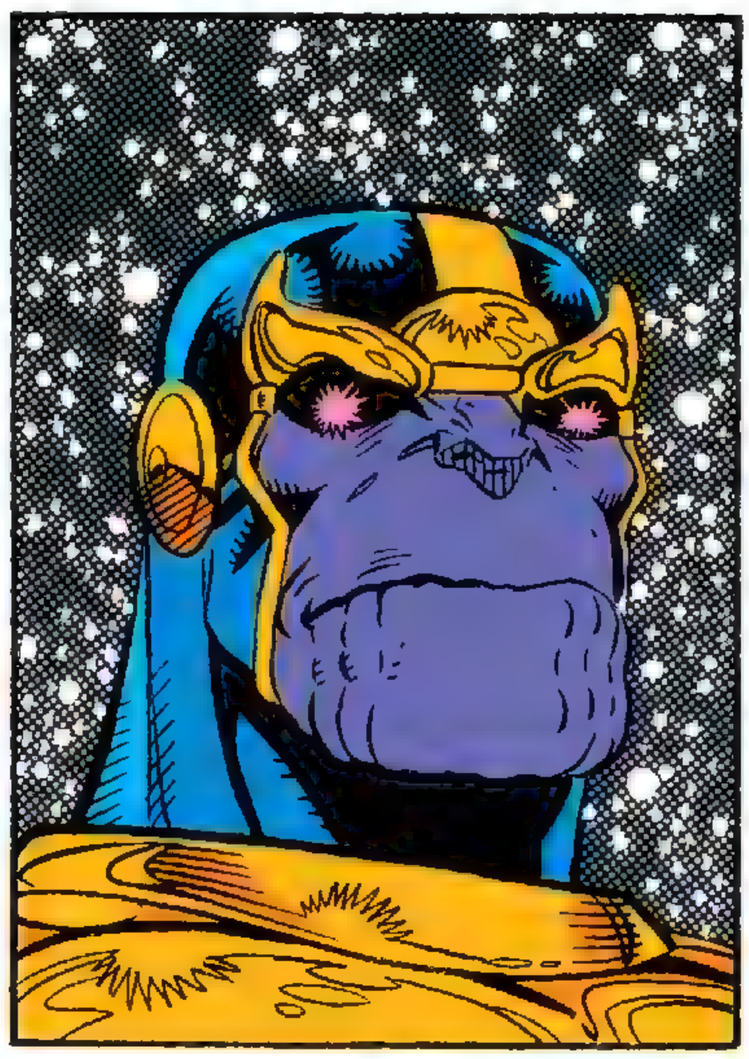


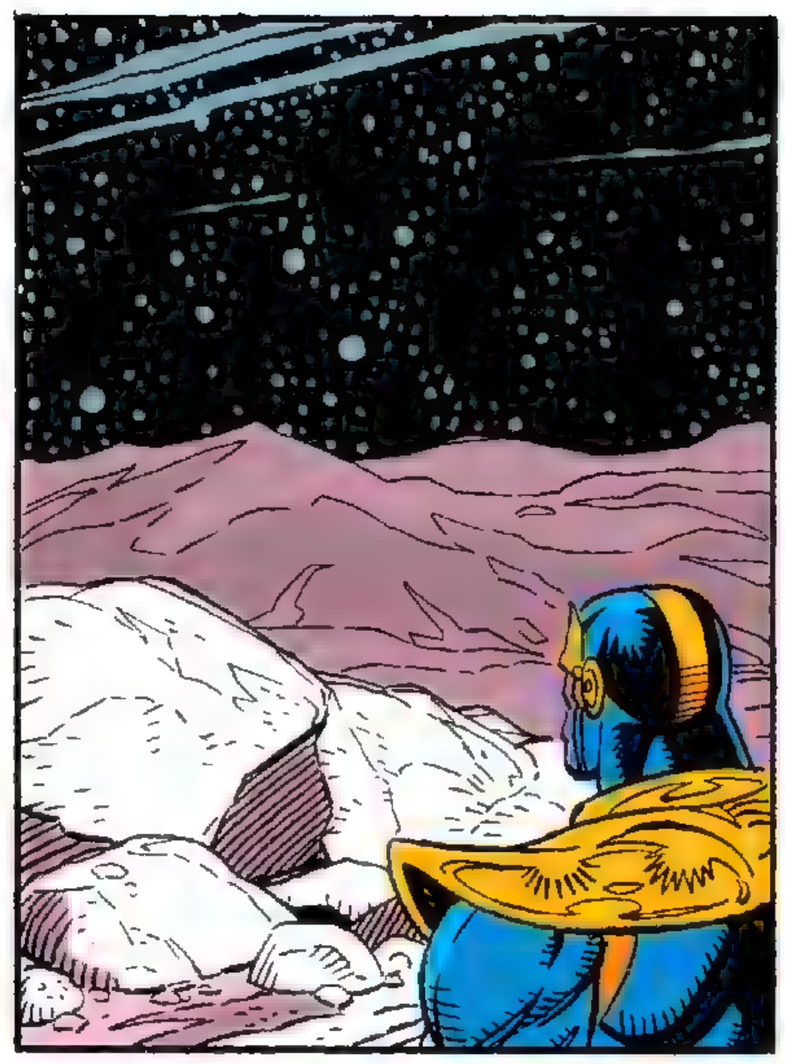




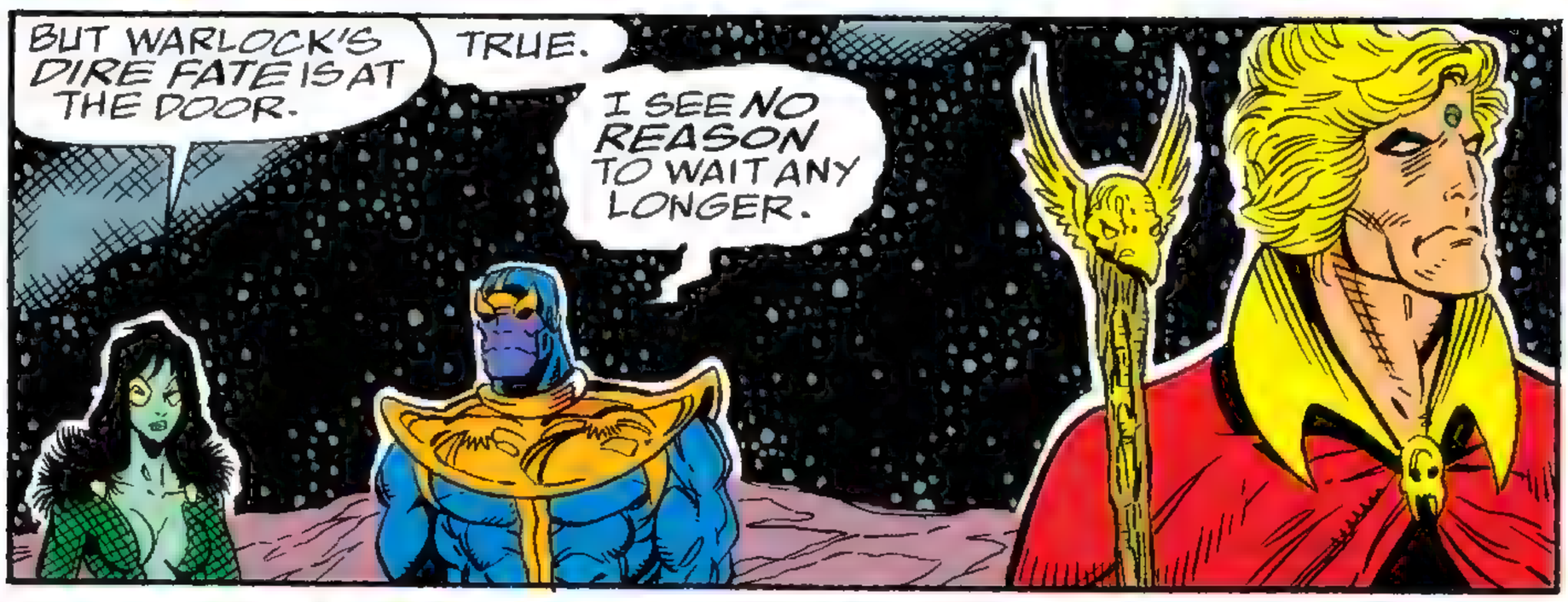






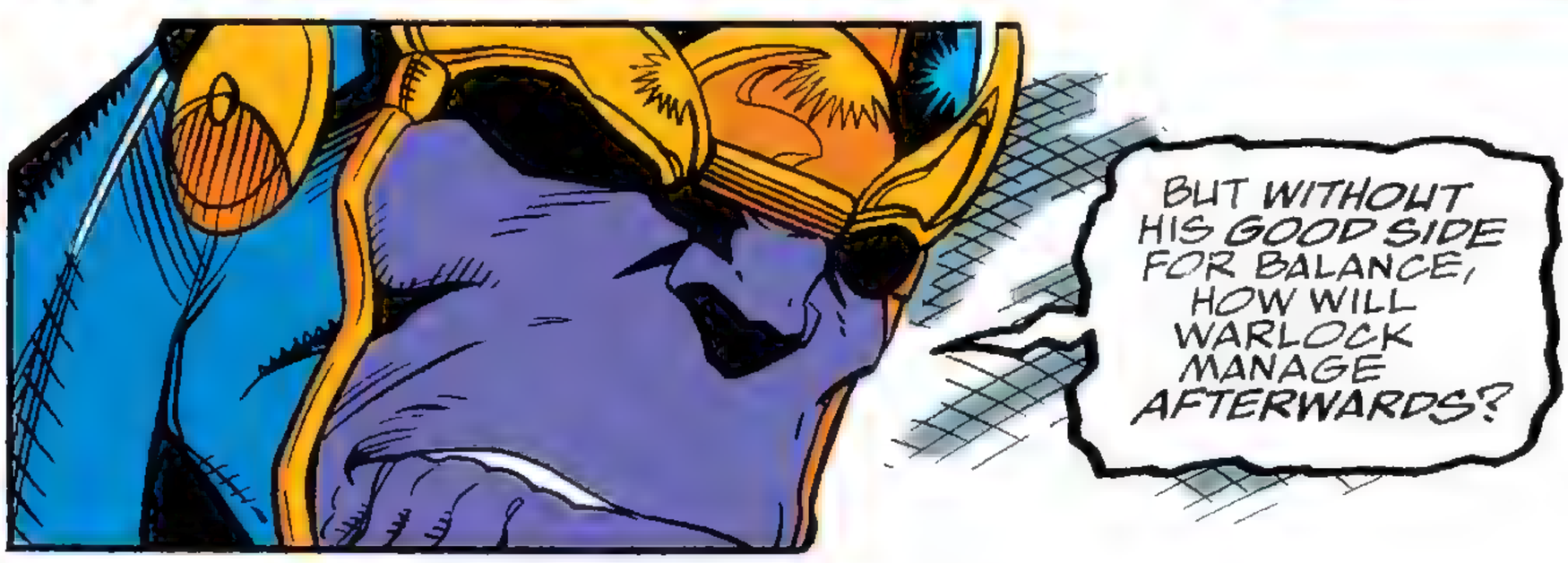


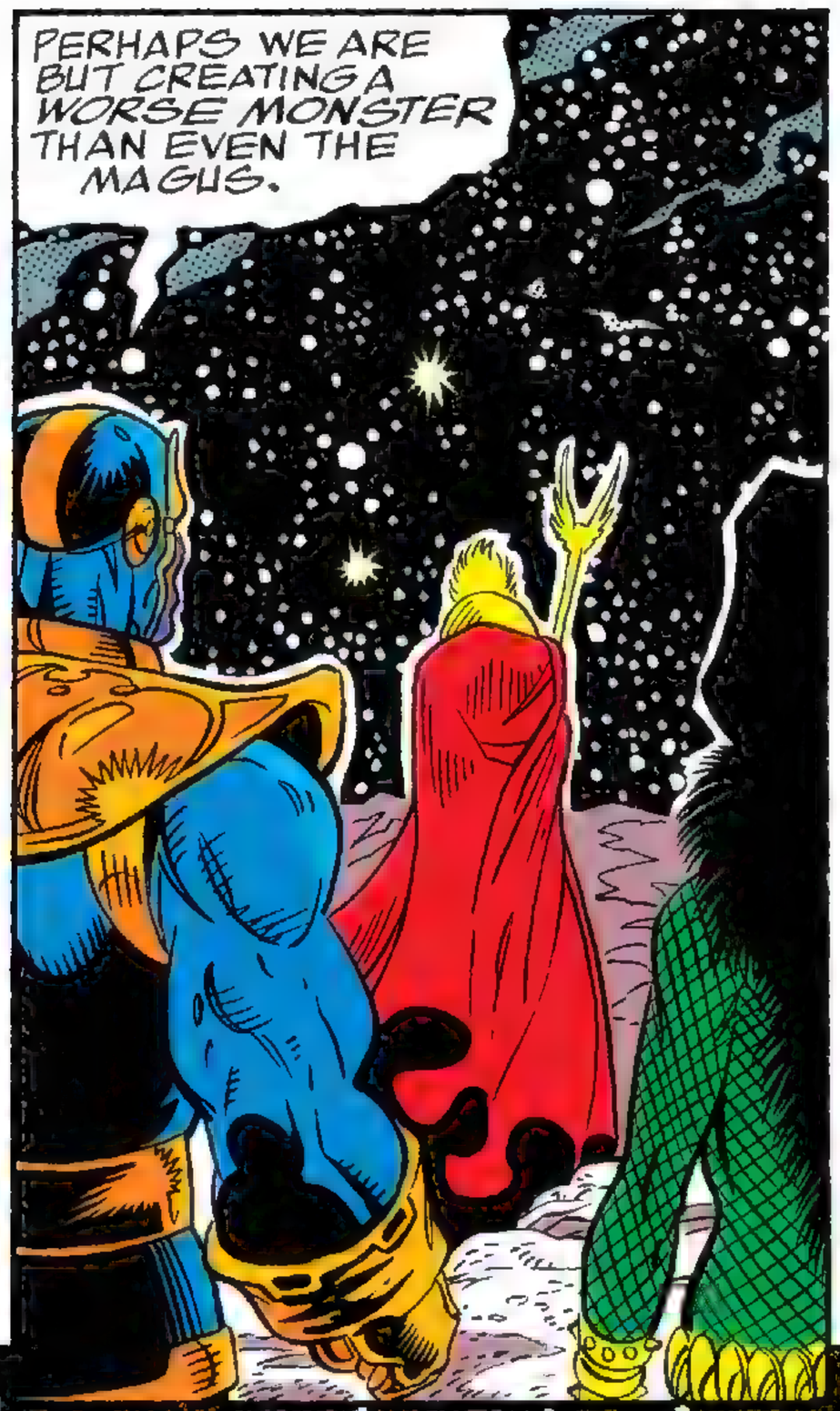
WE ALL SEEM TO BE HAUNTED BY UNWANTED DESTINY THIS DAY.

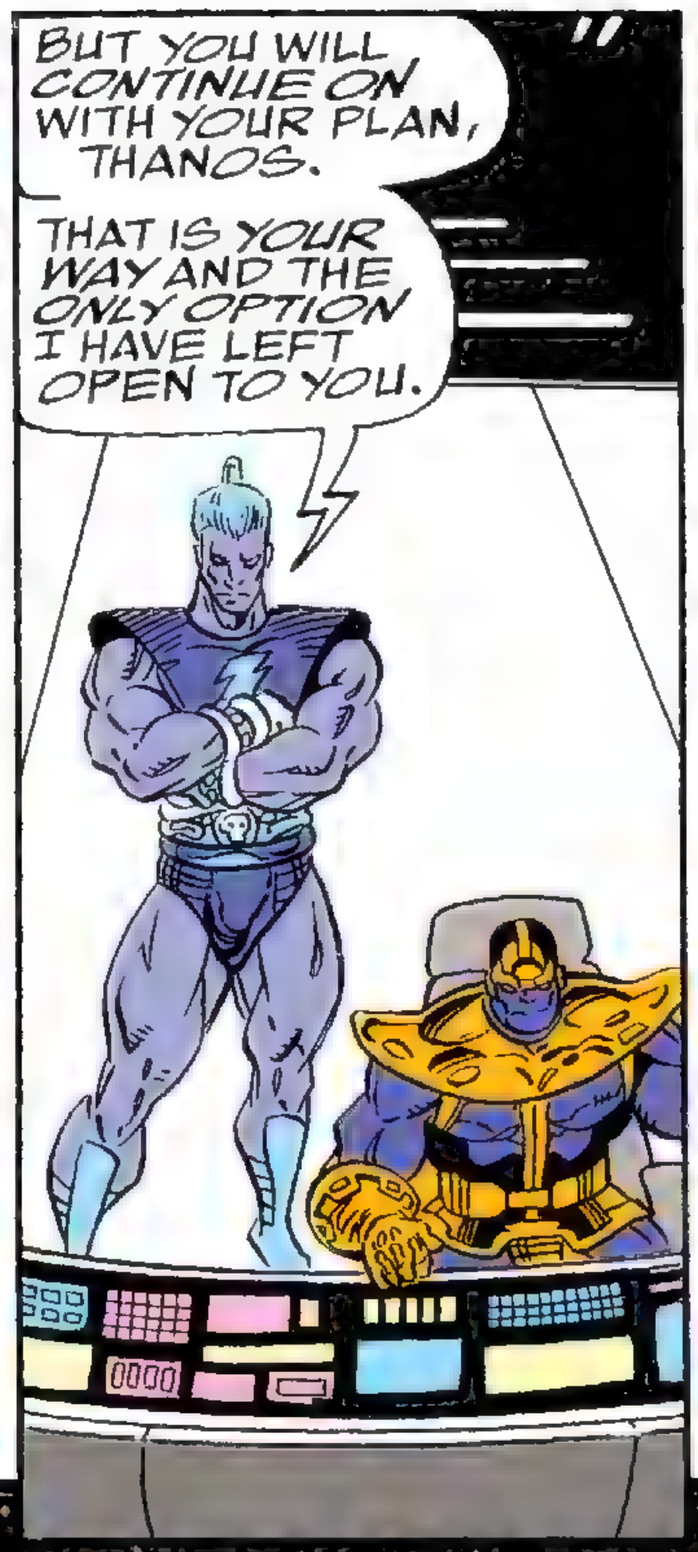

BUT WARLOCK'S DIRE FATE IS AT THE DOOR.
TRUE.
I SEE NO REASON TO WAIT ANY LONGER.

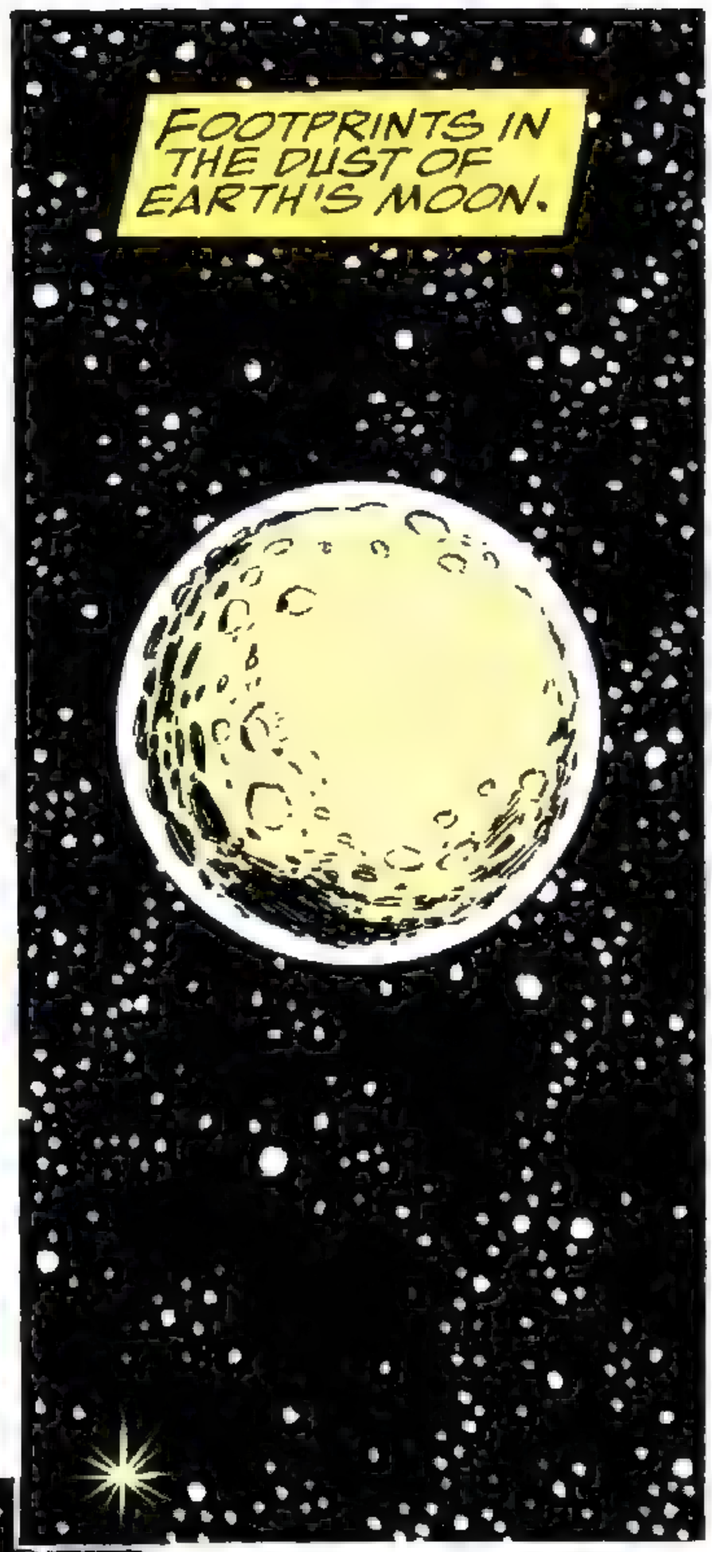
WILL ADAM BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT?
WHEN DIVINE, HE EXPELLED ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM HIMSELF, THUS RE-CREATING THE MAGUS.

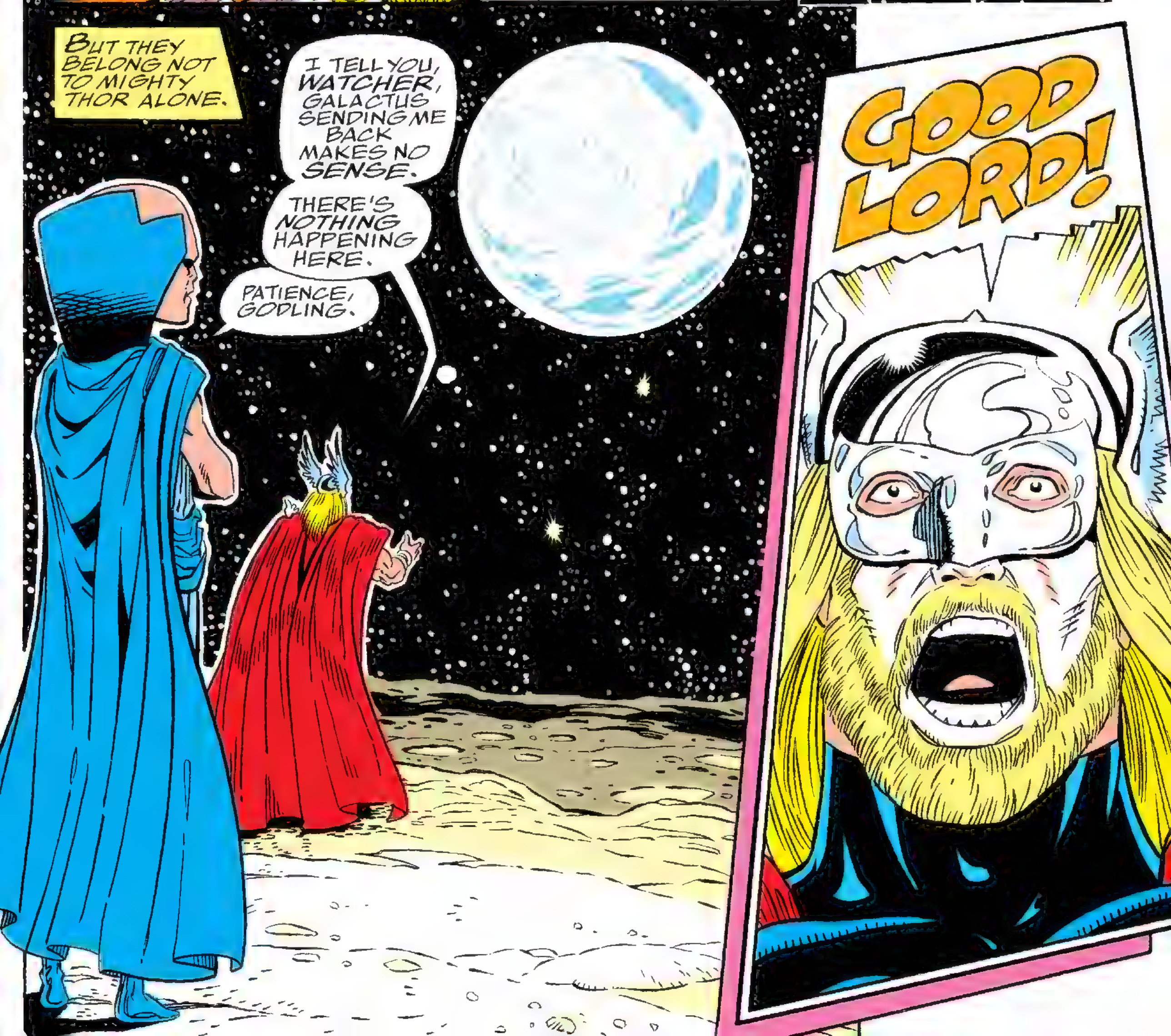
NOW WE ARE EXPECTING HIM TO REABSORB THAT EVIL.
IT IS THE ONLY WAY I SEE TO DEFEAT THE MAGUS.


BUT WITHOUT HIS GOOD SIDE FOR BALANCE, HOW WILL WARLOCK MANAGE AFTERWARDS?


PERHAPS WE ARE BUT CREATING A WORSE MONSTER THAN EVEN THE MAGUS.


BUT YOU WILL CONTINUE ON WITH YOUR PLAN, THANOS.
THAT IS YOUR WAY AND THE ONLY OPTION I HAVE LEFT OPEN TO YOU.


FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST OF EARTH'S MOON.


BUT THEY BELONG NOT TO MIGHTY THOR ALONE.
I TELL YOU, WATCHER, GALACTUS SENDING ME BACK MAKES NO SENSE.
THERE'S NOTHING HAPPENING HERE.
PATIENCE, GODLING.
GOOD LORD!

"THERE'RE TWO EARTHS OUT THERE!"

"AND NOW ALSO TWO MOONS, FRIEND THOR."

"YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?"

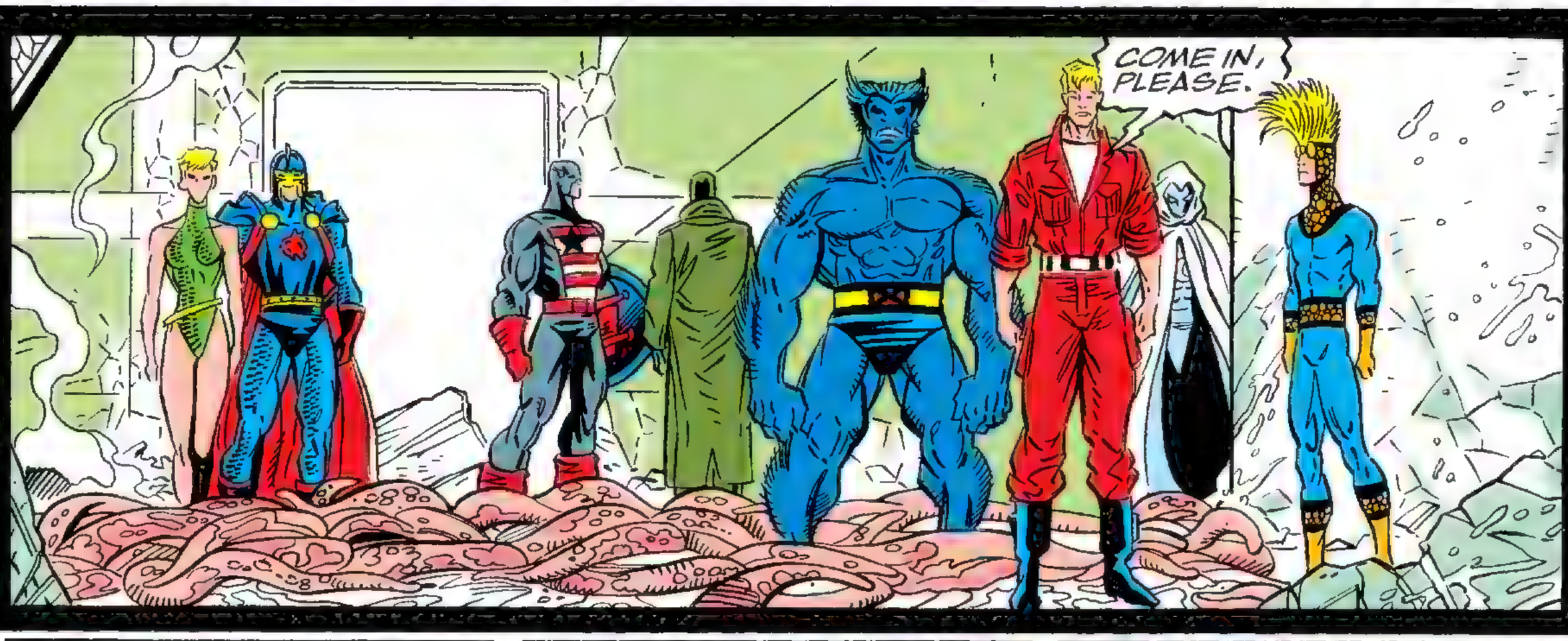
"NOT PRECISELY, ONLY THAT A GRAND COSMIC EVENT WAS IMMINENT."

WONDER IF THEY'RE EVEN AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING BACK ON EARTH.

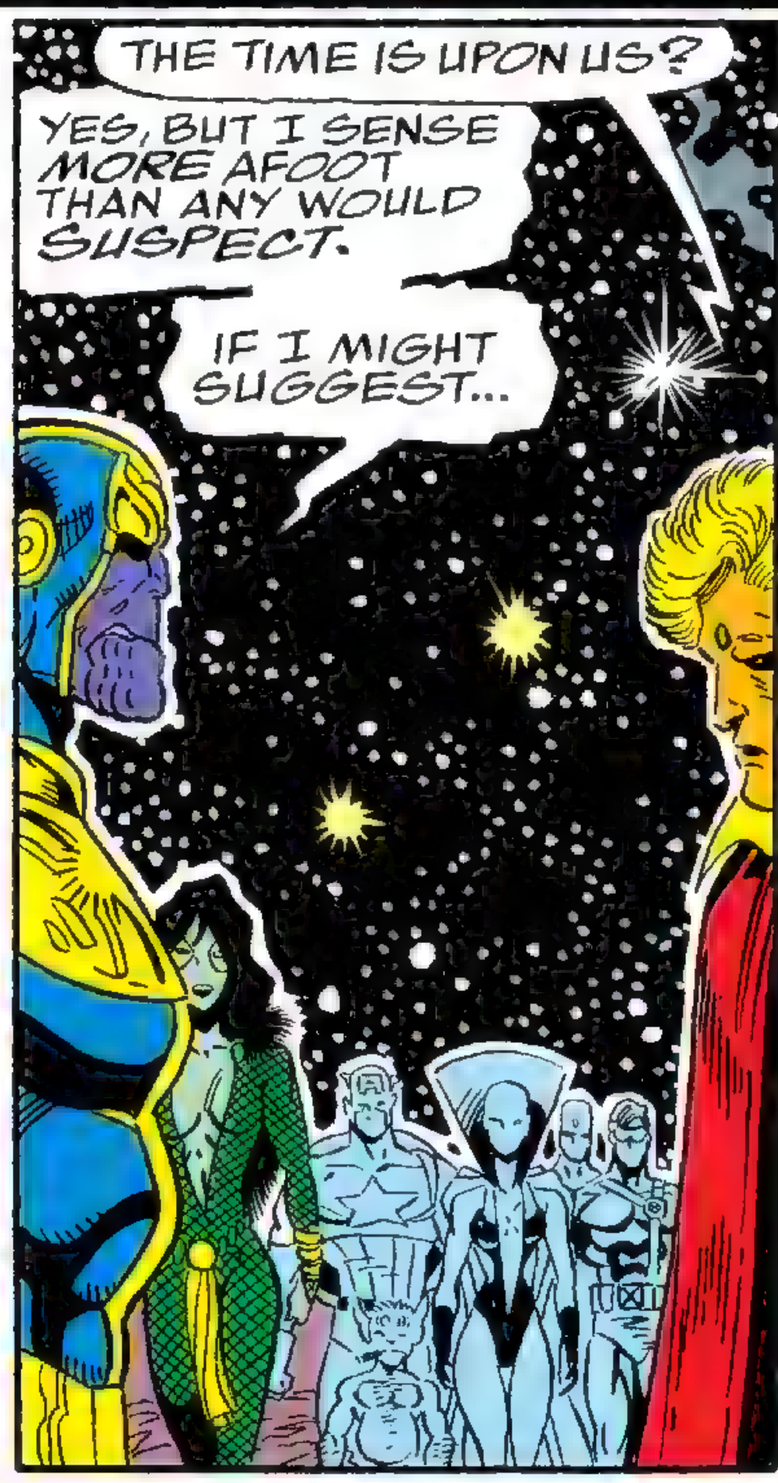
BETTER CONTACT SOMEONE ON THIS AVENGERS' COMMUNICARD THEY GAVE ME.

THOR TO ANY AVENGER LISTENING!

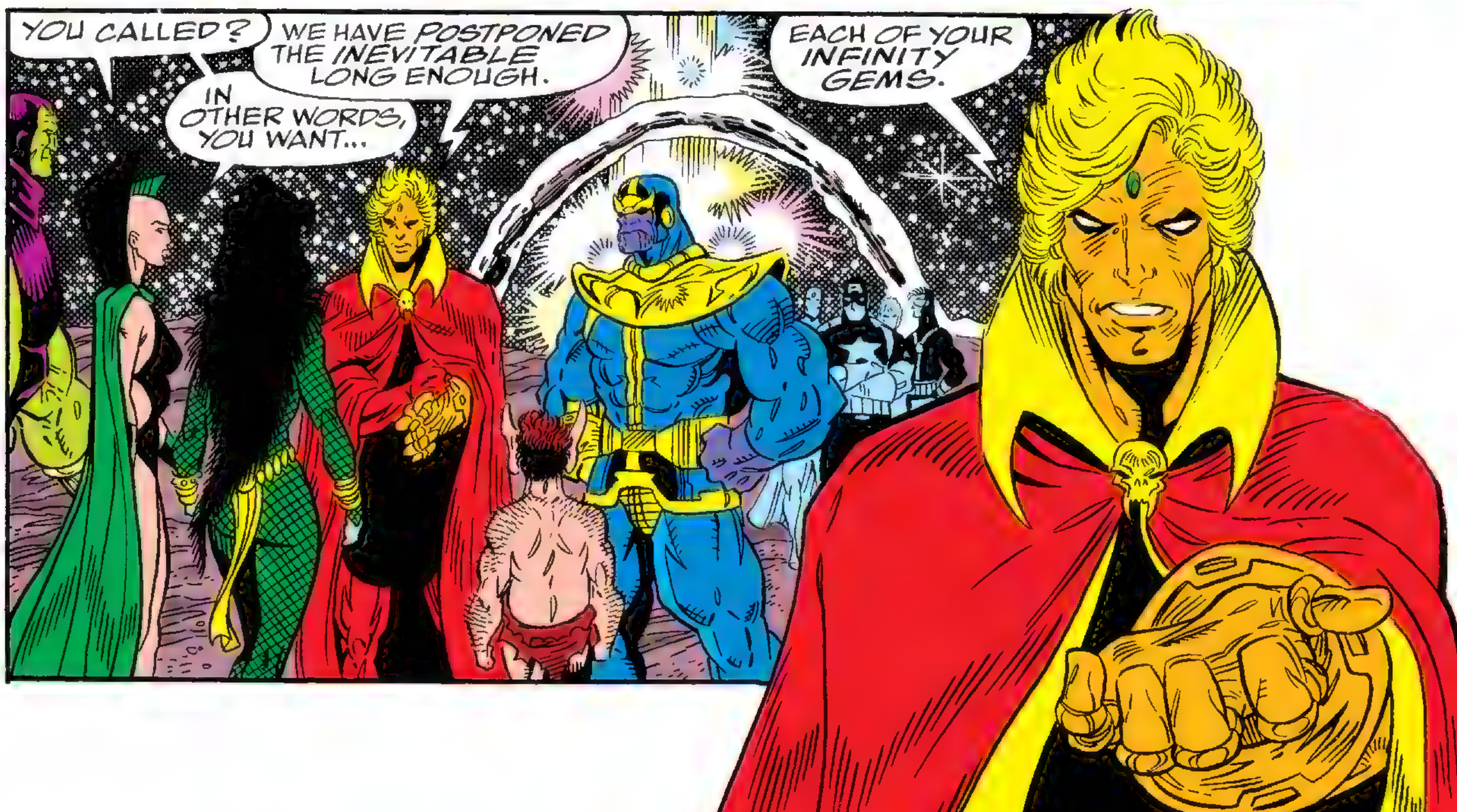
DO YOU READ ME?

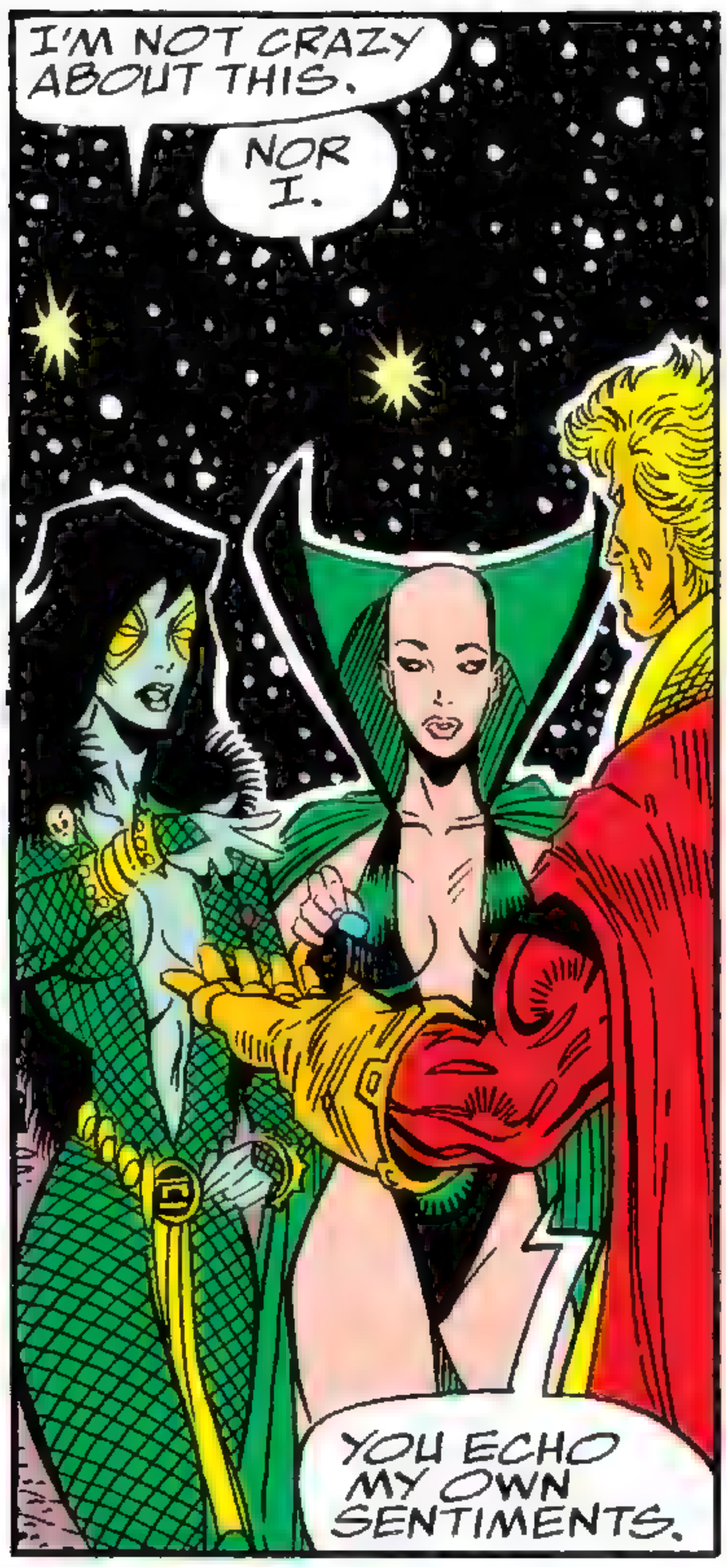

COME IN, PLEASE.

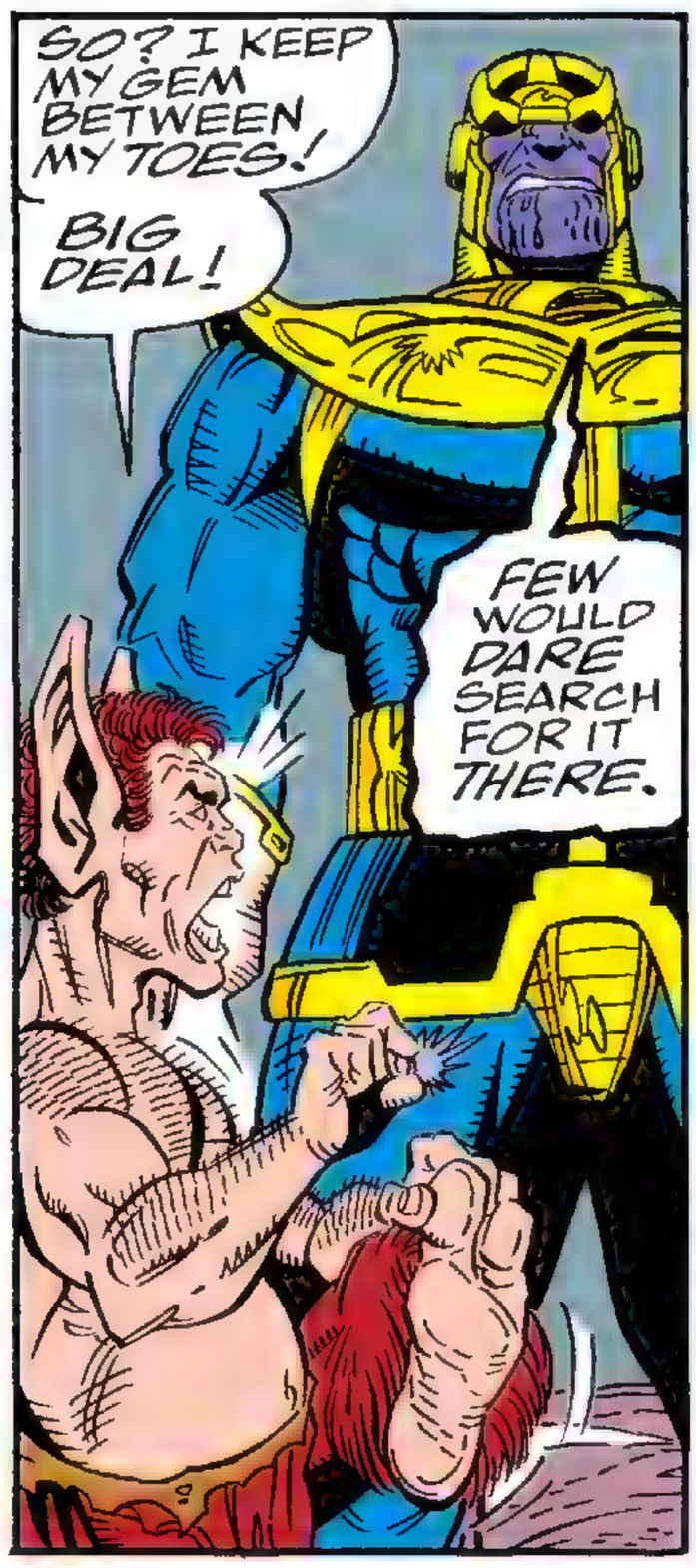
AT THIS MOMENT, BOTH GALACTUS AND THANOS ARE MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS.
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEY WILL BE BECAUSE OF MY STUDIES OF BOTH BEINGS' PSYCHO-LOGICAL PRO-FILES.
THANOS SHOULD ANNOUNCE HIS FIRST.


THE TIME IS UPON US?
YES, BUT I SENSE MORE AFOOT THAN ANY WOULD SUSPECT.
IF I MIGHT SUGGEST...

WHAT ARE THOSE TWO UP TO NOW, MOONDRAGON?
CAP, I BELIEVE THANOS IS PRE-PARING TO PULL OUT THE BIG GUNS.
MEANING?


YOU CALLED?
WE HAVE POSTPONED THE INEVITABLE LONG ENOUGH.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT...
EACH OF YOUR INFINITY GEMS.

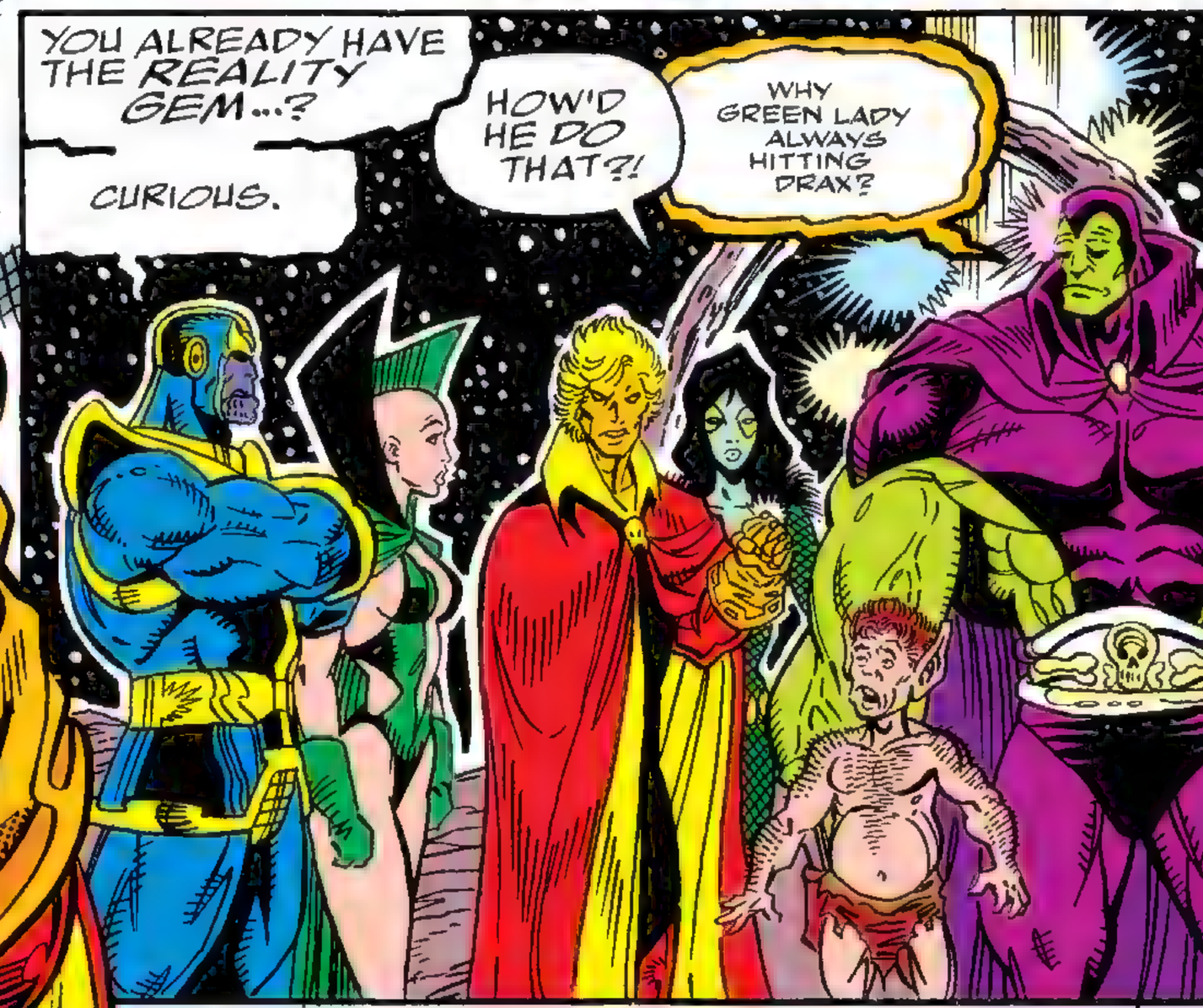

I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT THIS.
NOR I.
YOU ECHO MY OWN SENTIMENTS.

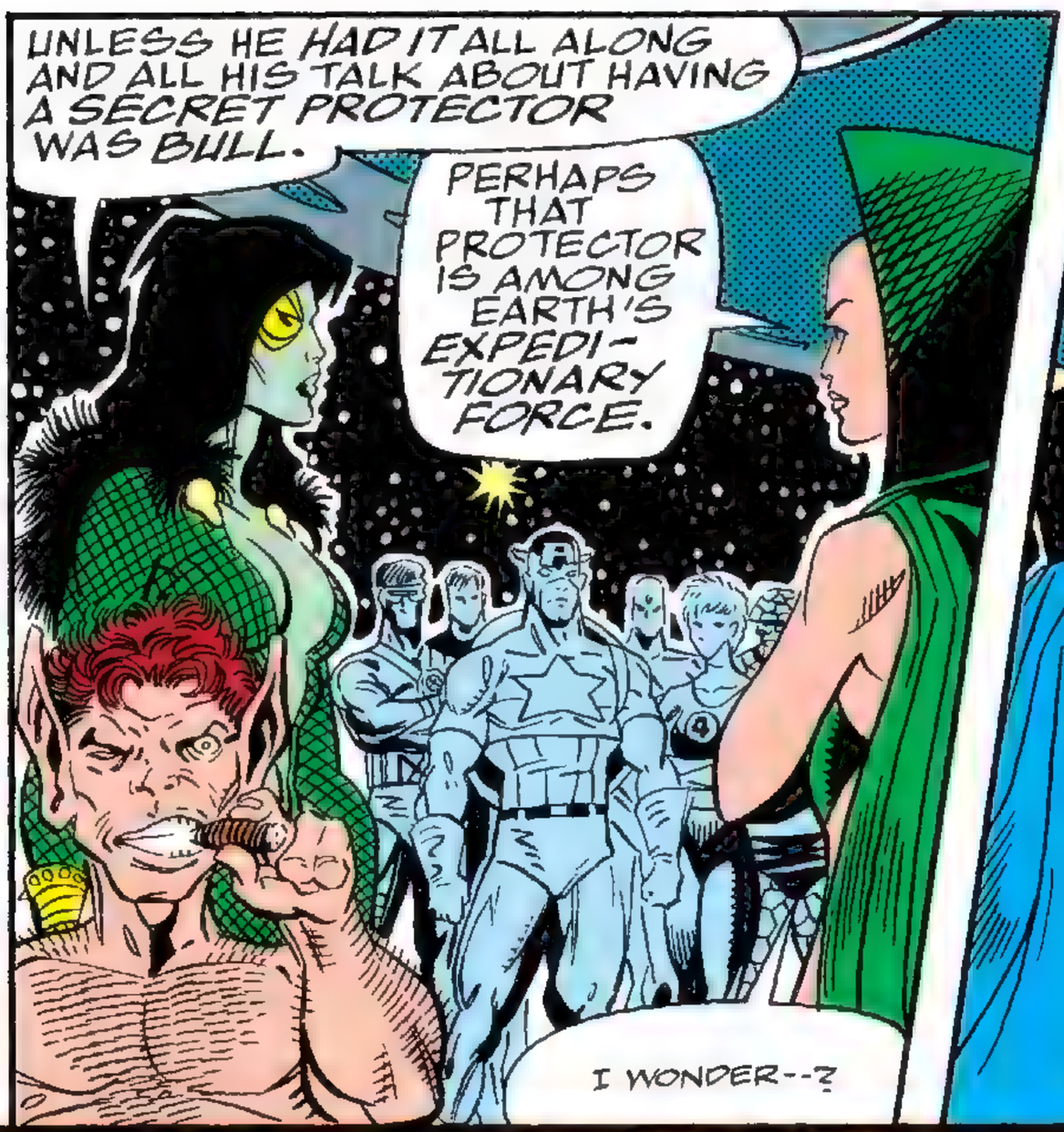

SO? I KEEP MY GEM BETWEEN MY TOES!
BIG DEAL!
FEW WOULD DARE SEARCH FOR IT THERE.

WHAT ABOUT DRAX'S POWER GEM?
HE SWALLOWED IT, REMEMBER?
THAT DOES PRESENT A PROBLEM.
ONE THAT I CAN EASILY REMEDY...

SEE?
THANK YOU.
LOT EASIER THAN CUTTING HIM OPEN.

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET!!
I PRAYED I WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE IT IN THIS EX-ISTENCE.


YOU ALREADY HAVE THE REALITY GEM...?
CURIOUS.
HOW'D HE DO THAT?!
WHY GREEN LADY ALWAYS HITTING DRAX?


UNLESS HE HAD IT ALL ALONG AND ALL HIS TALK ABOUT HAVING A SECRET PROTECTOR WAS BULL.
PERHAPS THAT PROTECTOR IS AMONG EARTH'S EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE.
I WONDER--?

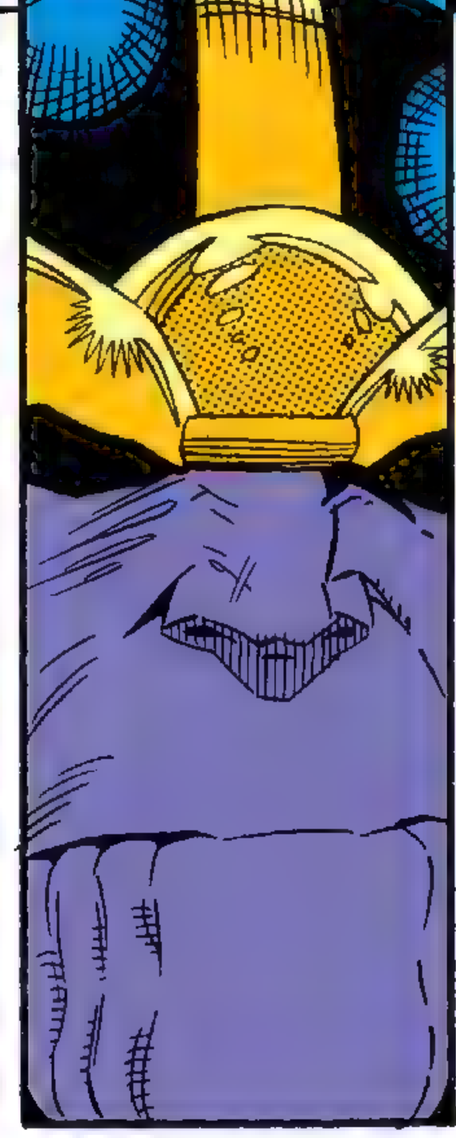
SUCH SPECULATION IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT.
PLEASE STAND BACK.
I MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THE POWER ONCE IT IS UPON ME.

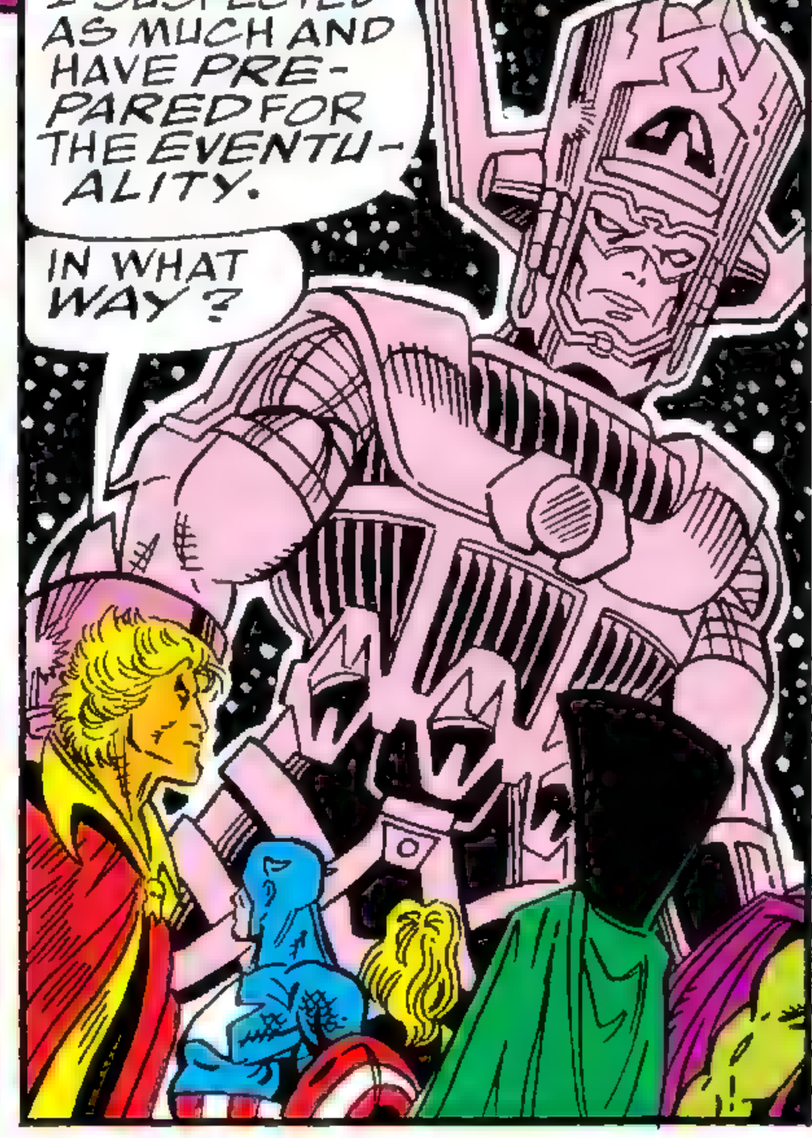
IF I AM CORRECT, CONTROL IS THE LAST THING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, DEAR ADAM.
AND IF YOU ARE IN-CORRECT?
I AM DOOMED.

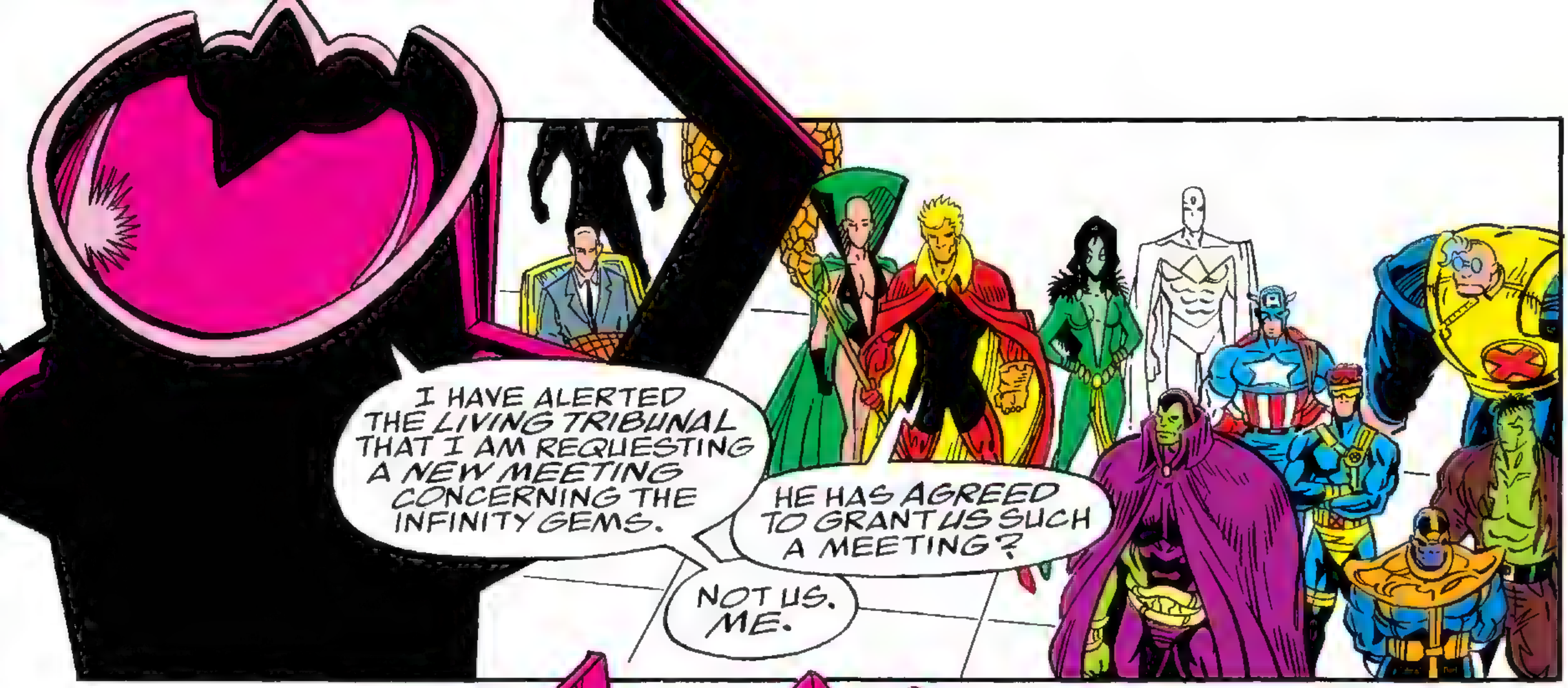
IT'S NOT WORKING!
THE POWER IS NOT COMING TO ME!

IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LIVING TRIBUNAL'S RULING YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT.
TERRIFIC.
HIS JUDGMENT IS OBVIOUSLY KEEPING THE GEMS FROM WORKING IN UNISON.
WORKING PERIOD.

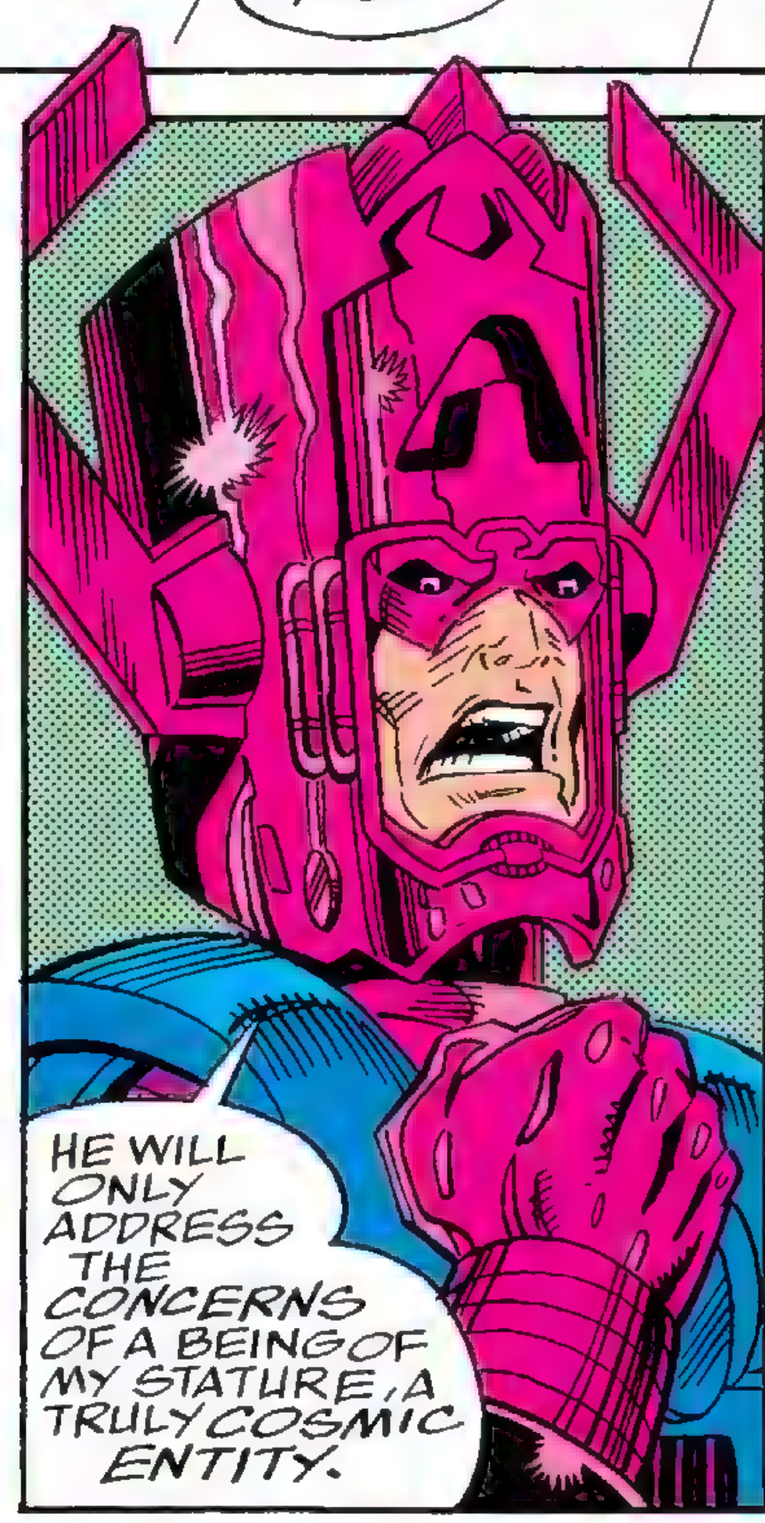
TRY AS I MAY, I CAN'T RAISE ANY KIND OF PSYCHIC RESPONSE FROM THE MIND GEM.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER.

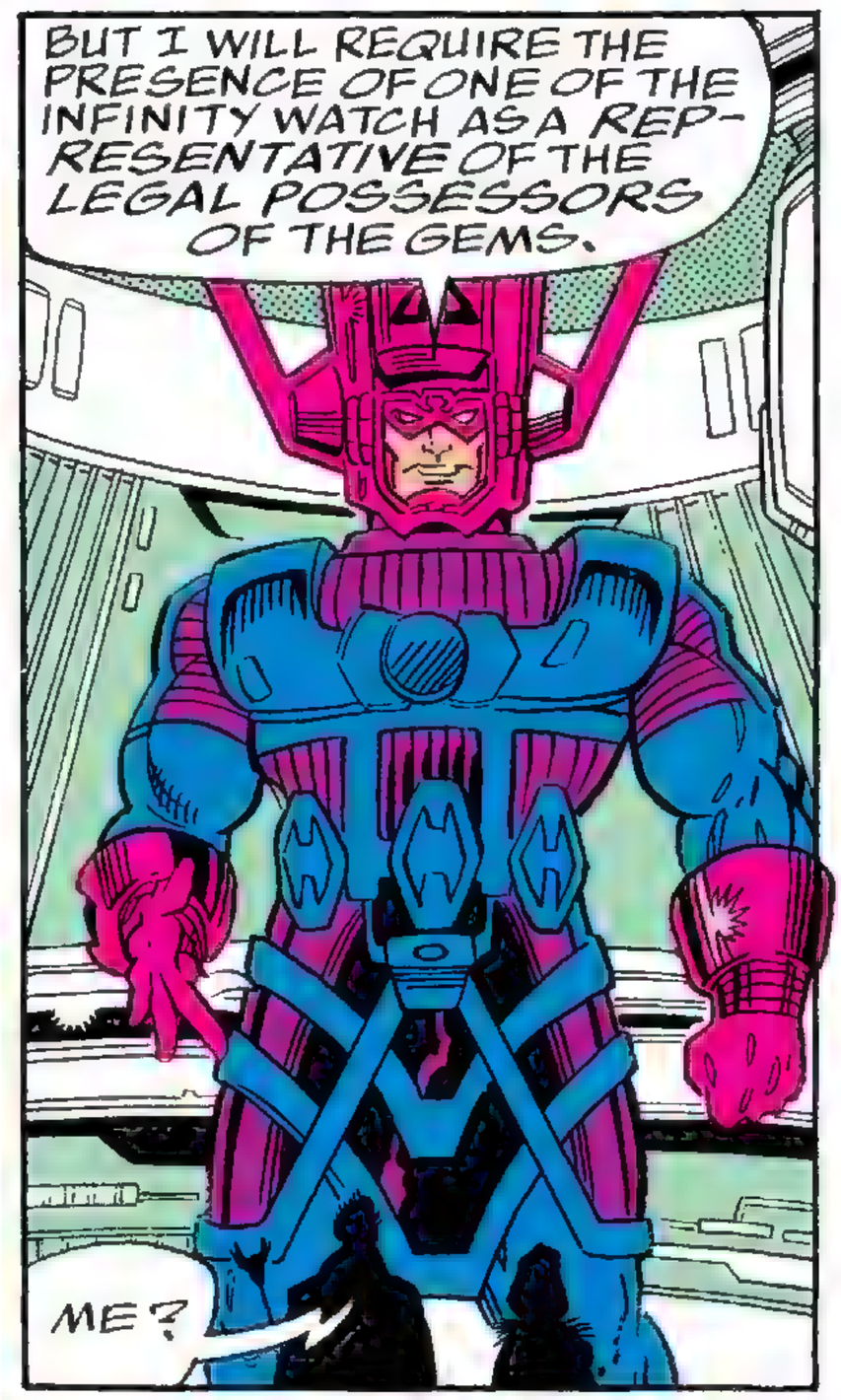



I SUSPECTED AS MUCH AND HAVE PREPARED FOR THE EVENTUALITY.
IN WHAT WAY?


I HAVE ALERTED THE LIVING TRIBUNAL THAT I AM REQUESTING A NEW MEETING CONCERNING THE INFINITY GEMS.
HE HAS AGREED TO GRANT US SUCH A MEETING?
NOT US. ME.

STRIPPED OF DIVINE POWER, WARLOCK, YOU ARE LESS THAN NOTHING TO THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.

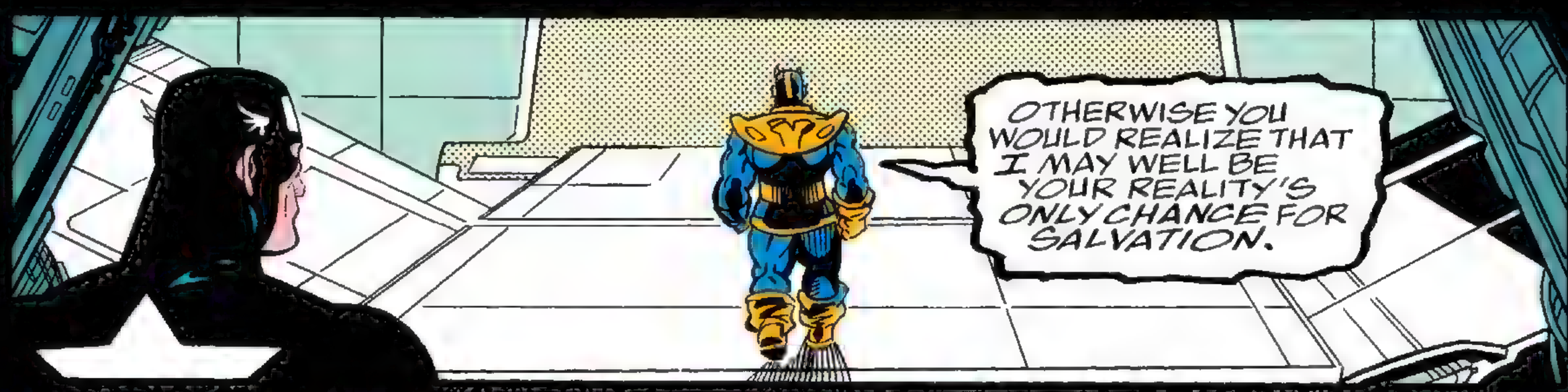

HE WILL ONLY ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF A BEING OF MY STATURE, A TRULY COSMIC ENTITY.

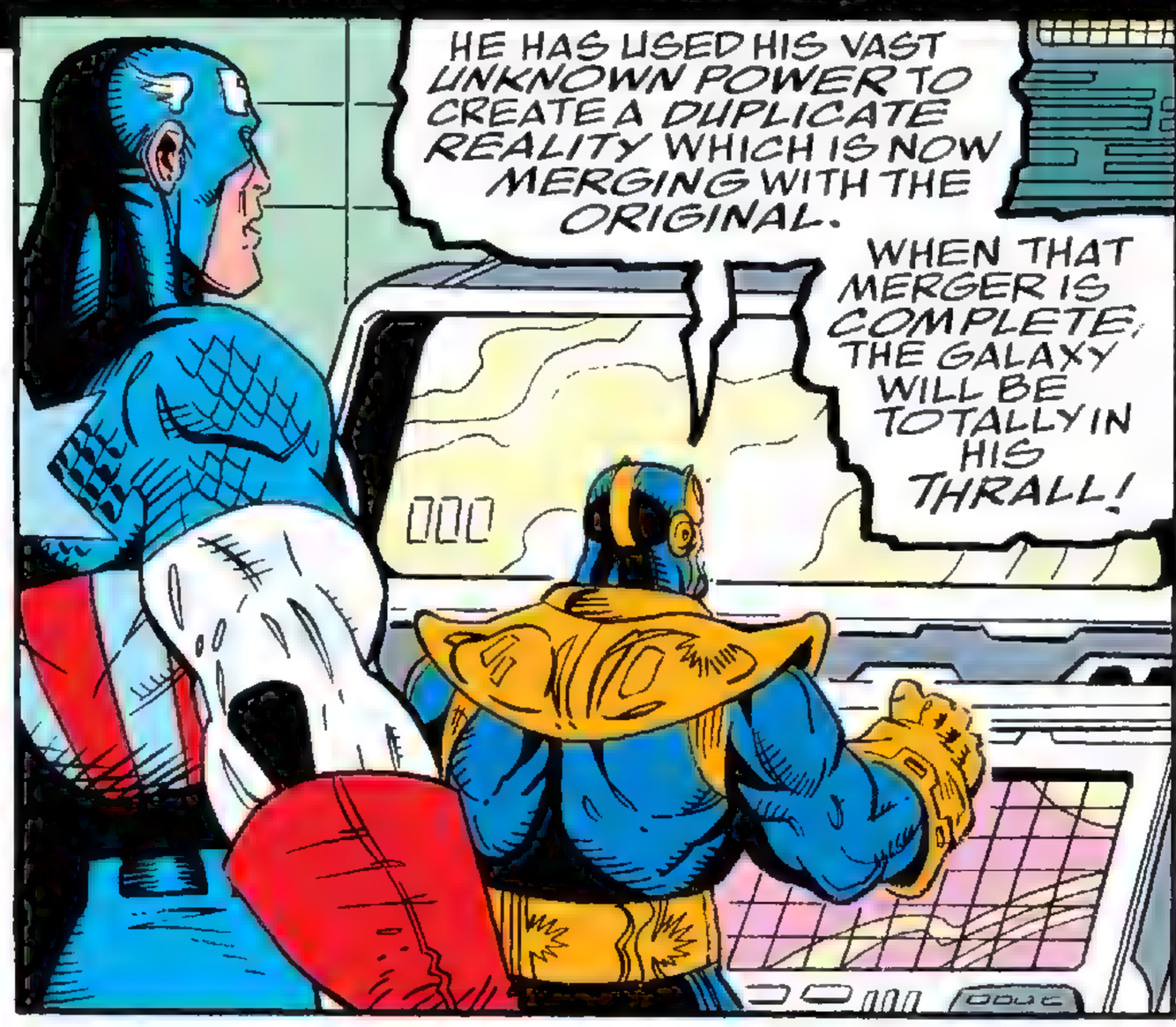

BUT I WILL REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF THE INFINITY WATCH AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEGAL POSSESSORS OF THE GEMS.
ME?

NO. YOU AND THE GEMS MAY PROVE TOO TEMPTING AN ENTICEMENT FOR ETERNITY SHOULD HE REGAIN HIS SENSES.
I WILL TAKE HER WITH ME.
GAMORA?

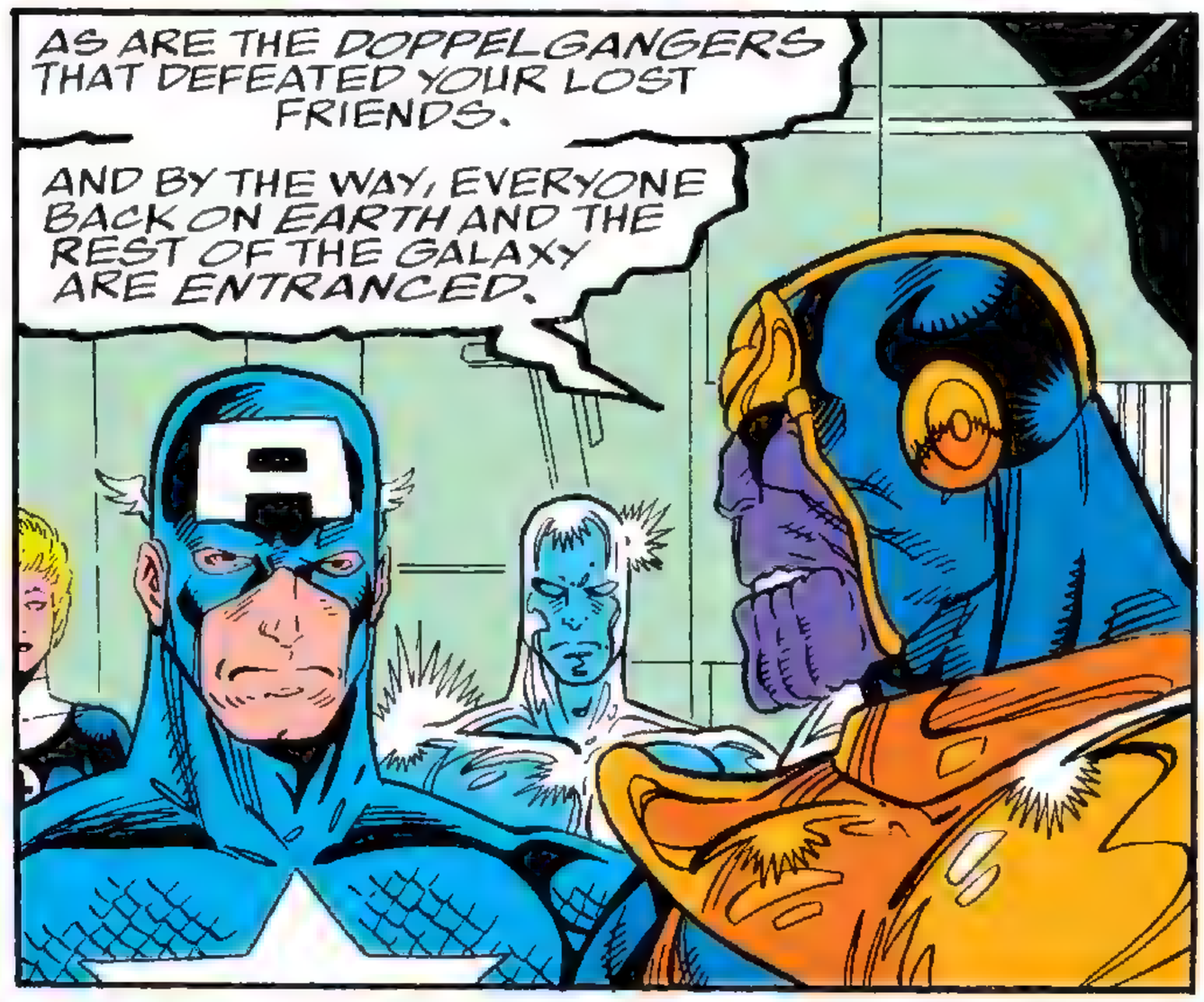
LET US BE AWAY.
WHAT ?!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE GALACTUS CALLING THE SHOTS.
IT'S BETTER THAN THANOS AND THAT WARLOCK GOING OFF ON THEIR OWN.
'TIS TIME FOR US TO ONCE AGAIN TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, MY SHADOW.
NO!

NO!
LOOK OUT, YA IDJIT!
NOW WHAT?
GALACTUS'S MISSION IS SUDDENLY MOOT.
I THINK WE JUST SAW THE UNIVERSE'S LAST HOPE FADE AWAY.
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING WE CAN DO.
YES, WE CAN STOMP THANOS.
THIS WHOLE MESS IS PROBABLY HIS DOING ANYHOW.
HULK, I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU WERE NO LONGER AN UNTHINKING BRUTE.
IT WOULD APPEAR THOSE REPORTS WERE IN ERROR.


OTHERWISE YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT I MAY WELL BE YOUR REALITY'S ONLY CHANCE FOR SALVATION.


HE HAS USED HIS VAST UNKNOWN POWER TO CREATE A DUPLICATE REALITY WHICH IS NOW MERGING WITH THE ORIGINAL.
WHEN THAT MERGER IS COMPLETE, THE GALAXY WILL BE TOTALLY IN HIS THRALL!

THANKS FOR THE OFFER, THANOS.
BUT YOUR KIND OF HELP WE CAN DO WITHOUT.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN.
BUT YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THAT THE MAGUS IS IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE MILKY WAY GALAXY.


AS ARE THE DOPPELGANGERS THAT DEFEATED YOUR LOST FRIENDS.
AND BY THE WAY, EVERYONE BACK ON EARTH AND THE REST OF THE GALAXY ARE ENTRANCED.

IT IS TO MAKE THE TAKEOVER GO MORE SMOOTHLY.
HOW DO YOU--
FROM THE TELEMETRY BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH THOR'S HAMMER.

CYCLOPS, GET EVERYONE IN HERE.
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION, FAST!
NOVA, WILL YOU HELP US USE THE POWER OF GALACTUS'S SHIP?
IN ANY WAY I CAN.
MOONDRAGON, PROF. X, CAN YOU UTILIZE YOUR PSYCHIC SKILLS TO AWAKEN EARTH'S POPULACE TO MENTALLY RESIST THE MAGUS' CONQUEST?
BACKED BY GALACTUS'S EQUIPMENT AND TRANS-MITTED THROUGH HIS BROAD-CAST-ERS.
PERHAPS.
NOVA, WORK WITH THE MAN.
DOC, I WANT YOU AND THE REST OF THE MYSTICS TO HIGHTAIL IT BACK TO OUR DIMENSION AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.
BUT YOU--
WILL GET ALONG FINE UNTIL YOU COME BACK FOR US. NOW GO!
THE REST OF YOU GATHER BELOW THE VIEW SCREEN.
WE'VE GOT STRATEGY TO DISCUSS.
WHAT ABOUT ADAM?
I IMAGINE WARLOCK IS DEAD BY NOW.
IT'S PAINFULLY APPARENT THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAGUS'S MAIN GOALS ALL ALONG.

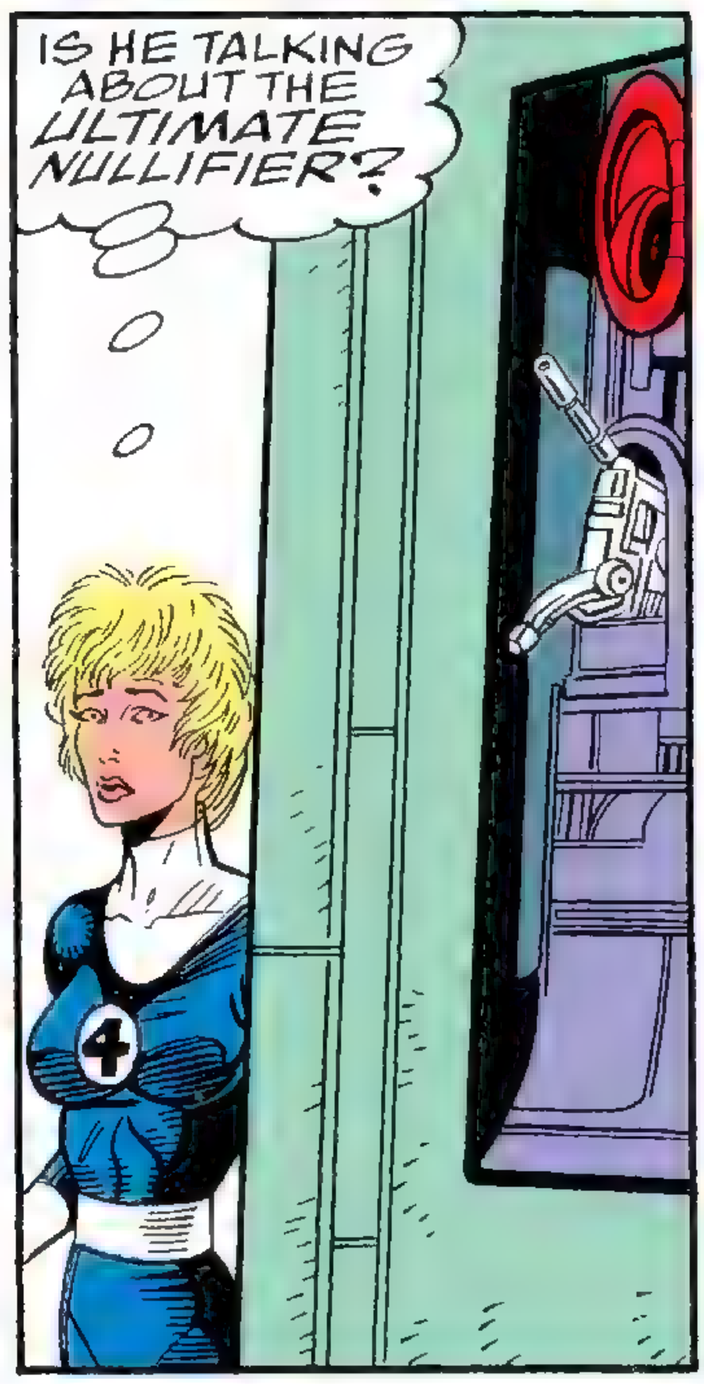
"THE MAGUS PLAYED US ALL MASTERFULLY.

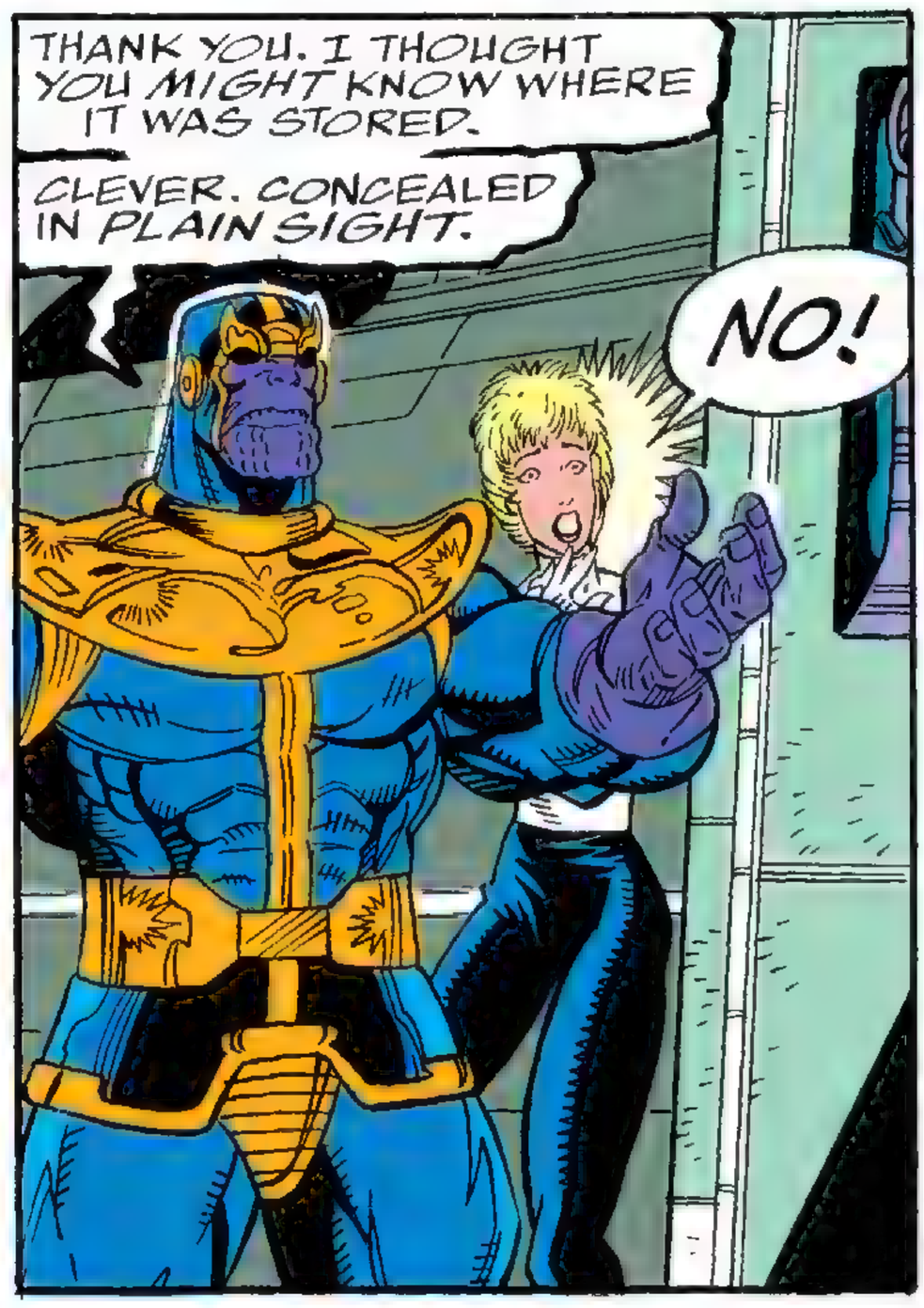
"HE OBVIOUSLY MANIPULATED EACH FACTOR OF THIS LITTLE DRAMA WITH SKILL EVEN I MUST ADMIRE.

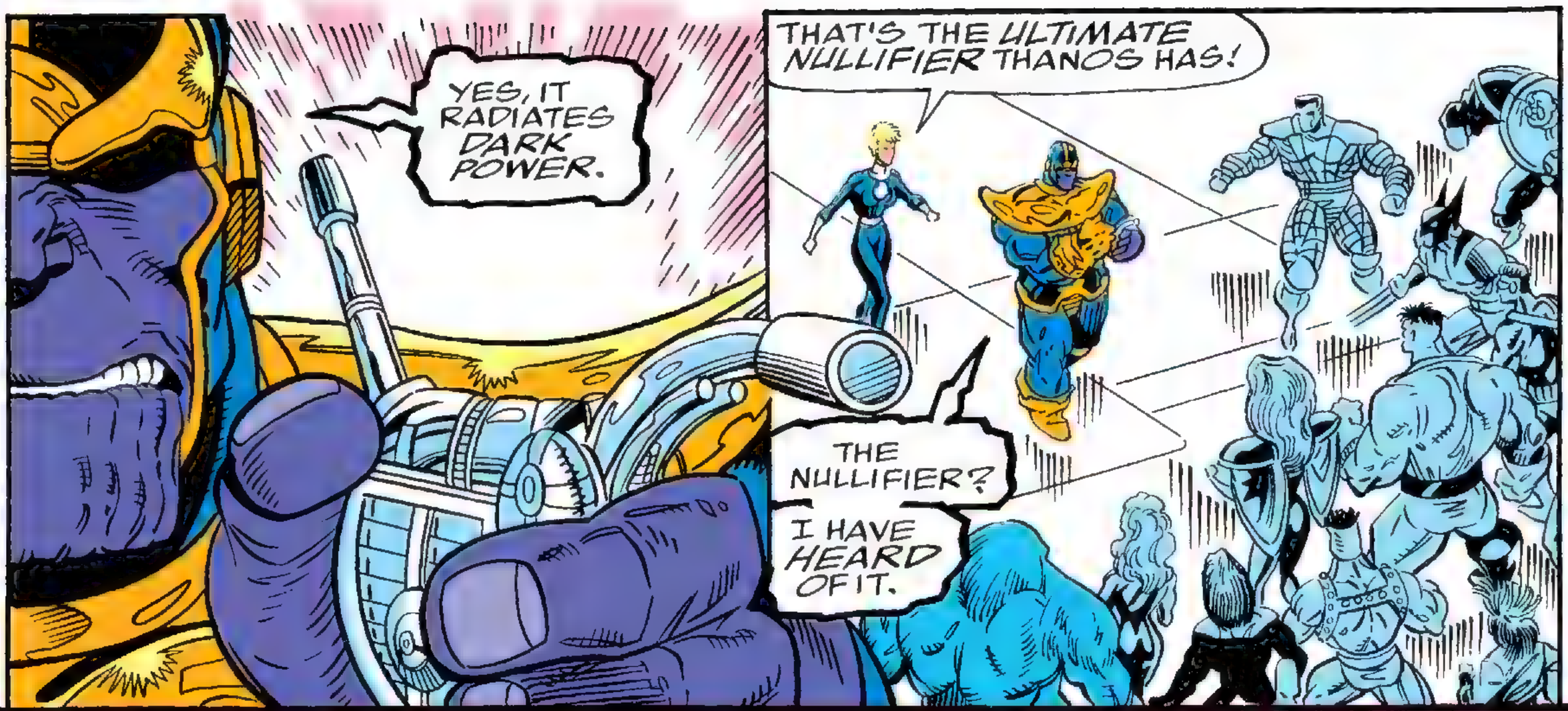
"BUT HE HAS AT LAST OVER-PLAYED HIS HAND.

"I NOW SEE WHERE HE IS HEADING AND WHAT HIS END DESIRE IS."

I SHALL YET THWART HIS DREAMS.





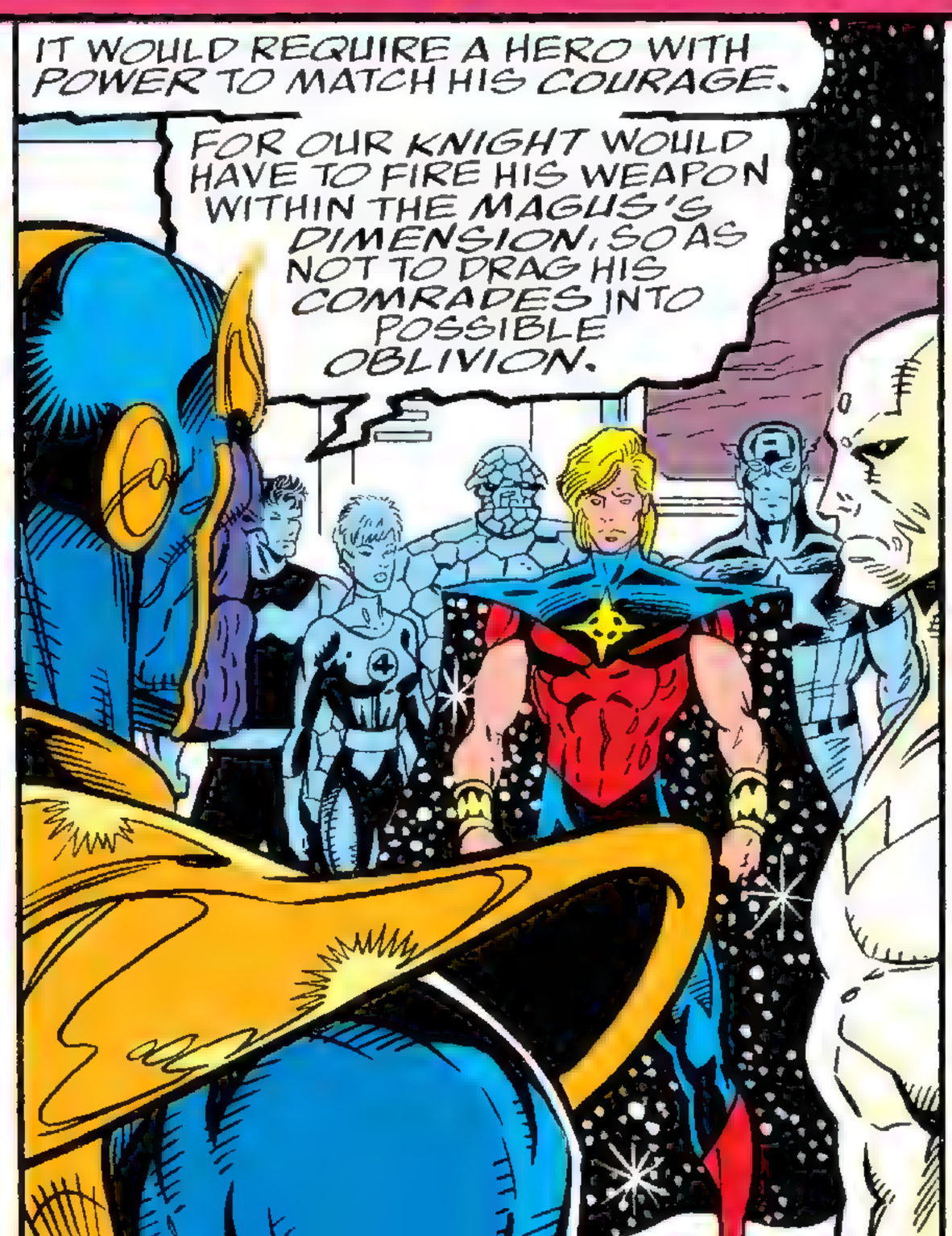

YES, IT RADIATES DARK POWER.
THAT'S THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER THANOS HAS!
THE NULLIFIER?
I HAVE HEARD OF IT.

IT IS SAID THAT THIS DEVICE HAS ONLY ONE DRAWBACK.
IT IS TOO POWERFUL.

IF NOT UTILIZED WITH PRECISE CORRECTNESS, THE BEARER IS DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE TARGET.
EXTREMELY INCONVENIENT.

IT COULD EASILY TERMINATE THE ANNOYANCE WHICH IS THE MAGUS.
BUT TO FIRE SUCH A WEAPON WOULD TAKE A NOBLER SOUL THAN MINE.

PERHAPS A BRAVER SPIRIT MIGHT BE FOUND AMONG THIS COMPANY.
ONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS OWN LIFE FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE.
COOL DOWN, WOLVERINE.
LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO.


IT WOULD REQUIRE A HERO WITH POWER TO MATCH HIS COURAGE.
FOR OUR KNIGHT WOULD HAVE TO FIRE HIS WEAPON WITHIN THE MAGUS'S DIMENSION, SO AS NOT TO DRAG HIS COMRADES INTO POSSIBLE OBLIVION.

HOW STEELY IS YOUR RESOLVE, QUASAR?
FINELY TEMPERED.
DON'T DO IT, QUASAR!
'TIS NOT A DARE WORTHY OF ACCEPT-ANCE!
BUT IT MAY WELL BE OUR ONLY OUT.

GALACTUS, I AM READY TO CONSIDER YOUR CASE.
PRESENT IT WELL, FOR YOUR DIMENSION AND ITS VERY EXISTENCE MAY DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS HEARING.
TO BE CONTINUED

INSIDE COMICS #3 COVER ART BY RON LIM

MARVEL COMICS
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5
OCT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE INFINITY WAR
POWER STRUGGLE!
MILGROM

PSYCHOMACHIA!
ON A PLANE OF EXISTENCE WITH LITTLE RELATION TO OUR OWN.
IT'S CRAZY PLAYING INTO THANOS'S GAME, QUASAR.
AYE, AVENGER. THE TITAN IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
I KNOW, HERCULES.
BUT I ALSO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH WHEN IT IS STARING ME IN THE FACE.
FOR MY HEART COULD NOT FLEE AWAY FROM MY HEART, NOR COULD I ESCAPE FROM MYSELF SINCE WHEREVER I RAN, I SHOULD BE FOLLOWING. --St. AUGUSTINE.
IT GLADDENS MY HEART THAT AT LEAST YOU CLEARLY GRASP OUR SITUATION, QUASAR.
JIM STARLIN WRITER / RON LIM PENCILS / AL MILGROM INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
JAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO BOSS

DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ERROR AND ACTIONS BEGUN THAT CANNOT BE HALTED.

FOR THIS UNIVERSE TO SURVIVE, DRASTIC STEPS MUST BE TAKEN.

I NEARLY HAVE MY CRAFT'S INTER-DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORT REPAIRED.

ONCE IT IS, THE REST IS UP TO ME, RIGHT?

TOTALLY.

"EVEN AS WE SPEAK, GREAT CHANGES OCCUR."

NEW YORK CITY.

REMARKABLY STRANGE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EVERY SOUL ON THIS PLANET HAS BECOME ENTRANCED.*

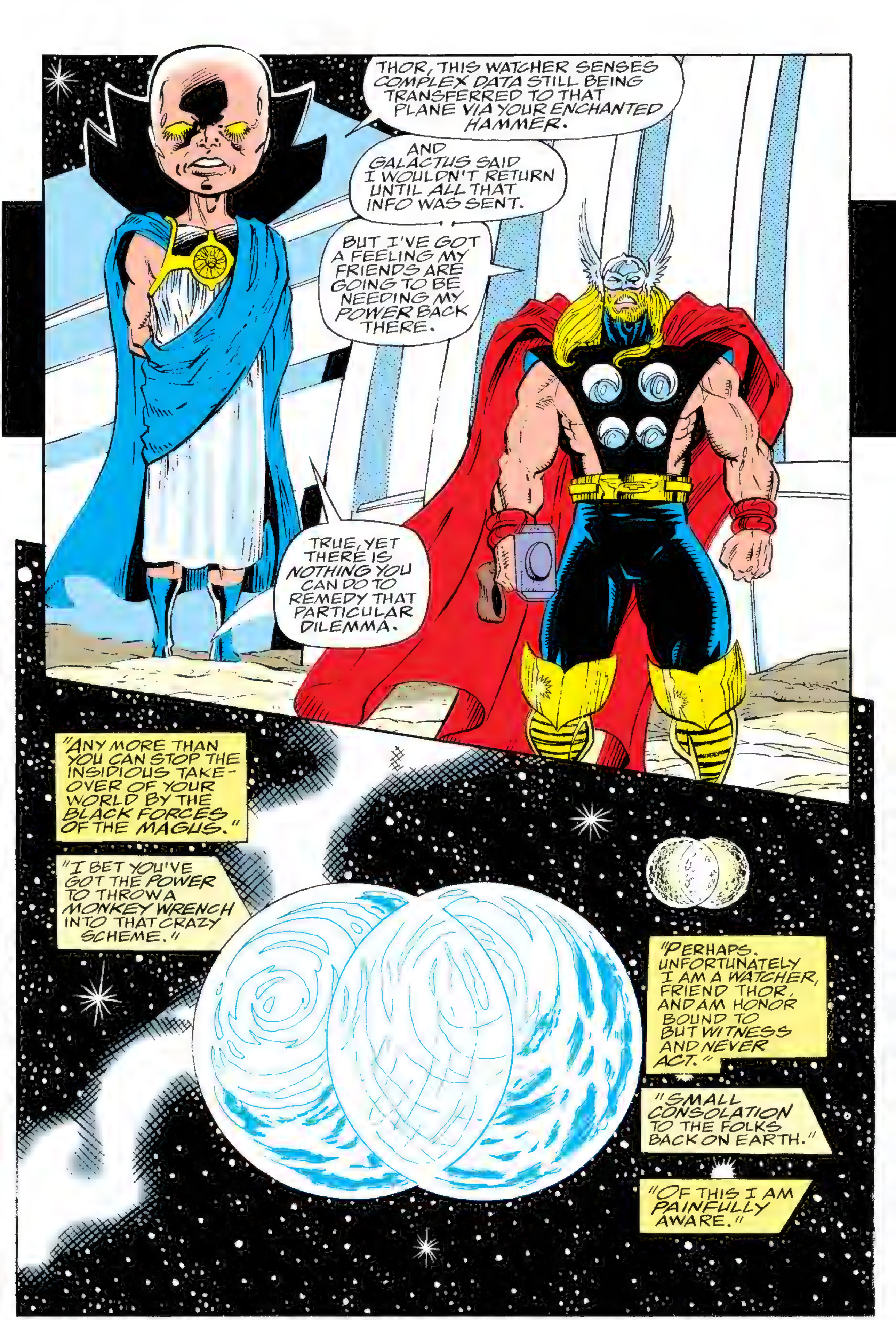
MY GUESS TO FACILITATE A DREADFUL AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING TAKEOVER.

*GET THE FULL STORY IN SLEEPWALKER #18. --CRAIG

BUT FOR THE MOMENT I SEE NO WAY EVEN A SLEEP-WALKER CAN THWART THIS DARK SCHEME.

EARTH'S MOON-- THE HOME OF THE WATCHER.

WHY HAVEN'T I BEEN TELEPORTED BACK TO THE RELAY DIMENSION BY NOW...?


THOR, THIS WATCHER SENSES COMPLEX DATA STILL BEING TRANSFERRED TO THAT PLANE VIA YOUR ENCHANTED HAMMER.
AND GALACTUS SAID I WOULDN'T RETURN UNTIL ALL THAT INFO WAS SENT.
BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING MY FRIENDS ARE GOING TO BE NEEDING MY POWER BACK THERE.
TRUE, YET THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO REMEDY THAT PARTICULAR DILEMMA.
"ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN STOP THE INSIDIOUS TAKE-OVER OF YOUR WORLD BY THE BLACK FORCES OF THE MAGUS."
"I BET YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO THROW A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THAT CRAZY SCHEME."
"PERHAPS. UNFORTUNATELY I AM A WATCHER, FRIEND THOR, AND AM HONOR BOUND TO BUT WITNESS AND NEVER ACT."
"SMALL CONSOLATION TO THE FOLKS BACK ON EARTH."
"OF THIS I AM PAINFULLY AWARE."

THE NATURE OF WHAT WE ARE CAN PROVE A BURDEN.
AND SOMETIMES A CURSE.
WITHIN THE MAGUS'S STRONG-HOLD, MANY REALITIES AWAY...
I SHALL NOW RELIEVE YOU OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, WARLOCK.
A FITTING CONQUEROR'S BAY WREATH, IS IT NOT?
ONLY A MADMAN WOULD THINK SO.
I ADMIT, THERE IS A TOUCH OF INSANITY TO MY MACHINATIONS.
BUT IF THERE WEREN'T, ULTIMATE POWER WOULD NEVER BE MINE!
ULTIMATE FOLLY IS MORE LIKE IT, MAGUS!
YOU ARE A CRAZED FOOL!
THE GAUNTLET IS USE-LESS!
THE LIVING TRIBUNAL SAW TO THAT!
HE RULED THAT THE INFINITY GEMS COULD NEVER AGAIN BE USED IN UNISON!

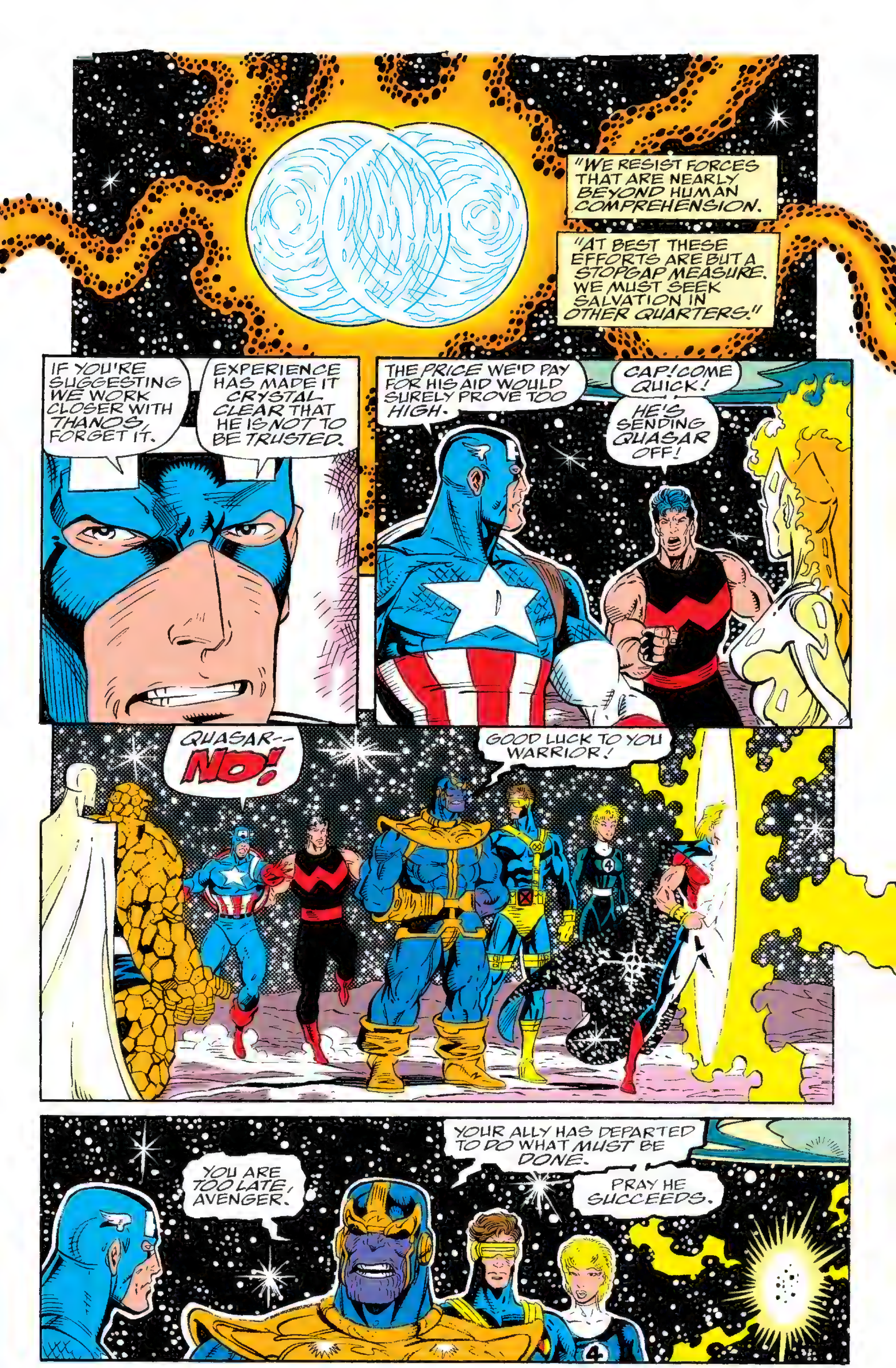
FORTUNATELY, ANY JUDICIAL RULING IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW.
ALL ONE NEED DO IS SET UP THE PROPER SERIES OF EVENTS AND ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
IF CLEVER ENOUGH, ONE CAN EVEN GET HIS ENEMIES TO WORK TO ENHANCE ONE'S GREATER GLORY.

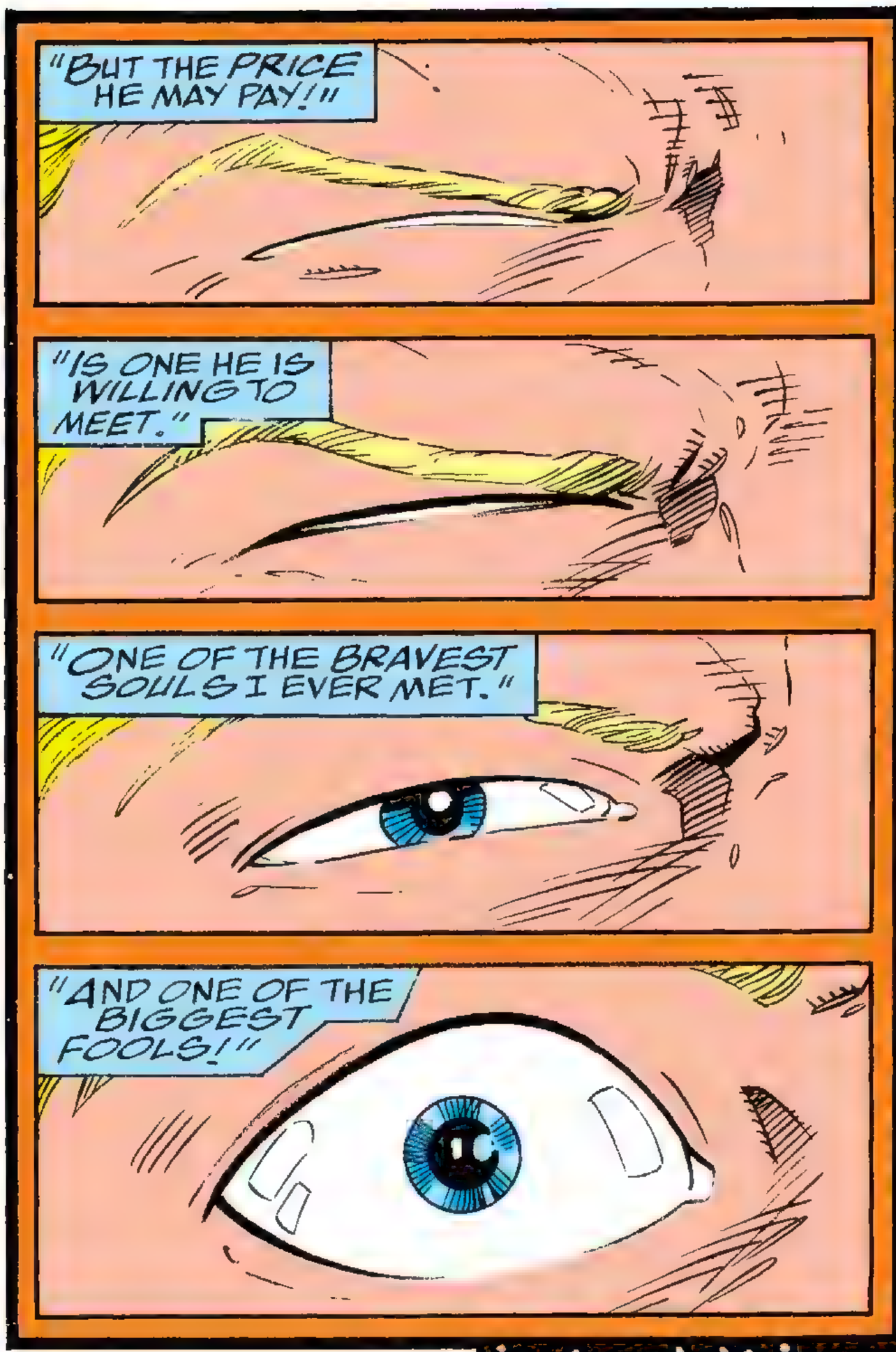
ALL THAT IS REQUIRED THEN IS PATIENCE.
YOU'LL SEE, DEAR ADAM.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE FULL POWER IS RE-STORED TO MY INFINITY GAUNTLET.

BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, WE MUST INSURE THAT IT IS DOOM AND KANG'S INFINITY GAUNTLET.
NO, MAKE THAT JUST KANG'S.
THEN WE MUST HURRY, MY ALLY.
THE TIME TO ACT IS EXTREMELY LIMITED.

HOW'S IT GOING, NOVA?
WELL, I'VE LINKED PROF. X, MOONDRAGON, PSYLOCKE AND MARVEL WOMAN TO A PSYCHIC ENHANCEMENT TRANSMITTER.
IT'S BEAMING BACK TO OUR REALITY AND EARTH.
THE REST IS UP TO THEM.

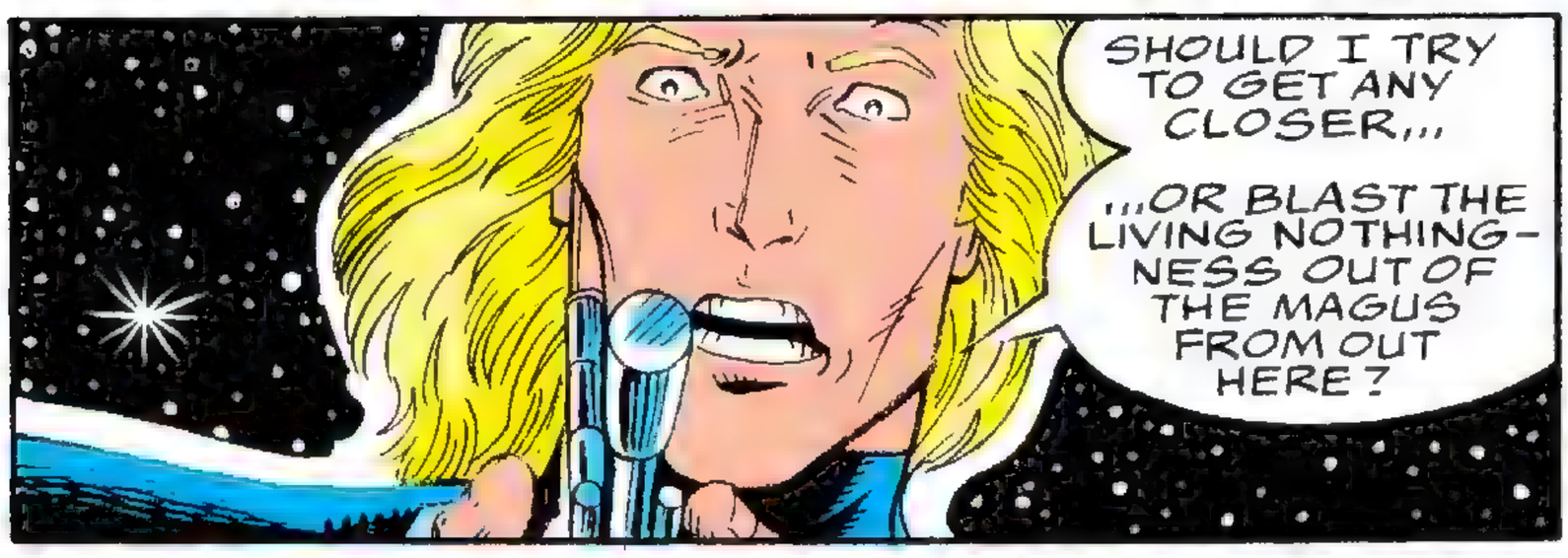
WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN?
APPARENTLY A SCHEME HE PULLED OFF BEFORE, BUT MORE COMPLEX THIS TIME AROUND.
THEY'VE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING CONTACT WITH EARTH BY USING A MYSTERIOUS ENTITY CALLED SLEEPWALKER AS A CONDUIT.*
*READ ALL ABOUT IT IN SLEEPWALKER #18.
"THE PSYCHICS, WITH THEIR ENHANCED POWERS, ARE THEN GOING TO STIR EVERY MIND ON THE PLANET TO A LEVEL OF TELEPATHIC RESISTANCE.
"THE HOPE IS THAT IF ANY ONE PORTION OF THE UNIVERSAL TAKEOVER CAN BE STOPPED, ALL SECTORS WILL BE HALTED."
"WHAT ARE THEIR CHANCES, NOVA?"
"EVEN WITH THE MYSTICS THAT RETURNED TO THAT PLANE OF EXISTENCE TO ASSIST IN THIS ENDEAVOR, THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THEM.


"WE RESIST FORCES THAT ARE NEARLY BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION.
"AT BEST THESE EFFORTS ARE BUT A STOPGAP MEASURE. WE MUST SEEK SALVATION IN OTHER QUARTERS."
IF YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE WORK CLOSER WITH THANOS, FORGET IT.
EXPERIENCE HAS MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
THE PRICE WE'D PAY FOR HIS AID WOULD SURELY PROVE TOO HIGH.
CAP! COME QUICK!
HE'S SENDING QUASAR OFF!
QUASAR-- NO!
GOOD LUCK TO YOU WARRIOR!
YOU ARE TOO LATE, AVENGER.
YOUR ALLY HAS DEPARTED TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
PRAY HE SUCCEEDS.

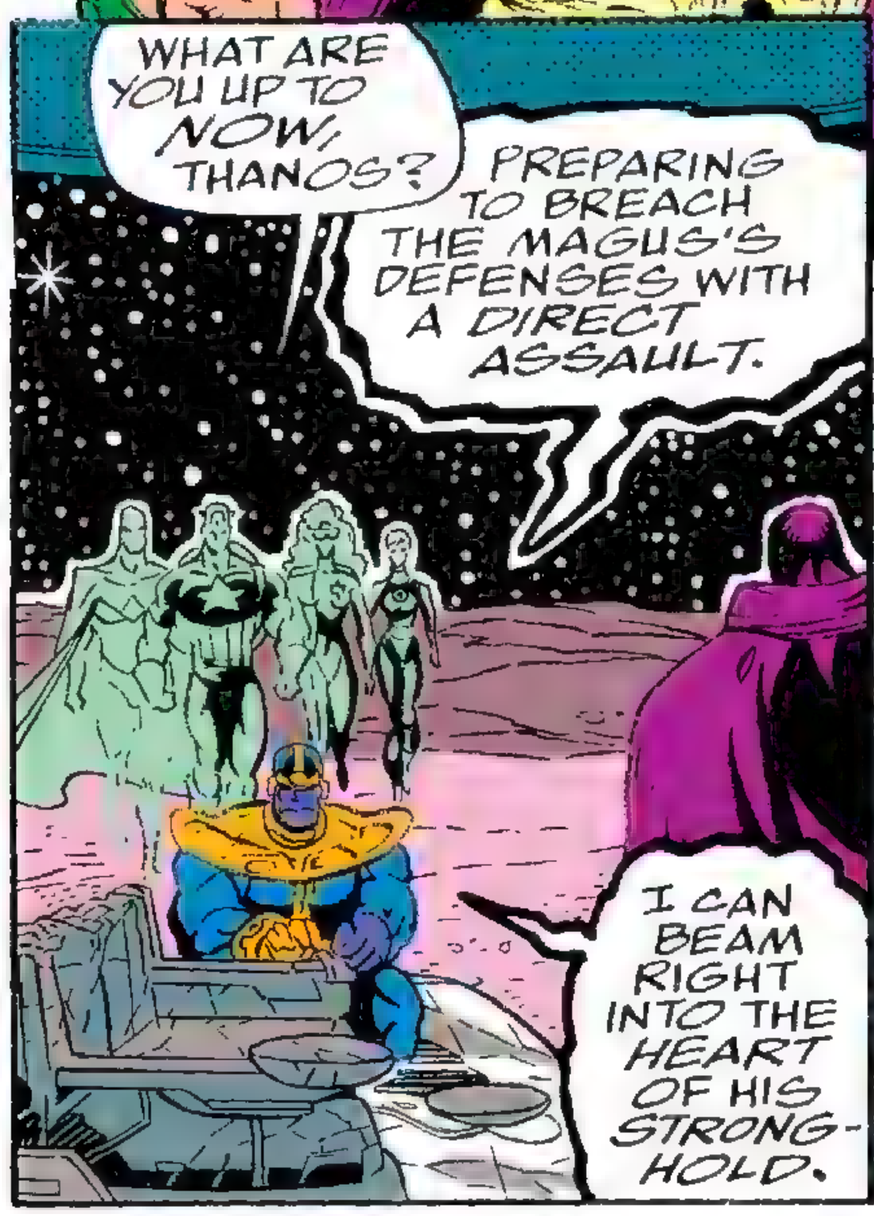


"THAT IS WHY HE MAY YET SAVE THE DAY WHERE A MORE COMPETENT INTELLECT WOULD FAIL."

WELL, QUASAR, IT'S SHOWTIME.

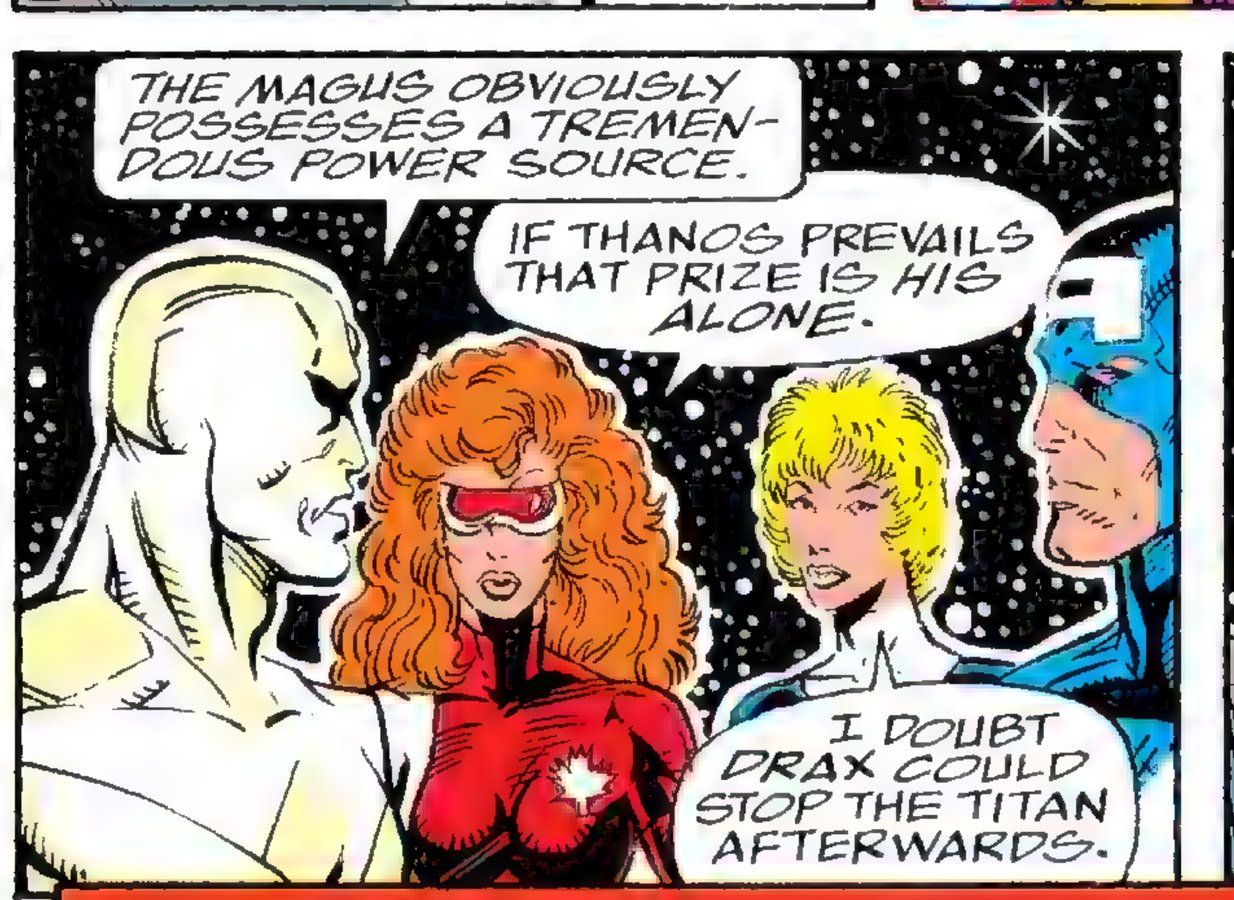


CAN'T THAT WITLESS BUFFOON FATHOM THE FIRING MECHANISM?
THE MAGUS IS SURELY AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE BY NOW.
ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES MUST BE INSTITUTED IMMEDIATELY.


WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW, THANOS?
PREPARING TO BREACH THE MAGUS'S DEFENSES WITH A DIRECT ASSAULT.
I CAN BEAM RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF HIS STRONG-HOLD.

A COMMANDO RAID CONSISTING OF WHOM?
DRAX AND MYSELF.

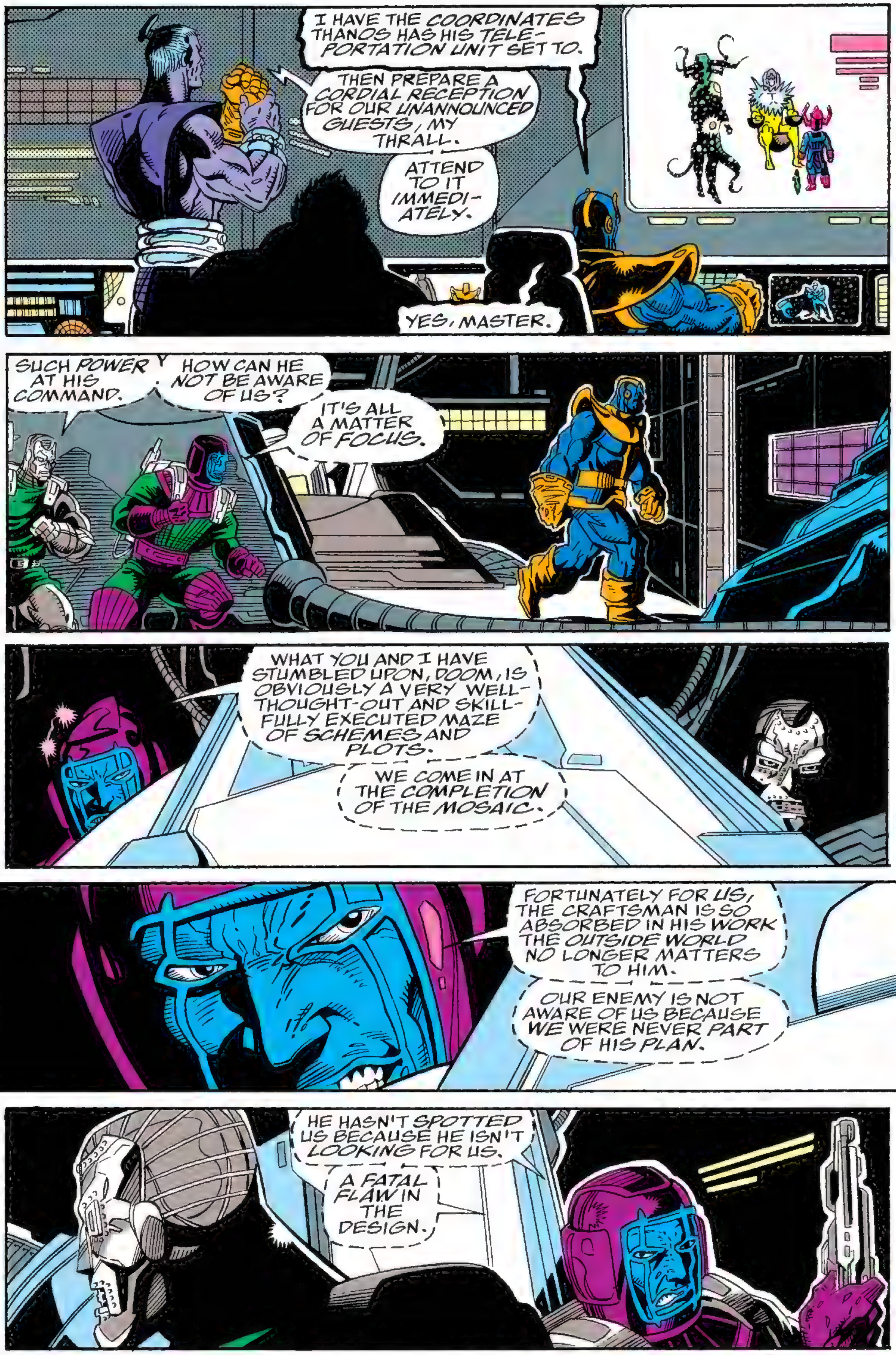
WORKS FOR ME.
FIRST I STOMP MAGUS, THEN THANOS.
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE--
YOUR MIS-GIVINGS DON'T CONCERN ME, AVENGER.


THE MAGUS OBVIOUSLY POSSESSES A TREMEN-DOUS POWER SOURCE.
IF THANOS PREVAILS THAT PRIZE IS HIS ALONE.
I DOUBT DRAX COULD STOP THE TITAN AFTERWARDS.

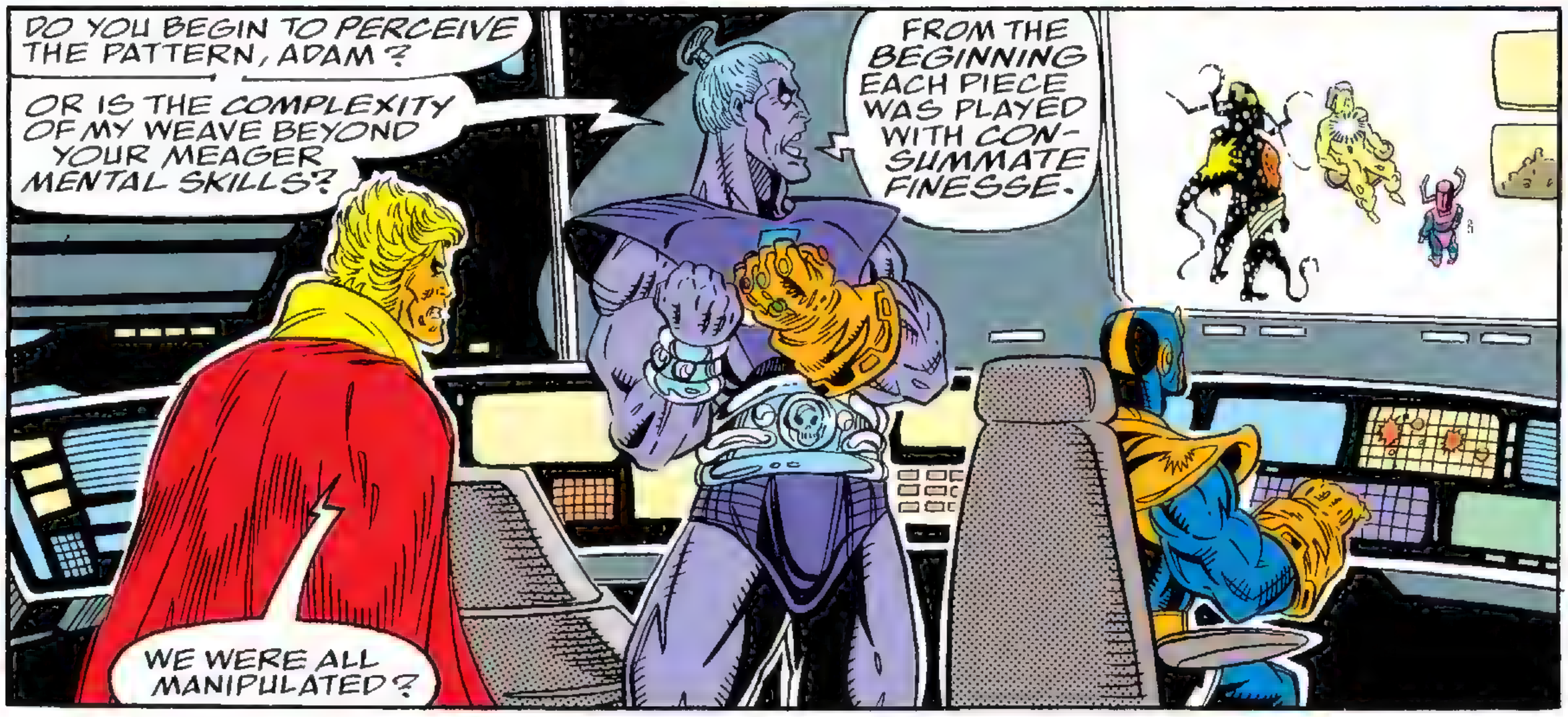
WE'RE IN ON THIS MISSION, THANOS.
I HAVE NO NEED--
THE MATTER IS NOT OPEN TO DEBATE.

WE'LL ALL GO, OR NO ONE GOES!
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR ENOUGH?

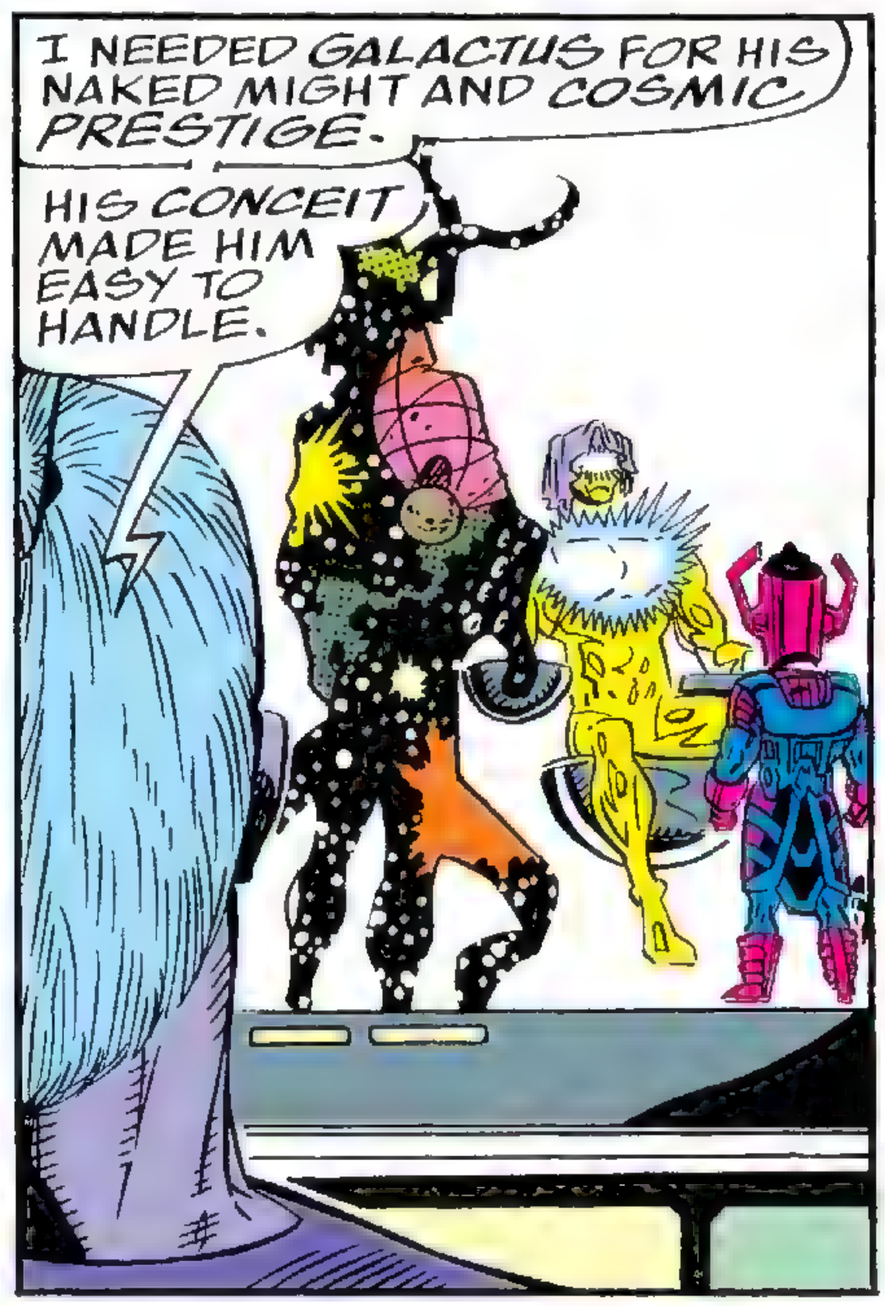
EXCEEDINGLY, AVENGER.
I WILL MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TELEPORTER.


I HAVE THE COORDINATES THANOS HAS HIS TELE-PORTATION UNIT SET TO.
THEN PREPARE A CORDIAL RECEPTION FOR OUR UNANNOUNCED GUESTS, MY THRALL.
ATTEND TO IT IMMEDI-ATELY.
YES, MASTER.
SUCH POWER AT HIS COMMAND.
HOW CAN HE NOT BE AWARE OF US?
IT'S ALL A MATTER OF FOCUS.
WHAT YOU AND I HAVE STUMBLED UPON, DOOM, IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY WELL-THOUGHT-OUT AND SKILL-FULLY EXECUTED MAZE OF SCHEMES AND PLOTS.
WE COME IN AT THE COMPLETION OF THE MOSAIC.
FORTUNATELY FOR US, THE CRAFTSMAN IS SO ABSORBED IN HIS WORK THE OUTSIDE WORLD NO LONGER MATTERS TO HIM.
OUR ENEMY IS NOT AWARE OF US BECAUSE WE WERE NEVER PART OF HIS PLAN.
HE HASN'T SPOTTED US BECAUSE HE ISN'T LOOKING FOR US.
A FATAL FLAW IN THE DESIGN.

AND ONE THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO FULLY EXPLOIT.


DO YOU BEGIN TO PERCEIVE THE PATTERN, ADAM?
OR IS THE COMPLEXITY OF MY WEAVE BEYOND YOUR MEAGER MENTAL SKILLS?
FROM THE BEGINNING EACH PIECE WAS PLAYED WITH CONSUMMATE FINESSE.
WE WERE ALL MANIPULATED?

I USED THANOS TO GET THE BALL ROLLING.
THROUGH HIM, MOST OF THE SECONDARY PLAYERS WERE SET INTO MOTION.


I NEEDED GALACTUS FOR HIS NAKED MIGHT AND COSMIC PRESTIGE.
HIS CONCEIT MADE HIM EASY TO HANDLE.

EARTH'S DEFENDERS WERE BROUGHT IN TO KEEP EVERYTHING SO MUDDLED THAT NO ONE WOULD HAVE THE TIME TO DISCERN MY TRUE GOAL.

AND YOUR TASK WAS TO BRING THE INFINITY GAUNTLET TO ME SO THAT I MIGHT RIGHT A GRIEVOUS WRONG DONE TO ME!

A WRONG YOU ATTRIBUTE TO MY DOING?
WHO ELSE?
MY VENGEANCE IS ONLY MOMENTS AWAY.
GALACTUS IS SEEING TO THAT.
"HE SHOULD BE JUST FINISHING PRESENTING HIS CASE TO THE LIVING TRIBUNAL RIGHT ABOUT NOW."
I HAVE HEARD YOUR WORDS MIGHTY GALACTUS, AND DULY CONSIDERED THEM.
I STAND READY TO PASS JUDGMENT ON YOUR APPEAL.

DESPITE THE GRAVE PERIL YOUR REALITY FACES, I STAND BY MY RULING AGAINST THE INFINITY GEMS BEING USED AS ONE.

BUT...

IT WAS ETERNITY WHO FIRST BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO MY ATTENTION AND WHOM I RULED IN FAVOR OF.

LAWS SET FORTH FROM ABOVE DECLARE THAT ONLY HE MAY NOW REVERSE THAT DECISION.

THE FACT THAT HE IS NOW CATATONIC HAS NO BEARING ON THAT RULING.

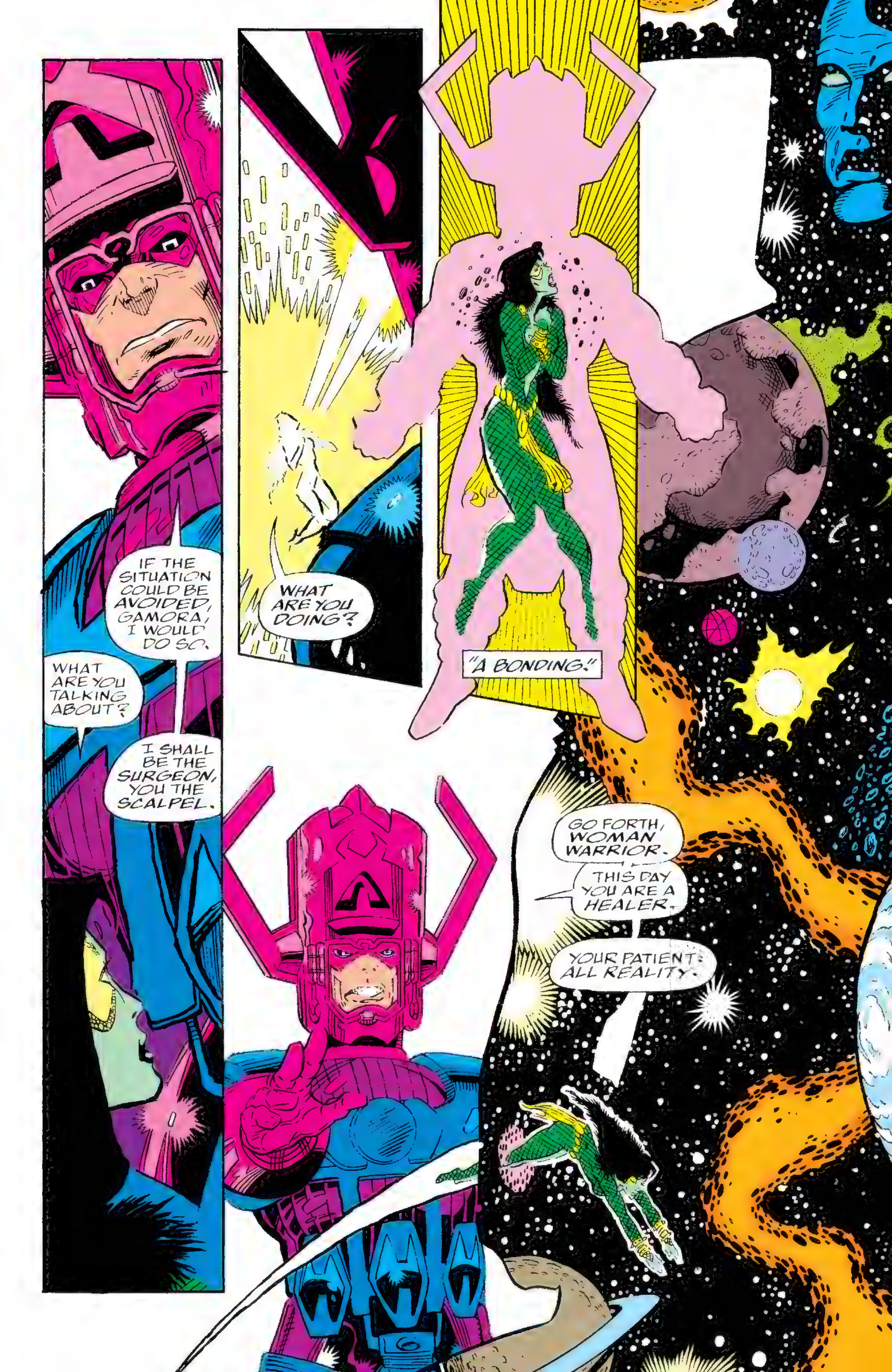
THEN IT IS ETERNITY, HIMSELF, I MUST PLEAD MY CASE TO?

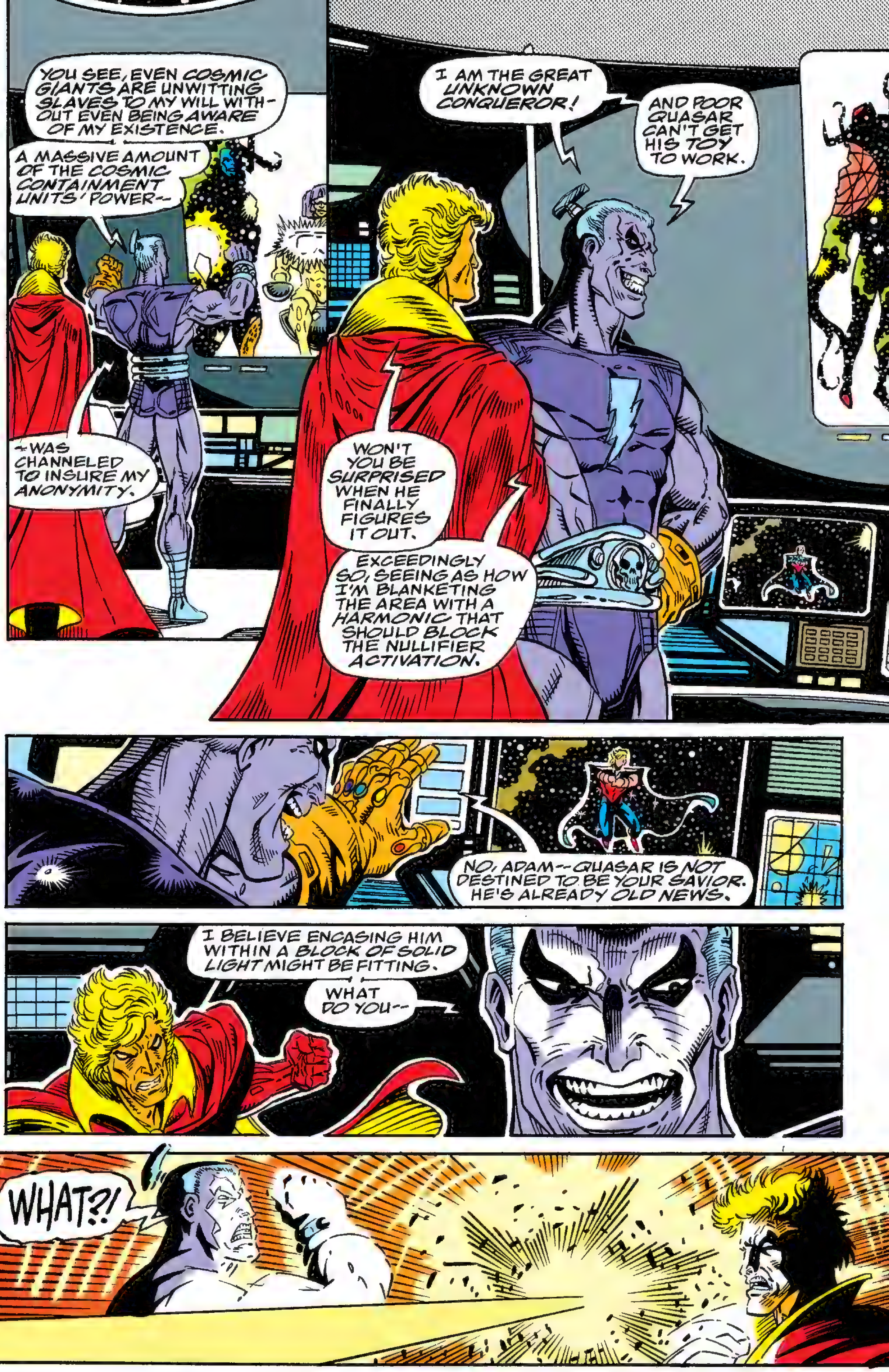
PRECISELY.

BUT HE'S ZONED OUT!

A MALADY THAT MUST BE REMEDIED BEFORE WE CAN CONTINUE, GAMORA.

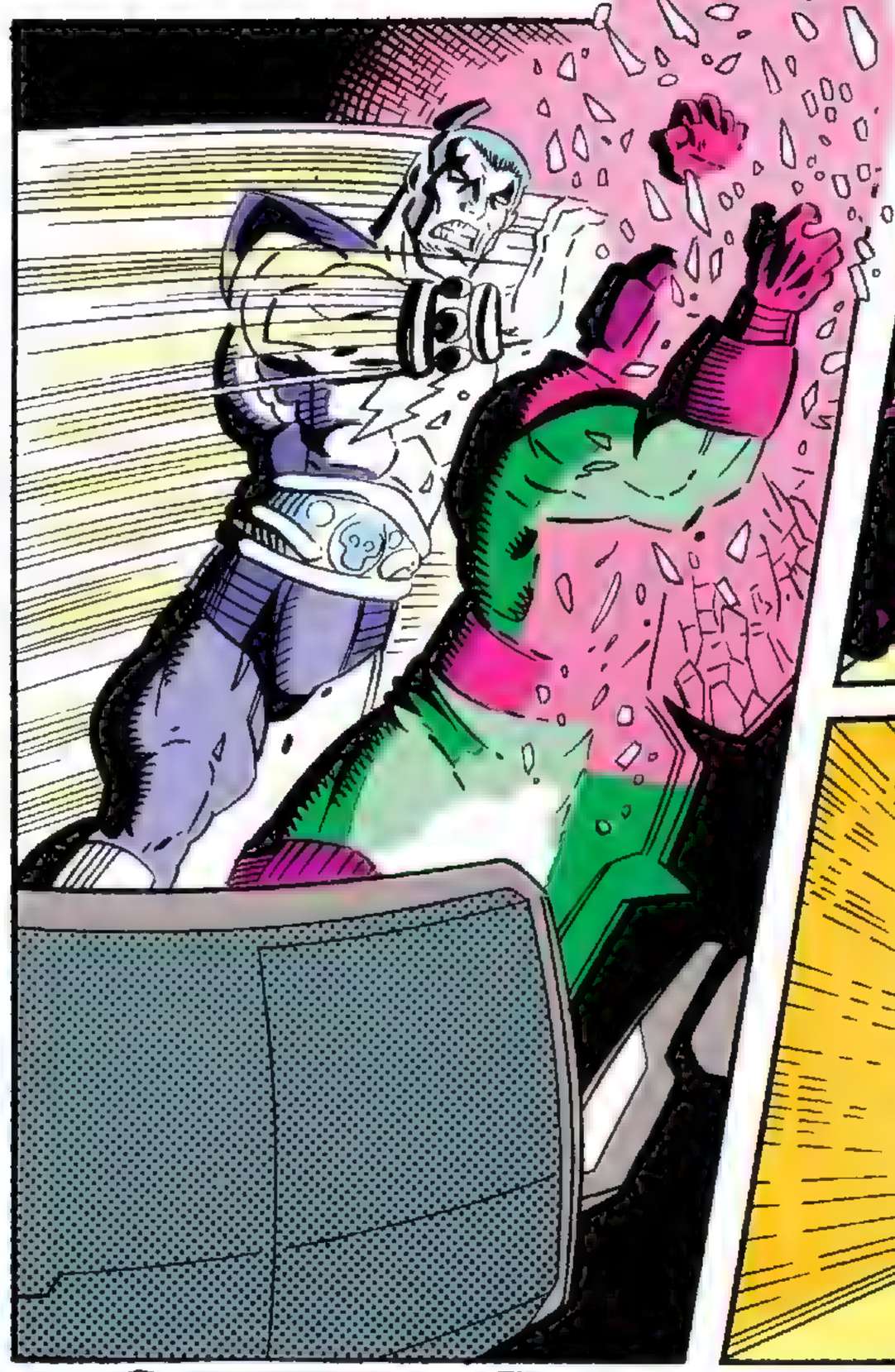
A TASK I DARE NOT ATTEMPT ALONE.

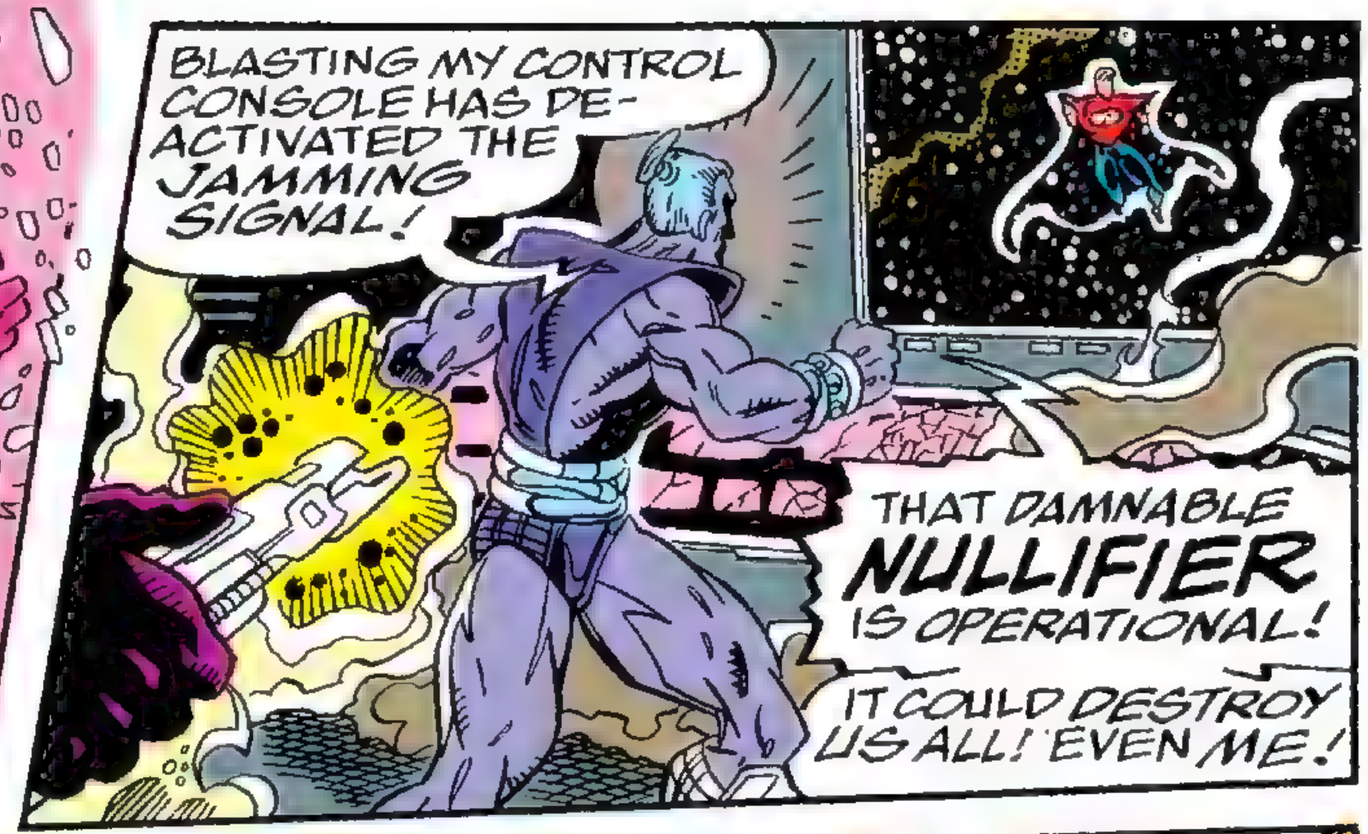

IF THE SITUATION COULD BE AVOIDED, GAMORA, I WOULD DO SO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SHALL BE THE SURGEON, YOU THE SCALPEL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
"A BONDING."
GO FORTH, WOMAN WARRIOR.
THIS DAY YOU ARE A HEALER.
YOUR PATIENT: ALL REALITY.


YOU SEE, EVEN COSMIC GIANTS ARE UNWITTING SLAVES TO MY WILL WITHOUT EVEN BEING AWARE OF MY EXISTENCE.
A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF THE COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS' POWER--
--WAS CHANNELED TO INSURE MY ANONYMITY.
I AM THE GREAT UNKNOWN CONQUEROR!
AND POOR QUASAR CAN'T GET HIS TOY TO WORK.
WON'T YOU BE SURPRISED WHEN HE FINALLY FIGURES IT OUT.
EXCEEDINGLY SO, SEEING AS HOW I'M BLANKETING THE AREA WITH A HARMONIC THAT SHOULD BLOCK THE NULLIFIER ACTIVATION.
NO, ADAM--QUASAR IS NOT DESTINED TO BE YOUR SAVIOR. HE'S ALREADY OLD NEWS.
I BELIEVE ENCASING HIM WITHIN A BLOCK OF SOLID LIGHT MIGHT BE FITTING.
WHAT DO YOU--
WHAT?!

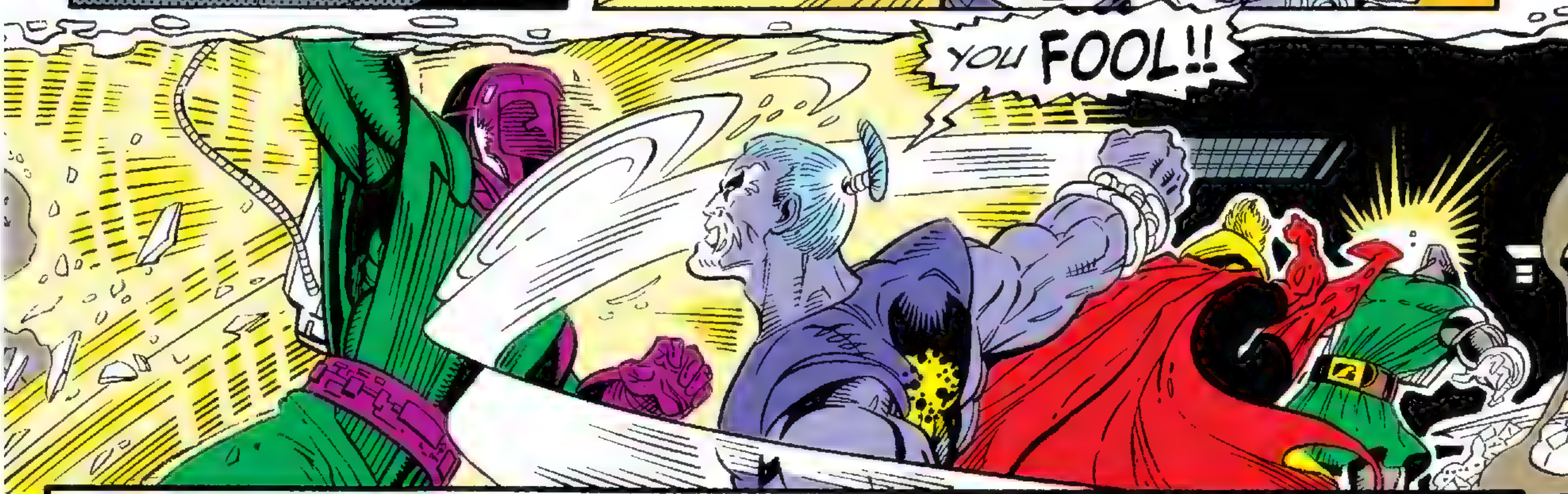
WARLOCK IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZES DR. DOOM FROM THE INFINITY GAUNTLET AFFAIR, BUT HIS COMPANION...
THEN, FROM OUT OF DIM MEMORIES OF OMNIPOTENT GRANDEUR, A NAME SPRINGS FORTH: KANG THE CONQUEROR!
THEIR INTENT IS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS. UNIVERSAL SALVATION IS NOT THEIR GOAL.
INSTANTLY, THE SITUATION IS CONSIDERED, AND A CHOICE MADE.

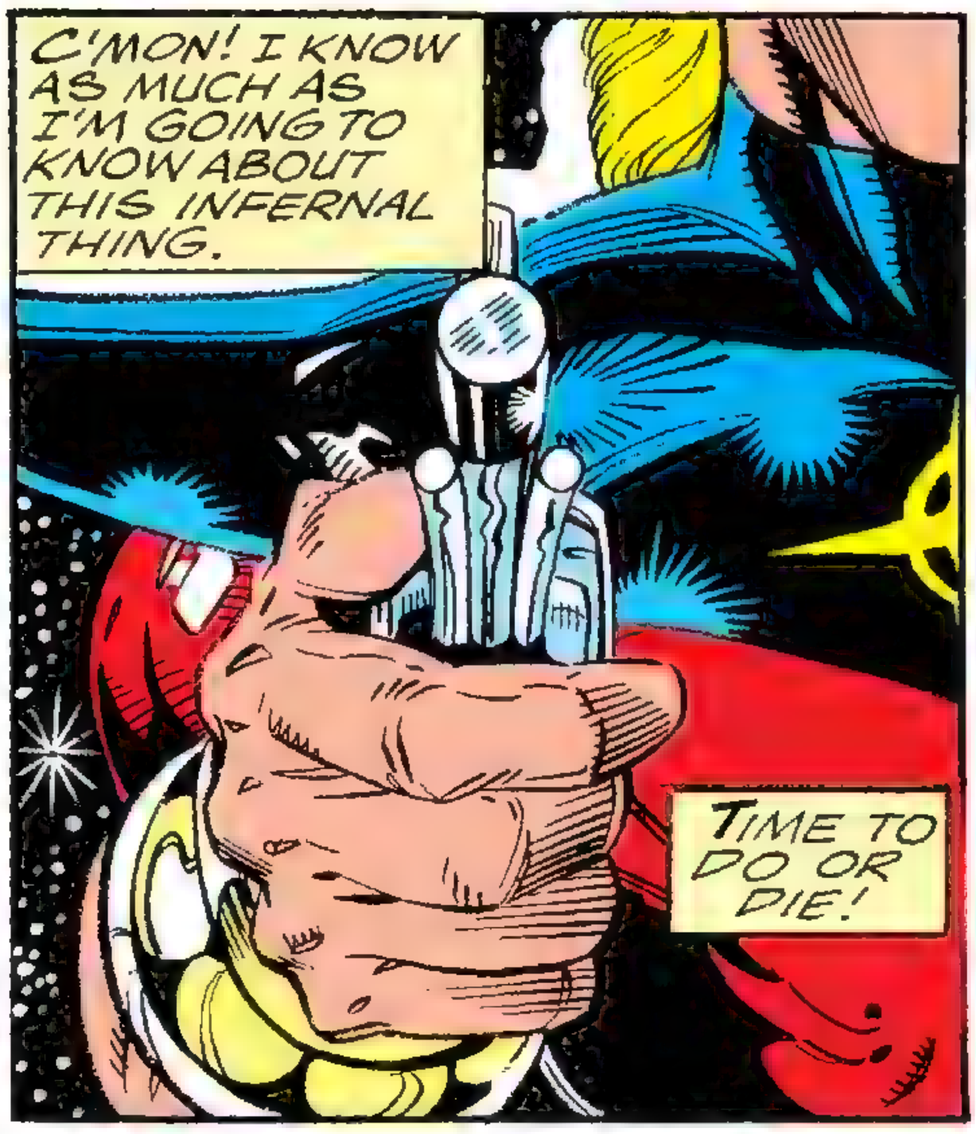
BETTER TO DEAL WITH A DEVIL YOU KNOW THAN TWO WHO ARE STRANGERS.

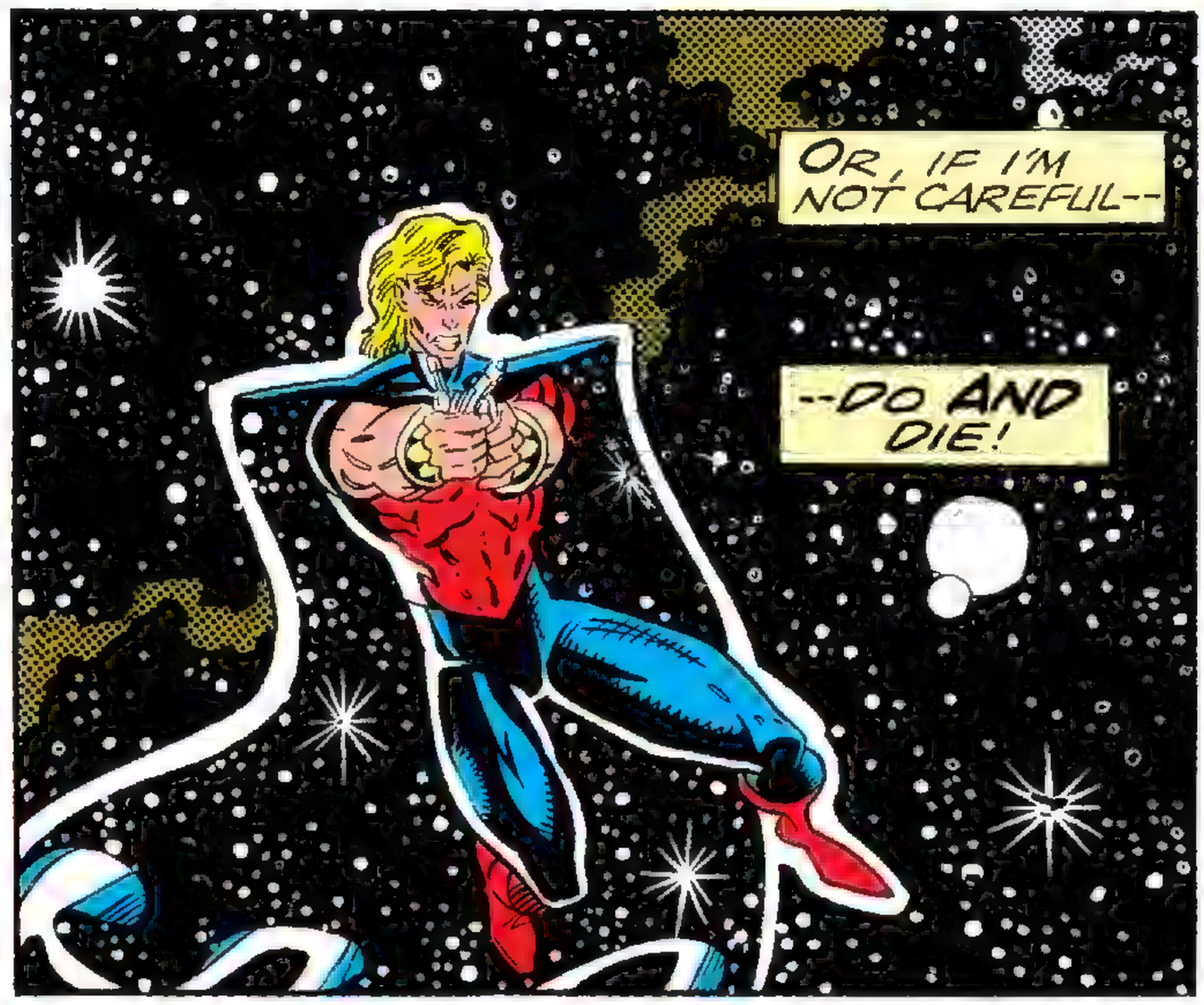


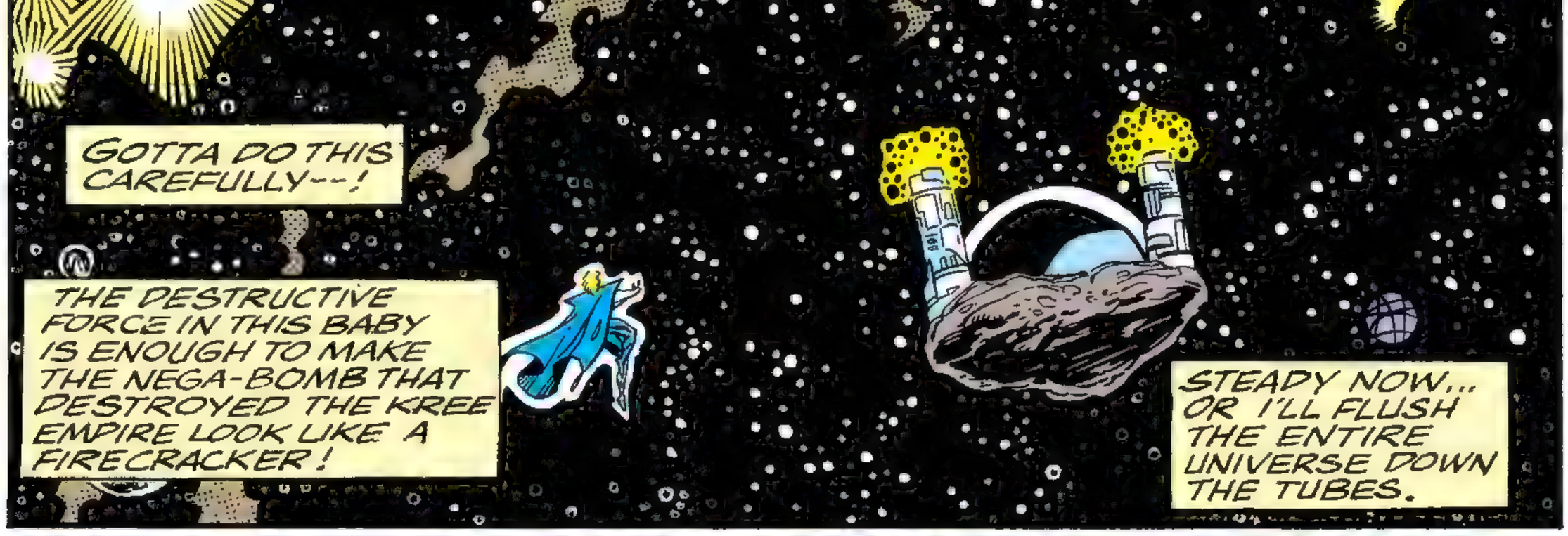

BLASTING MY CONTROL CONSOLE HAS DE-ACTIVATED THE JAMMING SIGNAL!
THAT DAMNABLE NULLIFIER IS OPERATIONAL!
IT COULD DESTROY US ALL! EVEN ME!

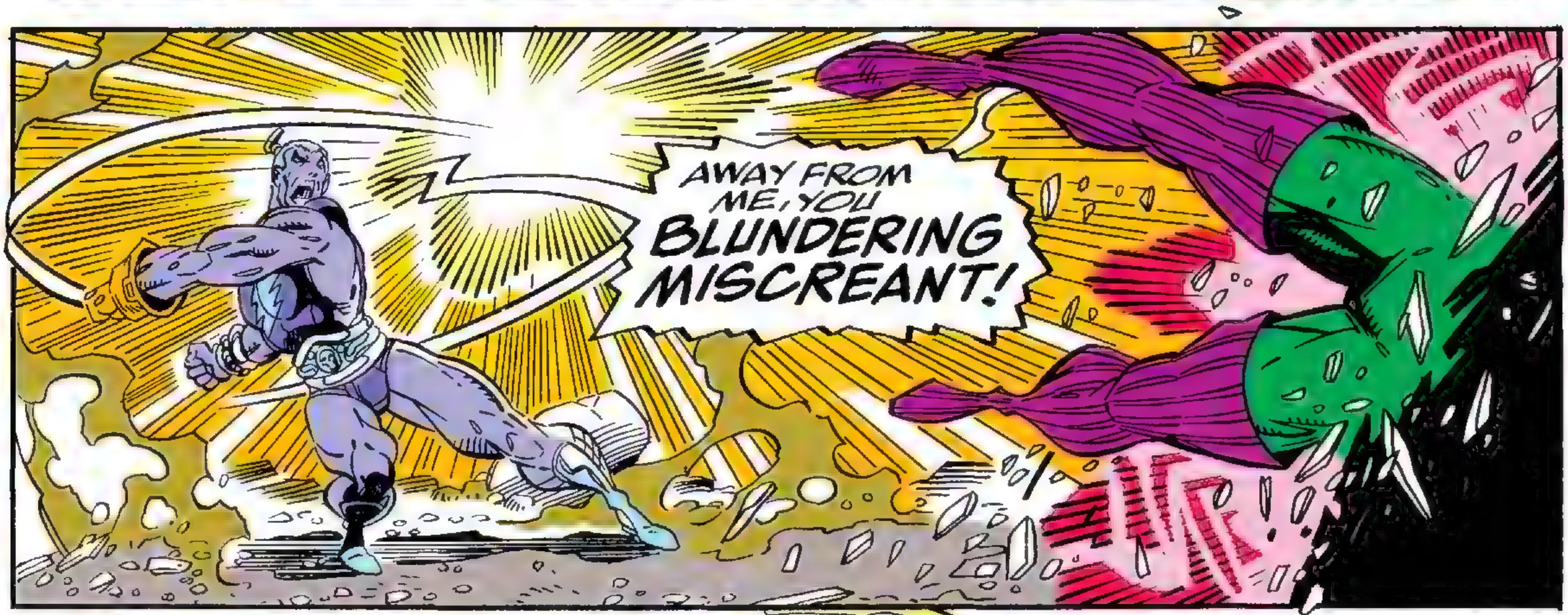
No!


YOU FOOL!!


C'MON! I KNOW AS MUCH AS I'M GOING TO KNOW ABOUT THIS INFERNAL THING.
TIME TO DO OR DIE!

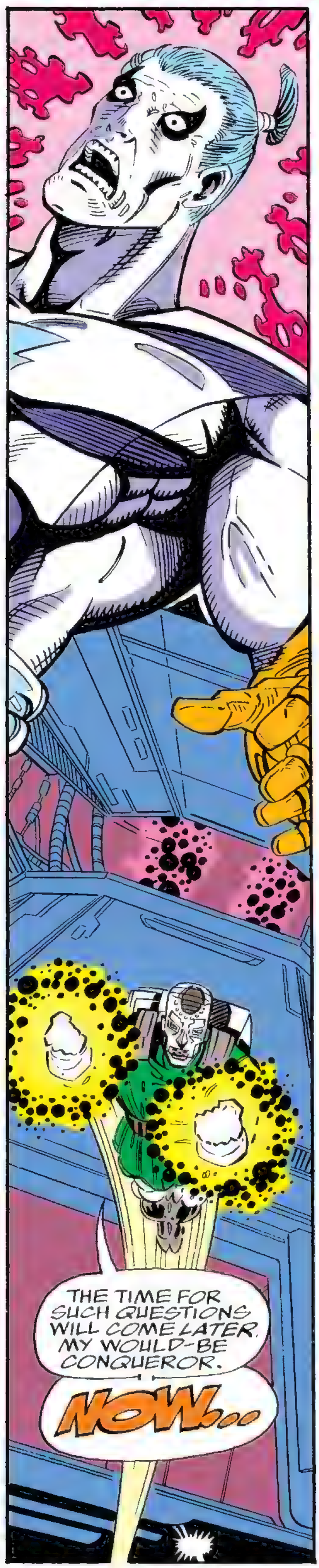

OR, IF I'M NOT CAREFUL--
--DO AND DIE!


GOTTA DO THIS CAREFULLY---!
THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN THIS BABY IS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE NEGA-BOMB THAT DESTROYED THE KREE EMPIRE LOOK LIKE A FIRECRACKER!
STEADY NOW... OR I'LL FLUSH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE DOWN THE TUBES.


AWAY FROM ME, YOU BLUNDERING MISCREANT!

ONLY HOPE IS TO REACH THE CONTAINMENT UNITS AND DIRECTLY USE THEIR WISH GRANTING POWERS!
DOOM... GET AFTER THE PURPLE ONE...
I WILL.
BUT FIRST...

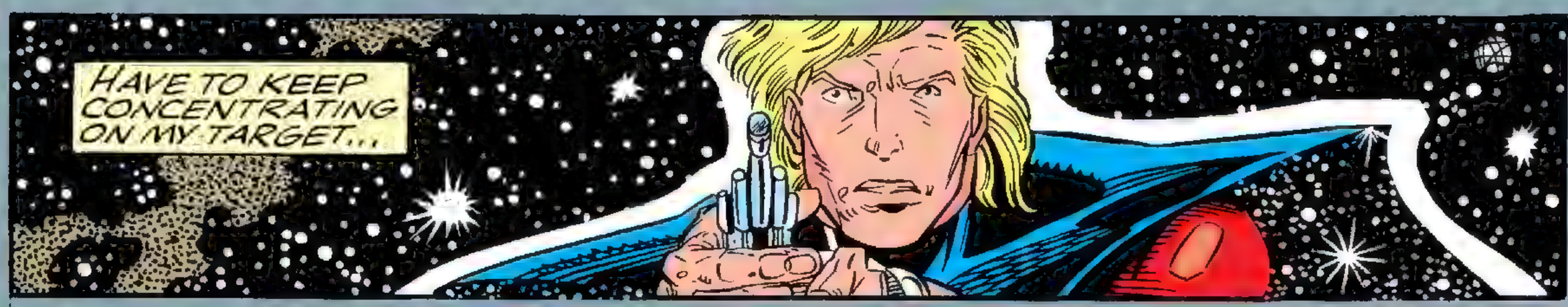
...I BELIEVE YOU'VE JUST BARKED YOUR LAST ORDER MY WAY, KANG.
DR. DOOM OWES YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING HIM--
--KING OF ALL REALITY!
UNLIKE CERTAIN MONARCHS, DOOM ALWAYS PAYS HIS DEBTS PROMPTLY.
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT RADIATION SIDE EFFECTS NOW--MUST REACH THE COSMIC CONTAINERS!
THAT BLASTED QUASAR COULD FIRE THE NULLIFIER AT ANY MOMENT!
REACH A UNIT AND TURN QUASAR INTO--
WHAT?!
THE CONTAINMENT UNITS ARE GONE!
WHO COULD HAVE...
HOW COULD THEY HAVE...

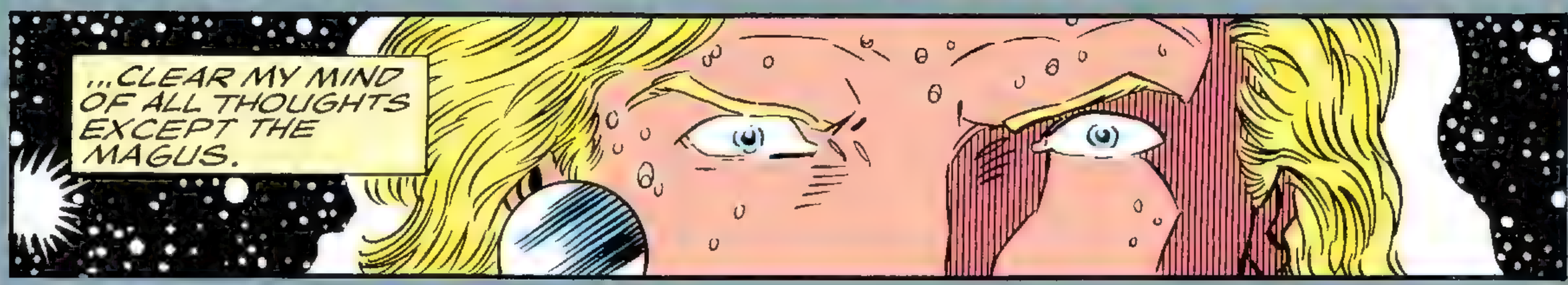


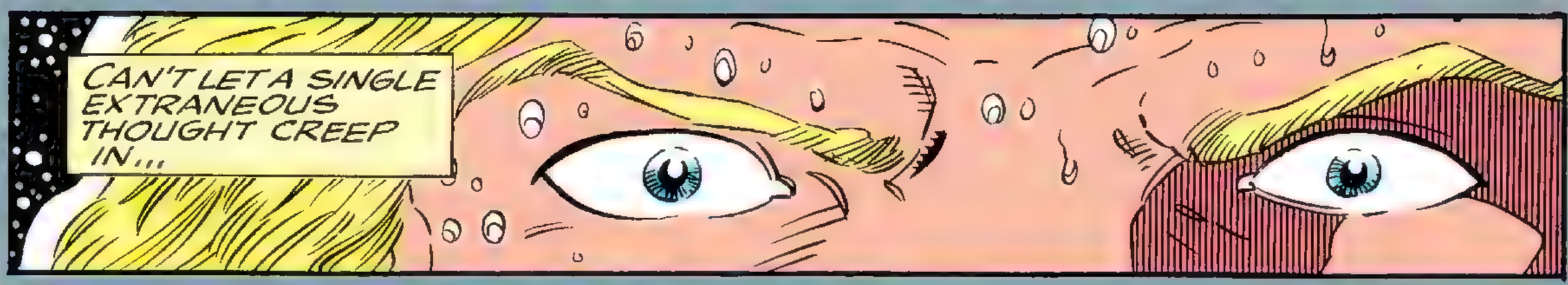
...YOU MUST PAY FOR THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!

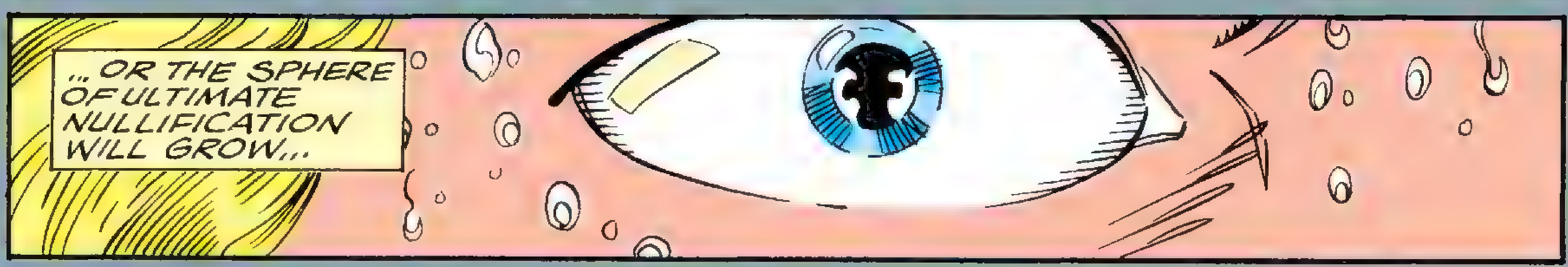
IT'S... ACTIVATED.

I SENSE ITS POWER BUILDING!


HAVE TO KEEP CONCENTRATING ON MY TARGET...

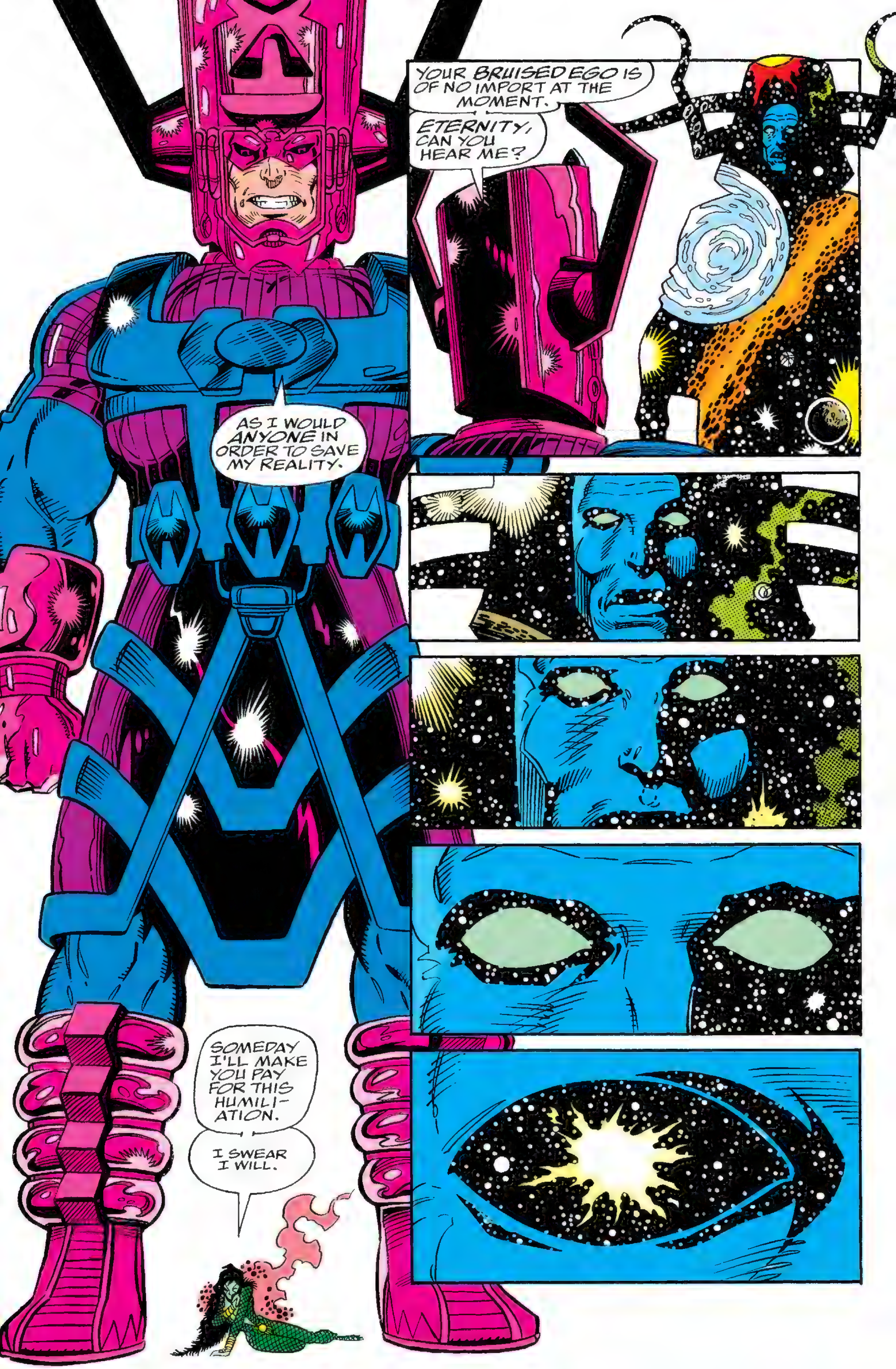

...CLEAR MY MIND OF ALL THOUGHTS EXCEPT THE MAGUS.


CAN'T LET A SINGLE EXTRANEOUS THOUGHT CREEP IN...

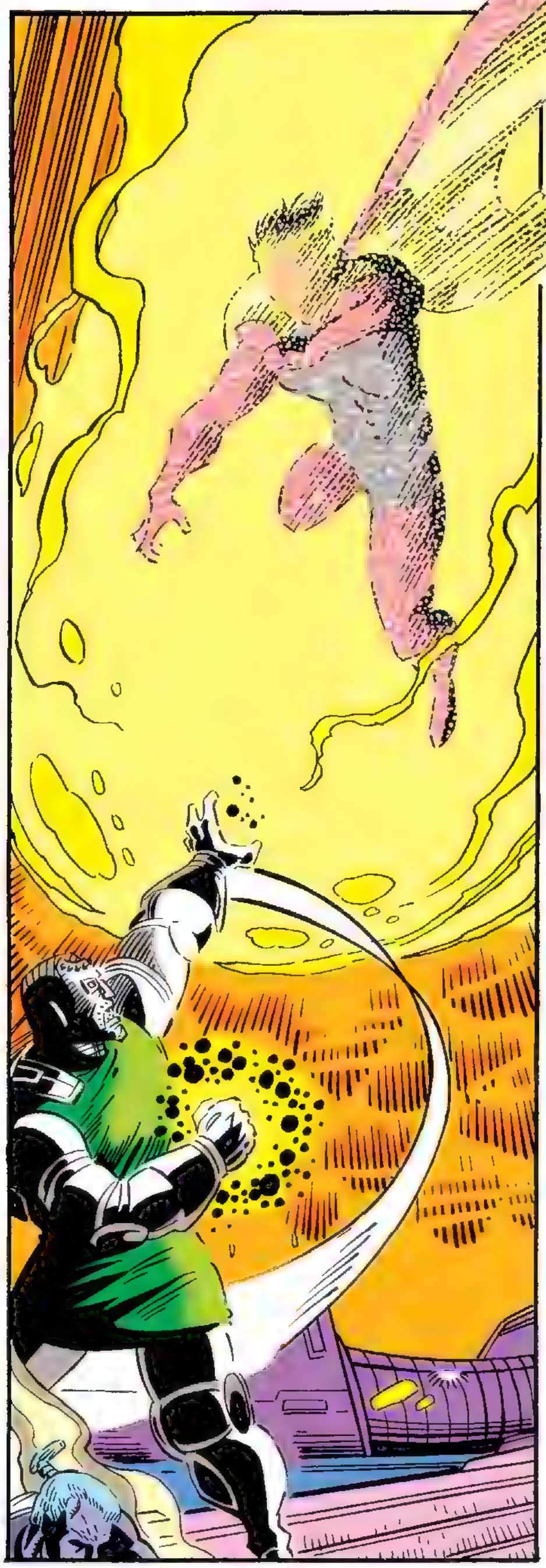

...OR THE SPHERE OF ULTIMATE NULLIFICATION WILL GROW...

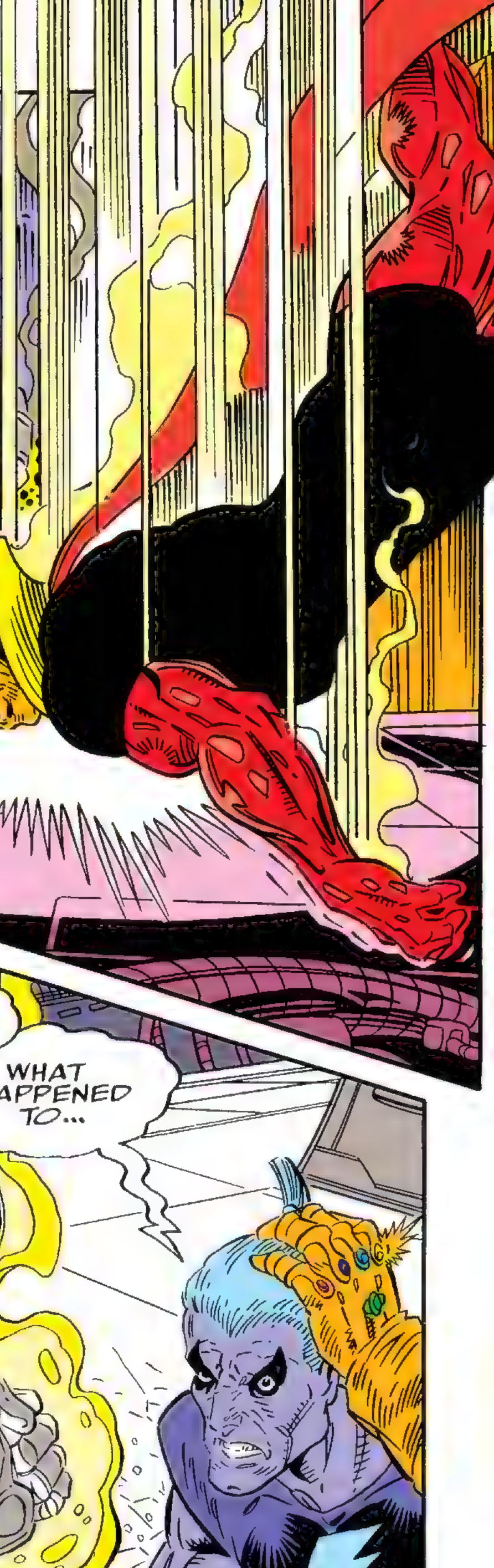
...AND MUSHROOM OUT OF MY CONTROL!

THE WOMAN WARRIOR HAS SUCCEEDED IN HER QUEST.
BLAST YOU, GALACTUS!
YOU USED ME!!

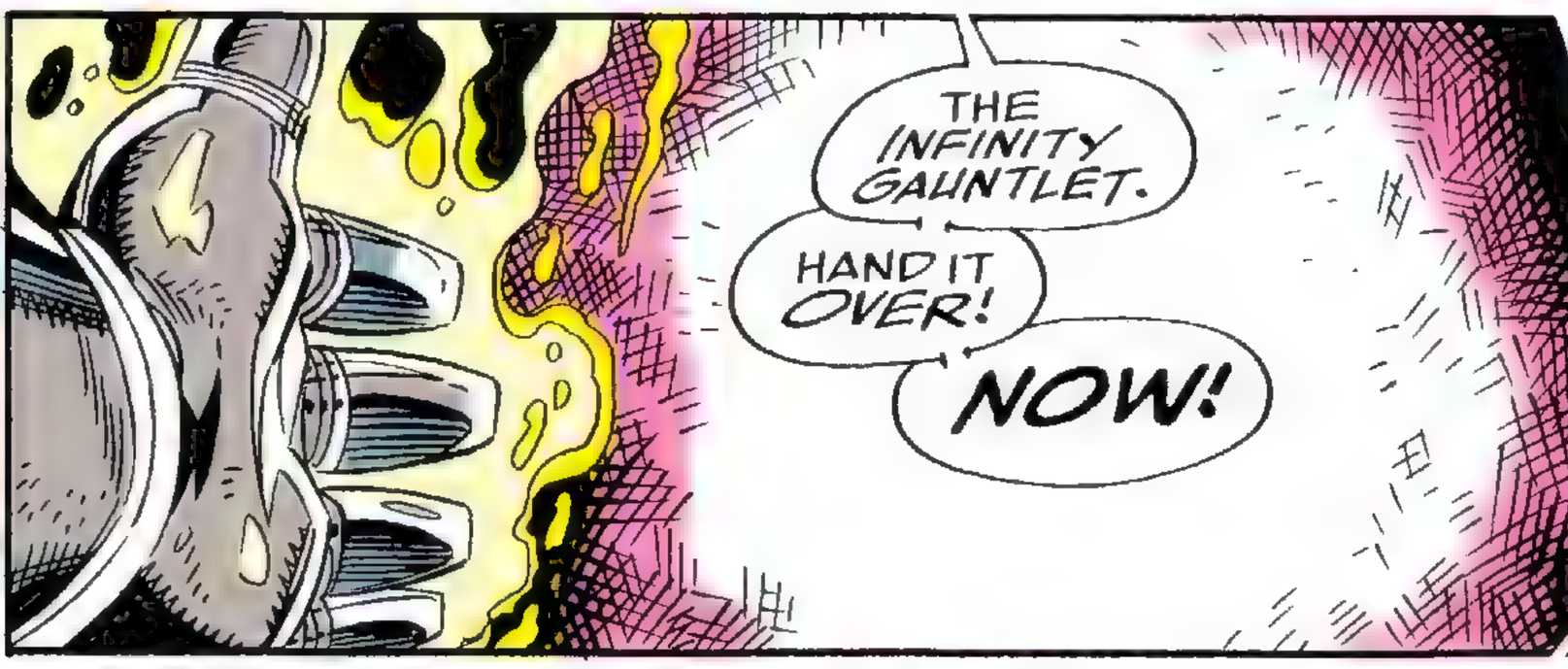

YOUR BRUISED EGO IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT.
ETERNITY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
AS I WOULD ANYONE IN ORDER TO SAVE MY REALITY.
SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS HUMILI-ATION.
I SWEAR I WILL.

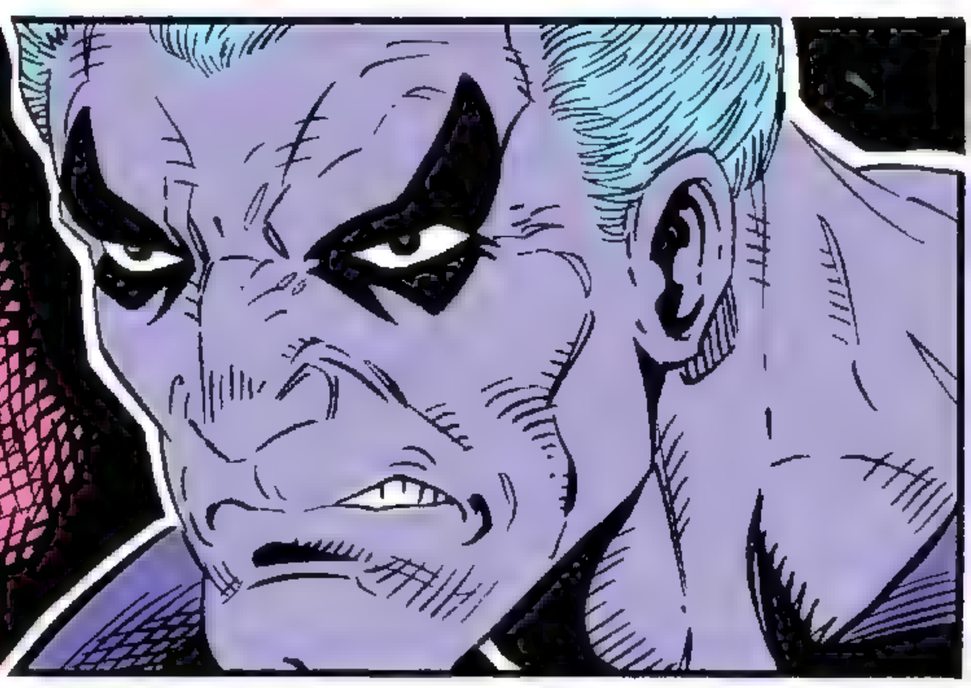
DOOM ...
THE MAGUS...
WHERE?
THE SOUND OF RAY BLASTS!





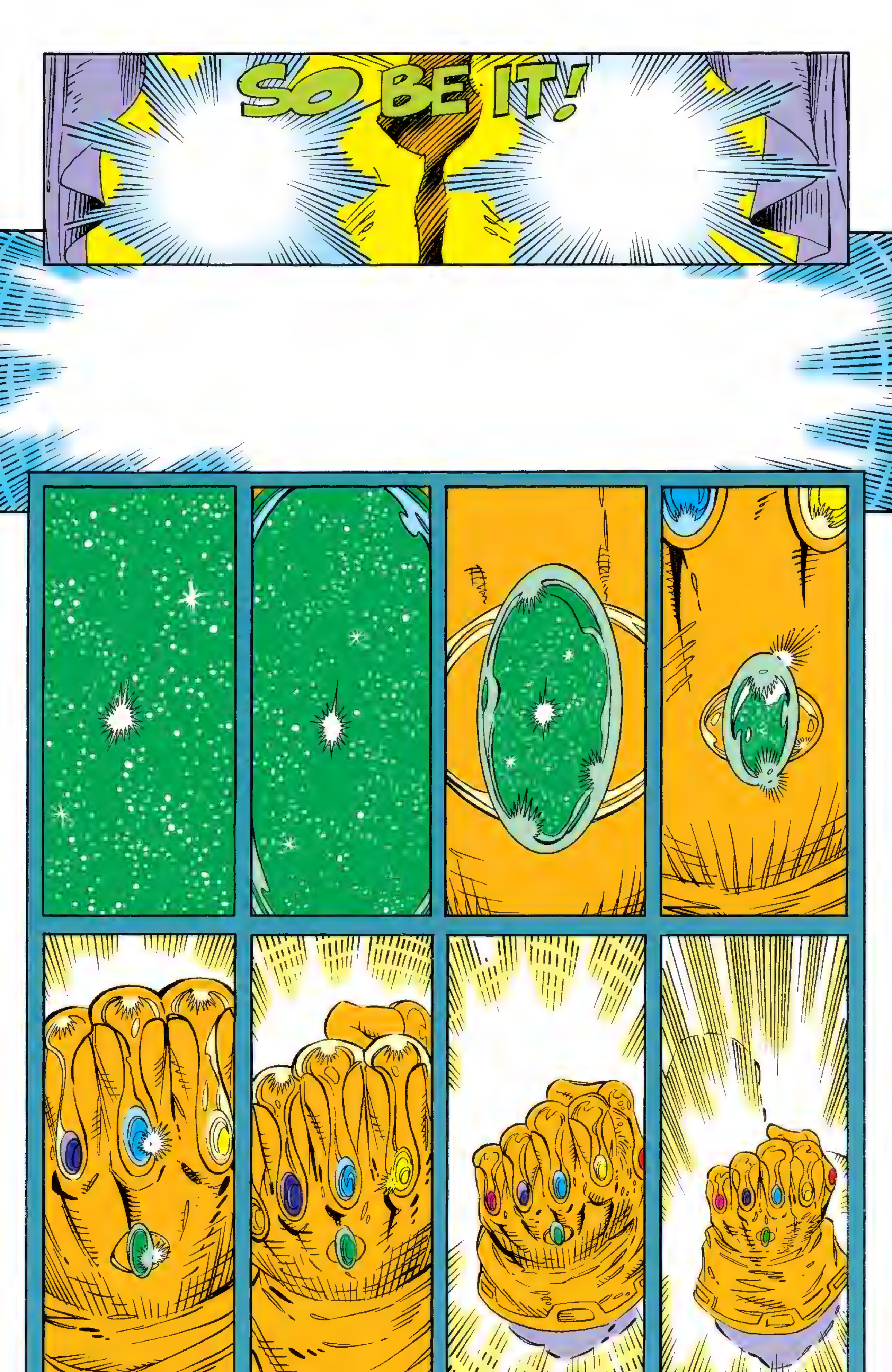
UGGH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO...



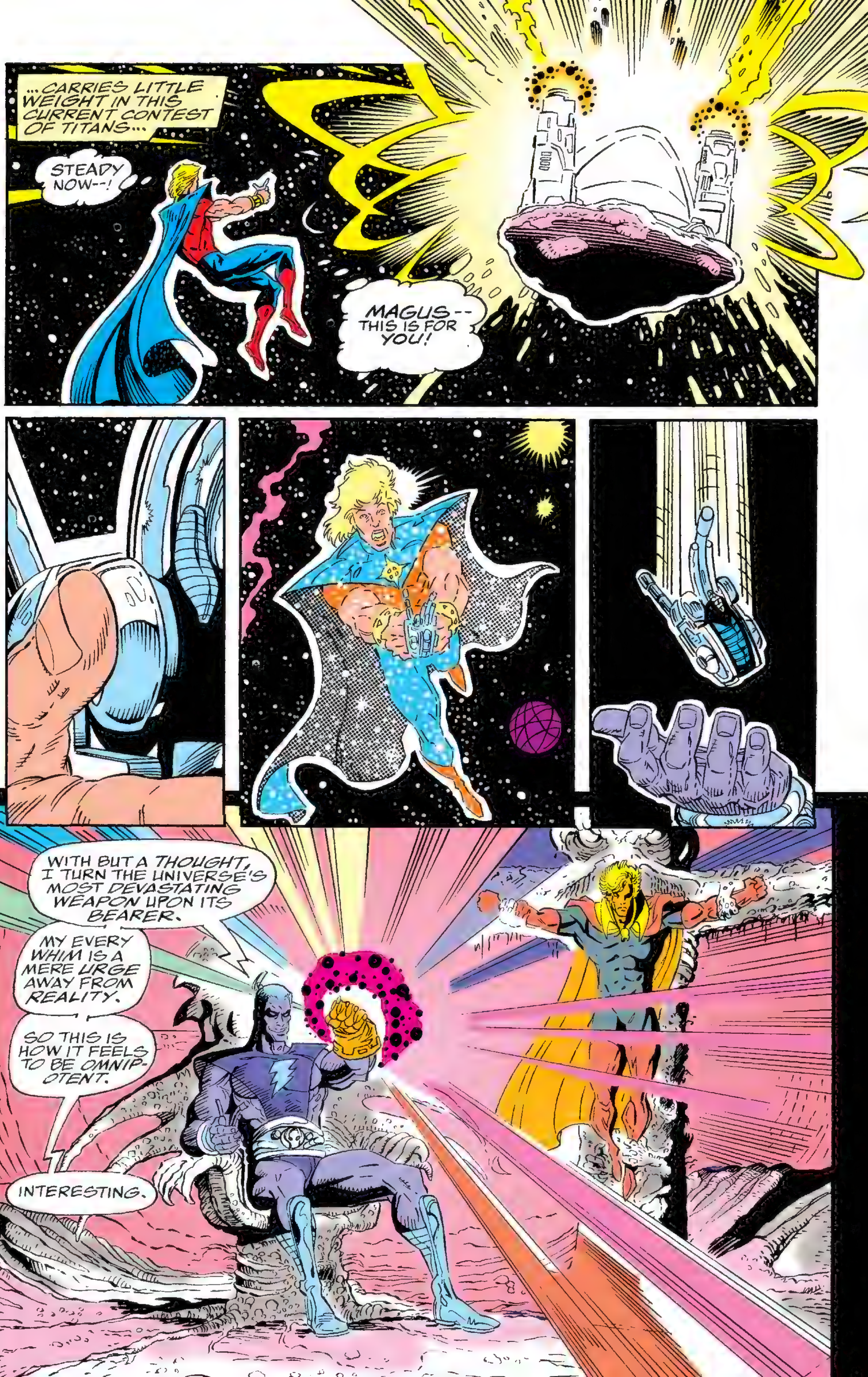

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
HAND IT OVER!
NOW!

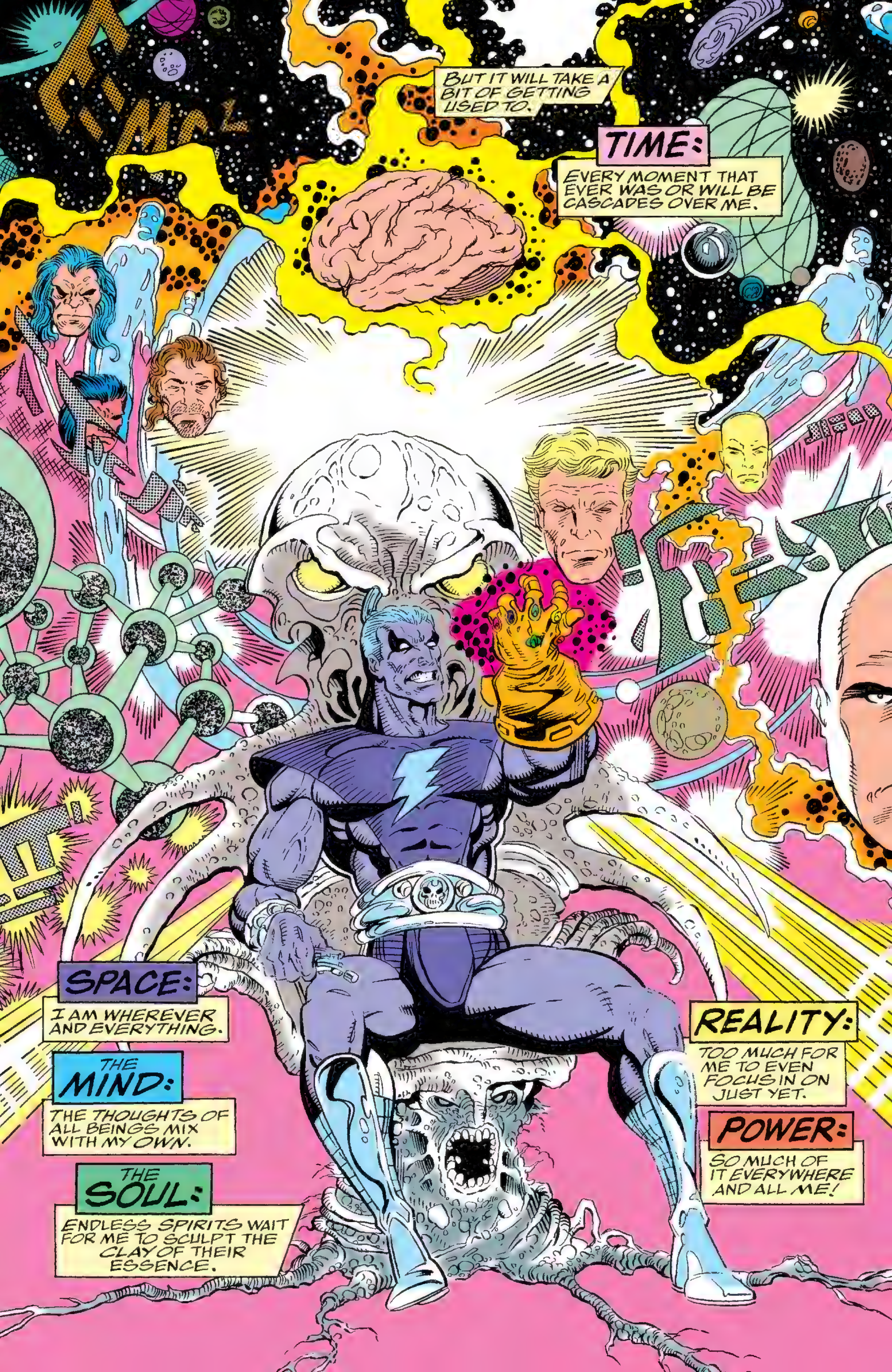
SLOWLY.
VERY SLOWLY.
LET...
LET...
LET...

THE
GEMS
WORK
AS
ONE


SO BE IT!

A MOMENT'S DIFFERENCE AND THE FATE OF AN ENTIRE ACTUALITY CHANGES.
TYRANT FALLS BEFORE MADMAN AND A MILLION DREAMS PERISH IN THE FLAMES OF TWISTED AMBITION.
WITHIN THE CONFINES OF WHAT IS, A NEW SUPREME BEING STEPS FORTH.
AND A CHAMPION FAR FROM HOME LEARNS THAT THE WORD "ULTIMATE"—


...CARRIES LITTLE WEIGHT IN THIS CURRENT CONTEST OF TITANS...
STEADY NOW--!
MAGUS-- THIS IS FOR YOU!
WITH BUT A THOUGHT, I TURN THE UNIVERSE'S MOST DEVASTATING WEAPON UPON ITS BEARER.
MY EVERY WHIM IS A MERE URGE AWAY FROM REALITY.
SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO BE OMNIPOTENT.
INTERESTING.


BUT IT WILL TAKE A BIT OF GETTING USED TO.
TIME:
EVERY MOMENT THAT EVER WAS OR WILL BE CASCADES OVER ME.
SPACE:
I AM WHEREVER AND EVERYTHING.
THE MIND:
THE THOUGHTS OF ALL BEINGS MIX WITH MY OWN.
THE SOUL:
ENDLESS SPIRITS WAIT FOR ME TO SCULPT THE CLAY OF THEIR ESSENCE.
REALITY:
TOO MUCH FOR ME TO EVEN FOCUS IN ON JUST YET.
POWER:
SO MUCH OF IT EVERYWHERE AND ALL ME!

GHOSTS OF THE PAST DANCING FORWARD FOR INSPECTION.
THE SHREDDING OF PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS.
PLAYING WITH ATOMS, DESTROYING AND RE-FORMING.
SKIPPING MERRILY THROUGH THE CONTINUUM.
A GAZING INTO THE DEPTHS SO METAPHYSICAL.
SUPREMACY WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AN UNENDING PLEASURE.
BY THE STARS!
THE MAGUS IS ADAPTING TO GOD-HOOD MUCH QUICKER THAN EITHER THANOS OR I DID!

THE LONG-RANGE SCANNERS SHOW INCREDIBLE ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS WITHIN THE TARGET DIMENSION.

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN GALACTUS HAS SUCCEEDED IN HIS MISSION.

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET HAS BEEN REVITALIZED.

THEN ONLY DESPERATE MEASURES REMAIN TO US!

HOLD ON A MOMENT, THANOS--!

WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE IN ARGUMENT!

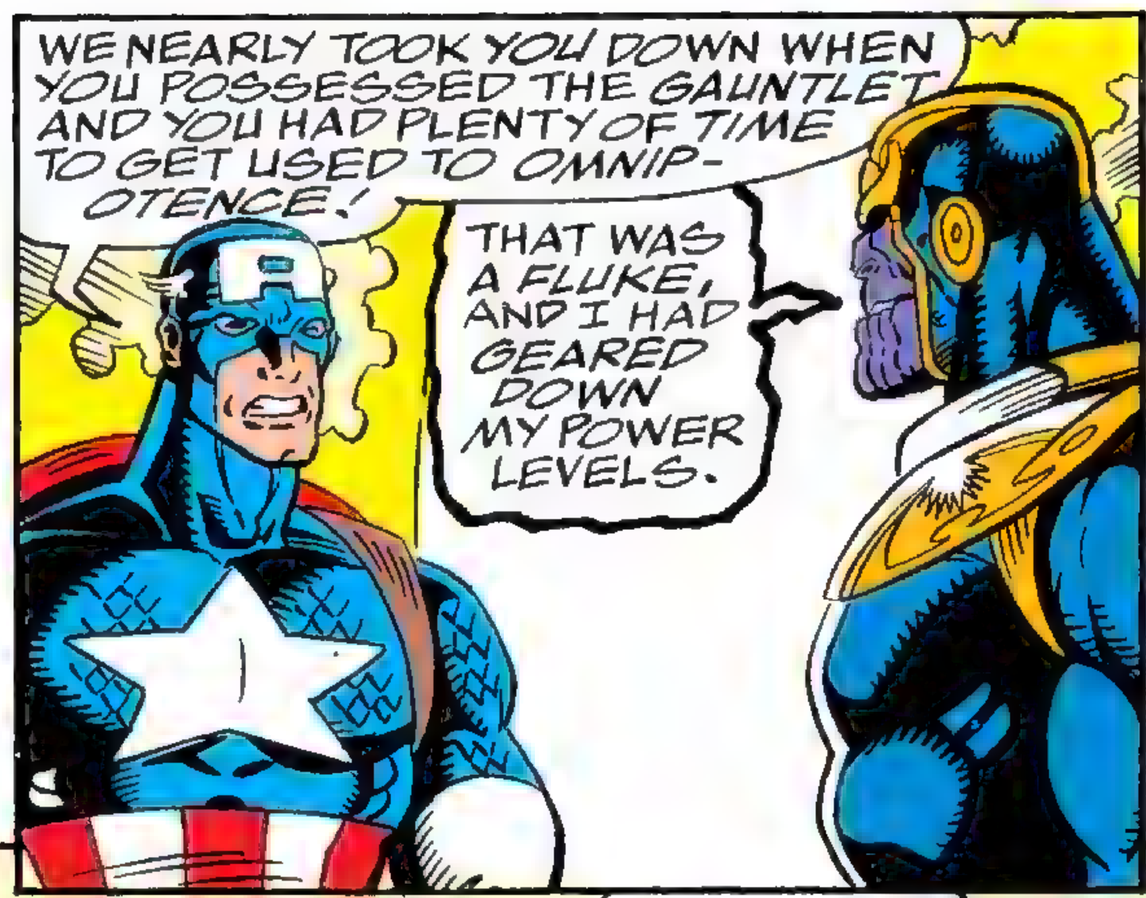
WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND, THE MAGUS BECOMES MORE ADEPT AT WIELDING THE AWESOME POWER HE NOW POSSESSES.

WE MUST STRIKE NOW WHILE SOME CONFUSION STILL BURDENS HIM.

I SHALL LEAD YOU INTO THE COMING BATTLE.

DON'T BET ON IT, TITAN.

WHO THEN? YOU?

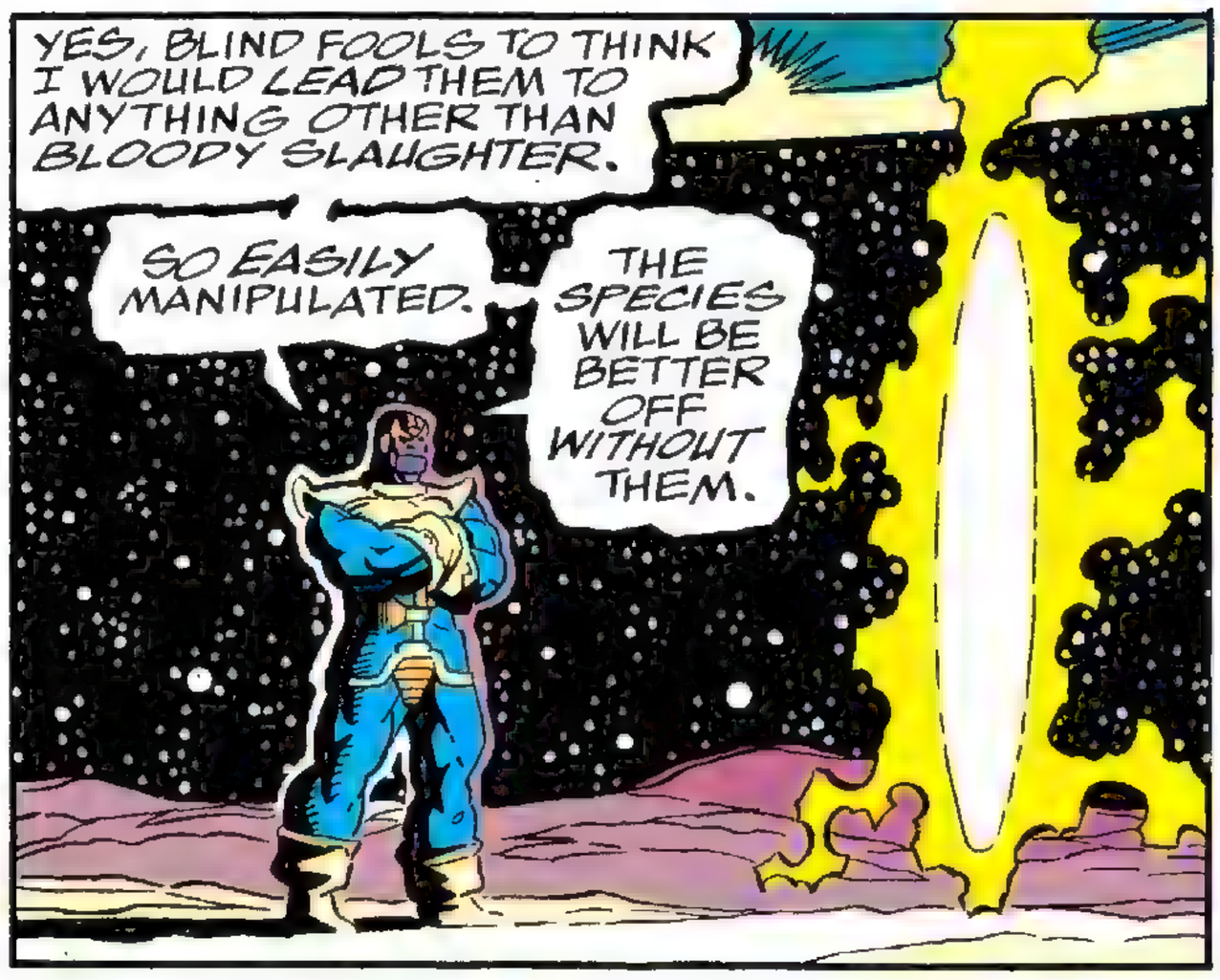

WE NEARLY TOOK YOU DOWN WHEN YOU POSSESSED THE GAUNTLET AND YOU HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO GET USED TO OMNIP-OTENCE!
THAT WAS A FLUKE, AND I HAD GEARED DOWN MY POWER LEVELS.

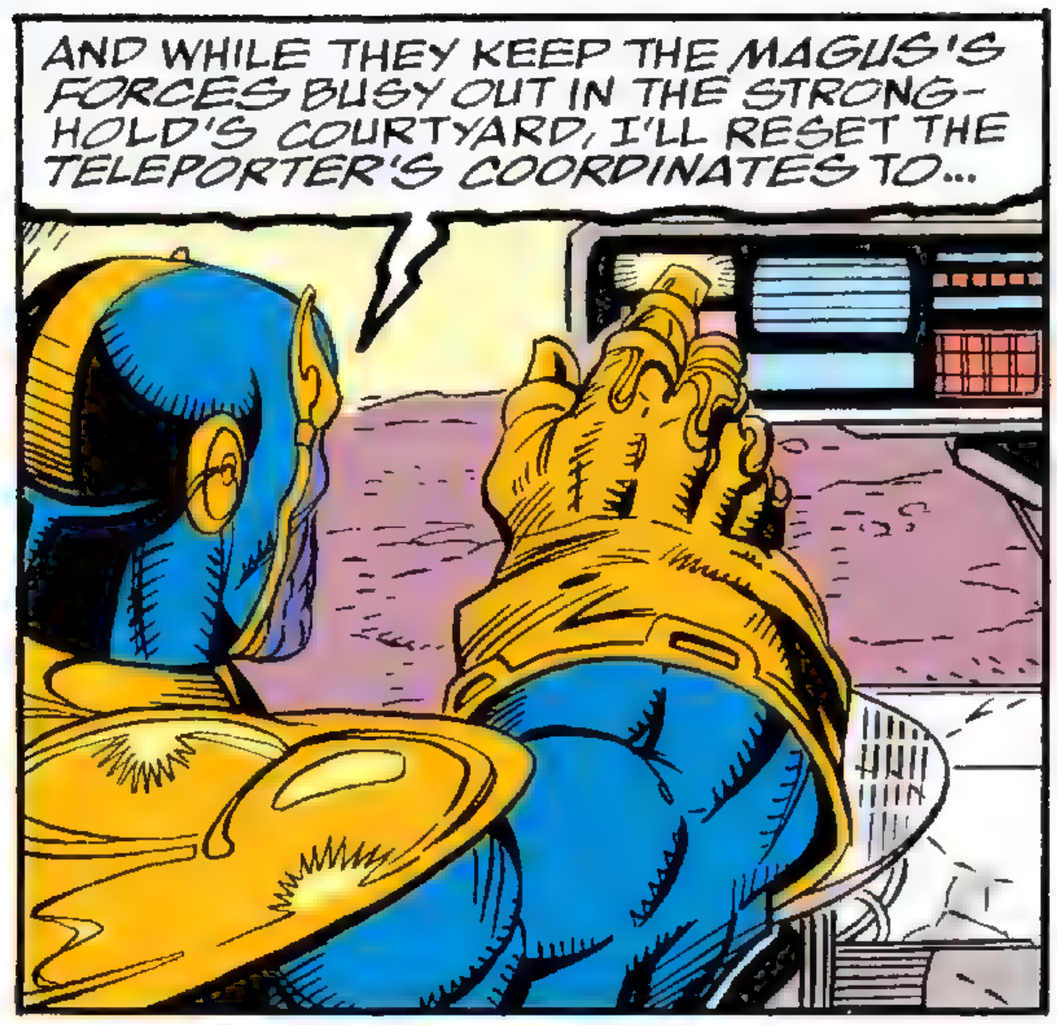
SURE, THANOS.
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH WITH HIM, CAP!
WE'RE ALL BEHIND YOU!

THEN LET'S MOVE IT, FOLKS!
STRAIGHT THROUGH, THEN SPREAD OUT WHEN YOU HIT THE OTHER SIDE.
WHAT BLIND FOOLS.

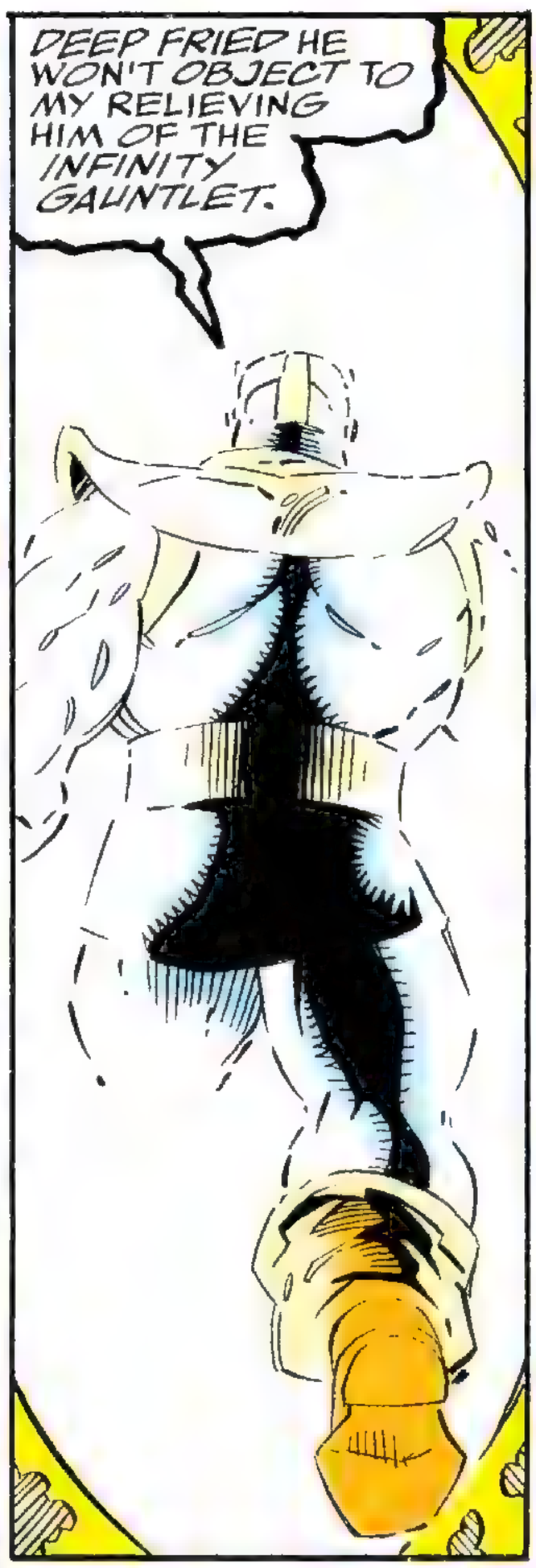
OOPS!

THEY WUZ WAITIN' FOR US!
A TRAP--!
AND I WALTZED US STRAIGHT INTO IT!
WHERE'S THANOS?

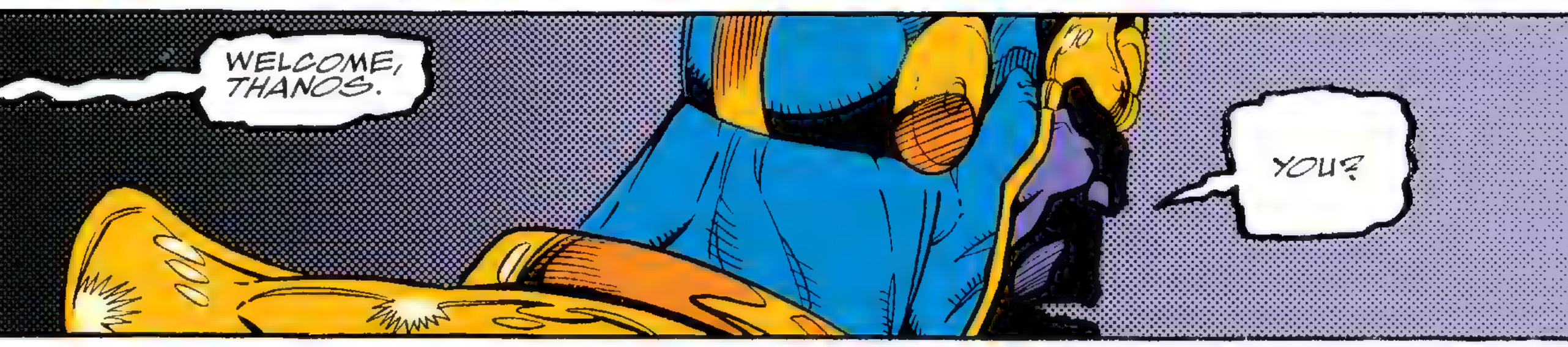

YES, BLIND FOOLS TO THINK I WOULD LEAD THEM TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN BLOODY SLAUGHTER.
SO EASILY MANIPULATED.
THE SPECIES WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THEM.


AND WHILE THEY KEEP THE MAGUS'S FORCES BUSY OUT IN THE STRONG-HOLD'S COURTYARD, I'LL RESET THE TELEPORTER'S COORDINATES TO...

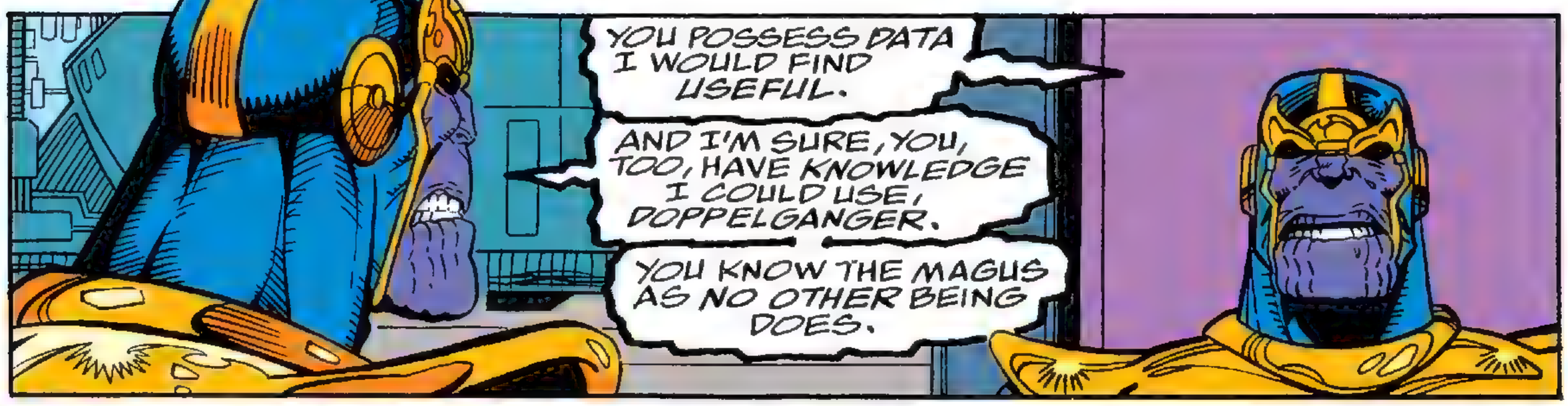
...DEPOSIT ME JUST OUTSIDE THE MAGUS'S CONTROL ROOM.
THE FLEDGLING GOD SHOULD STILL BE VUL-NERABLE TO A CAREFULLY AIMED AND UNEXPECTED LASER CHARGE.


DEEP FRIED HE WON'T OBJECT TO MY RELIEVING HIM OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

MUST MOVE QUICKLY--
I CAN--


WELCOME, THANOS.
YOU?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD DO IF I HAD BEEN IN YOUR SITUATION.
OF COURSE.
WHAT NOW?

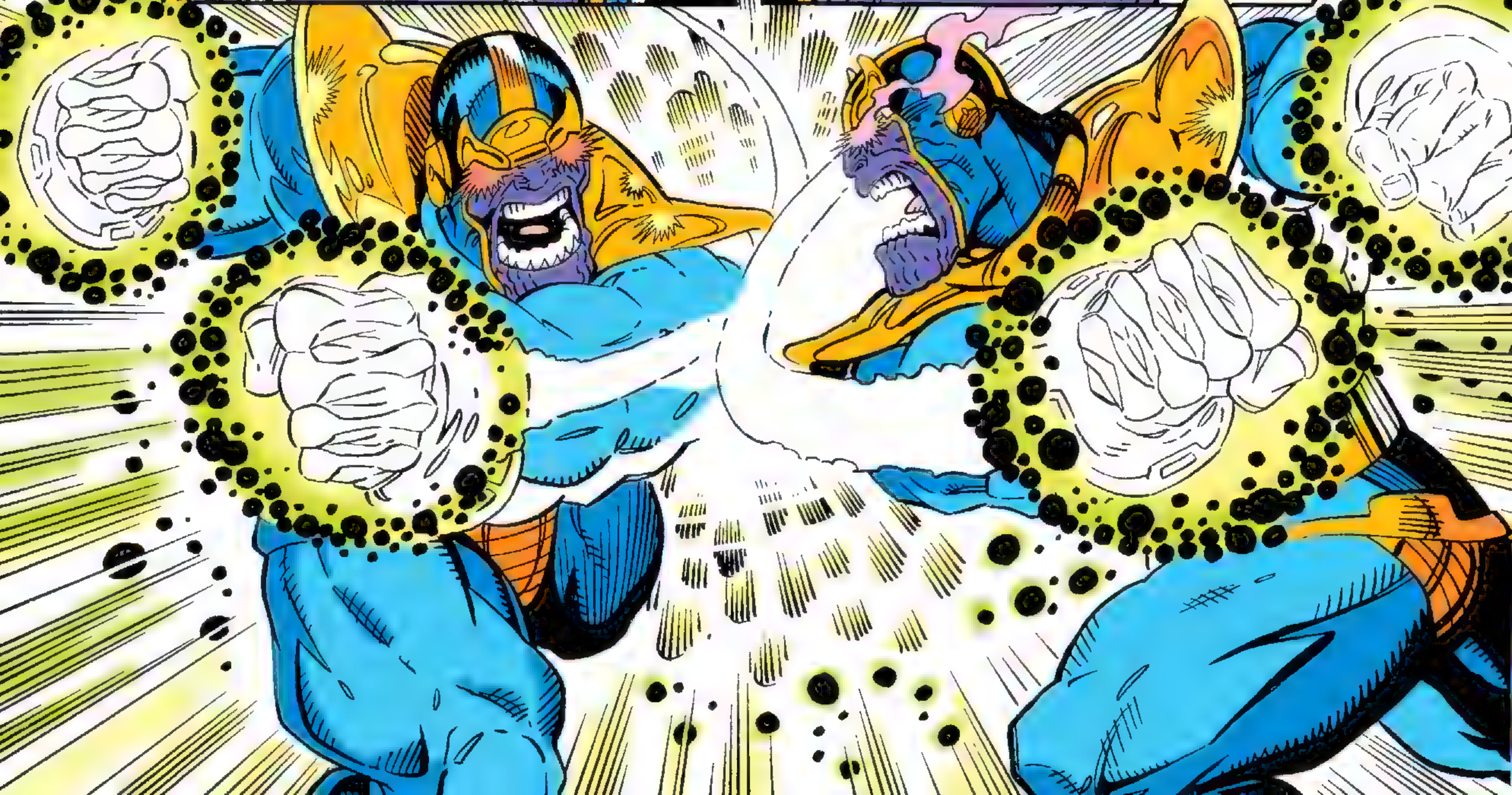

YOU POSSESS DATA I WOULD FIND USEFUL.
AND I'M SURE, YOU, TOO, HAVE KNOWLEDGE I COULD USE, DOPPELGANGER.
YOU KNOW THE MAGUS AS NO OTHER BEING DOES.

BUT I SUSPECT THAT FAMILIARITY HAS BRED NO LOYALTY WITHIN YOUR BREAST.
YES. I PLAN TO BETRAY HIM THE FIRST CHANCE I GET.
I INHERITED YOUR DREAMS OF UNIVERSAL DOMINATION.

THEN WE BEST ACT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HE FULLY ADJUSTS TO HIS NEWFOUND MIGHT.
WE?
THERE IS ONLY ONE INFINITY GAUNTLET, THANOS.

I AM NO EARTH-BORN FOOL.

NO COM-PROMISE?
VERY WELL.



WHOEVER FIGHTS MONSTERS, WARLOCK, SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT IN THE PROCESS HE DOES NOT BECOME A MONSTER.
AND WHEN YOU LOOK INTO AN ABYSS, THE ABYSS ALSO LOOKS INTO YOU.
NIETZSCHE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

"THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR ME TO ELIMINATE MY OWN PERSONAL ABYSS!"
TO BE CONCLUDED!

MARVEL COMICS
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6
NOV
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ∞ INFINITY WAR
THE MAGUS TRIUMPHANT!
30TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1962-1992

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE ANIMUS ENGAGEMENT
POWER!
THE SLIGHTEST WHIM BECOMES ACTUALITY WITH BUT A THOUGHT.
GRIEVOUS WRONGS ARE RIGHTED BY A MERE URGE.
THE CLAY OF REALITY IS MOLDED IN DREAMS.
EVEN ONE'S DARKEST FANTASIES ARE REALIZED BY A SUB-CONSCIOUS THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS.
IT IS THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM. A BLESSING THAT CANNOT BE SHARED.
FOR THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE
GOD!

AND THIS GOD IS THOROUGHLY ENJOYING HIS NEWFOUND STATUS, ADAM.
I SCULPT THE FINAL STAGES OF LONG SOUGHT VENGEANCE.
REVENGE AGAINST A REALITY THAT DENIED MY OWN.
YOU ARE IN MY CLUTCHES.
THE UNIVERSE'S MIGHTIEST HEROES VAINLY BATTLE MY COSMIC CLONES.
EVEN NEFARIOUS THANOS TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF DEFEAT.
BUT MOST SATISFYING IS THE FATE I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOUR PRECIOUS DIMENSION.
IT IS CLOSE TO BEING ABSORBED AND CHANGED INTO A UNIVERSE THAT ONLY MY DARK PSYCHE COULD IMAGINE.

I SHALL *FORESTALL* JUST RETRIBUTION UNTIL YOU HAVE *WITNESSED* THAT COME TO PASS.

SAVORING YOUR AGONY MAKES ALL MY EFFORTS WORTHWHILE.

THE *MAGUS* IS ADJUSTING TOO QUICKLY TO OMNIPOTENCE.

WHAT HOPE IS THERE OF DEFEATING HIM?

NONE.

"FOR HOW CAN ONE RESIST THE *DIVINE*?

"MY TAKEOVER OF YOUR ACTUALITY, USING MY NOW MISSING COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS--

"--WOULD TAKE HOURS MORE TO ACCOMPLISH."

WHICH REMINDS ME-- I MUST ASCERTAIN WHO *PURLOINED* THEM AND DEAL WITH THE *THIEF* MOST HARSHLY.

BUT OTHER MATTERS NOW HAVE A *HIGHER* PRIORITY.

"SUCH AS MAKING YOUR UNIVERSE *MINE* AND TURNING IT INTO THE *NIGHTMARE* I ALWAYS KNEW IT COULD BE.

"SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR REALITY, WARLOCK."

AND, ON AN ASTEROID DRIFTING HIGH ABOVE EARTH...

WE HAVE FAILED.

THE MAGUS HAS WON THIS ROUND.

BUT EARTH...?

ALREADY I FEEL IT METAMORPHOSING INTO SOMETHING UNRECOGNIZABLE.

PROFESSOR, WHAT CAN WE DO?

NOTHING, THOR.

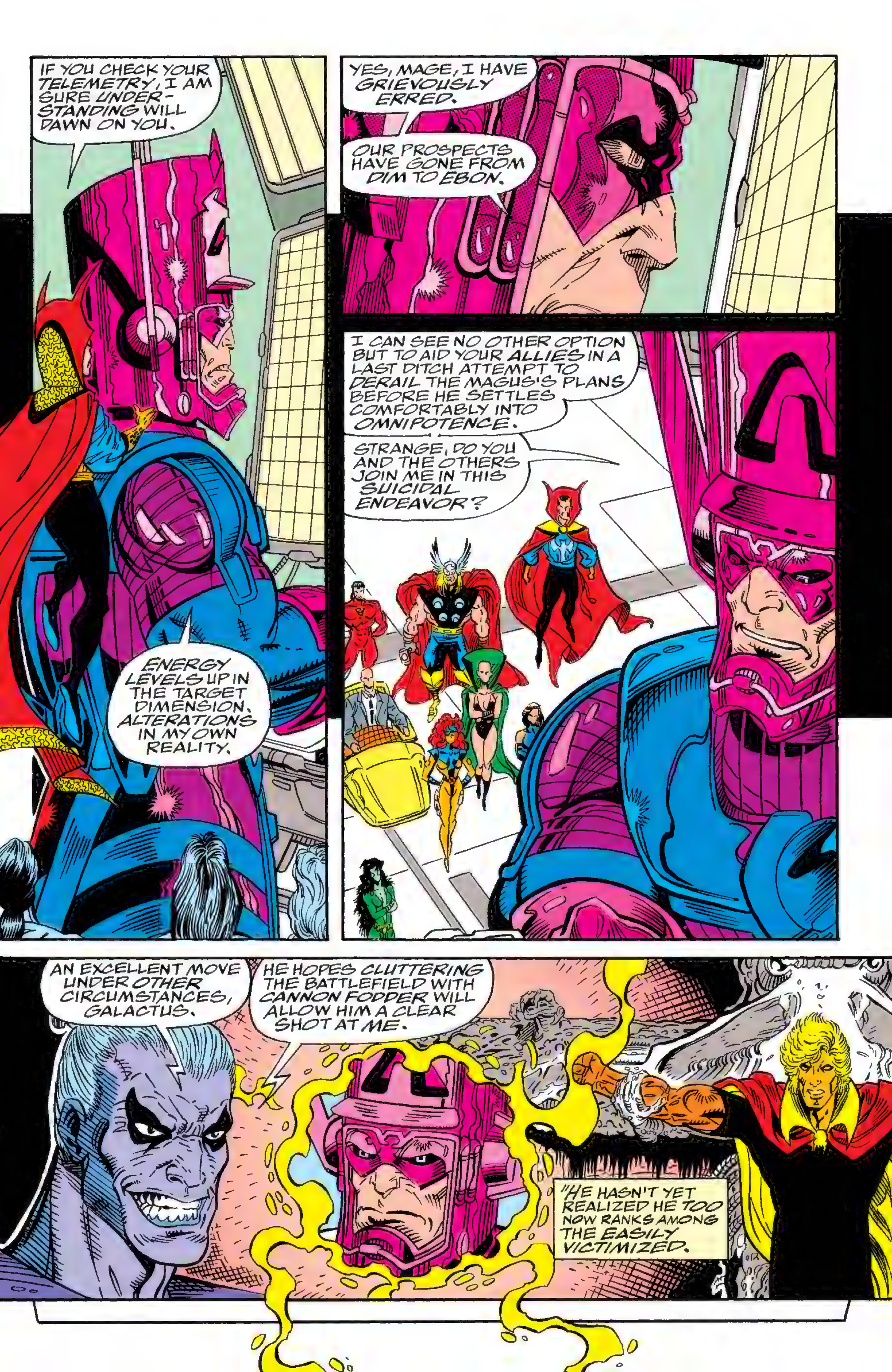
AT LEAST NOT IN THIS DIMENSION.

BUT YOU NOW RETURN TO A REALM WHERE YOUR MIGHT MAY YET ALTER THIS DARK FATE.

WHAT THE--?

THIS WATCHER SECRETLY PRAYS YOU SUCCEED.

...DEVIL?
THOR!
DR. STRANGE, AND HIS BAND OF MYSTICS! GREAT TIMING, GUYS!
MAYBE NOW WE CAN--
WAIT--!
STILL YET ANOTHER RETURNS!
GALACTUS!
RETURNED FROM A FOOL'S ERRAND...
WHAT GIBBERISH DO YOU SPEAK, MORTAL FLEA?
GAMORA, WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T ASK...


IF YOU CHECK YOUR TELEMETRY, I AM SURE UNDERSTANDING WILL DAWN ON YOU.
ENERGY LEVELS UP IN THE TARGET DIMENSION. ALTERATIONS IN MY OWN REALITY.
YES, MAGE, I HAVE GRIEVOUSLY ERRED.
OUR PROSPECTS HAVE GONE FROM DIM TO EBON.
I CAN SEE NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO AID YOUR ALLIES IN A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO DERAIL THE MAGUS'S PLANS BEFORE HE SETTLES COMFORTABLY INTO OMNIPOTENCE.
STRANGE, DO YOU AND THE OTHERS JOIN ME IN THIS SUICIDAL ENDEAVOR?
AN EXCELLENT MOVE UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, GALACTUS.
HE HOPES CLUTTERING THE BATTLEFIELD WITH CANNON FODDER WILL ALLOW HIM A CLEAR SHOT AT ME.
"HE HASN'T YET REALIZED HE TOO NOW RANKS AMONG THE EASILY VICTIMIZED.

"BUT HE'LL SOON LEARN.
"EVEN NOW HE JOINS WHAT IS LEFT OF THE FRAY TAKING PLACE IN THE OUTER COURTYARD.
"ONLY FOUR OF THE INITIAL ASSAULT FORCE REMAIN TO BE TAKEN OVER BY MY DARK DOUBLES.
"THE FOOLS WILL SEE GALACTUS'S ARRIVAL AS THE CAVALRY ARRIVING JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.

"A CHILDISH NOTION.

"THERE IS NO SALVATION TO BE FOUND WITHIN THESE DIRE STRAITS!"

I HAVE ALL THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIERS SET UP EXACTLY AS I WANT THEM.

THE GAME IS OVER.

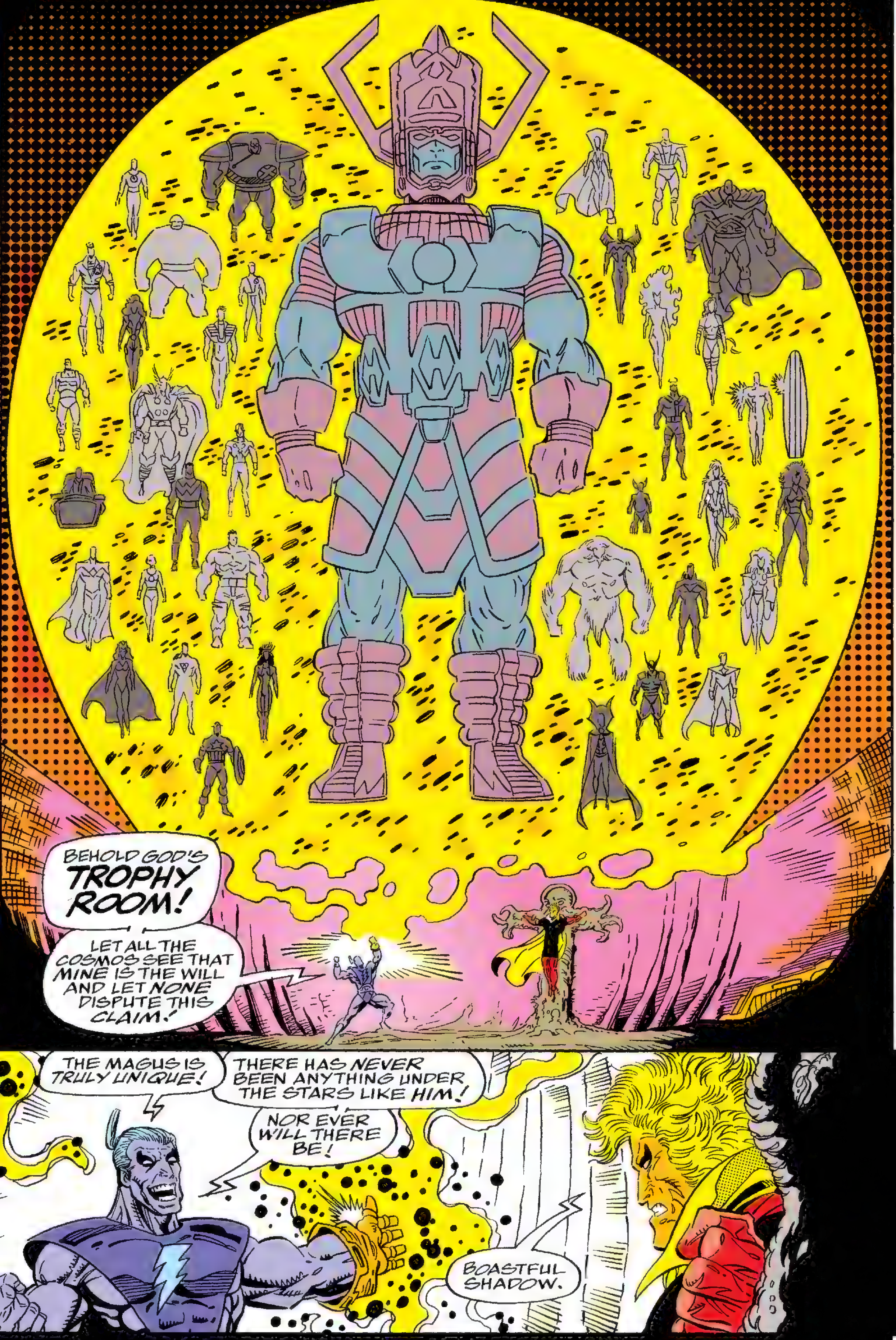
"TIME TO TIDY UP."

SNAP

THE BAD GUYS!

WHERE THEY GO?!

SNAP
NOW MY HOUSE IS AT LAST IN ORDER!


BEHOLD GOD'S TROPHY ROOM!
LET ALL THE COSMOS SEE THAT MINE IS THE WILL AND LET NONE DISPUTE THIS CLAIM!
THE MAGUS IS TRULY UNIQUE!
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING UNDER THE STARS LIKE HIM!
NOR EVER WILL THERE BE!
BOASTFUL SHADOW.

THAT IS ALL ABOUT TO CHANGE!
WITH A TOUCH YOU SHALL CEASE TO BE... AND ALL TRACE OF YOUR EVER EXISTING WILL BE OBLITERATED. NONE WILL REMEMBER YOU BECAUSE YOU WILL NEVER HAVE BEEN!
WHO THEN WILL BE THE SHADOW?
KA-THOOM
HE WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUCH.
THANOS!
THE ORIGINAL.
I SEE MY THRALL HAS FALLEN BEFORE YOUR RAGE!

AND IN DOING SO HAS SEALED YOUR FATE ALSO.

A CLAIM THAT RINGS HOLLOW IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D SAY.

APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING.

ADVICE FROM THE KING OF DECEIVERS?

BUT IN THIS MATTER I SPEAK THE TRUTH.

ON YOUR WORD ALONE I SHOULD SURRENDER SUPREME POWER AND THROW MYSELF UPON YOUR TENDER MERCIES?

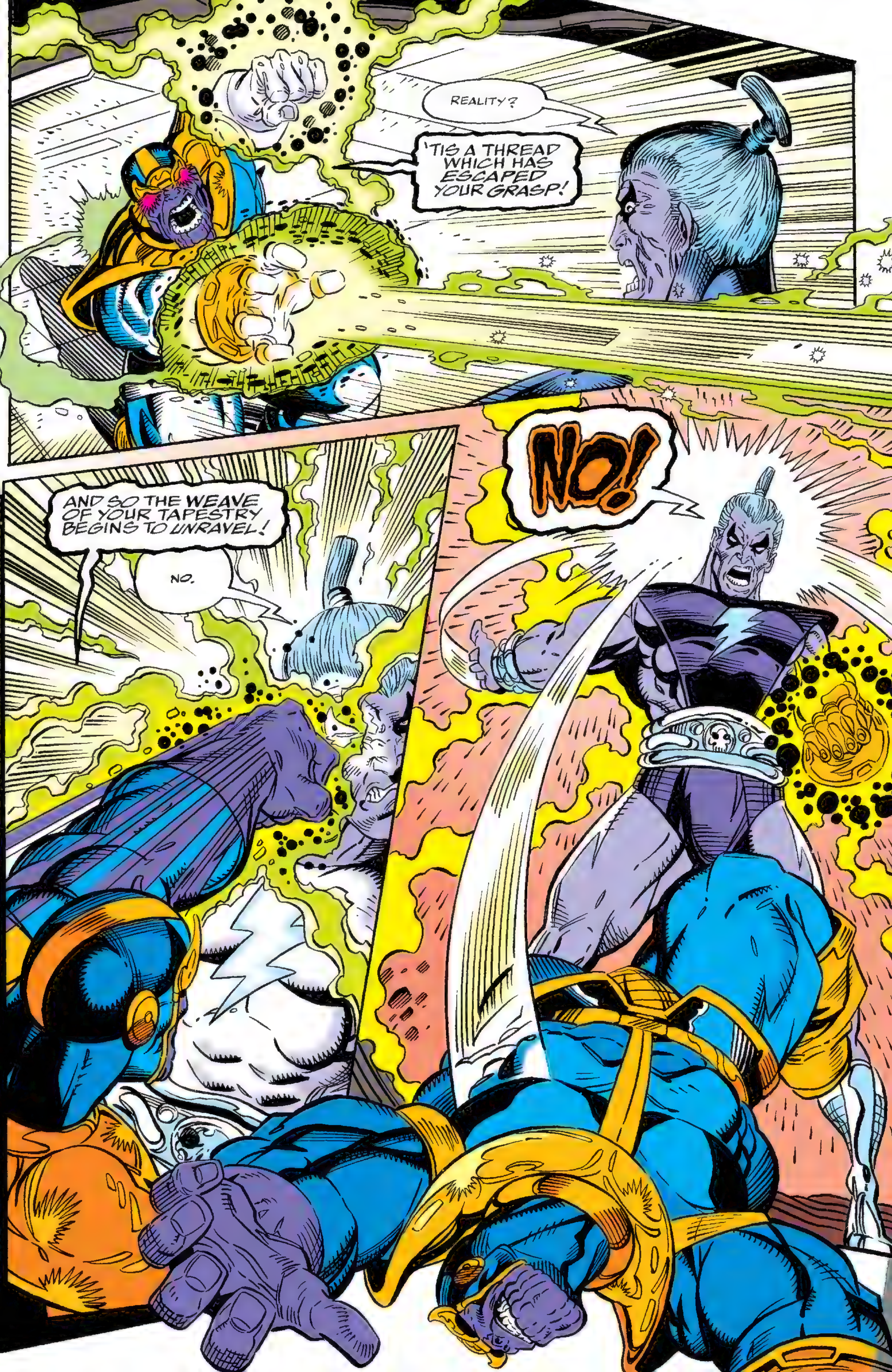
THAT IS THE WISEST COURSE OPEN TO YOU.

IMPUDENT DOLT.

YOU WOULD DARE MOCK ME?

DO YOU NOT REALIZE WHAT IT IS I HAVE BECOME?

I AM GOD!
BOW TO ME!
NOT WILLINGLY.
AND ONLY FOR THE MOMENT.
FOR REALITY IS NOT WHAT YOU PERCEIVE.
REALITY?


REALITY?
'TIS A THREAD WHICH HAS ESCAPED YOUR GRASP!
AND SO THE WEAVE OF YOUR TAPESTRY BEGINS TO UNRAVEL!
NO.
NO!

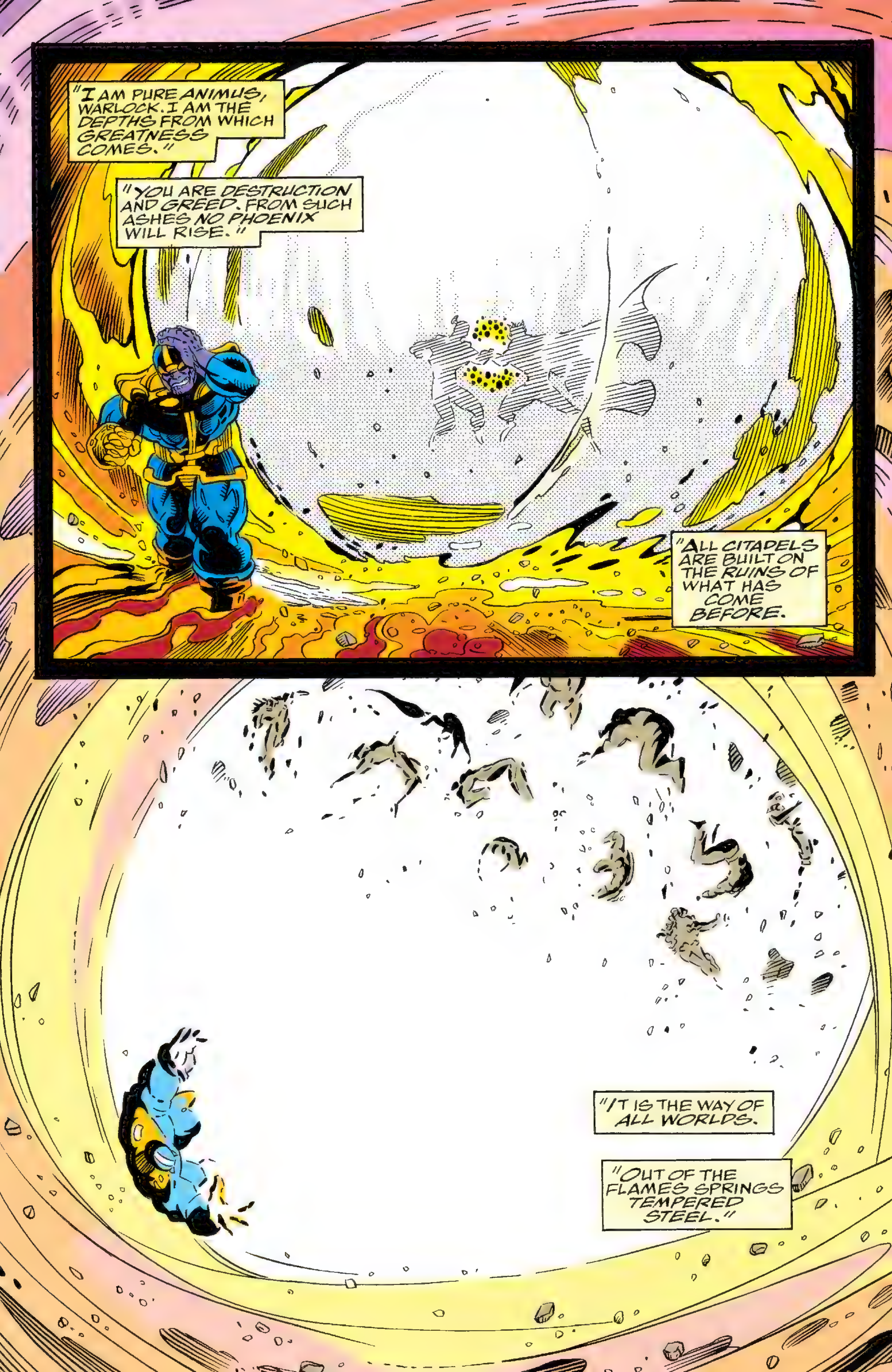
YOU LIE!
ADMIT THE FALSEHOOD OF YOUR WORDS!
GO NOT TO PERDITION WITH AN UNTRUTH ON YOUR LIPS!
I DO NOT...
LIAR!
IS THIS TOO A LIE, MAGUS?
WHAT?

A SHADE WHO REFUSES TO FADE INTO OBLIVION.

ONE THAT FOOLISHLY SEEKS TO PIT ITS WILL AGAINST MY OWN?

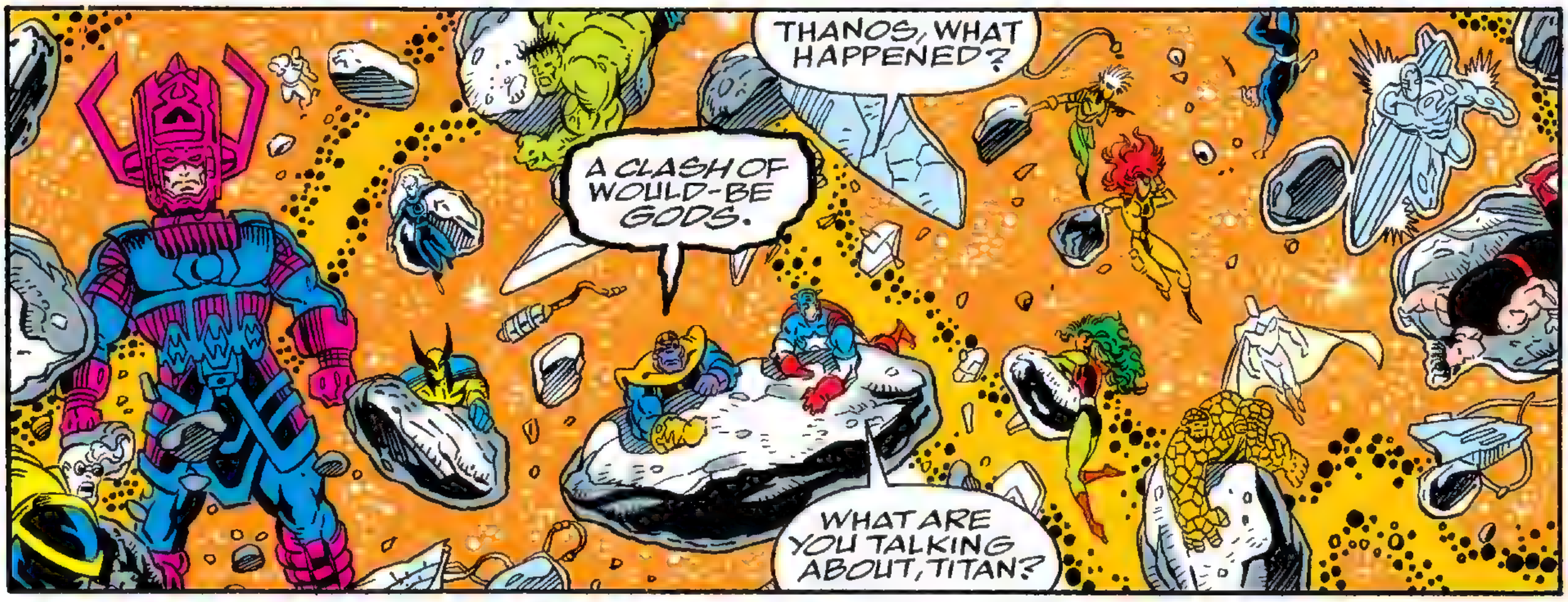
I AM NOW IN CONTACT WITH THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

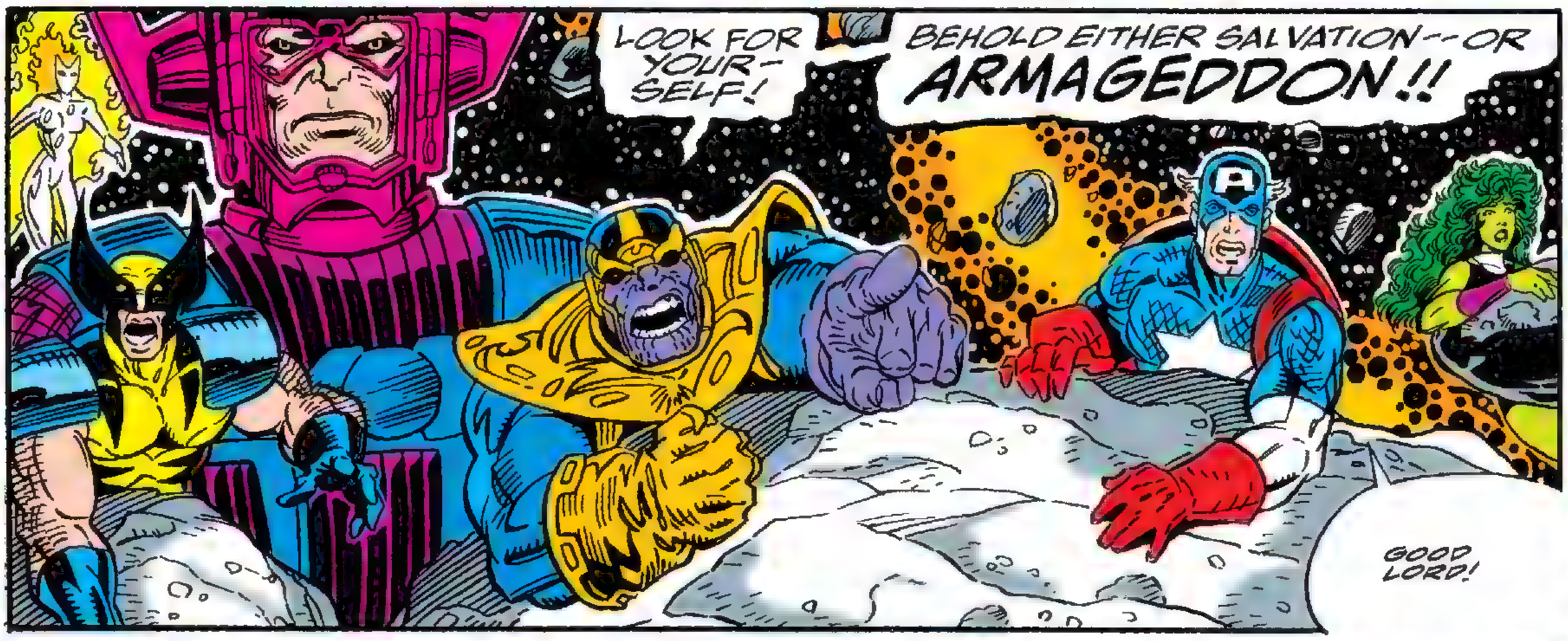
THE POWER WAS MINE LONG BEFORE YOU DREAMT OF USURPING IT.

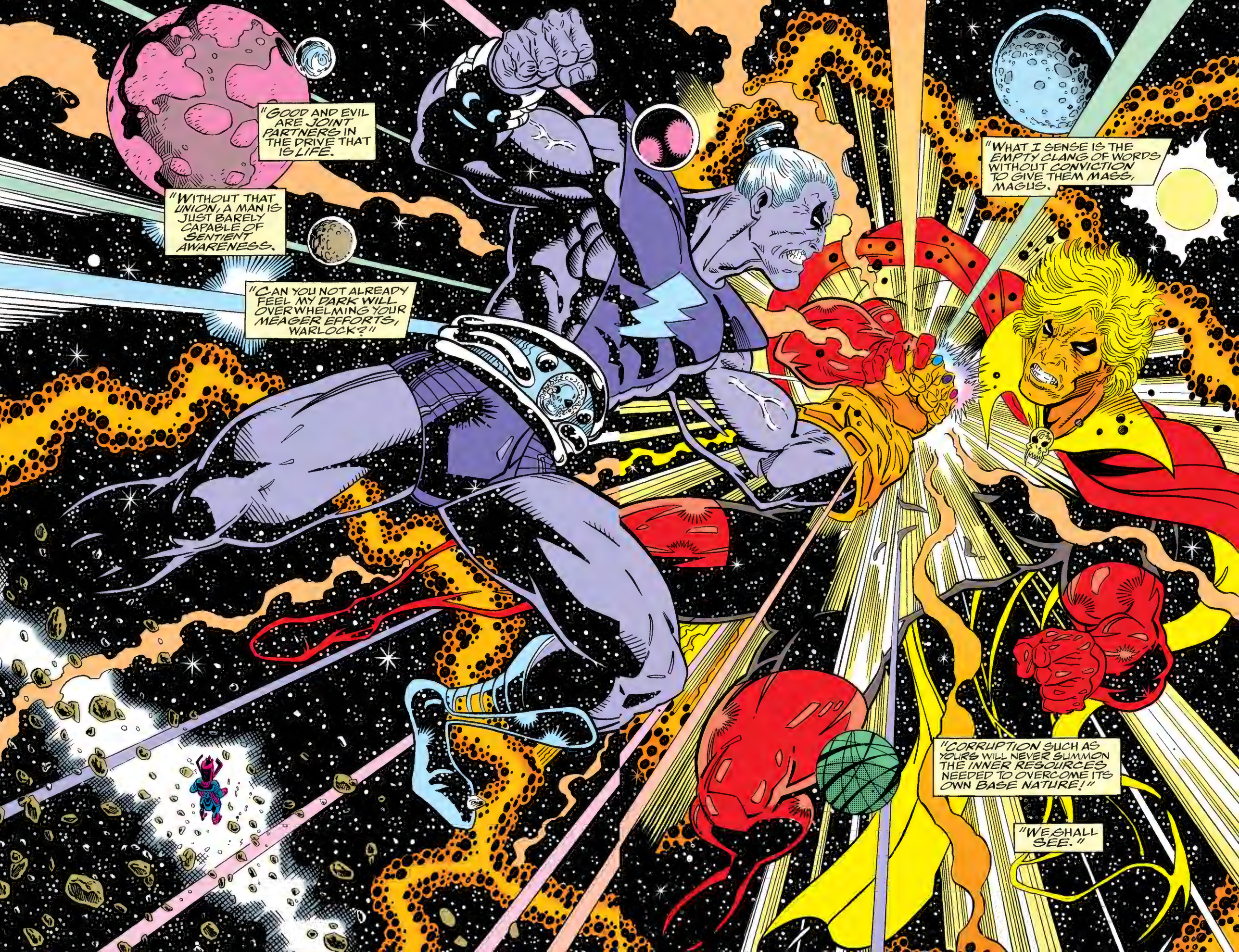

"I AM PURE ANIMUS, WARLOCK. I AM THE DEPTHS FROM WHICH GREATNESS COMES."
"YOU ARE DESTRUCTION AND GREED. FROM SUCH ASHES NO PHOENIX WILL RISE."
"ALL CITADELS ARE BUILT ON THE RUINS OF WHAT HAS COME BEFORE.
"IT IS THE WAY OF ALL WORLDS.
"OUT OF THE FLAMES SPRINGS TEMPERED STEEL."

"NO MAGUS. YOUR FIRE BURNS TOO FIERCELY.

"SLAG IS THE HEIGHT OF YOUR CREATIVITY."






"GOOD AND EVIL ARE JOINT PARTNERS IN THE DRIVE THAT IS LIFE.
"WITHOUT THAT UNION, A MAN IS JUST BARELY CAPABLE OF SENTIENT AWARENESS.
"CAN YOU NOT ALREADY FEEL MY DARK WILL OVERWHELMING YOUR MEAGER EFFORTS, WARLOCK?"
"WHAT I SENSE IS THE EMPTY CLANG OF WORDS WITHOUT CONVICTION TO GIVE THEM MASS, MAGUS.
"CORRUPTION SUCH AS YOURS WILL NEVER SUMMON THE INNER RESOURCES NEEDED TO OVERCOME ITS OWN BASE NATURE!"
"WE SHALL SEE."

A DISRUPTION OF THE REALITY FLOW.
THEY'VE LOST CONTROL OF THAT ASPECT WITH-OUT THE....
GALACTUS, YOU MUST--

TOOOOOOO MEEEEEEEE MYYYYYYYYY VEEESSEEEL!
EXPERTLY ACCOMPLISHED, WORLD KILLER.
BUT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE.
QUIET, FOOL!
MIGHTY GALACTUS KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE.
"DOES MIGHTY GALACTUS ALSO KNOW THAT OUR CHANCES OF OUTRUNNING THIS DISTURBANCE ARE MINIMAL?"
"DOES ANNOYING THANOS HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION TO SUGGEST?"
"NO."
"THEN LET SILENCE REIGN."

"MAGUS, OUR CONFLICT RENDS ASUNDER THE PRIZE WE BOTH CRAVE."
"THEN IN VICTORY I SHALL REBUILD FROM THE WRECKAGE!
"YES, I SAID VICTORY!
"YOUR CONCERN IS THE WEAK-NESS THAT I SOUGHT!
"NO!
"IT CAN-NOT END LIKE THIS!"
"IT IS THE CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR THAT SHALL UNDO YOU!
"OPEN YOUR ARMS WIDE, WARLOCK!
"EMBRACE THE STYGIAN DARKNESS!"
NOR SHALL IT!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF DESPERATE TRICK, WARLOCK?
WHO--?

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

HAVING DIFFICULTY FOCUSING MY COSMIC PERCEPTIONS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCE.

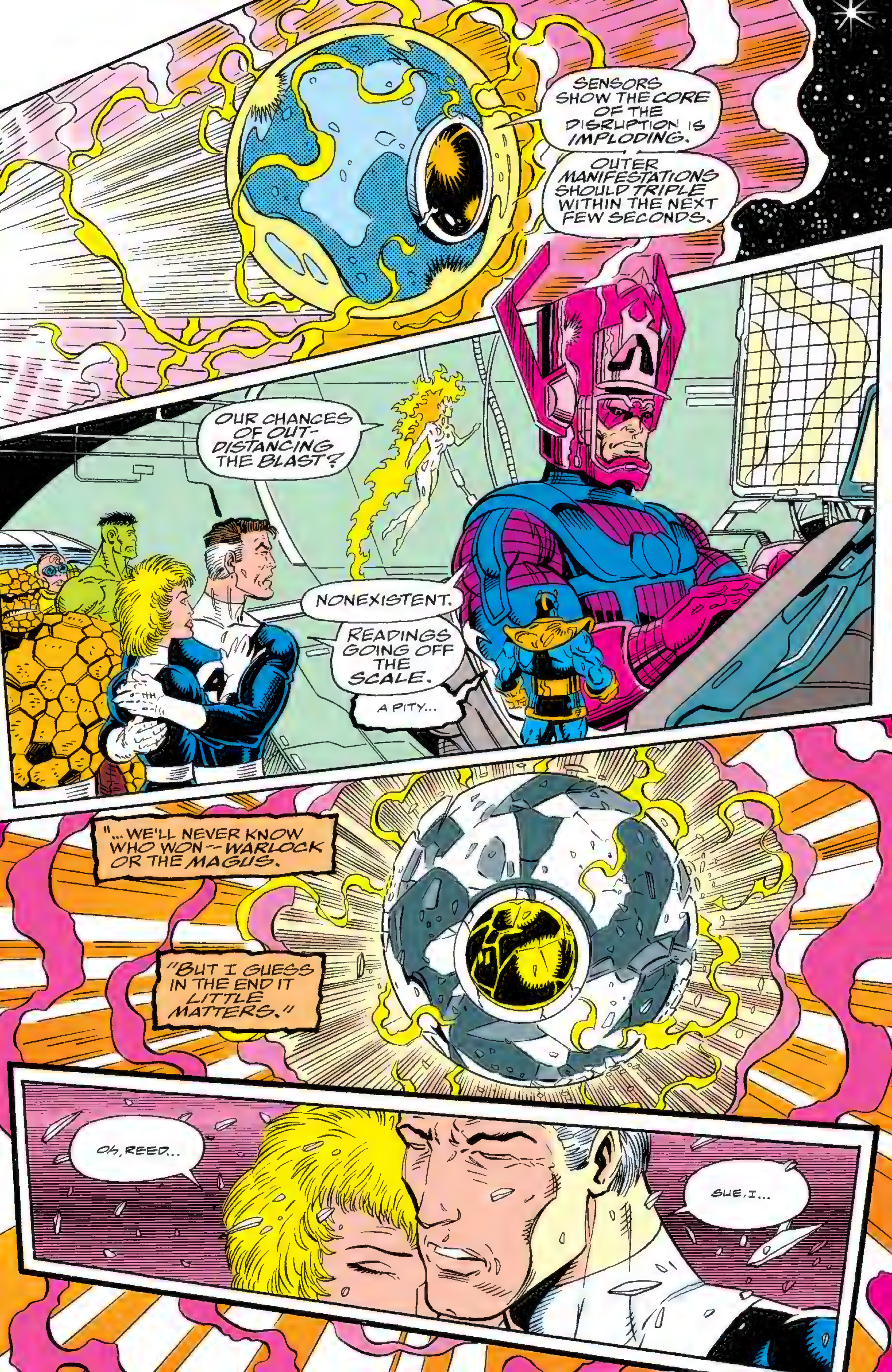
FOR REALITY IS PLAYING DIABOLICAL TRICKS ON YOU, WOULD-BE CONQUEROR!

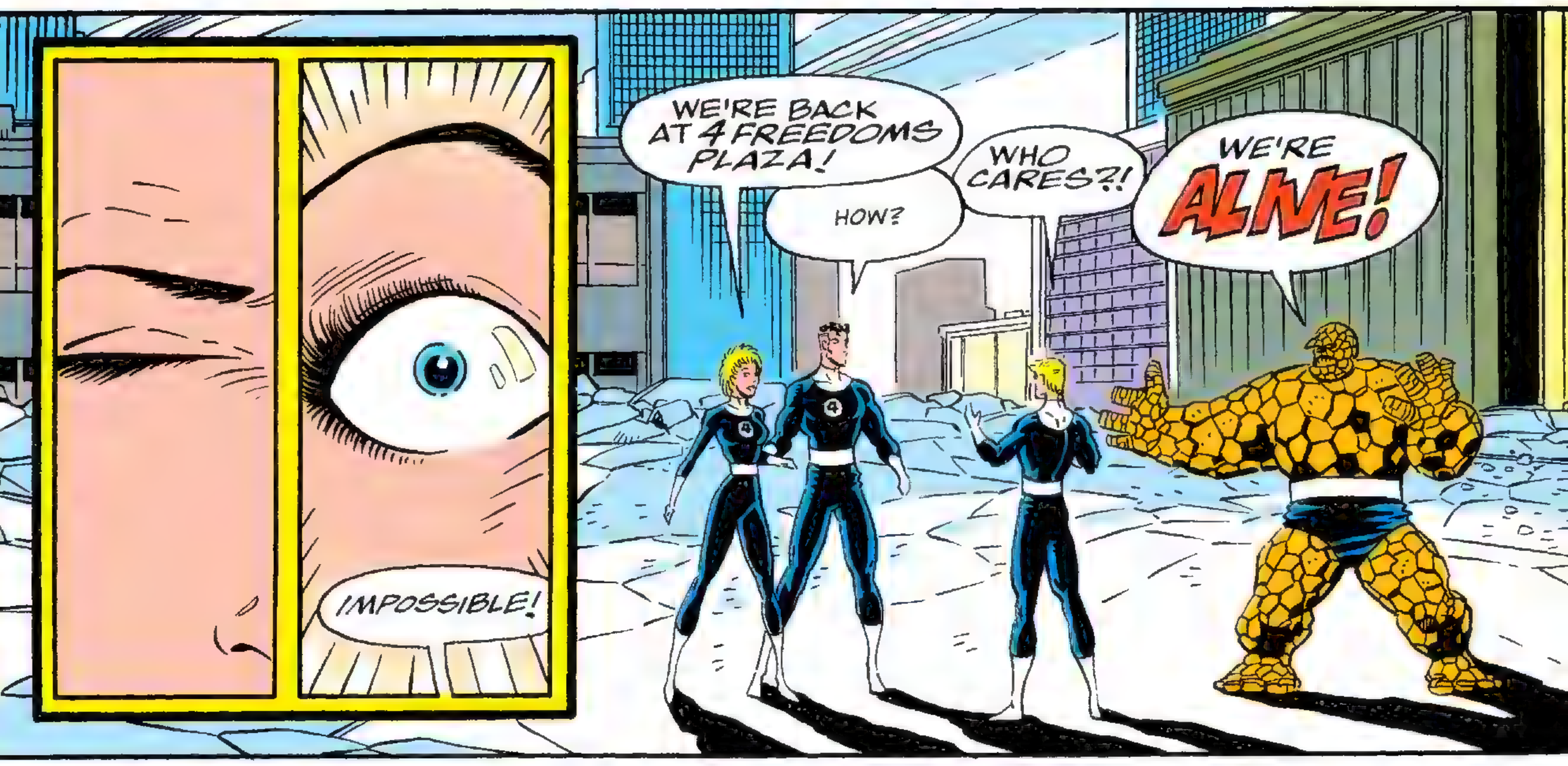
IT SHIFTS AND ALTERS FASTER THAN MERE CORPOREAL SENSES CAN PERCEIVE.

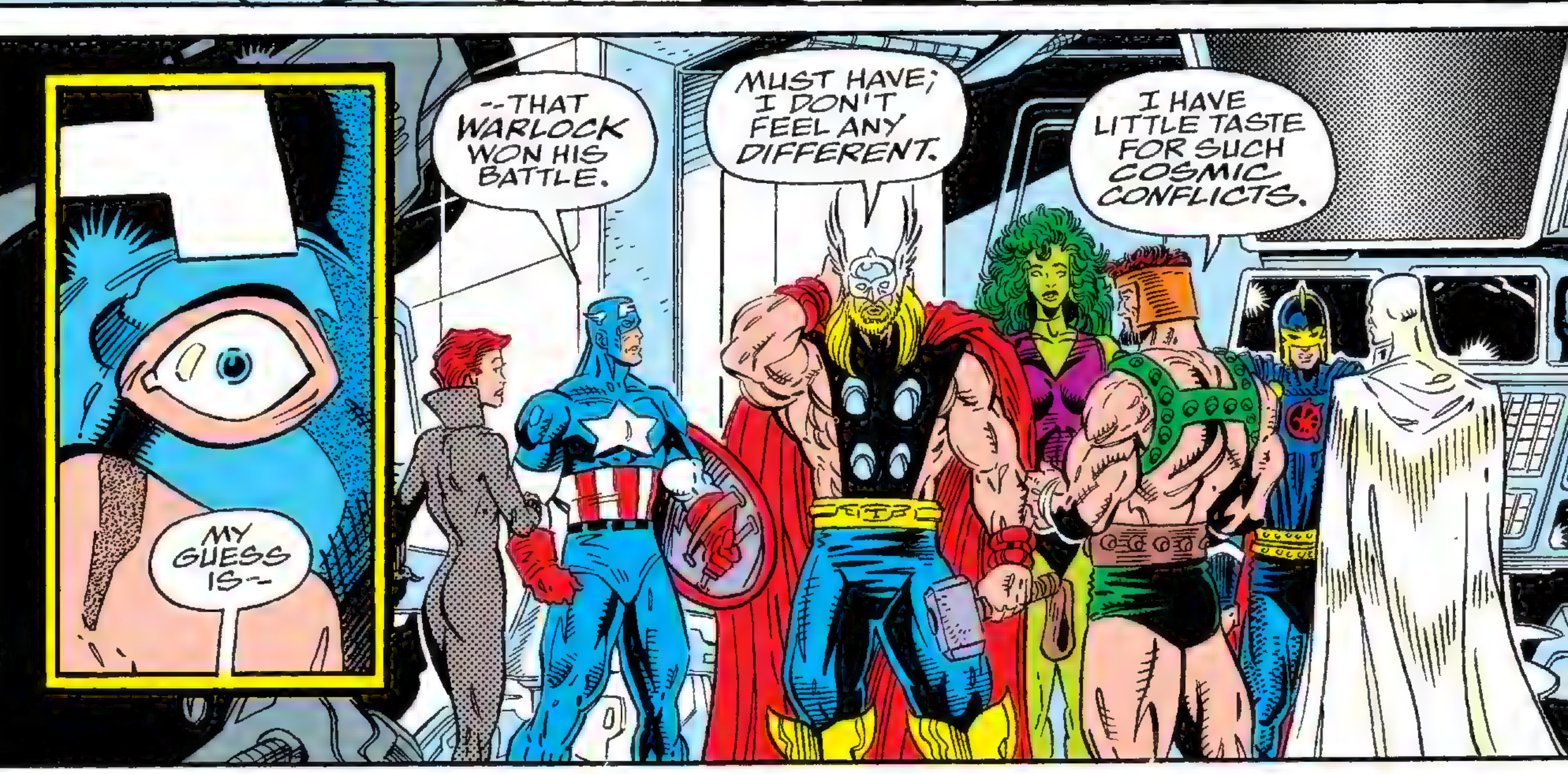
MAGUS, LEARN NOW THE FOLLY OF YOUR AMBITIONS!

BEHOLD THE TRUTH!
NO!
IT CAN'T BE--!

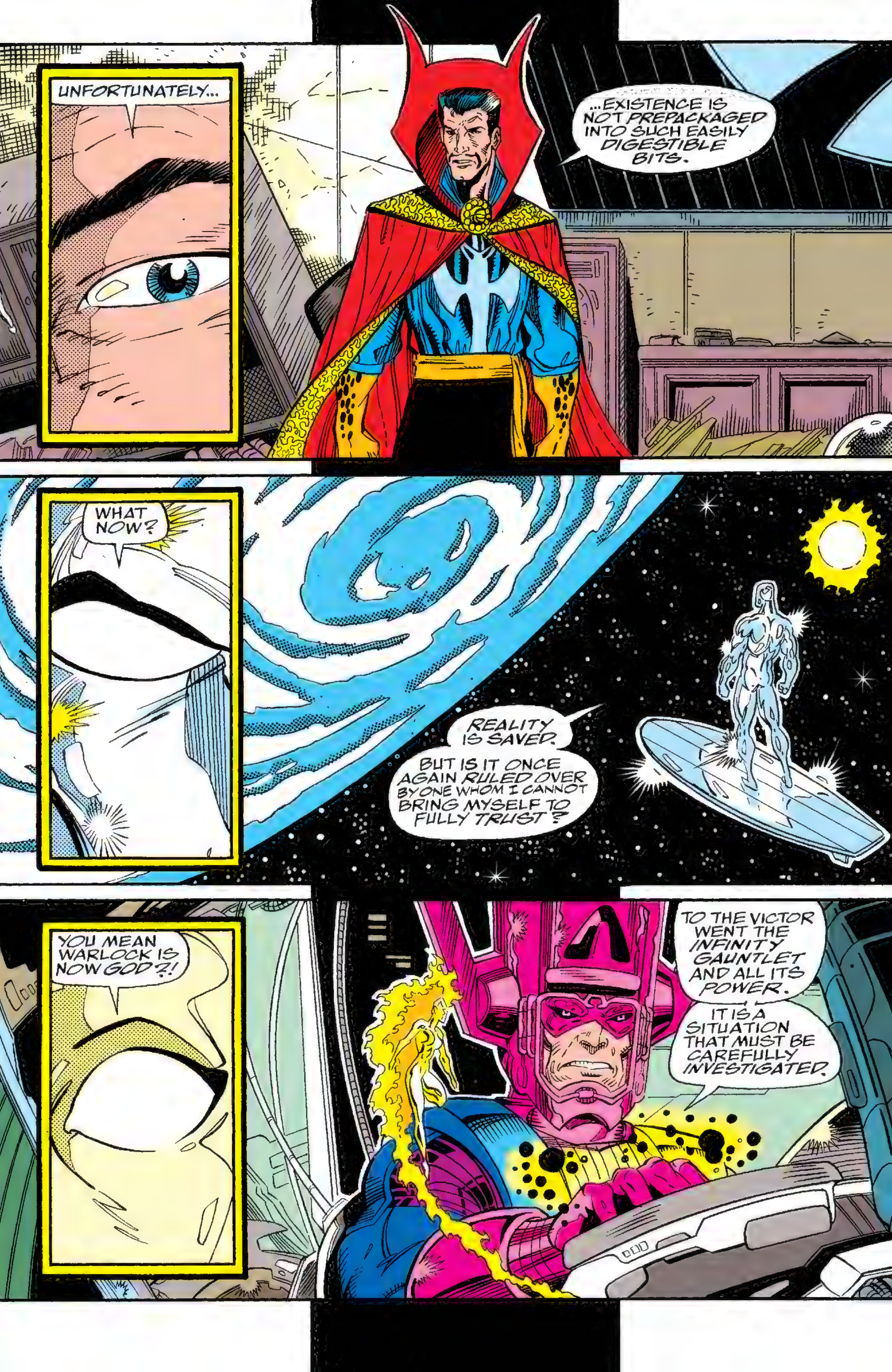
ETERNITY AND INFINITY TOGETHER--?!
NOW WHO IS THE FOOL MAGUS?!
IN YOUR IGNORANCE YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD IMPRISONED A SINGLE ASTRAL ENTITY--BOUND IT TO YOUR WILL.
DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT THE ASPECT OF ALL THERE IS WAS DIVIDED INTO MANAGEABLE SECTIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE?
HAD YOU NO INKLING THAT ETERNITY AND INFINITY ARE BUT DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN?
IF SO, YOUR PLANS WERE DOOMED FROM THE START.
OPEN YOUR ARMS WIDE, MAGUS.


SENSORS SHOW THE CORE OF THE DISRUPTION IS IMPLODING.
OUTER MANIFESTATIONS SHOULD TRIPLE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS.
OUR CHANCES OF OUT-DISTANCING THE BLAST?
NONEXISTENT.
READINGS GOING OFF THE SCALE.
A PITY...
"...WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO WON -- WARLOCK OR THE MAGUS.
"BUT I GUESS IN THE END IT LITTLE MATTERS."
OH, REED...
SUE, I...


IMPOSSIBLE!
WE'RE BACK AT 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA!
HOW?
WHO CARES?!
WE'RE ALIVE!


MY GUESS IS--
--THAT WARLOCK WON HIS BATTLE.
MUST HAVE; I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT.
I HAVE LITTLE TASTE FOR SUCH COSMIC CONFLICTS.

HIGHLY UNSATIS-FYING.
IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW THE WAR IS WON WITHOUT FULLY UNDER-STANDING ITS OUTCOME.
AMEN. GIVE ME A ONE-ON-ONE SLUGFEST ANYTIME.


UNFORTUNATELY...
...EXISTENCE IS NOT PREPACKAGED INTO SUCH EASILY DIGESTIBLE BITS.
WHAT NOW?
REALITY IS SAVED.
BUT IS IT ONCE AGAIN RULED OVER BY ONE WHOM I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO FULLY TRUST?
YOU MEAN WARLOCK IS NOW GOD?!
TO THE VICTOR WENT THE INFINITY GAUNTLET AND ALL ITS POWER.
IT IS A SITUATION THAT MUST BE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED.

"BUT, GALACTUS, DIDN'T WARLOCK GIVE UP ULTIMATE POWER ONCE BEFORE?"

"YES, BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE SO WILLING A SECOND TIME."

IT OBVIOUSLY TOOK EVERY IOTA OF HIS WILL POWER TO SET THINGS AS RIGHT AS HE COULD.

EVEN GOT MY SPACE GEM BACK.

BUT THIS TIME HE WASN'T ABLE TO UNIVERSALLY WIPE AWAY THE MEMORY OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED.

THAT'LL MEAN TROUBLE DOWN THE LINE...

NONE WARLOCK NEED WORRY ABOUT.

NOT AS LONG AS HE REMAINS IN A CATATONIC STATE.

DESTROYER NOT SURE WHAT WENT DOWN.

CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN IT TO ME?

WARLOCK AND I GAVE THE MAGUS A TASTE OF GODHOOD.

JUST A TASTE.

WE KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE LURE OF THE INFINITY GEMS, GATHERED TOGETHER FOR THE TAKING.

IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START HE WAS PLAYING A LARGER HAND THAN HE ALREADY HELD.

IT WAS ALSO QUITE APPARENT THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

HIS DOUBLE OF ME ALWAYS APPEARING AT THE EDGE OF THINGS PROVED THAT.

THE CREATURE STANK OF BETRAYAL AND AMBITION.

REALIZING WE WERE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE, A SURREPTITIOUS TRAP WAS SET.

USING THE REPLICATION SYSTEM ON MY VESSEL, I PRODUCED A REASONABLE BUT POWERLESS FACSIMILE OF THE REALITY GEM.

AT BEST, THE MAGUS MERELY HAD THE ILLUSION OF OMNIPOTENCE, NO MORE.

BUT TOO INTOXICATED WITH THE POWER HE DID POSSESS TO NOTICE.

AND WITHOUT THAT ASPECT, THE MAGUS WAS VULNERABLE.

WARLOCK NEVER HAD THE REALITY GEM, DID HE?

WHICH MEANS IT REALLY DOES HAVE A GUARDIAN...

...WHOSE TRUE IDENTITY REMAINS A MYSTERY TO EVERYBODY BUT ADAM.

AND THAT MAY BE A SECRET HE'LL TAKE TO HIS GRAVE.

YOU DON'T FIGURE HIM TO BE COMING OUT OF THIS STUPOR, DO YOU?

ARE YOUR MENTAL POWERS PICKING UP ANY BRAINWAVE ACTIVITY FROM WARLOCK?

NO, BUT--

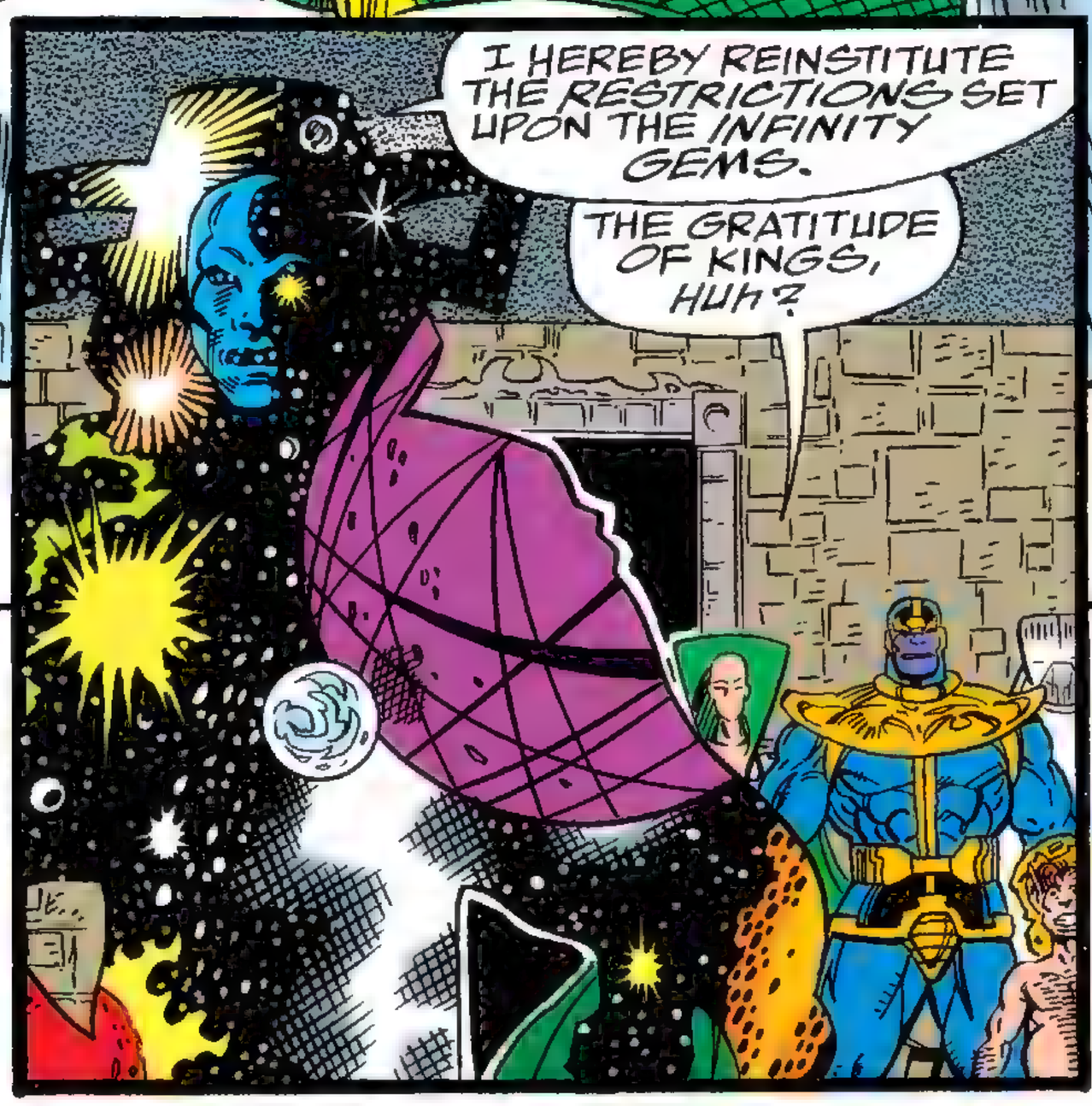
HEY, GANG, WE GOT MORE COMPANY!

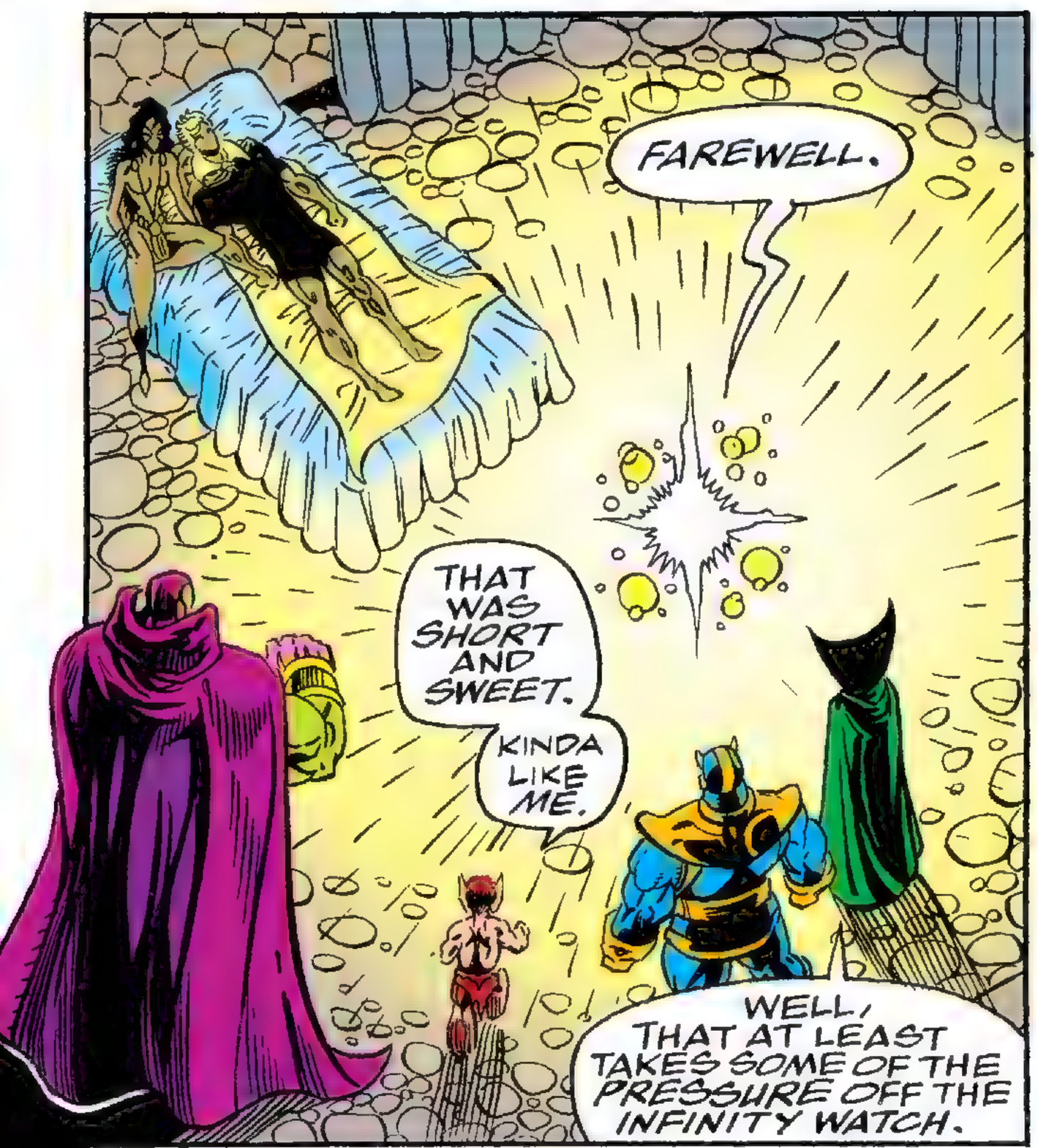
ETERNITY.

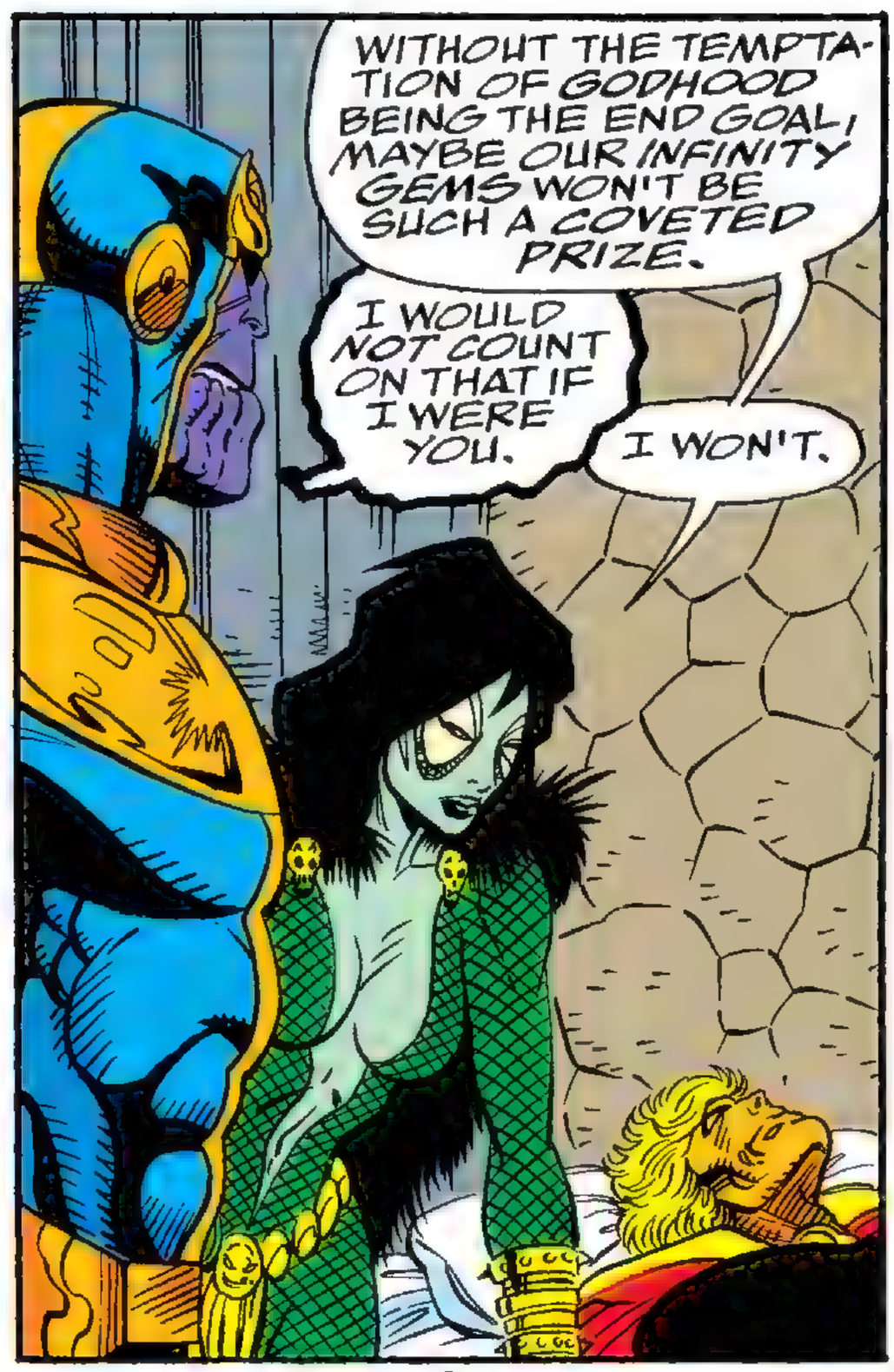
I FIGURED WE MIGHT BE SEEING YOU.

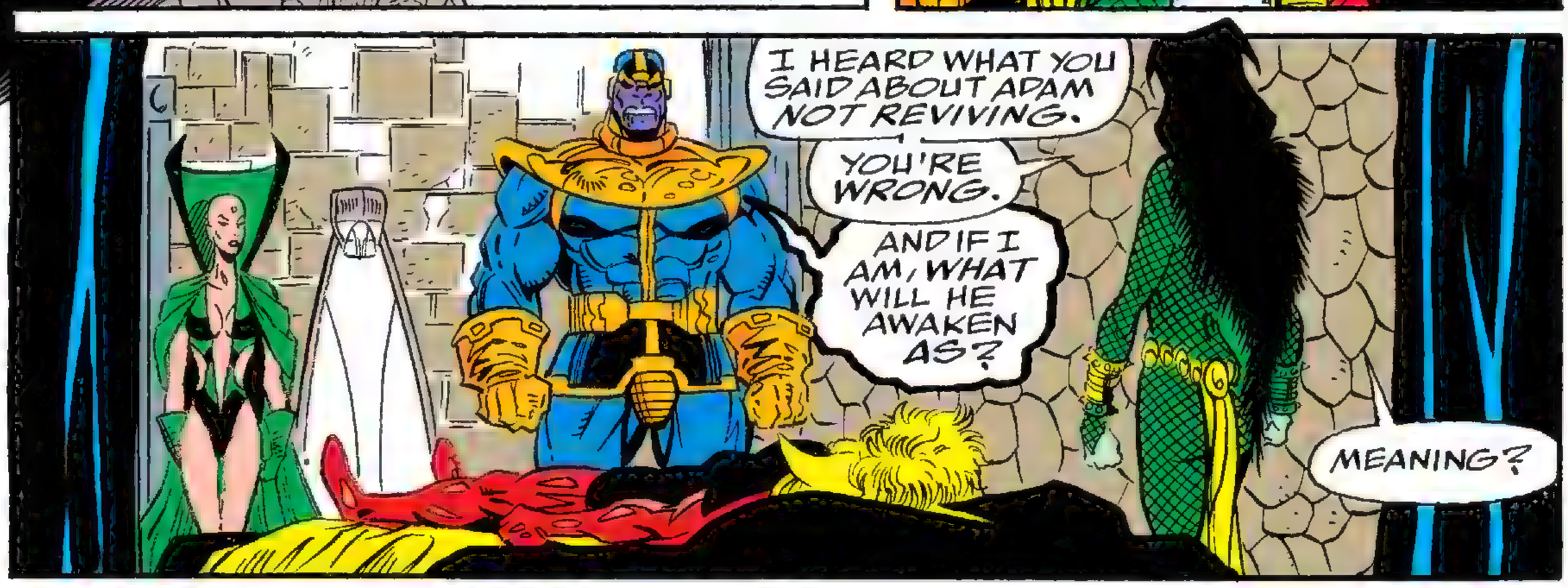
ONCE AGAIN I AM REALITY AND IN DEBT TO THE MAN WHO LIES BESIDE YOU.

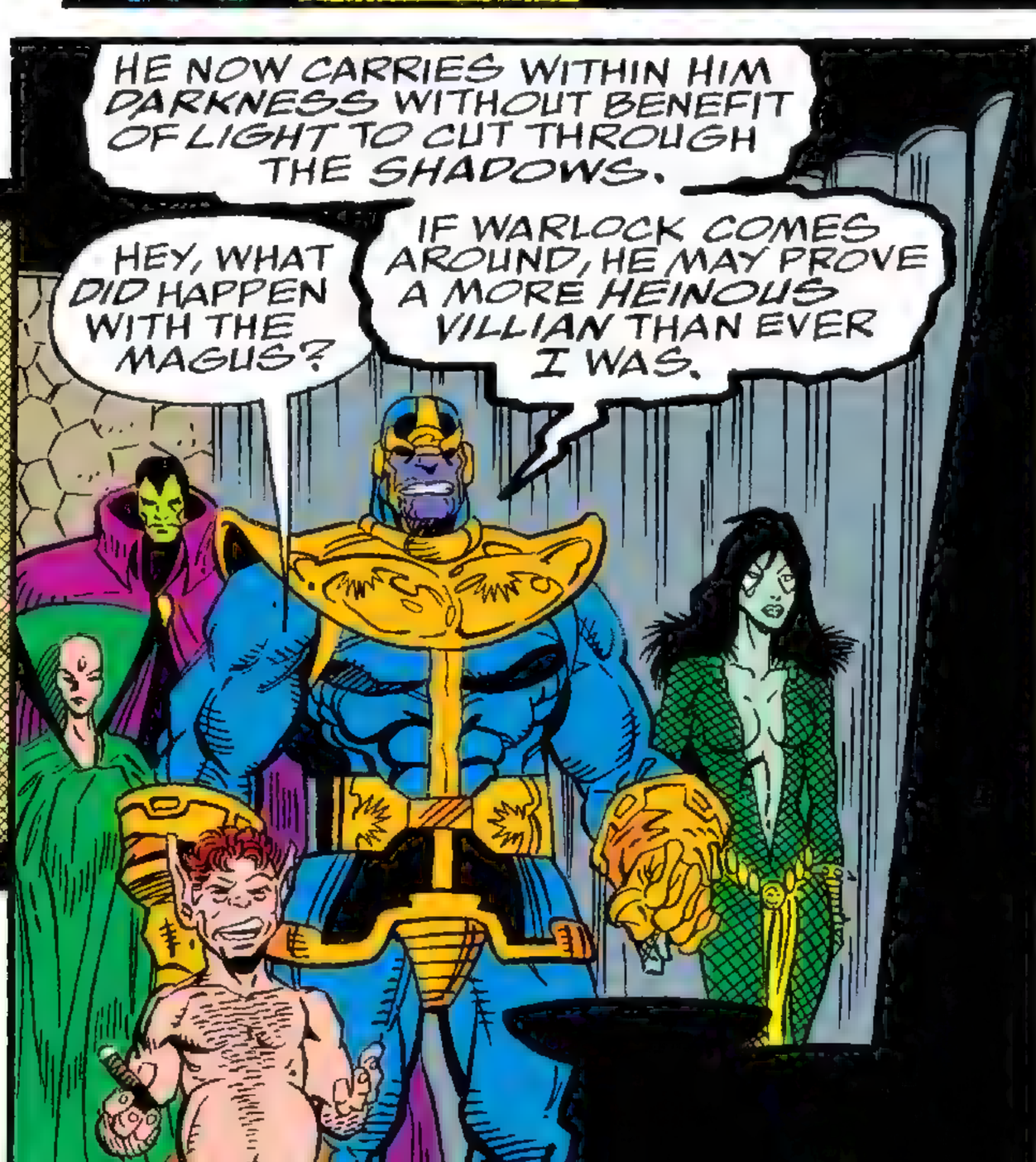
BUT THAT CHANGES LITTLE IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT IS I.

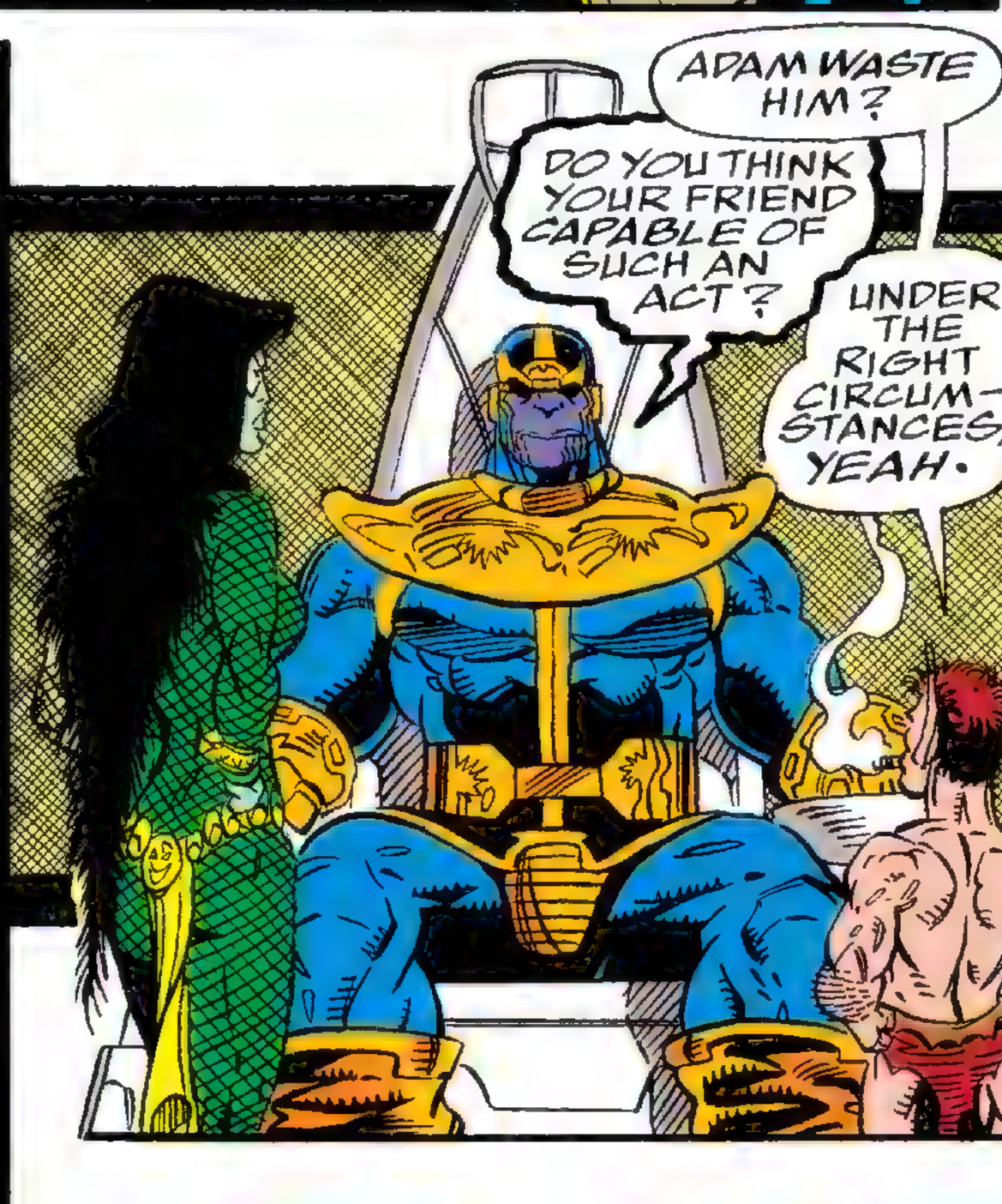


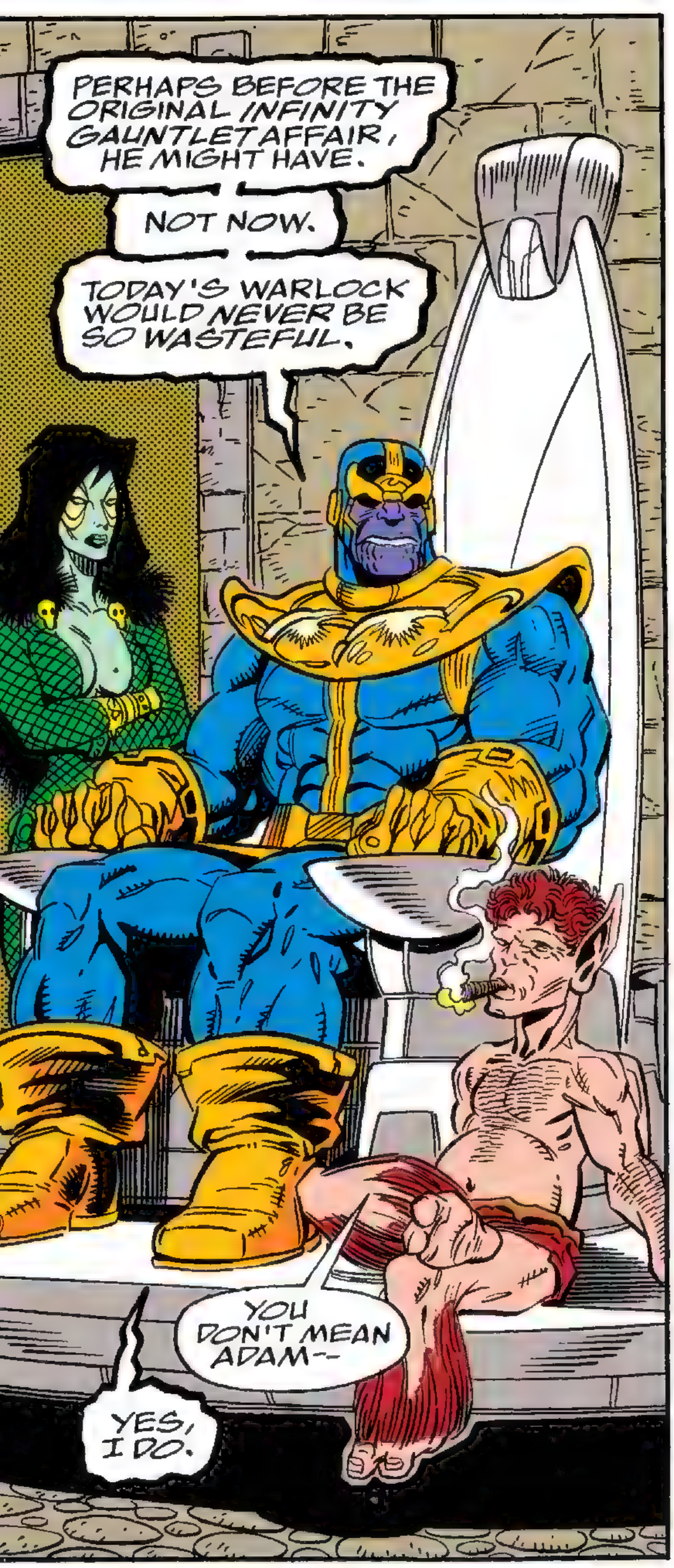

FAREWELL.
THAT WAS SHORT AND SWEET.
KINDA LIKE ME.
WELL, THAT AT LEAST TAKES SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF THE INFINITY WATCH.


WITHOUT THE TEMPTATION OF GODHOOD BEING THE END GOAL, MAYBE OUR INFINITY GEMS WON'T BE SUCH A COVETED PRIZE.
I WOULD NOT COUNT ON THAT IF I WERE YOU.
I WON'T.


I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT ADAM NOT REVIVING.
YOU'RE WRONG.
AND IF I AM, WHAT WILL HE AWAKEN AS?
MEANING?

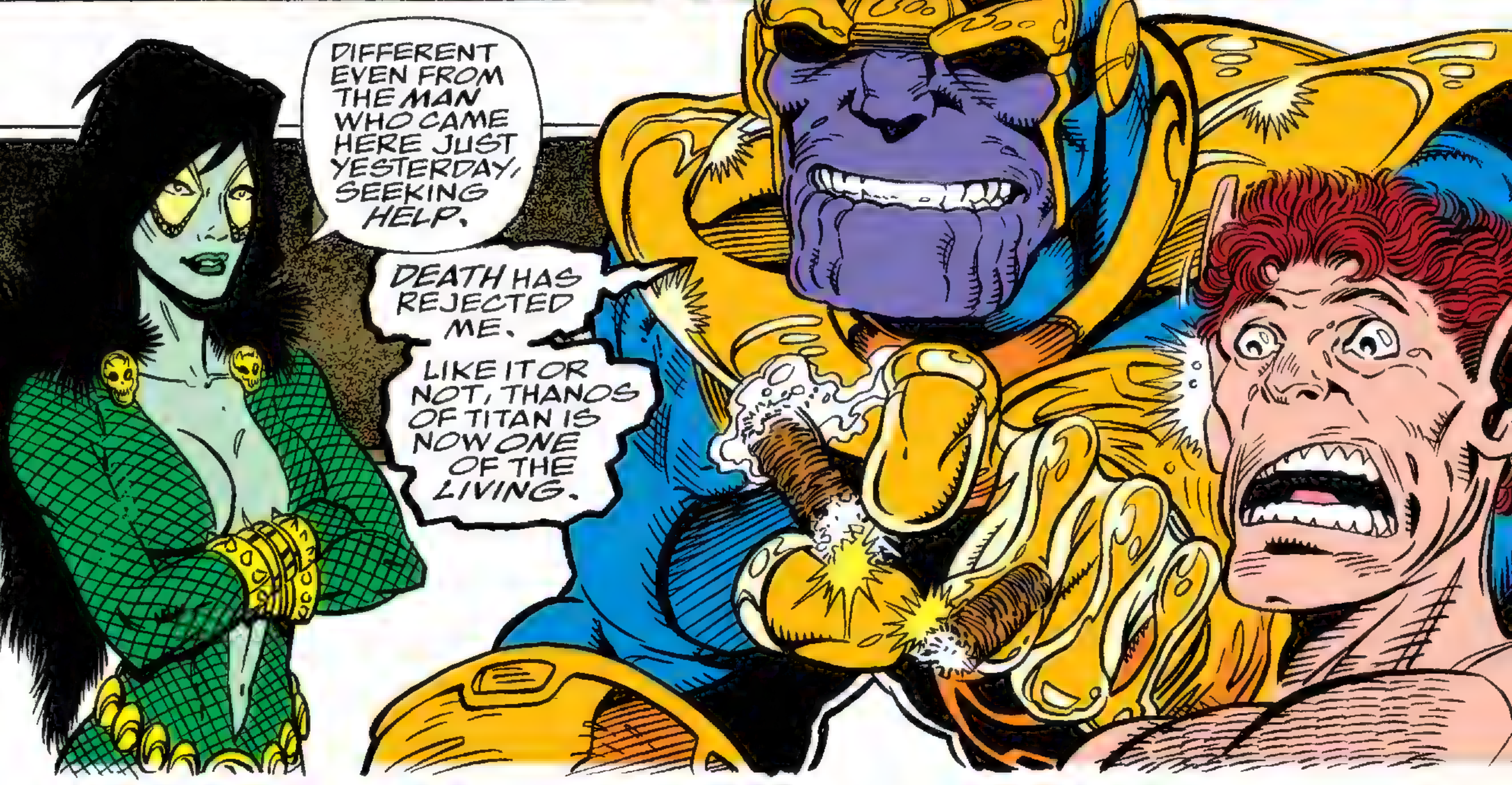

HE NOW CARRIES WITHIN HIM DARKNESS WITHOUT BENEFIT OF LIGHT TO CUT THROUGH THE SHADOWS.
HEY, WHAT DID HAPPEN WITH THE MAGUS?
IF WARLOCK COMES AROUND, HE MAY PROVE A MORE HEINOUS VILLIAN THAN EVER I WAS.


ADAM WASTE HIM?
DO YOU THINK YOUR FRIEND CAPABLE OF SUCH AN ACT?
UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, YEAH.


PERHAPS BEFORE THE ORIGINAL INFINITY GAUNTLET AFFAIR, HE MIGHT HAVE.
NOT NOW.
TODAY'S WARLOCK WOULD NEVER BE SO WASTEFUL.
YOU DON'T MEAN ADAM--
YES, I DO.

I WILL BE DEPARTING NOW, BEFORE MY PRESENCE HERE BECOMES KNOWN TO OUTSIDE FORCES.
THAT IS IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.
AND IF WE DID, YOU'D STILL LEAVE.
THE MAGUS WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED IN HIS MAD QUEST IF NOT FOR YOUR INTERVENTION.

BUT THAT WOULD NOT STOP THIS WORLD'S CHAMPIONS FROM ATTEMPTING TO POUND ME INTO SUBMISSION, GIVEN HALF A CHANCE.
AND RIGHTLY SO, I MIGHT ADD.
STILL, YOU'VE CHANGED FROM THE COLD AND DISTANT CREATURE THAT RAISED ME.


DIFFERENT EVEN FROM THE MAN WHO CAME HERE JUST YESTERDAY, SEEKING HELP.
DEATH HAS REJECTED ME.
LIKE IT OR NOT, THANOS OF TITAN IS NOW ONE OF THE LIVING.

LIFE IS CHANGE.

THANOS, I PRAY WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL NOT BE AS ENEMIES.

A SENTIMENT I FULLY SHARE.

THAT MAN OF YOURS IS TOO WILY A FOE.

HE'S NOT MY MAN.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, GAMORA.

FAREWELL!

MAY YOU FARE WELL, ALSO TITAN.

THE MAN'S NO GOOD.

TREATS A GOOD CIGAR THAT WAY.

THAT'S SICK--!

SLEEP, DEAR ADAM.

MEND.

WE ALL HAVE NEED OF YOUR STRENGTH.

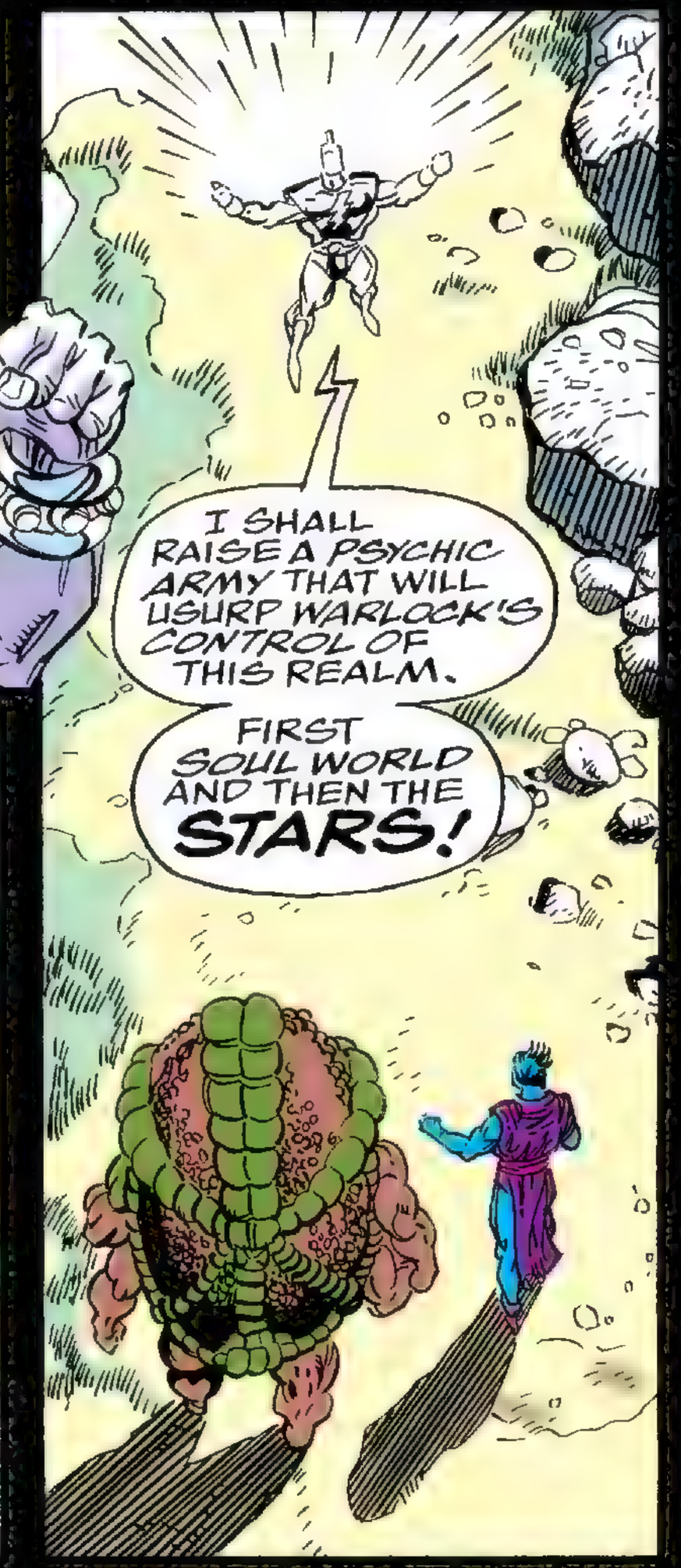
YOU SAID IT, LADY.

SOUL WORLD.

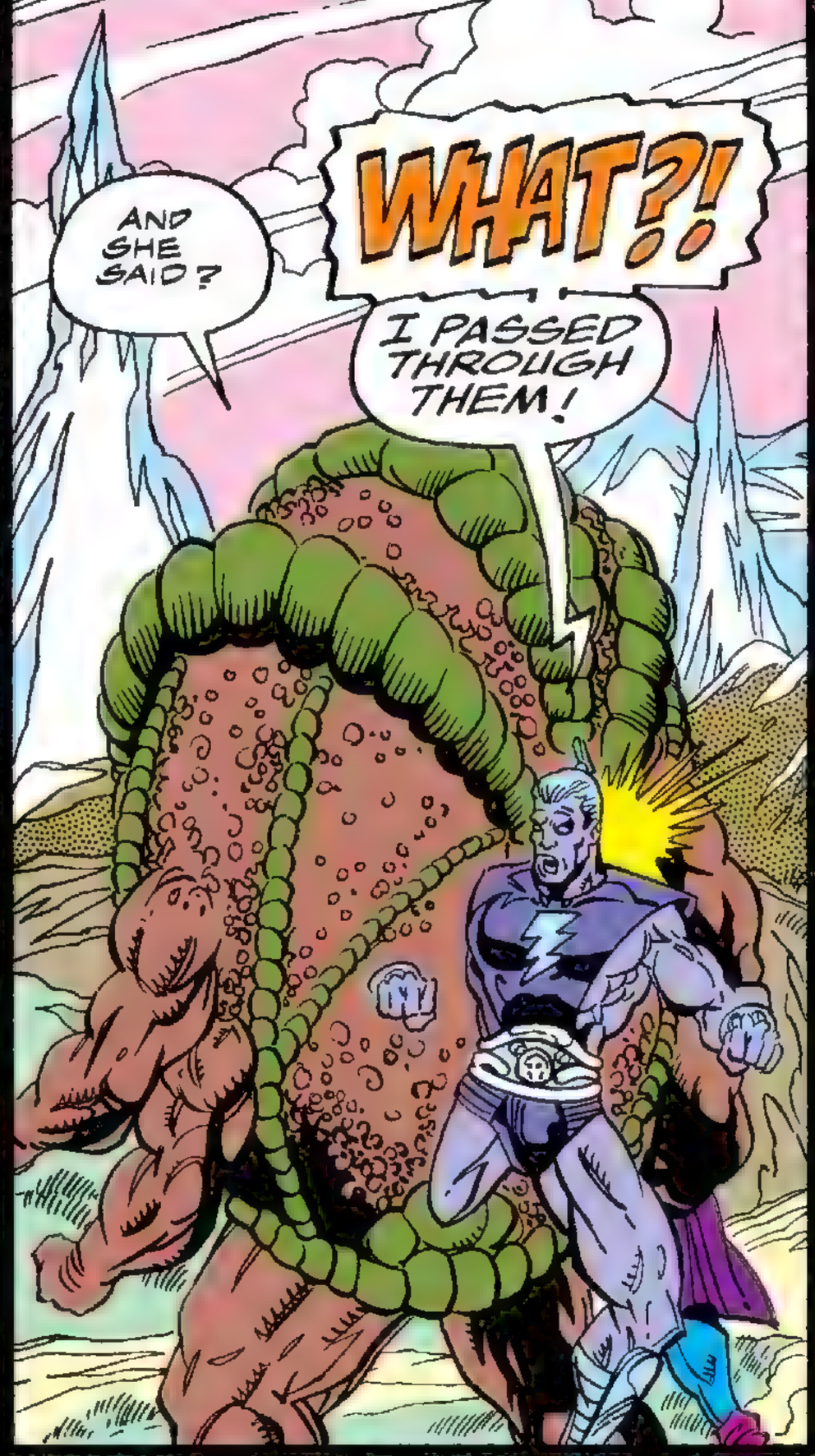
WHERE THE SPIRITS THE SOUL GEM SNATCHES GO TO SPEND ETERNITY.
FOR MOST IT IS A PLACE OF PEACE AND HARMONY.
BUT NOT FOR THE MAGUS.
SO CLOSE...

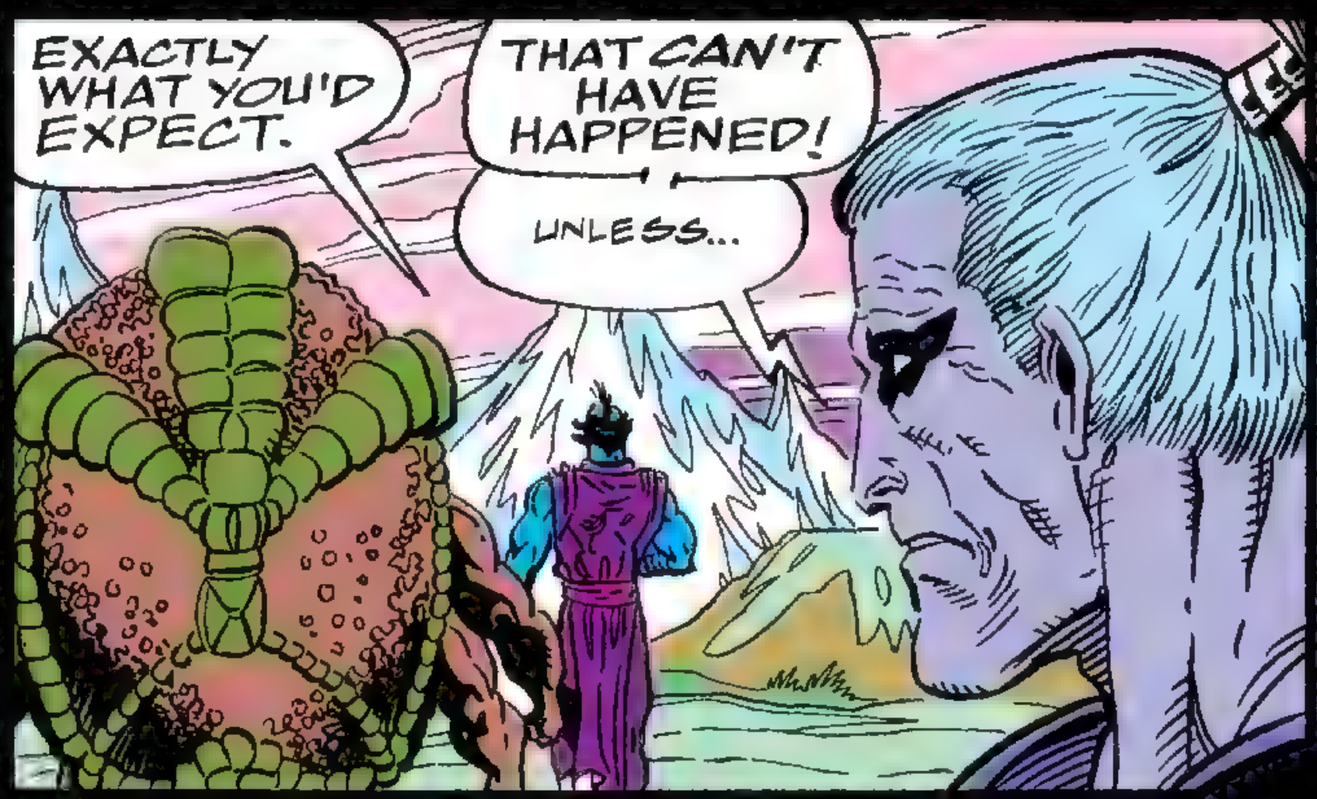
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITHIN MY GRASP AND I LET IT SLIP AWAY.
NEXT TIME I SHALL HOLD ON TIGHTER.
YES... THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME.

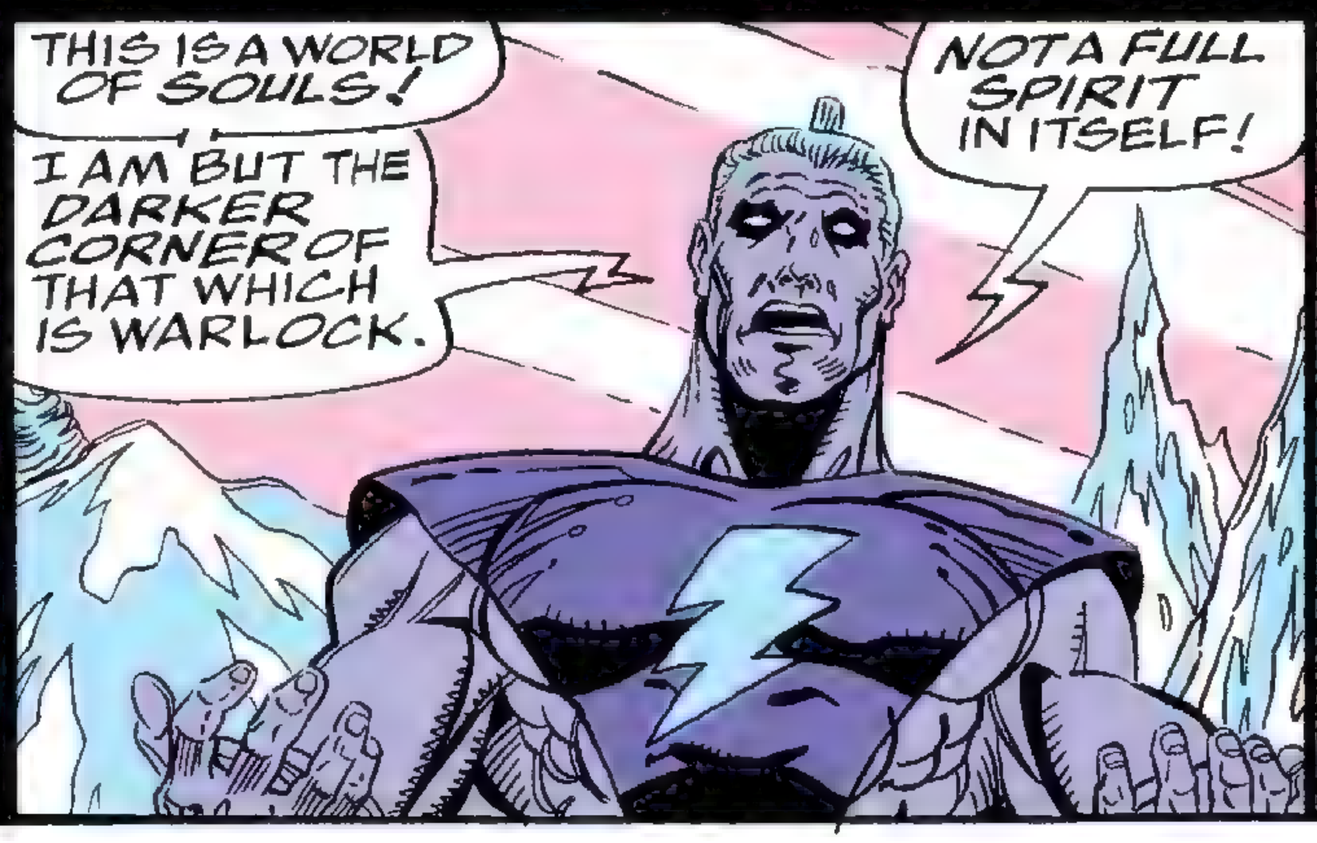
FROM THIS EMERALD HAVEN I SHALL MAKE MY COMEBACK!
HERE I SHALL TWIST META-PHYSICS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF A REALITY THAT HAS ABANDONED ME!


I SHALL RAISE A PSYCHIC ARMY THAT WILL USURP WARLOCK'S CONTROL OF THIS REALM.
FIRST SOUL WORLD AND THEN THE STARS!

YOU TWO WILL BE MY FIRST RECRUITS!
THE VANGUARD OF MY DESTINY!
...SO THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER...

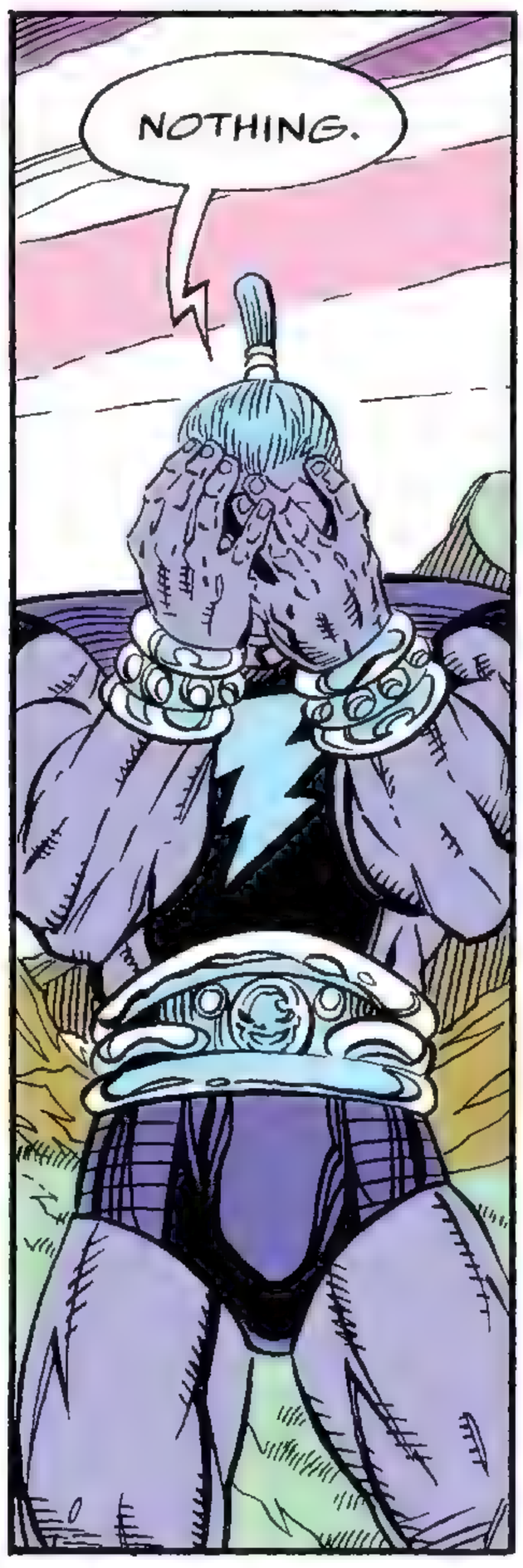

AND SHE SAID?
WHAT?!
I PASSED THROUGH THEM!


EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.
THAT CAN'T HAVE HAPPENED!
UNLESS...


THIS IS A WORLD OF SOULS!
I AM BUT THE DARKER CORNER OF THAT WHICH IS WARLOCK.
NOT A FULL SPIRIT IN ITSELF!

IN THIS SPHERE I CANNOT EVEN CAST A SHADOW!

NOT EVEN A SHADE.


NOTHING.

LESS THAN NOTHING.

AND WHAT NOW ARE YOU, LORD THANOS?

HERO?

VILLAIN?

NEITHER?

MAYBE JUST WISER.

THE MAGUS WOULD HAVE HELD FIRM TO ULTIMATE POWER HAD HE GAINED A SOLID GRIP ON IT.

HE WOULD NOT HAVE SUBCONSCIOUSLY SURRENDERED IT LIKE I...

...IN DAYS PAST.

NOW?

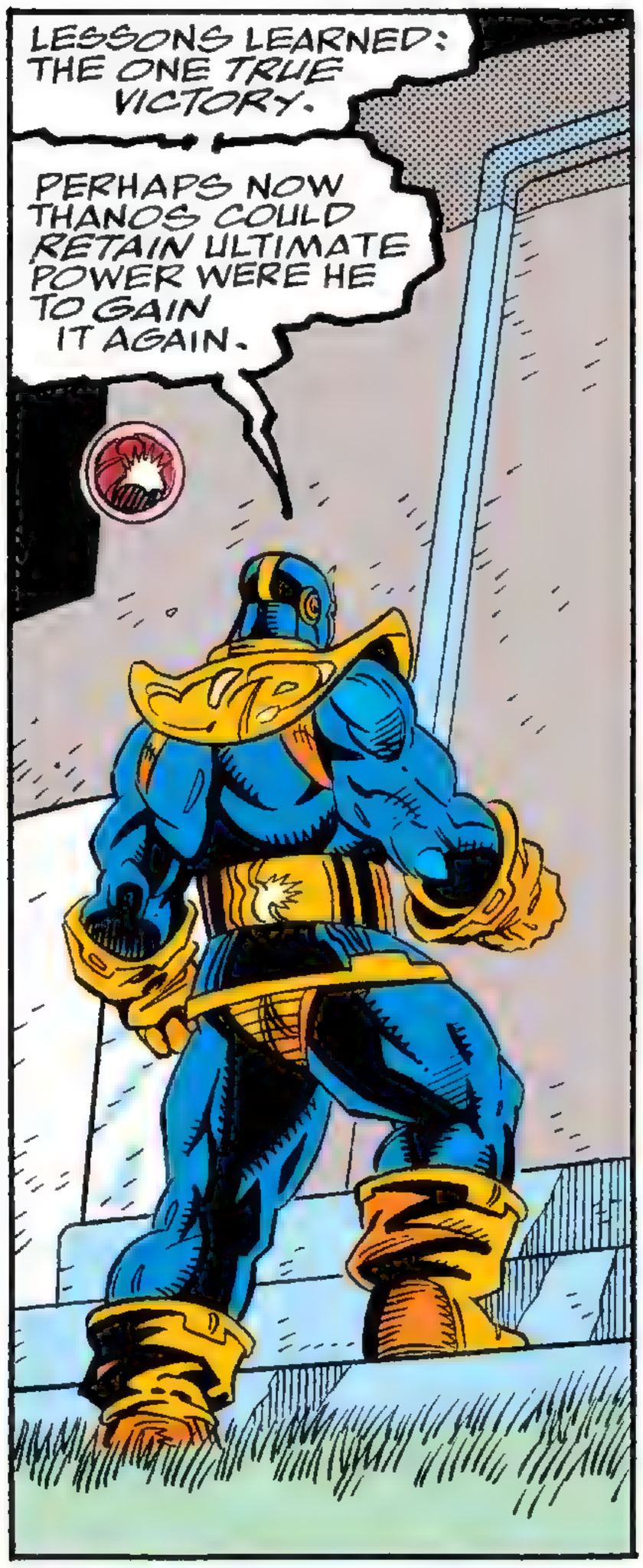
WHO KNOWS.

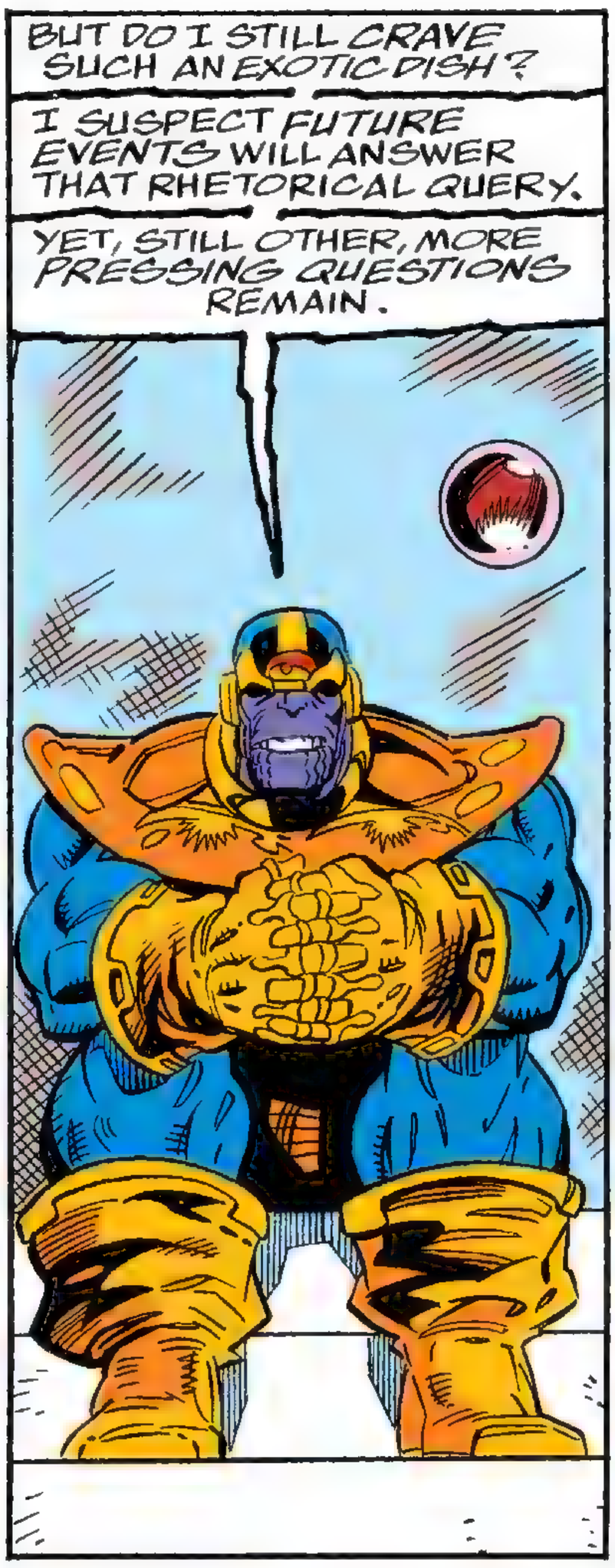
GAMORA WAS CORRECT-- CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN ME.

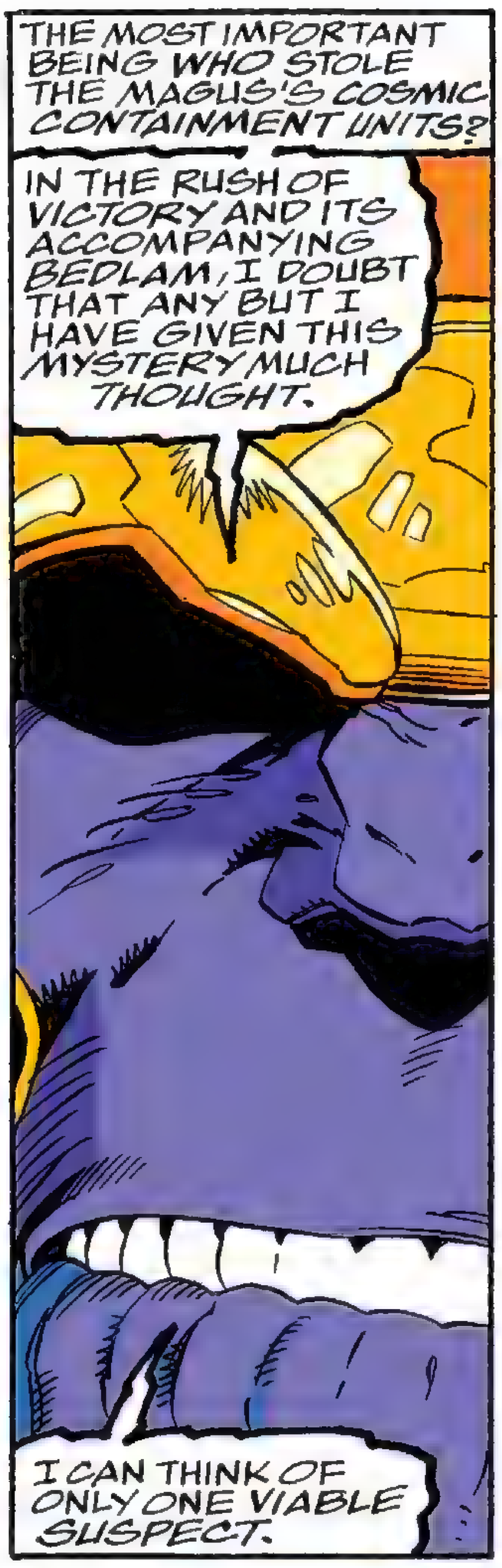
EVEN OLD DOGS CAN LEARN NEW TRICKS.

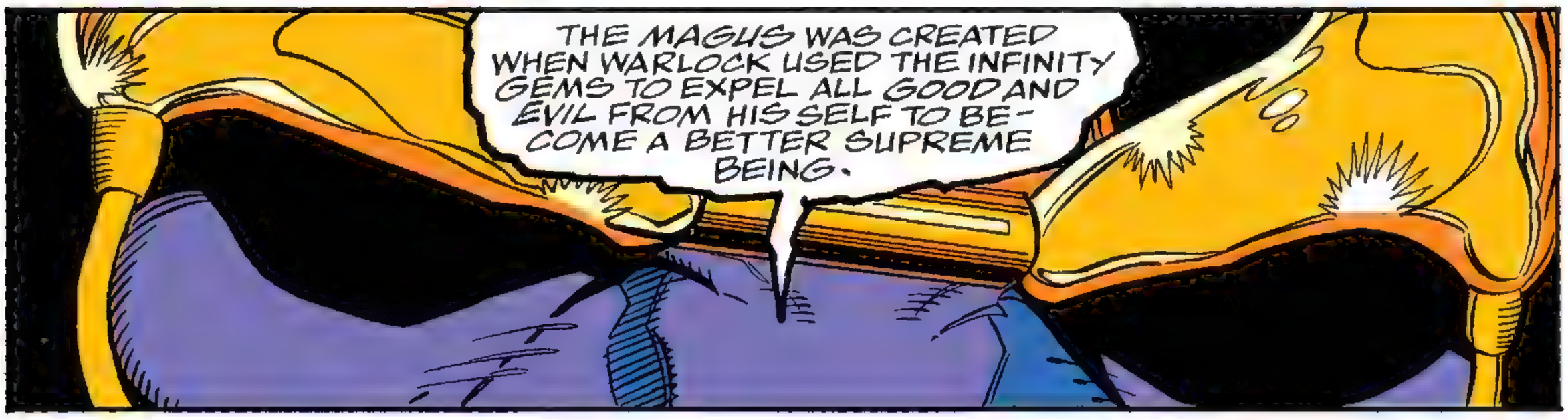
WITH INSIGHT ONE'S HORIZONS WIDEN.

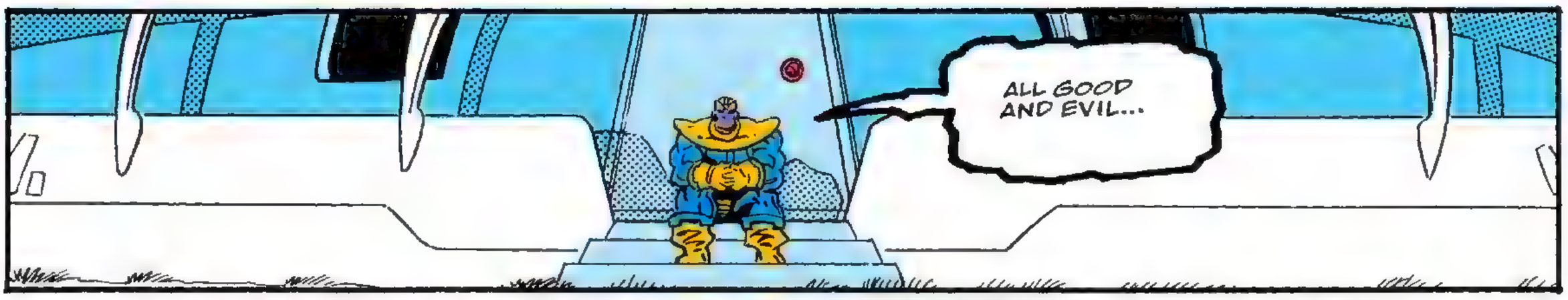
AS I ALWAYS SAID, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

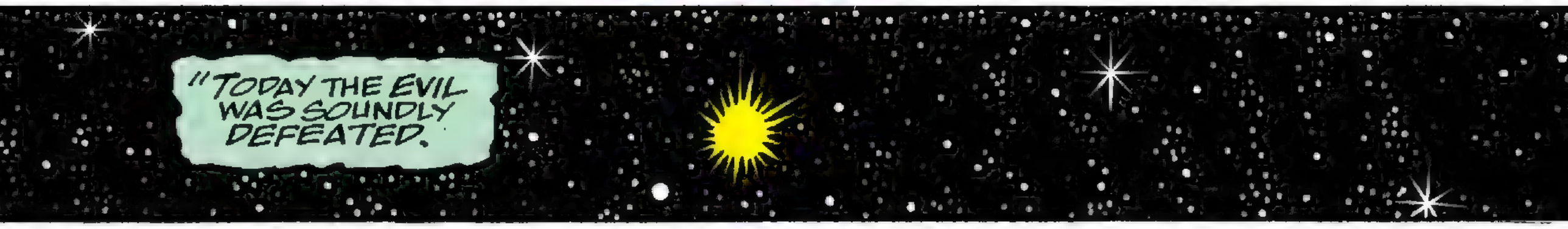

LESSONS LEARNED: THE ONE TRUE VICTORY.
PERHAPS NOW THANOS COULD RETAIN ULTIMATE POWER WERE HE TO GAIN IT AGAIN.

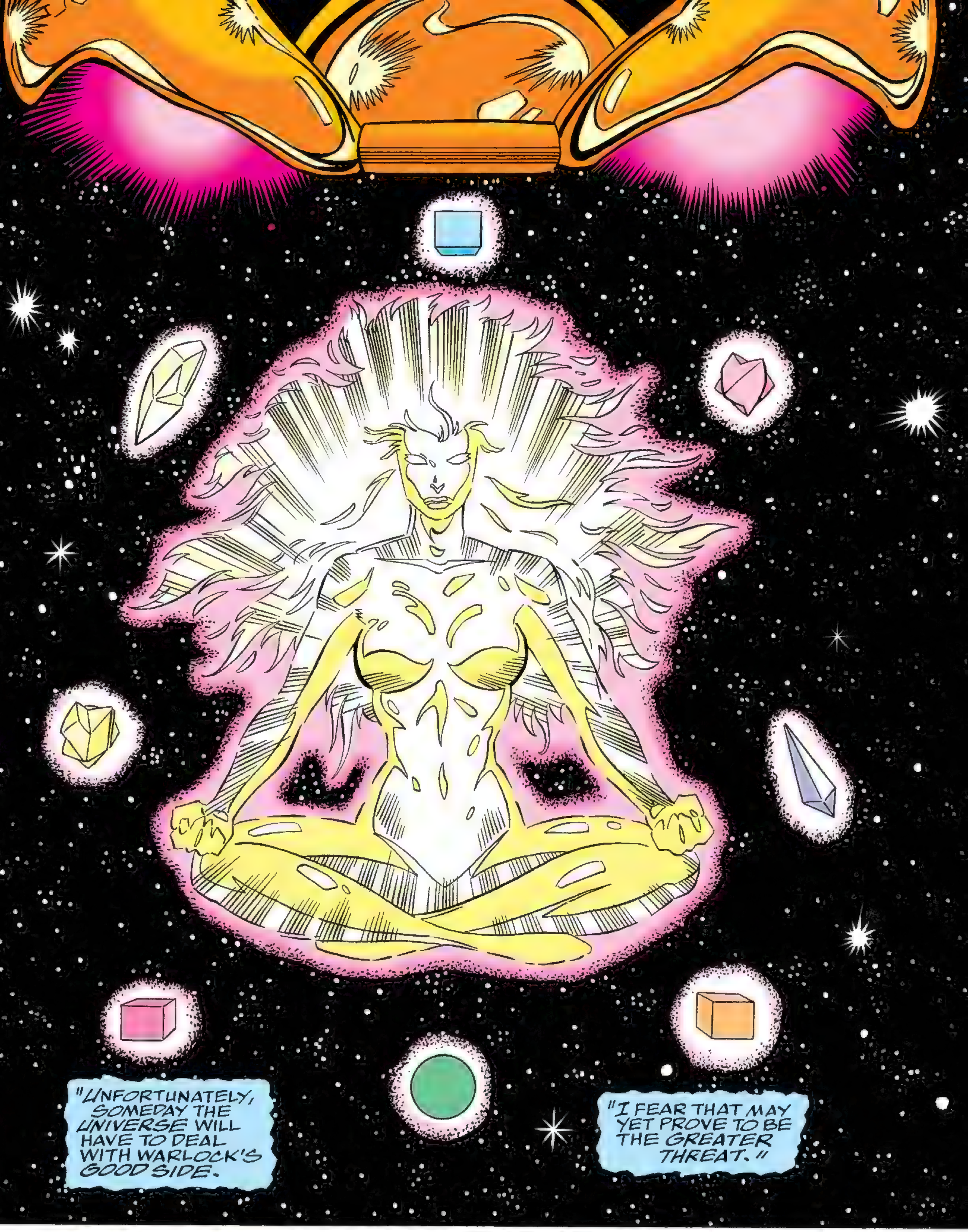

BUT DO I STILL CRAVE SUCH AN EXOTIC DISH?
I SUSPECT FUTURE EVENTS WILL ANSWER THAT RHETORICAL QUERY.
YET, STILL OTHER, MORE PRESSING QUESTIONS REMAIN.


THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING WHO STOLE THE MAGUS'S COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS?
IN THE RUSH OF VICTORY AND ITS ACCOMPANYING BEDLAM, I DOUBT THAT ANY BUT I HAVE GIVEN THIS MYSTERY MUCH THOUGHT.
I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE VIABLE SUSPECT.


THE MAGUS WAS CREATED WHEN WARLOCK USED THE INFINITY GEMS TO EXPEL ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM HIS SELF TO BECOME A BETTER SUPREME BEING.


ALL GOOD AND EVIL...


"TODAY THE EVIL WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED.



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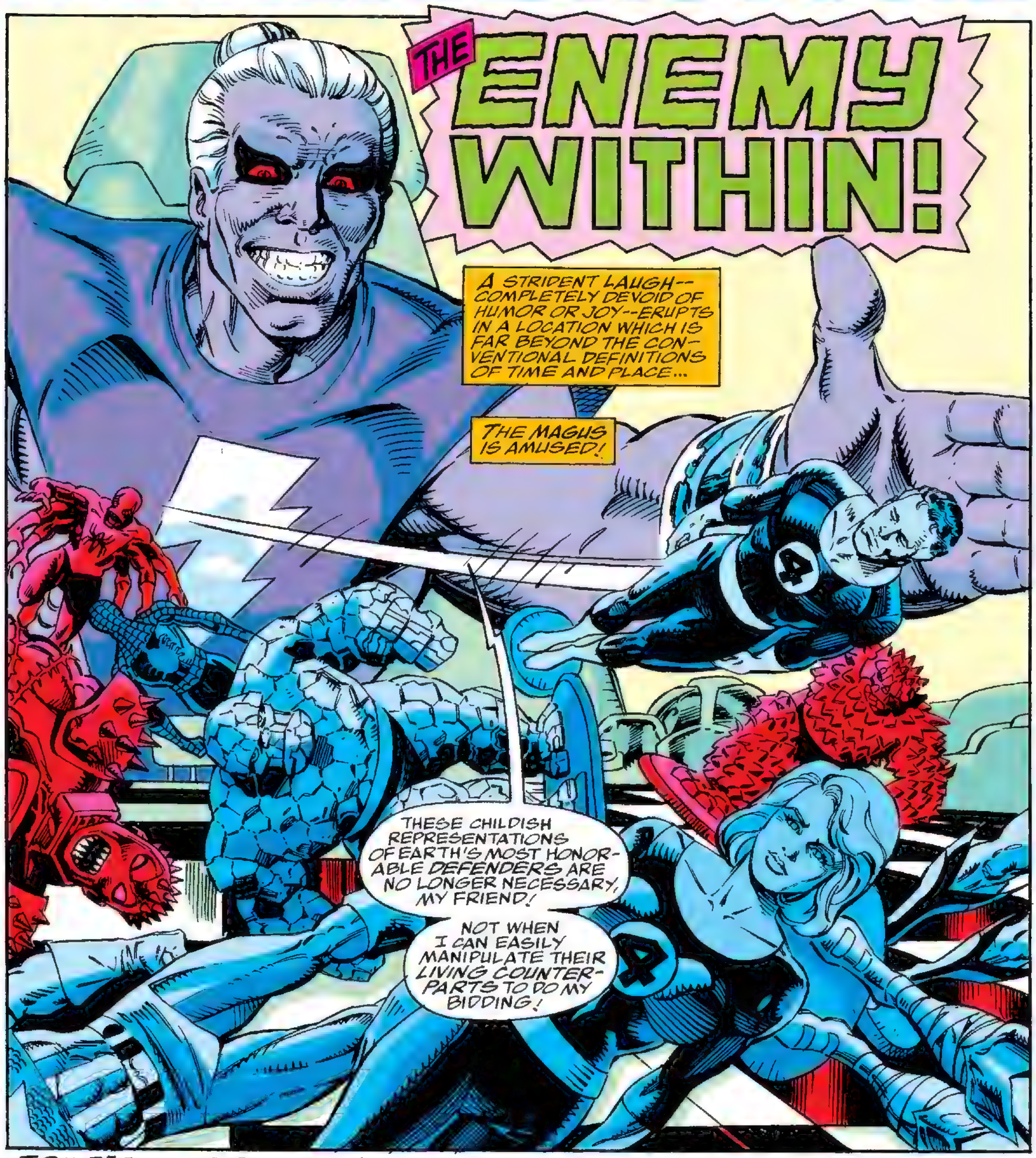
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MA
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
Fantastic Four
DESTROY!
RYAN '92

REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! **BEN GRIMM,** THE THING! **SUE RICHARDS,** INVISIBLE WOMAN! **JOHNNY STORM,** THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



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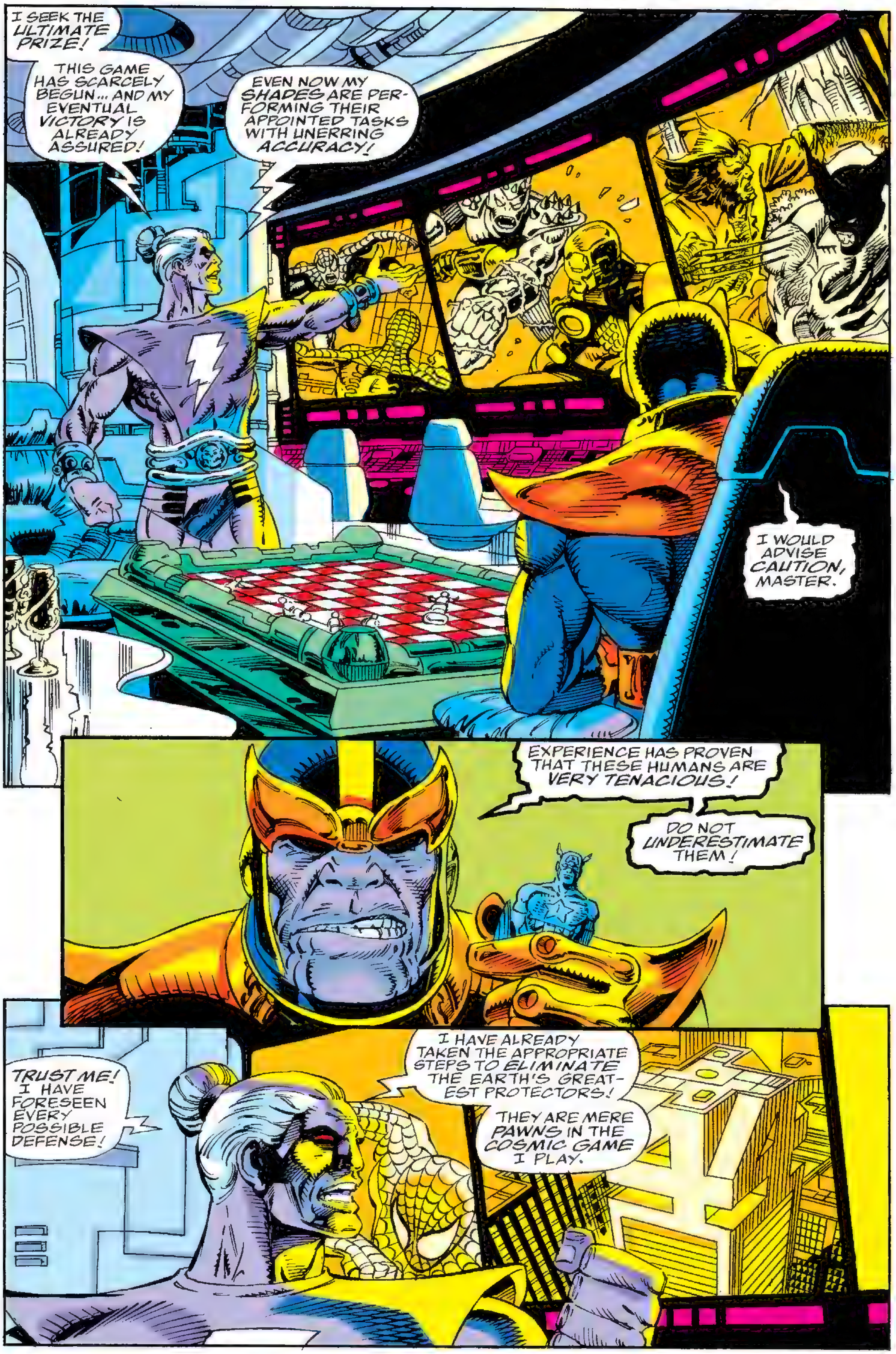
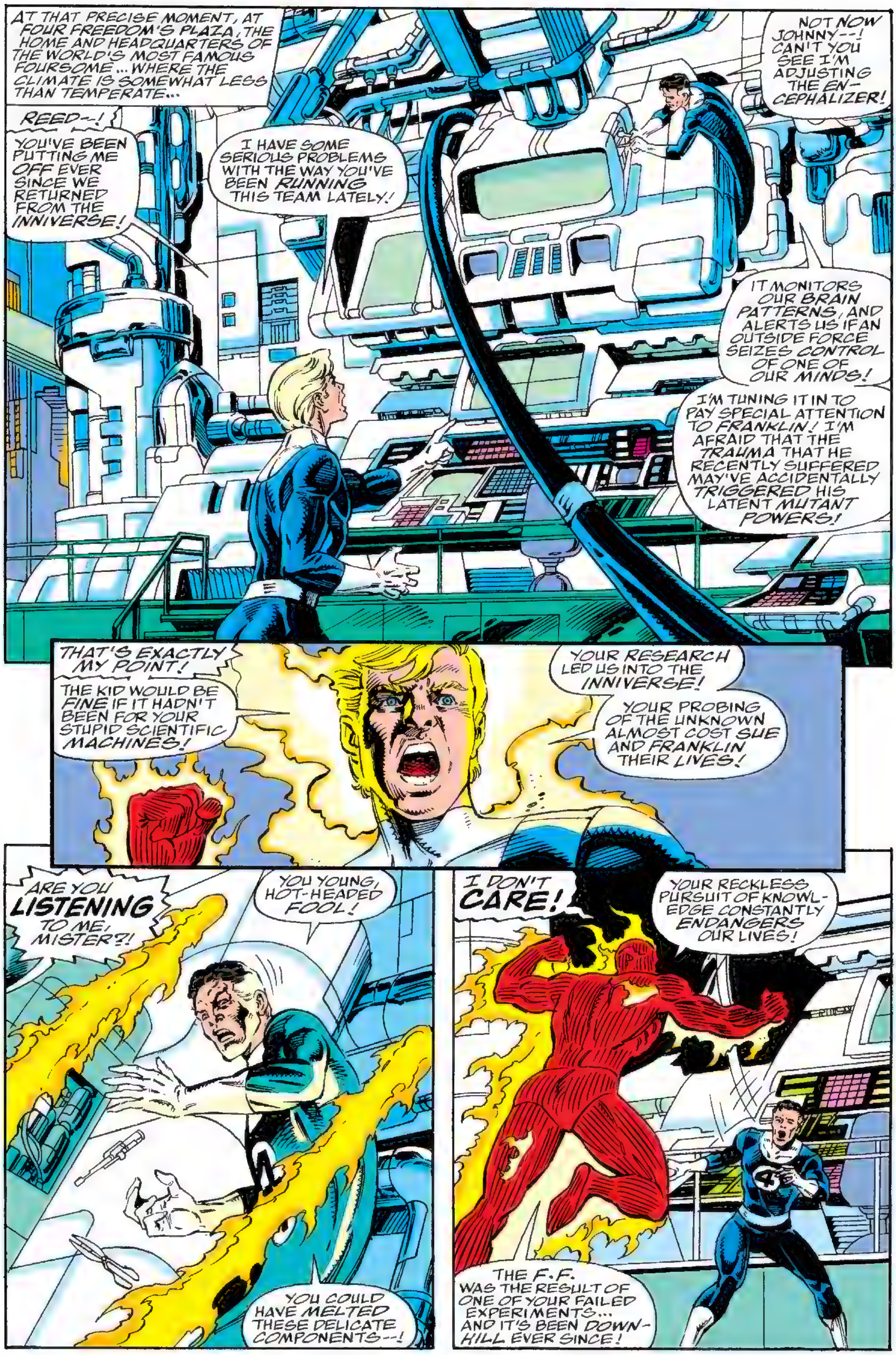
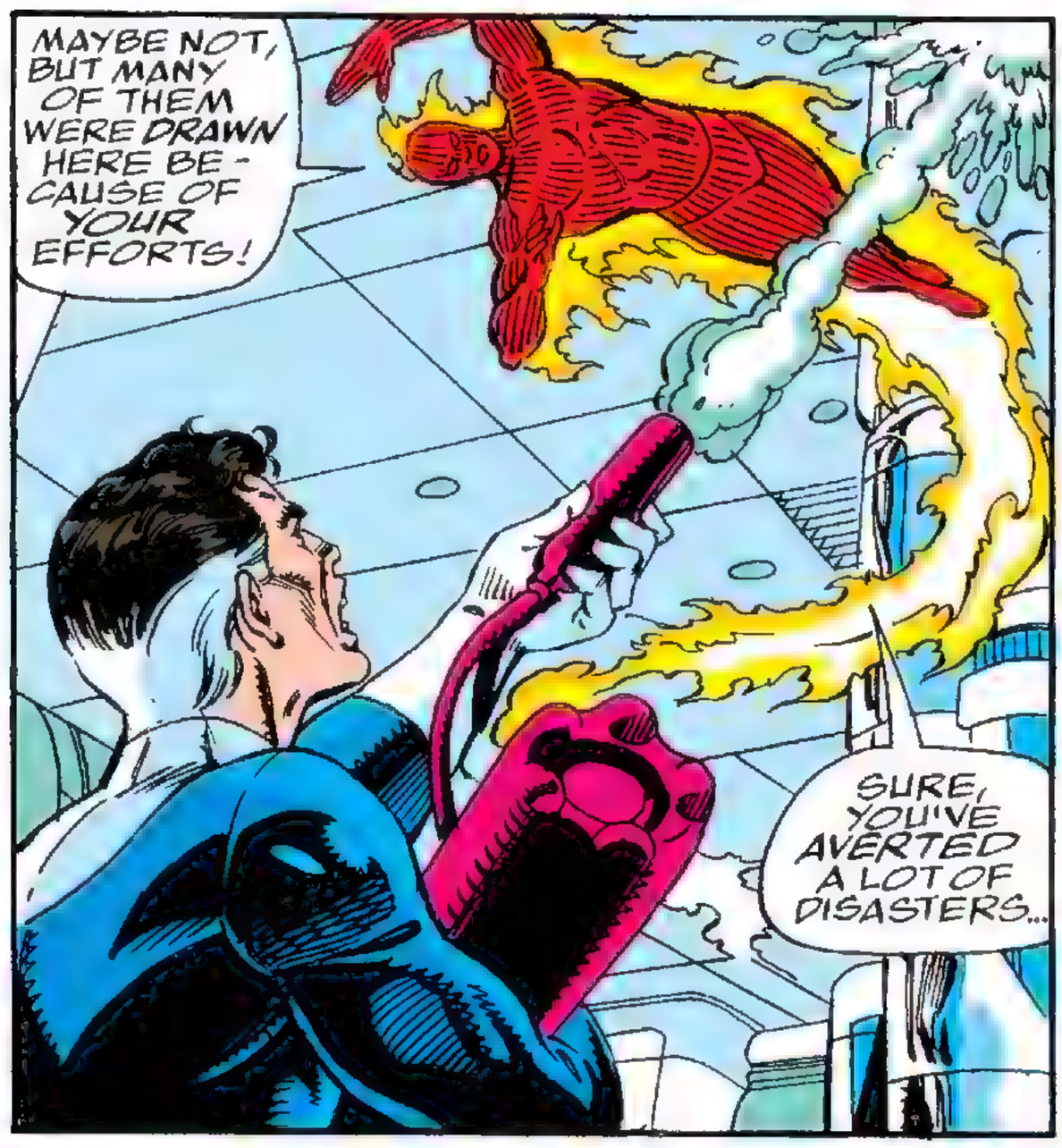

I SEEK THE ULTIMATE PRIZE!
THIS GAME HAS SCARCELY BEGUN... AND MY EVENTUAL VICTORY IS ALREADY ASSURED!
EVEN NOW MY SHADES ARE PERFORMING THEIR APPOINTED TASKS WITH UNERRING ACCURACY!
I WOULD ADVISE CAUTION, MASTER.
EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN THAT THESE HUMANS ARE VERY TENACIOUS!
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THEM!
TRUST ME! I HAVE FORESEEN EVERY POSSIBLE DEFENSE!
I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE EARTH'S GREATEST PROTECTORS!
THEY ARE MERE PAWNS IN THE COSMIC GAME I PLAY.

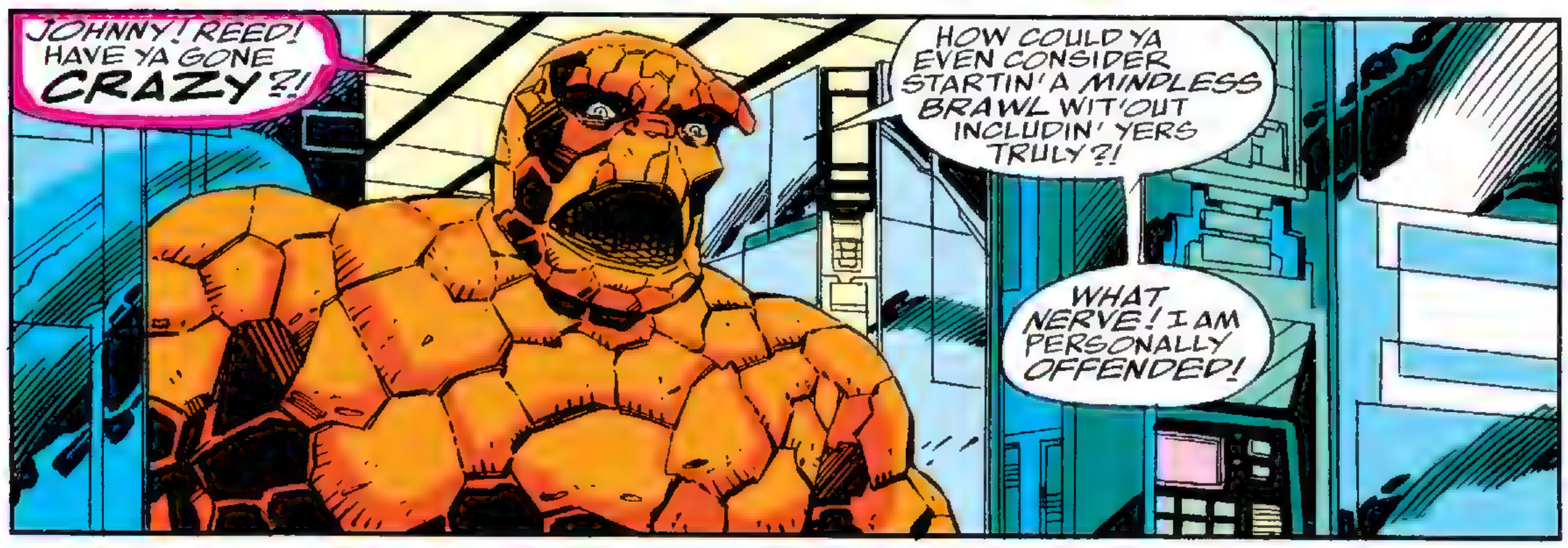

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, AT FOUR FREEDOM'S PLAZA, THE HOME AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS FOURSOME... WHERE THE CLIMATE IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN TEMPERATE...
REED--!
YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ME OFF EVER SINCE WE RETURNED FROM THE INNIVERSE!
I HAVE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING THIS TEAM LATELY!
NOT NOW JOHNNY--! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M ADJUSTING THE EN-CEPHALIZER!
IT MONITORS OUR BRAIN PATTERNS, AND ALERTS US IF AN OUTSIDE FORCE SEIZES CONTROL OF ONE OF OUR MINDS!
I'M TUNING IT IN TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FRANKLIN! I'M AFRAID THAT THE TRAUMA THAT HE RECENTLY SUFFERED MAY'VE ACCIDENTALLY TRIGGERED HIS LATENT MUTANT POWERS!
THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT!
THE KID WOULD BE FINE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR STUPID SCIENTIFIC MACHINES!
YOUR RESEARCH LED US INTO THE INNIVERSE!
YOUR PROBING OF THE UNKNOWN ALMOST COST SUE AND FRANKLIN THEIR LIVES!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, MISTER?!
YOU YOUNG, HOT-HEADED FOOL!
YOU COULD HAVE MELTED THESE DELICATE COMPONENTS--!
I DON'T CARE!
YOUR RECKLESS PURSUIT OF KNOWL-EDGE CONSTANTLY ENDANGERS OUR LIVES!
THE F.F. WAS THE RESULT OF ONE OF YOUR FAILED EXPERIMENTS... AND IT'S BEEN DOWN-HILL EVER SINCE!

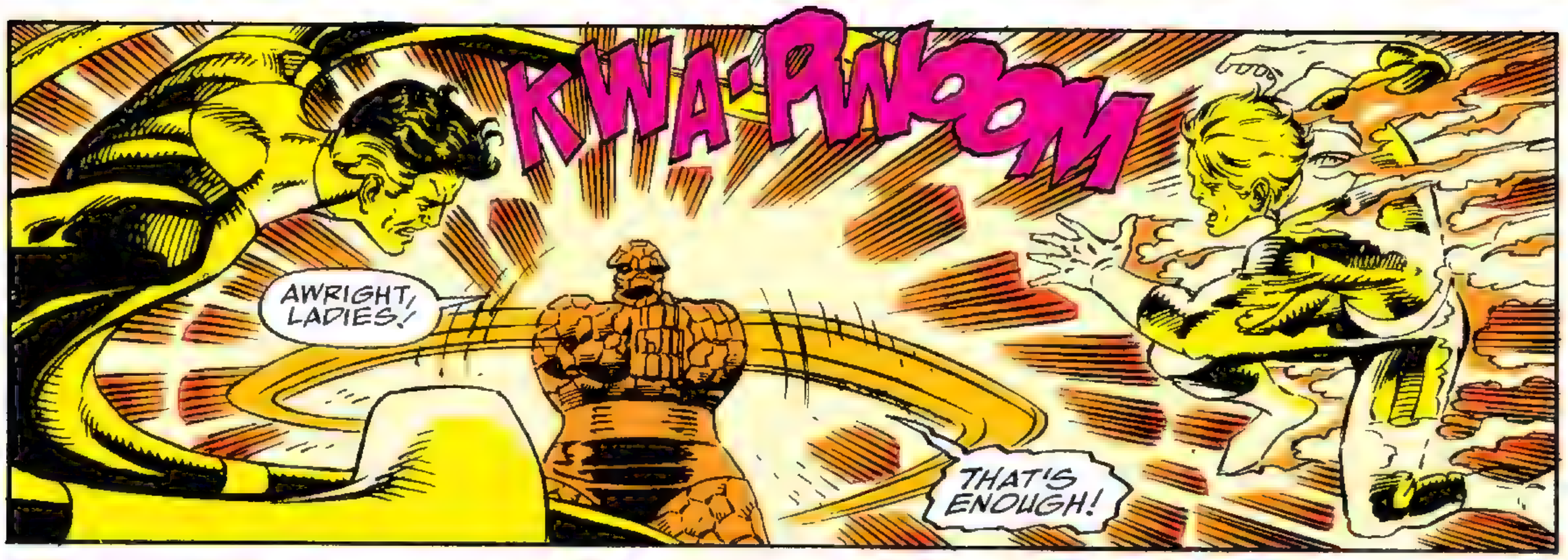
MY INQUIRIES SERVE A DEFINITE PURPOSE!
DANGEROUS, MONSTROUS FORCES ARE AT LOOSE IN THE UNIVERSE!

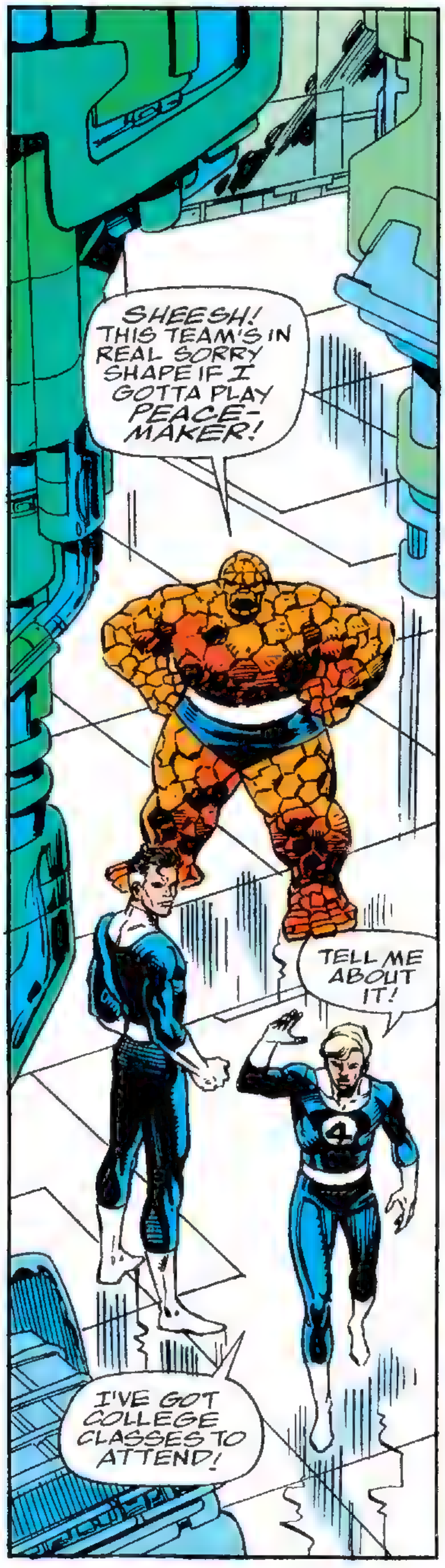
WE MUST LEARN ALL WE CAN ABOUT THEM FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION!
WE CAN'T PRETEND THAT THEY DON'T EXIST!

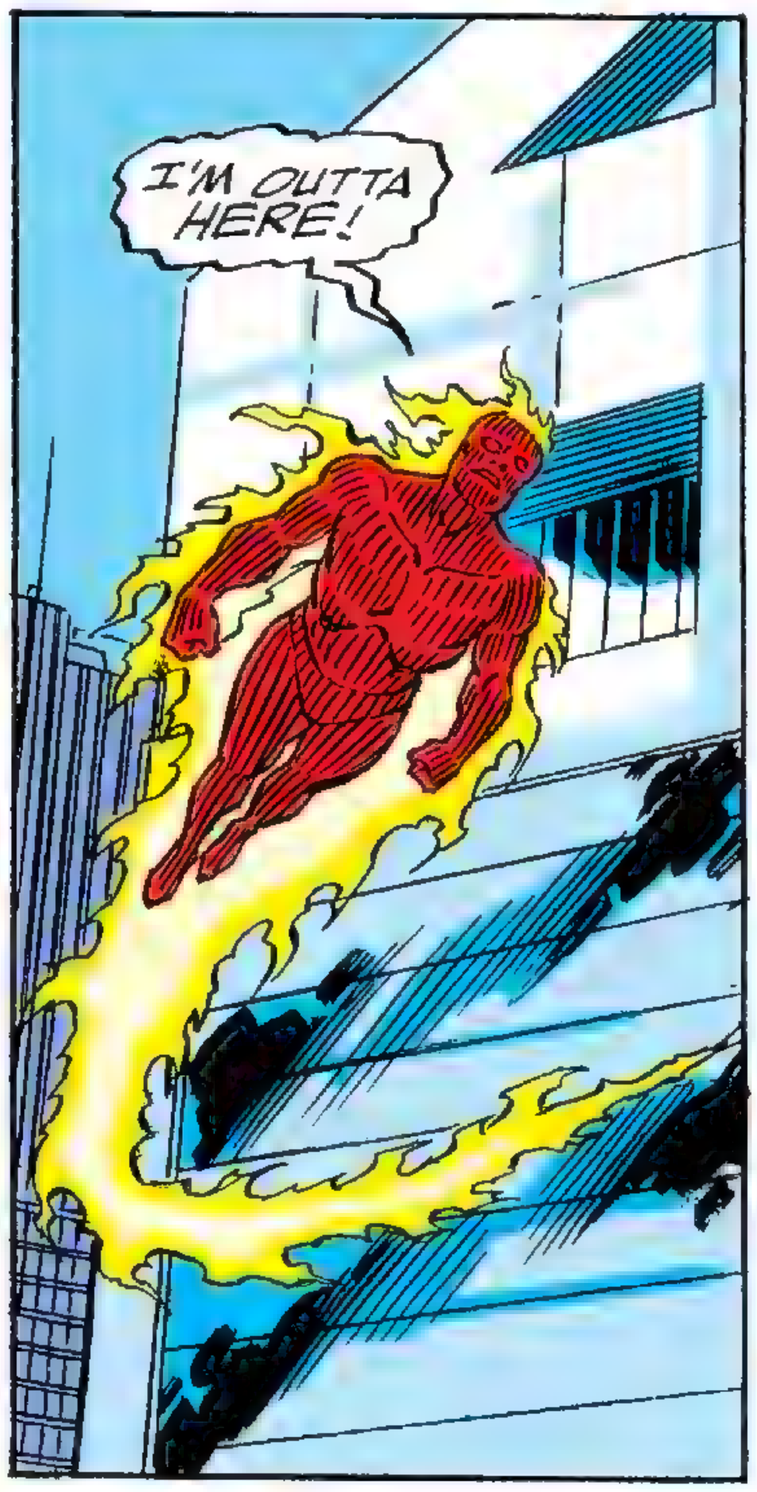

MAYBE NOT, BUT MANY OF THEM WERE DRAWN HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS!
SURE, YOU'VE AVERTED A LOT OF DISASTERS...

BUT... HOW MANY HAVE YOU CAUSED?!


JOHNNY! REED! HAVE YA GONE CRAZY?!
HOW COULD YA EVEN CONSIDER STARTIN' A MINDLESS BRAWL WIT'OUT INCLUDIN' YERS TRULY?!
WHAT NERVE! I AM PERSONALLY OFFENDED!

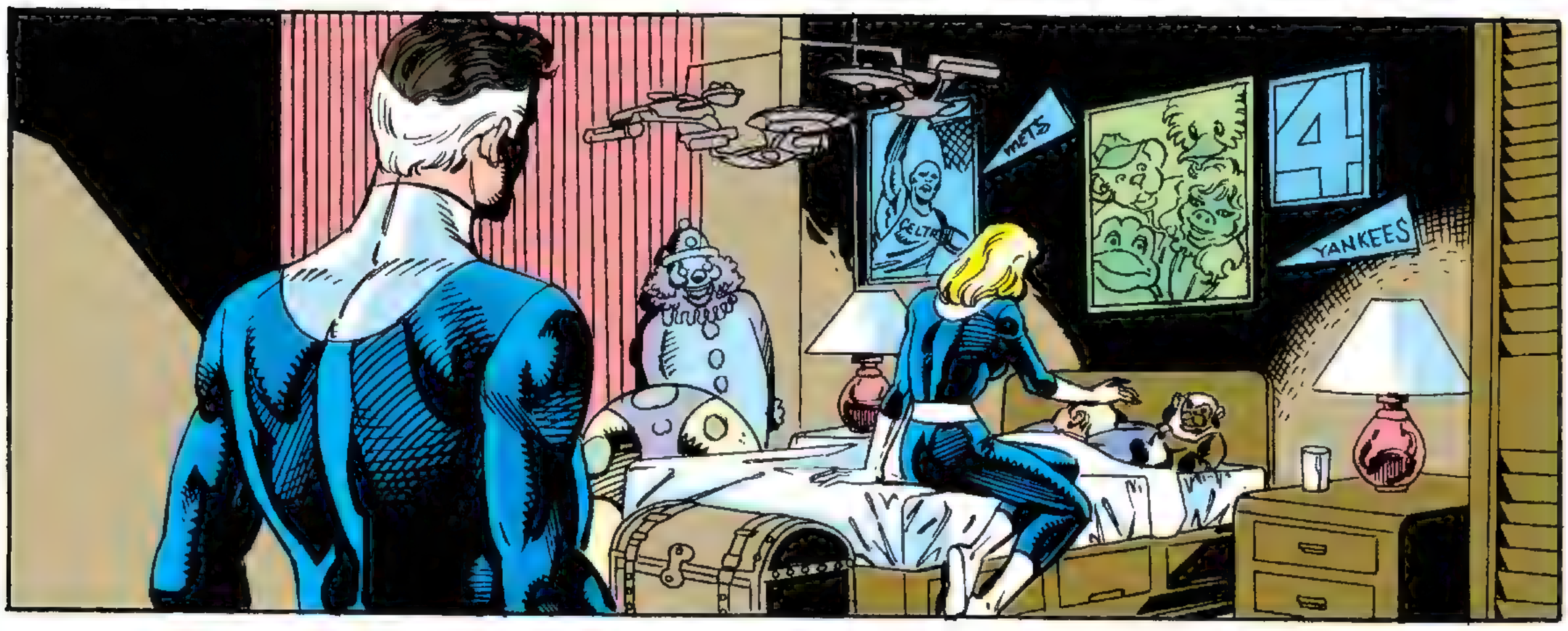

KWA-PWOOM
AWRIGHT, LADIES!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

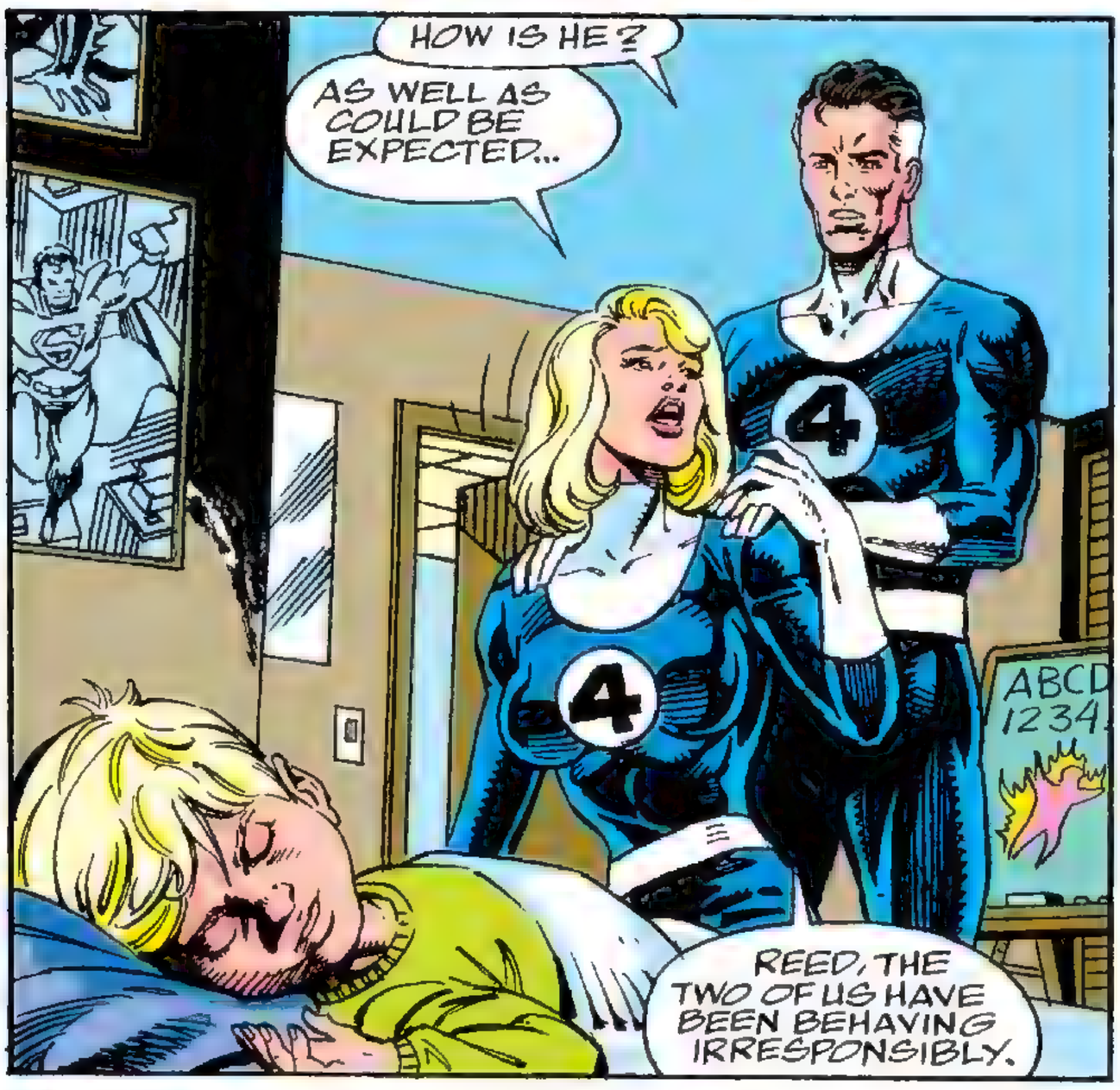

SHEESH! THIS TEAM'S IN REAL SORRY SHAPE IF I GOTTA PLAY PEACE-MAKER!
TELL ME ABOUT IT!
I'VE GOT COLLEGE CLASSES TO ATTEND!


I'M OUTTA HERE!

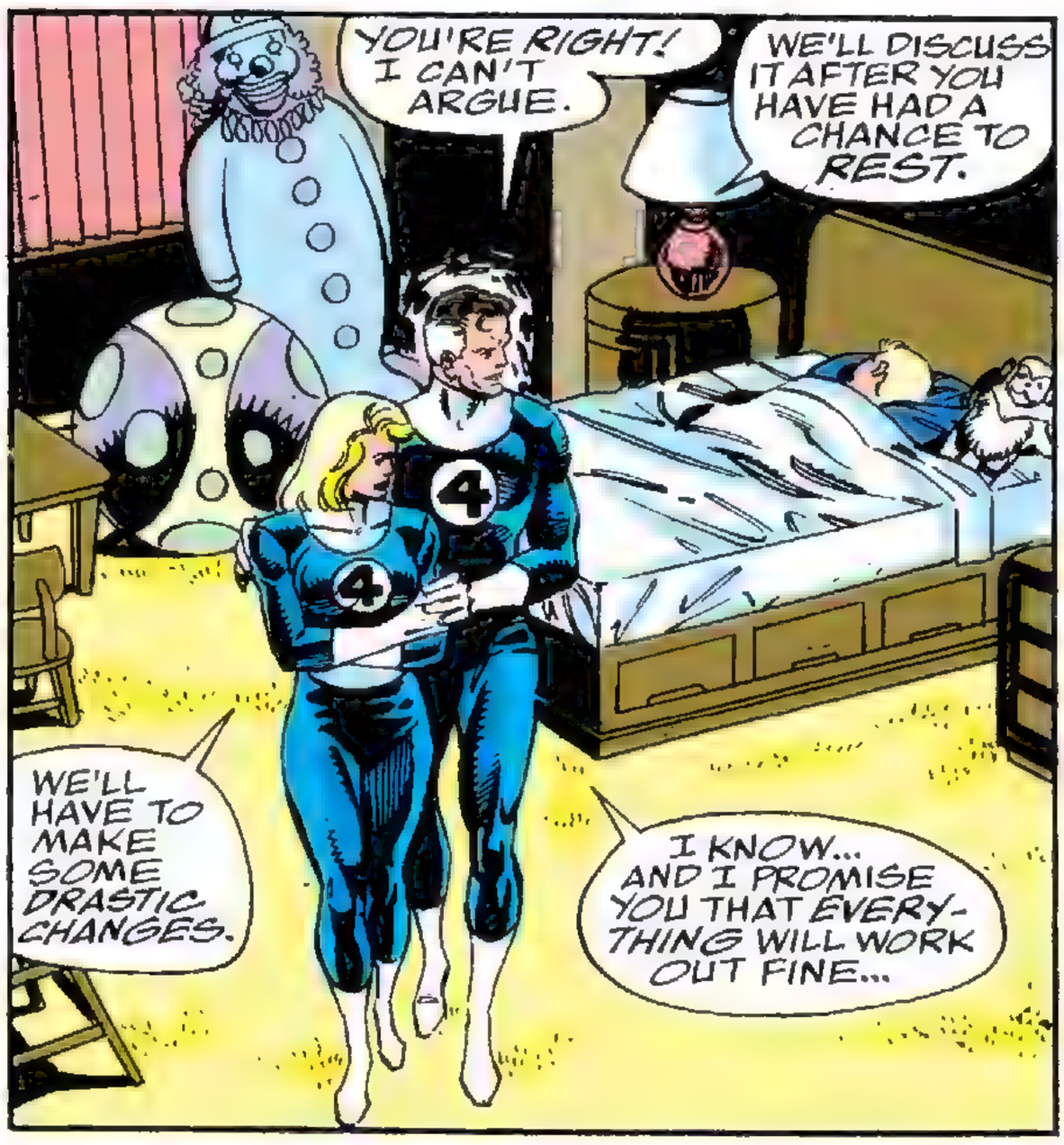
THE KID SEEMS PRETTY STEAMED!
WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?
NO.
S'OKAY, I COULD ALWAYS PICK UP A COPY'A THE DAILY BUGLE FER THE INSIDE STORY.

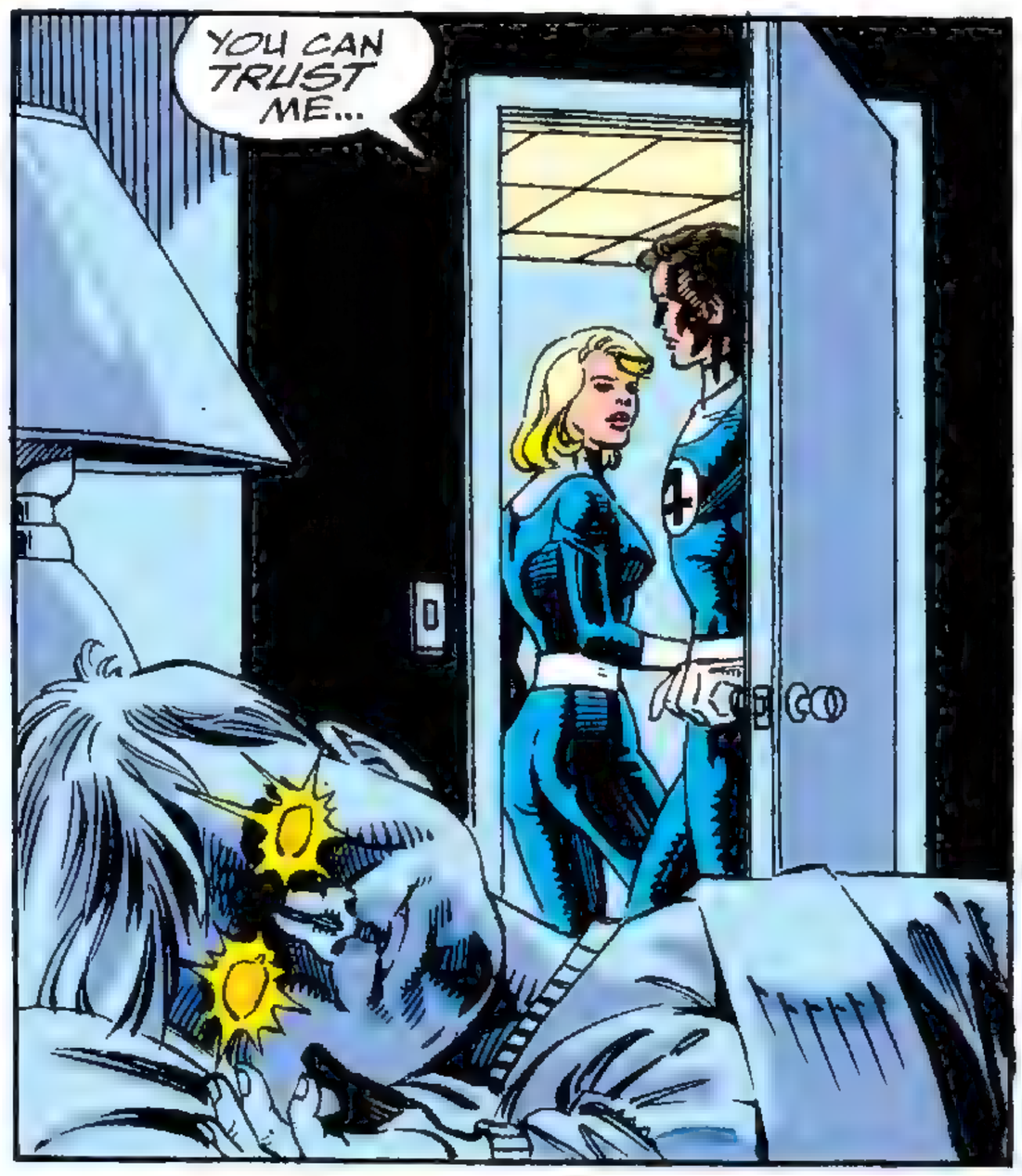
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHUT BEN OUT LIKE THAT, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT WHICH GAVE US OUR INCREDIBLE POWERS, I'VE TRIED TO CONSIDER ALL THE PROBABILITIES AND ANTICIPATE ALL PROBLEMS.
WHAT IF THE TORCH IS RIGHT?
AM I SUFFERING FROM INTELLECTUAL PARANOIA? HAVE I UNINTENTIONALLY ENDANGERED MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND THE PLANET ITSELF??
I...I'D BETTER LOOK IN ON MY SON...

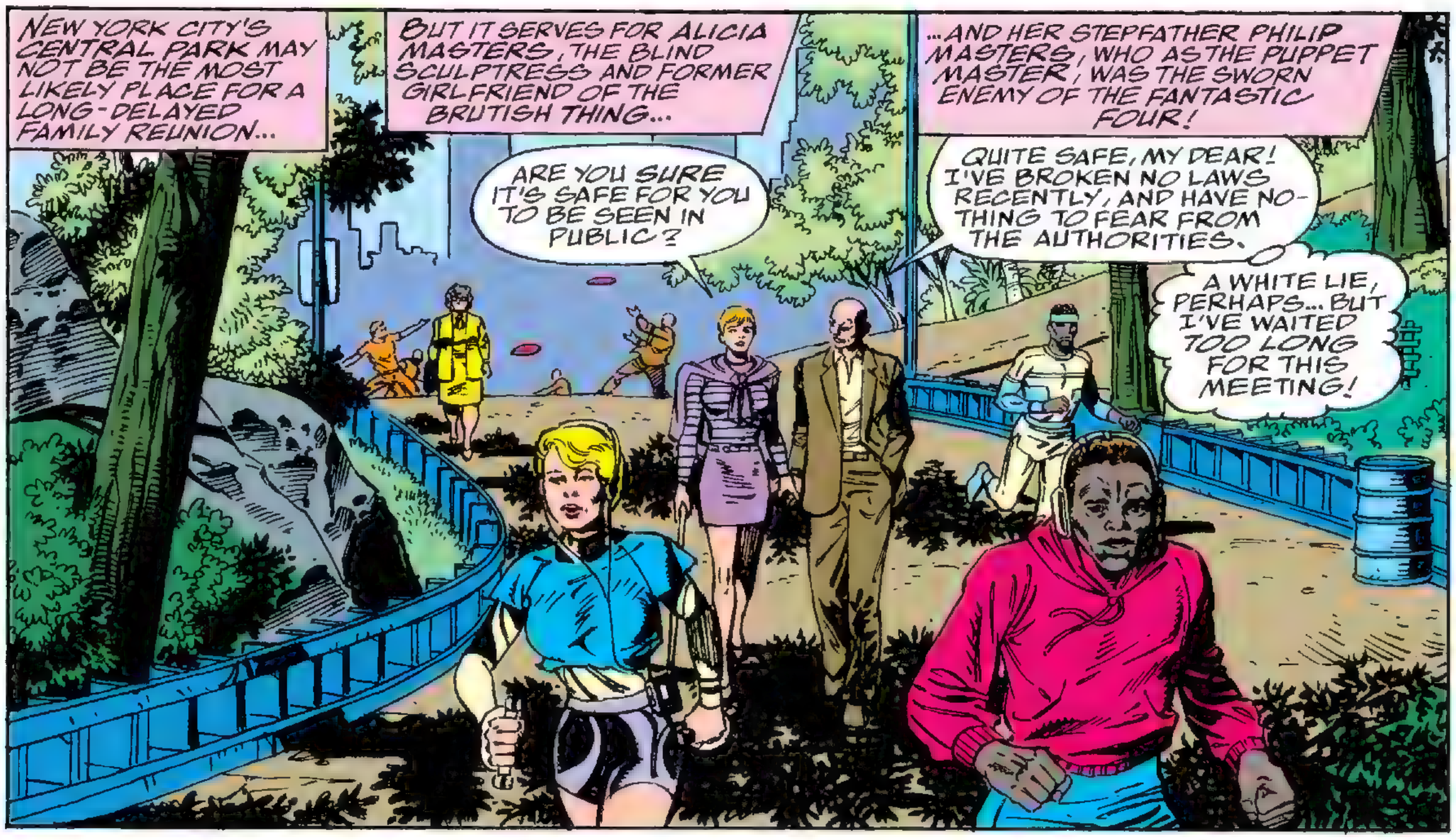

METS
4
YANKEES


HOW IS HE?
AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED...
ABCD 1234
REED, THE TWO OF US HAVE BEEN BEHAVING IRRESPONSIBLY.

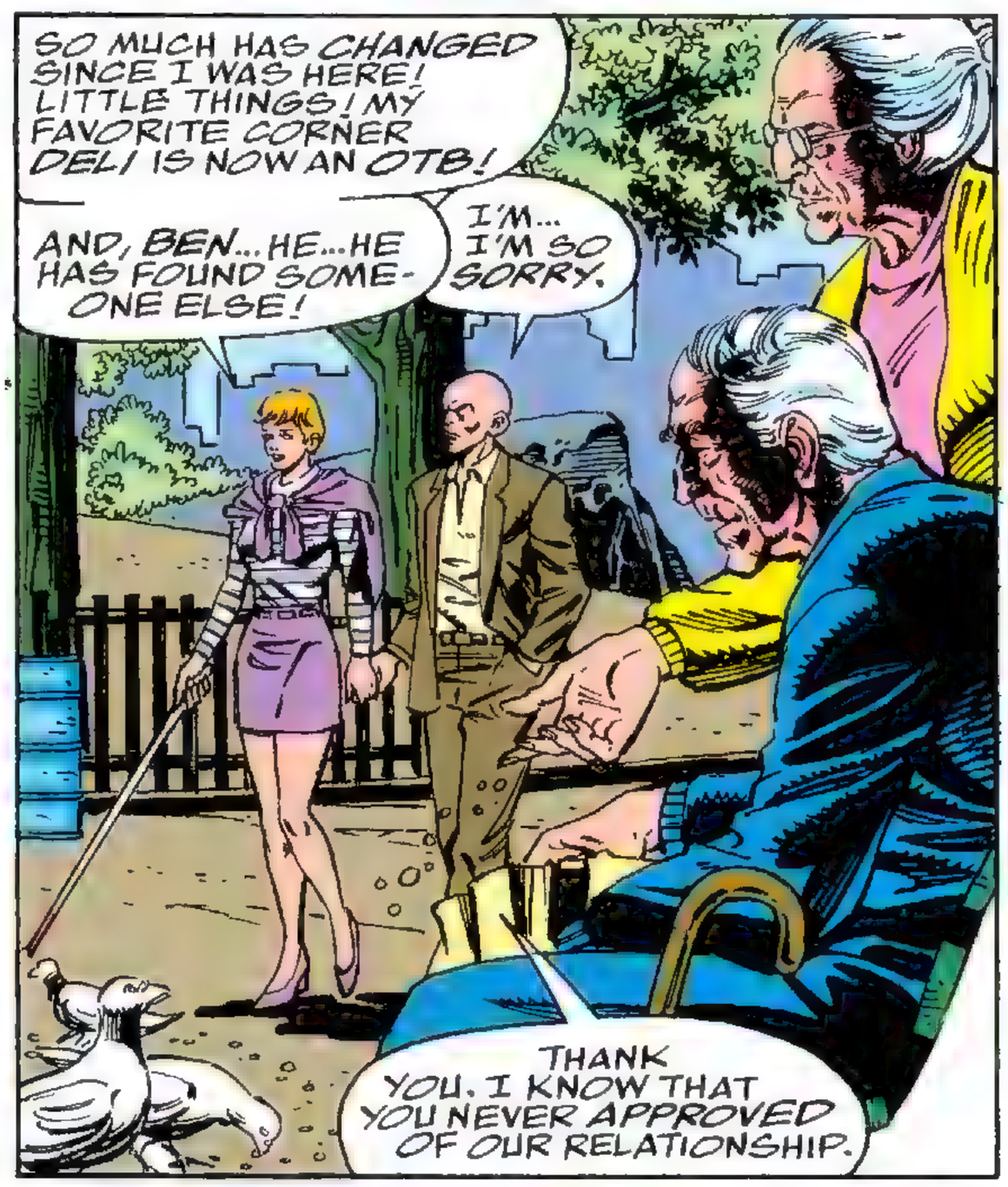
THERE'S TOO MUCH DANGER IN OUR LIVES.
WE'RE ADULTS! WE KNOW THE RISKS... AND ACCEPT THEM!
BUT OUR ADVENTUROUS LIFESTYLE MAY ACTUALLY CONSTITUTE A SUBTLE AND INSIDIOUS FORM OF CHILD ABUSE.
FRANKLIN DESERVES MUCH BETTER THAN WE'VE BEEN PROVIDING FOR HIM!

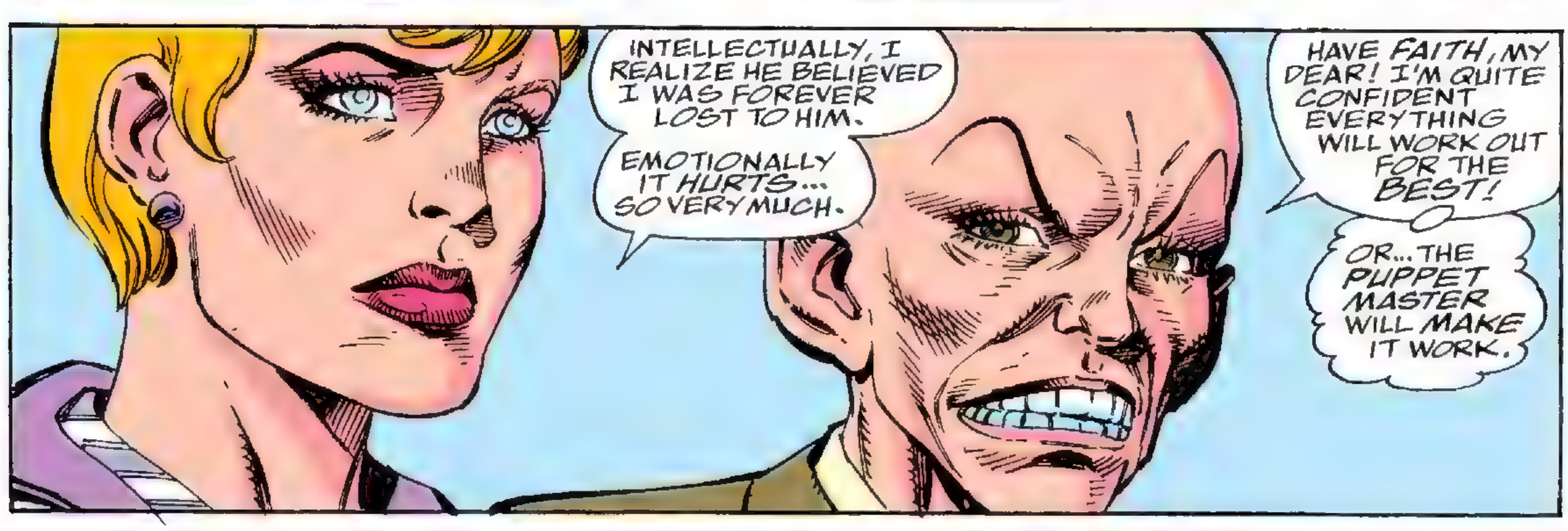

YOU'RE RIGHT! I CAN'T ARGUE.
WE'LL DISCUSS IT AFTER YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REST.
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME DRASTIC CHANGES.
I KNOW... AND I PROMISE YOU THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FINE...


YOU CAN TRUST ME...


NEW YORK CITY'S CENTRAL PARK MAY NOT BE THE MOST LIKELY PLACE FOR A LONG-DELAYED FAMILY REUNION...
BUT IT SERVES FOR ALICIA MASTERS, THE BLIND SCULPTRESS AND FORMER GIRLFRIEND OF THE BRITISH THING...
...AND HER STEPFATHER PHILIP MASTERS, WHO AS THE PUPPET MASTER, WAS THE SWORN ENEMY OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE FOR YOU TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC?
QUITE SAFE, MY DEAR! I'VE BROKEN NO LAWS RECENTLY, AND HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE AUTHORITIES.
A WHITE LIE, PERHAPS... BUT I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MEETING!

DADDY, I OWE YOU MY LIFE... MY FREEDOM! I'D STILL BE A PRISONER OF THE SKRULLS IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU!
YOUR SAFETY--AND HAPPINESS--FAR OUTWEIGH ANY ANIMOSITY I BEAR THEM.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST'VE COST YOU TO TURN TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR HELP!
I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH YOU. HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I...I'M STILL STRUGGLING WITH THE ADJUSTMENT.


SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS HERE! LITTLE THINGS! MY FAVORITE CORNER DELI IS NOW AN OTB!
AND, BEN...HE...HE HAS FOUND SOMEONE ELSE!
I'M... I'M SO SORRY.
THANK YOU. I KNOW THAT YOU NEVER APPROVED OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.


INTELLECTUALLY, I REALIZE HE BELIEVED I WAS FOREVER LOST TO HIM.
EMOTIONALLY IT HURTS... SO VERY MUCH.
HAVE FAITH, MY DEAR! I'M QUITE CONFIDENT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST!
OR...THE PUPPET MASTER WILL MAKE IT WORK.

MEANWHILE...

AMUSING AS THESE LITTLE PLOYS MAY BE, I FAIL TO DISCERN THEIR IMPORTANCE!

THAT IS NOT SURPRISING!

YOU ARE LIKE THE CHILD WHO PLAYFULLY DIGS A SIMPLE HOLE IN THE GROUND, AND ATTEMPTS TO FATHOM WHY AN ENGINEER DOES THE SAME.

SOME HOLES ARE MERELY HOLES. OTHERS ARE MEANT TO HOUSE MIGHTY FOUNDATIONS!

LIKE ANY GREAT MONUMENT, THE PRIZE I SEEK DEMANDS A MOST DETAILED DESIGN...

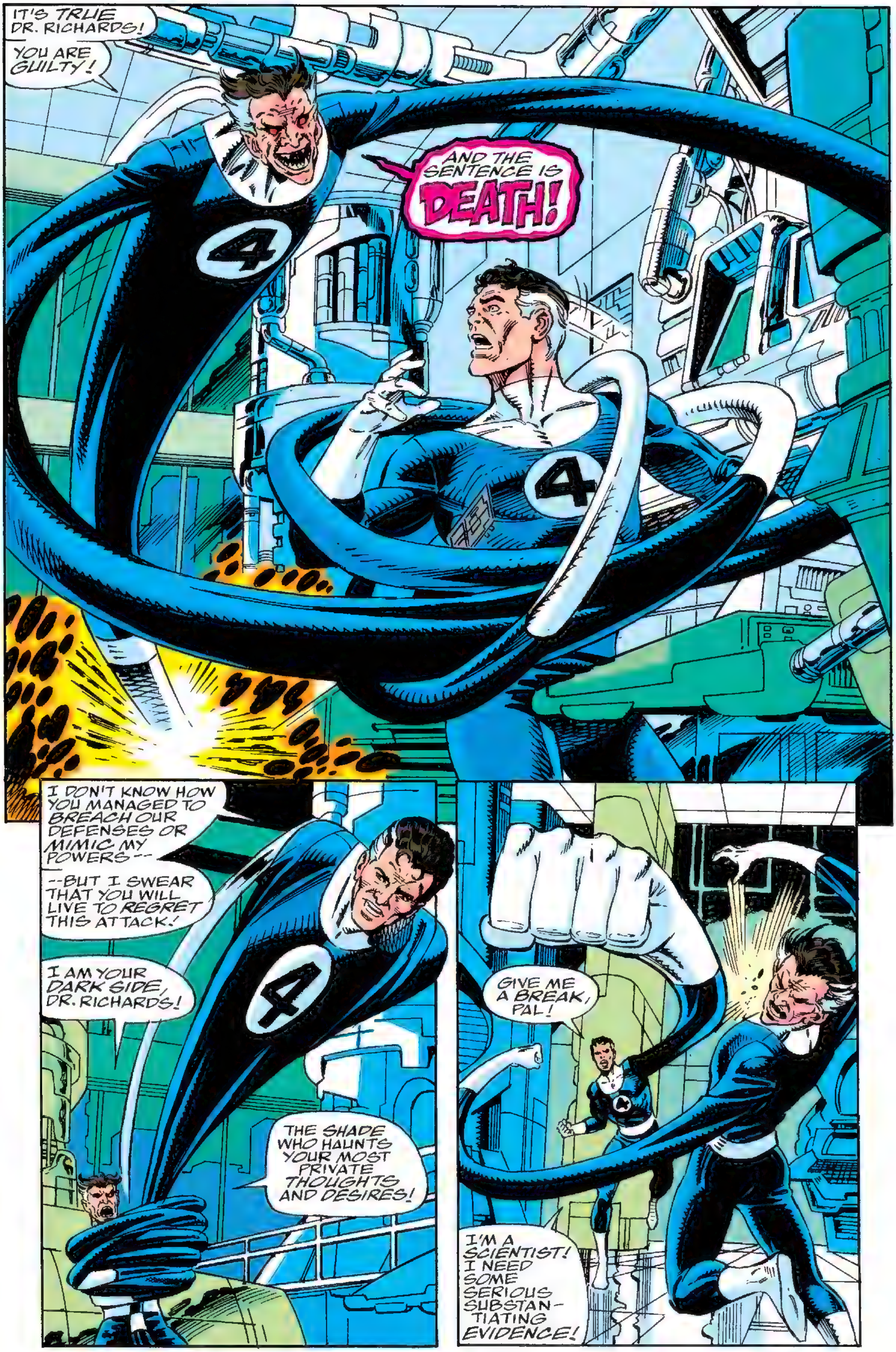
"...AND A VERY PRECISE TIMING."

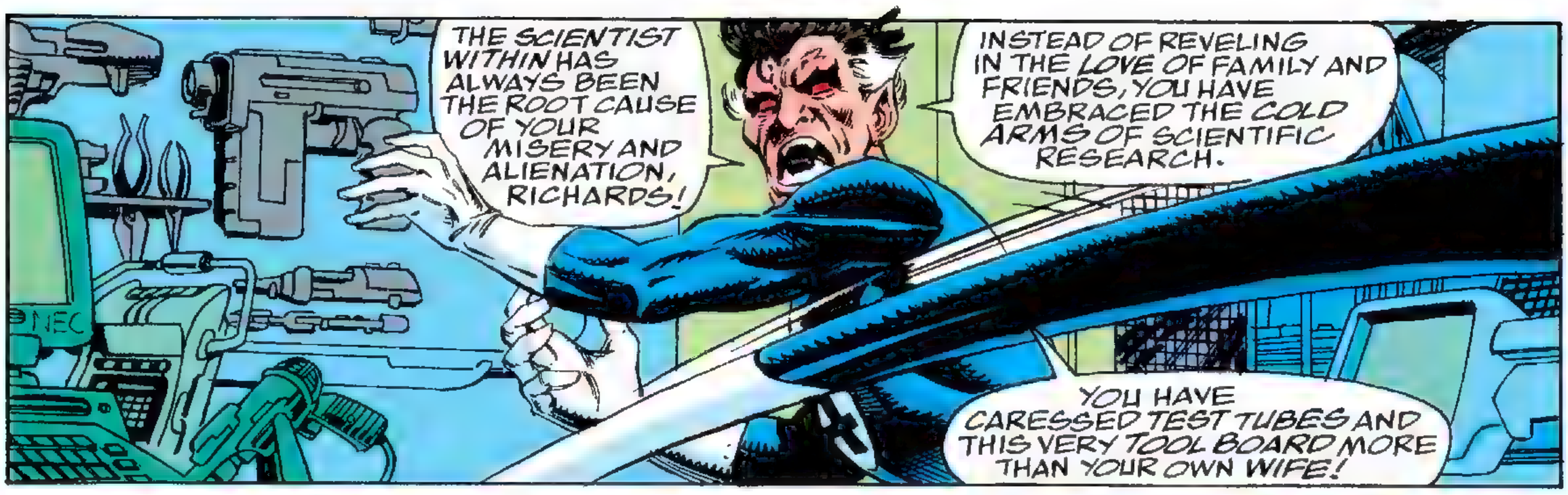
I SHOULD'VE TOLD SUSAN THE TRUTH.

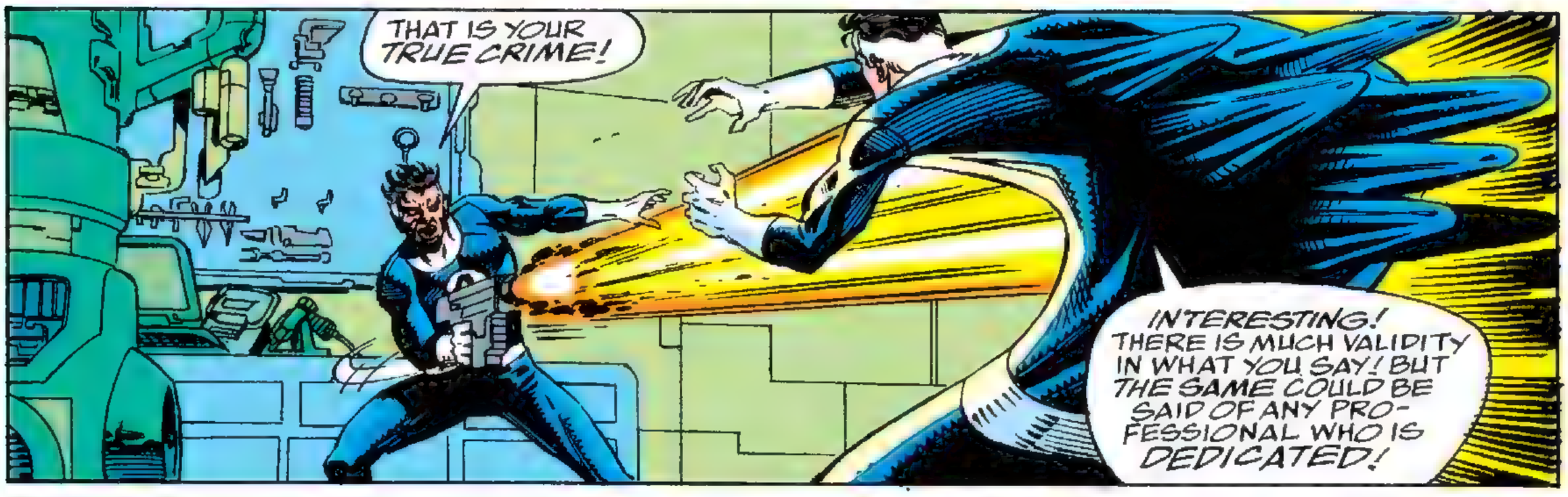
FRANKLIN IS ALREADY IN GREAT JEOPARDY!

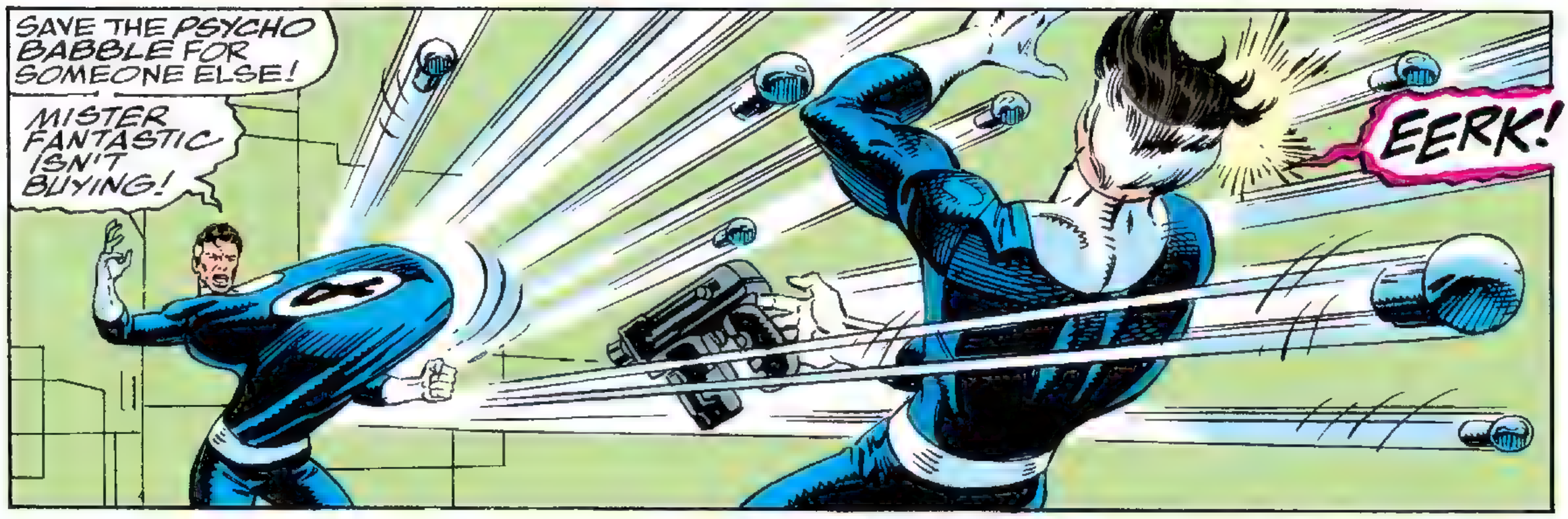
HE'LL ALWAYS BE IN CONSTANT DANGER OF ATTACK FROM THE INNIVERSE... AND OCCULUS, ITS FORMER DICTATOR!

HE MAY NEVER BE TRULY SAFE... AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!


IT'S TRUE DR. RICHARDS!
YOU ARE GUILTY!
AND THE SENTENCE IS DEATH!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO BREACH OUR DEFENSES OR MIMIC MY POWERS--
--BUT I SWEAR THAT YOU WILL LIVE TO REGRET THIS ATTACK!
I AM YOUR DARK SIDE, DR. RICHARDS!
THE SHADE WHO HAUNTS YOUR MOST PRIVATE THOUGHTS AND DESIRES!
GIVE ME A BREAK, PAL!
I'M A SCIENTIST! I NEED SOME SERIOUS SUBSTAN-TIATING EVIDENCE!

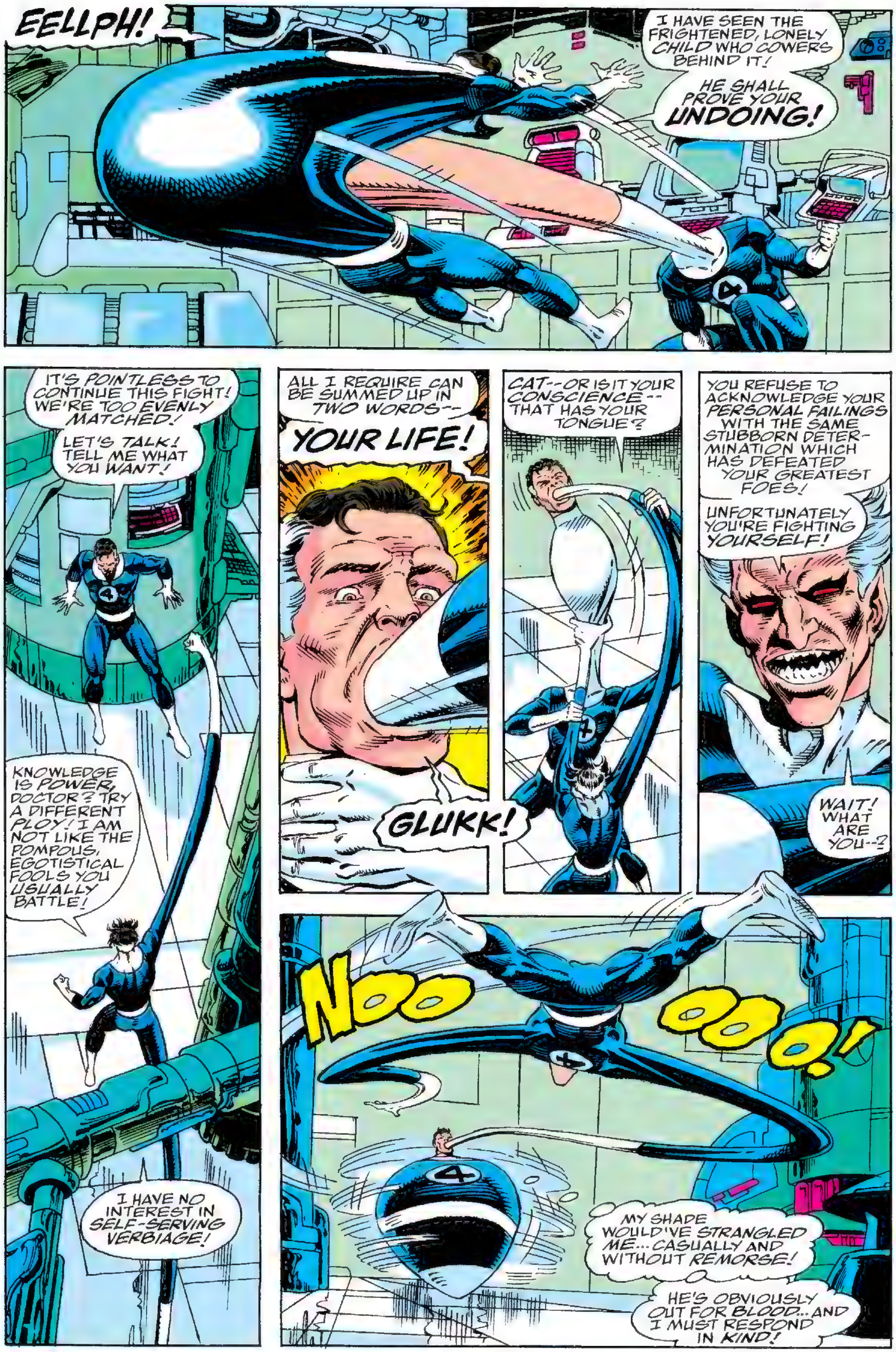

THE SCIENTIST WITHIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ROOT CAUSE OF YOUR MISERY AND ALIENATION, RICHARDS!
INSTEAD OF REVELING IN THE LOVE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, YOU HAVE EMBRACED THE COLD ARMS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
YOU HAVE CARESSED TEST TUBES AND THIS VERY TOOL BOARD MORE THAN YOUR OWN WIFE!

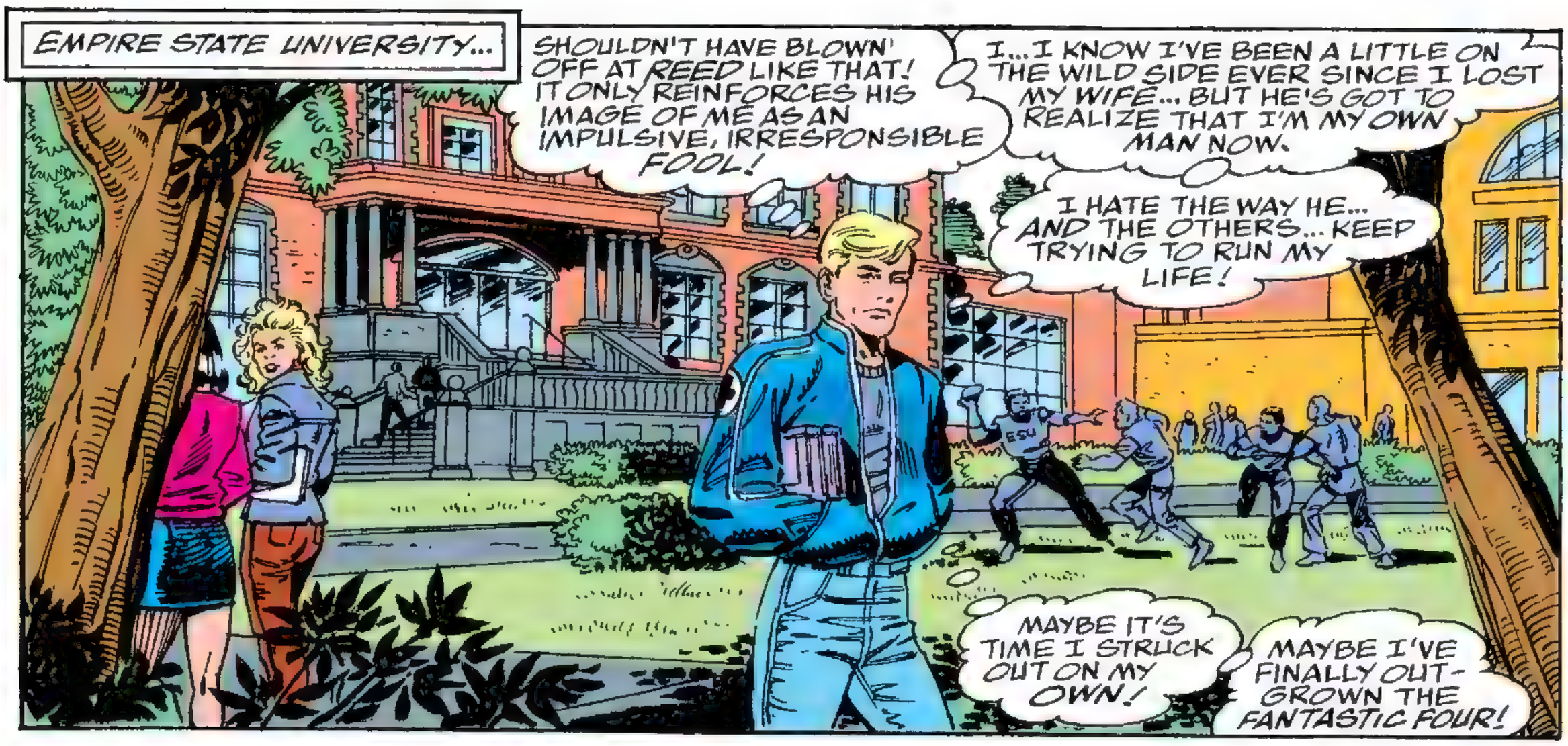

THAT IS YOUR TRUE CRIME!
INTERESTING! THERE IS MUCH VALIDITY IN WHAT YOU SAY! BUT THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF ANY PROFESSIONAL WHO IS DEDICATED!

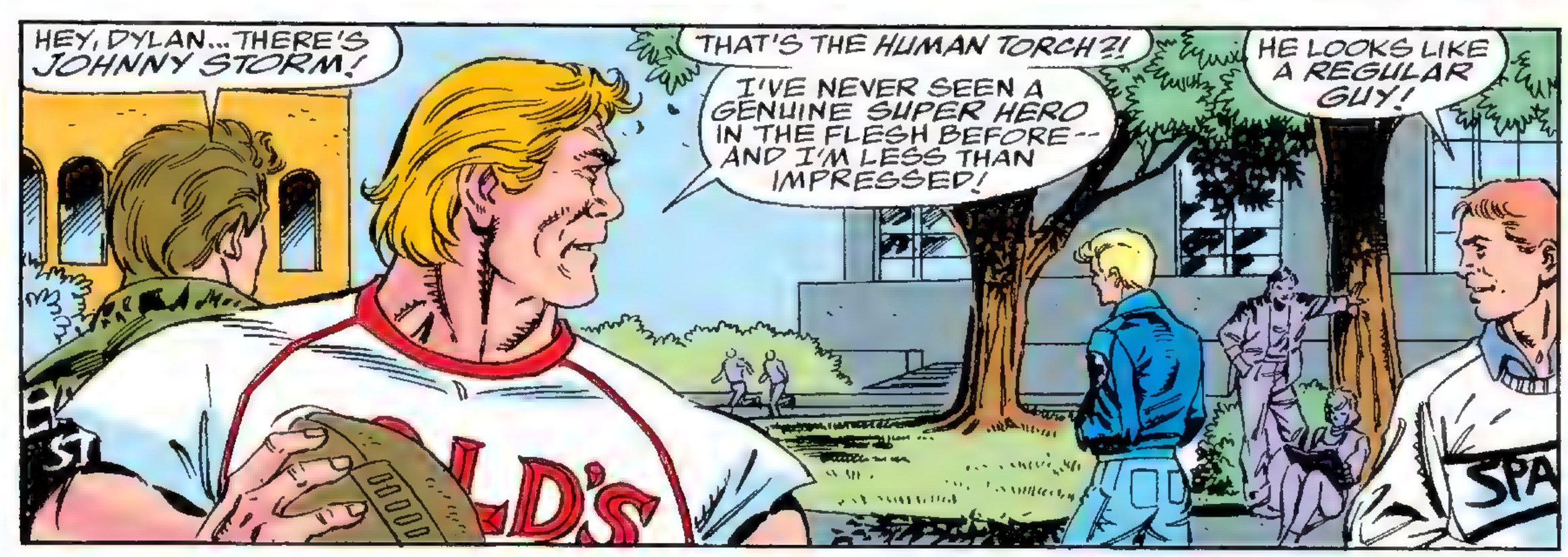

SAVE THE PSYCHO BABBLE FOR SOMEONE ELSE!
MISTER FANTASTIC ISN'T BUYING!
EERK!

WHO IS HE??
HE MUST BE A TELEPATH! HOW ELSE COULD HE KNOW MY SECRET DOUBTS?!
YOU BEGIN TO SECOND GUESS YOURSELF, DOCTOR...

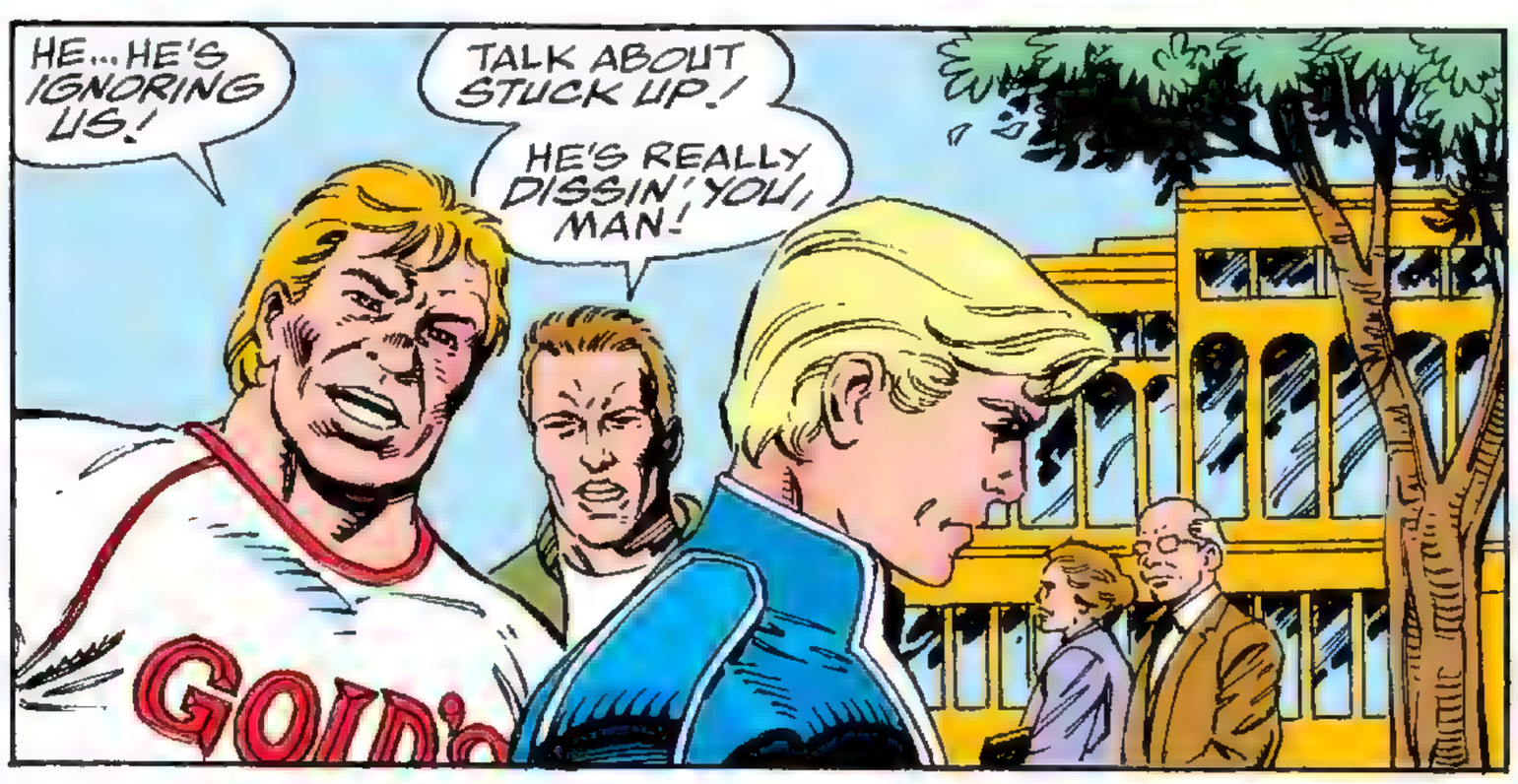
YOUR CONFIDENT EXTERIOR IS ONLY A MASK!

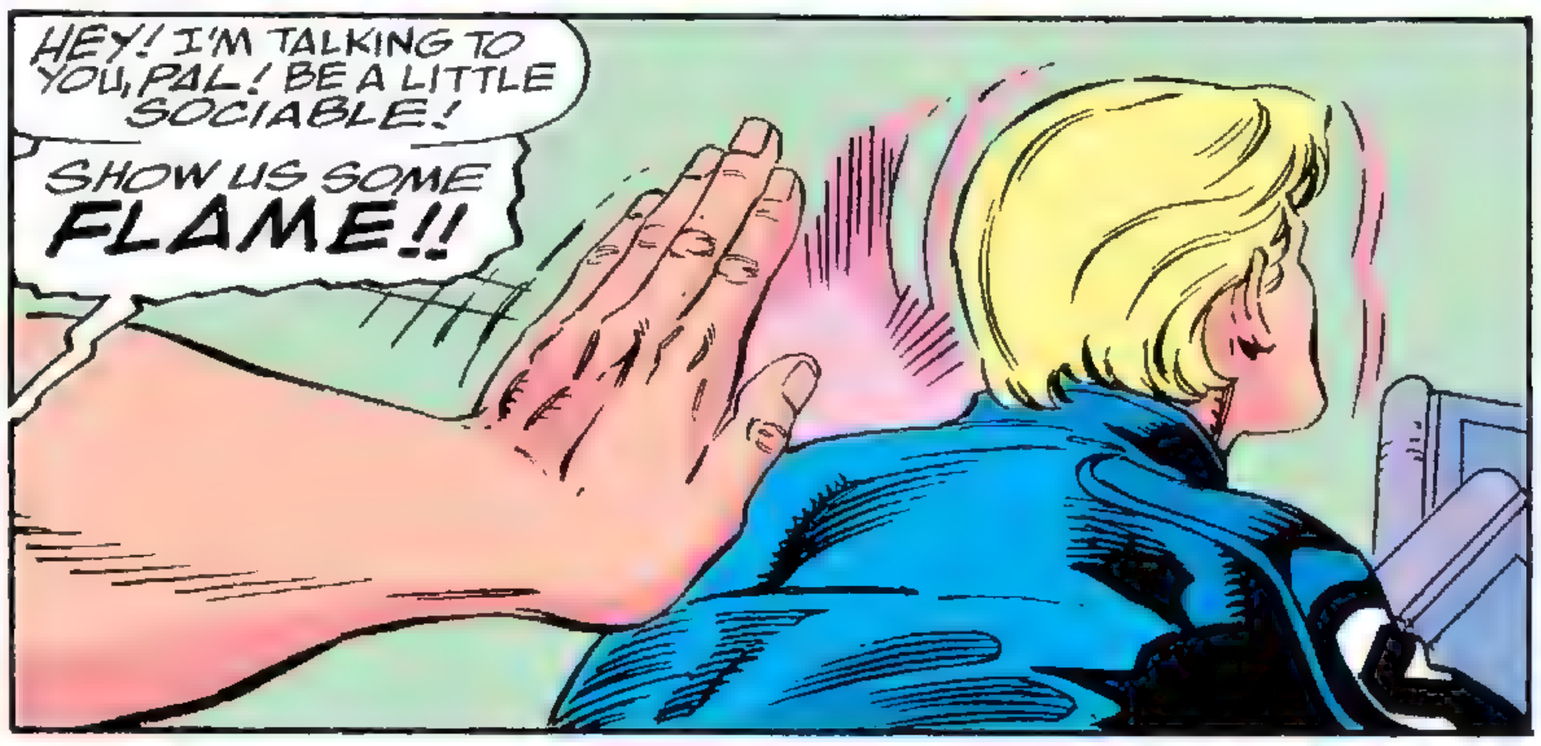

EELLPH!
I HAVE SEEN THE FRIGHTENED, LONELY CHILD WHO COWERS BEHIND IT!
HE SHALL PROVE YOUR UNDOING!
IT'S POINTLESS TO CONTINUE THIS FIGHT! WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED!
LET'S TALK! TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT!
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, DOCTOR? TRY A DIFFERENT PLOY! I AM NOT LIKE THE POMPOUS, EGOTISTICAL FOOLS YOU USUALLY BATTLE!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SELF-SERVING VERBIAGE!
ALL I REQUIRE CAN BE SUMMED UP IN TWO WORDS--
YOUR LIFE!
GLUKK!
CAT--OR IS IT YOUR CONSCIENCE-- THAT HAS YOUR TONGUE?
YOU REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR PERSONAL FAILINGS WITH THE SAME STUBBORN DETERMINATION WHICH HAS DEFEATED YOUR GREATEST FOES!
UNFORTUNATELY YOU'RE FIGHTING YOURSELF!
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU--?
NOO
OOO!
MY SHADE WOULD'VE STRANGLED ME... CASUALLY AND WITHOUT REMORSE!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY OUT FOR BLOOD... AND I MUST RESPOND IN KIND!

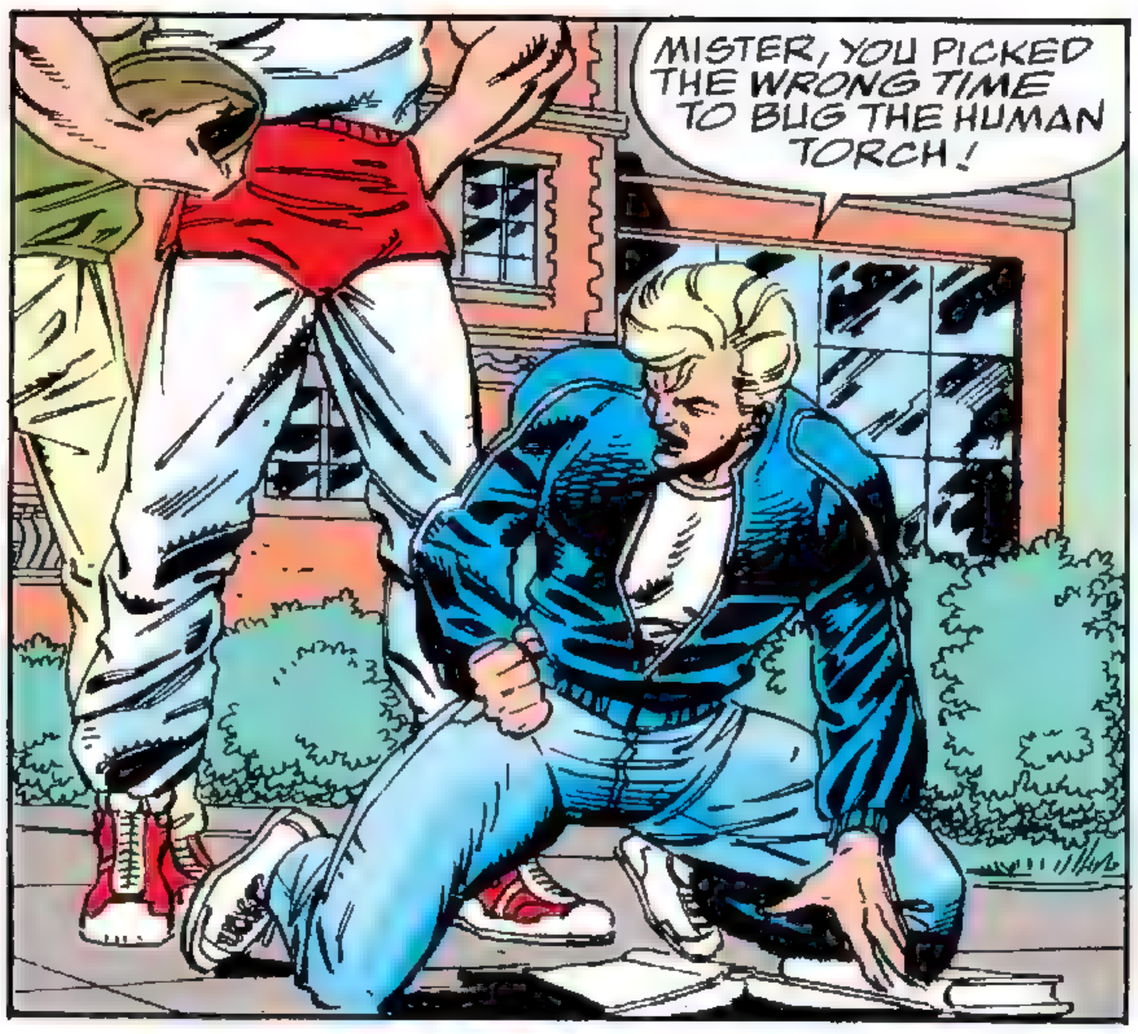

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...
SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN OFF AT REED LIKE THAT! IT ONLY REINFORCES HIS IMAGE OF ME AS AN IMPULSIVE, IRRESPONSIBLE FOOL!
I...I KNOW I'VE BEEN A LITTLE ON THE WILD SIDE EVER SINCE I LOST MY WIFE... BUT HE'S GOT TO REALIZE THAT I'M MY OWN MAN NOW.
I HATE THE WAY HE... AND THE OTHERS... KEEP TRYING TO RUN MY LIFE!
MAYBE IT'S TIME I STRUCK OUT ON MY OWN!
MAYBE I'VE FINALLY OUT-GROWN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

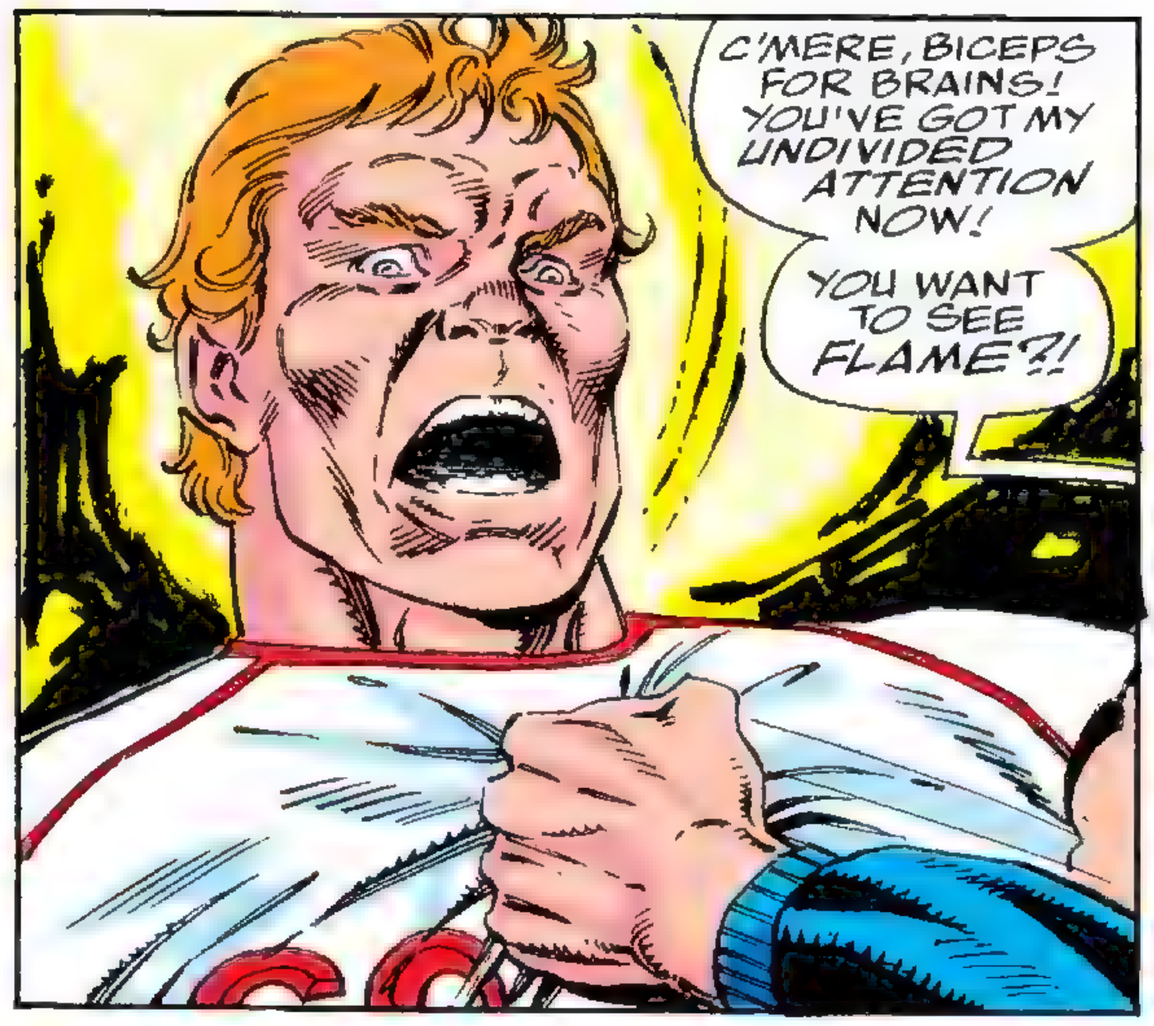

HEY, DYLAN... THERE'S JOHNNY STORM!
THAT'S THE HUMAN TORCH?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A GENUINE SUPER HERO IN THE FLESH BEFORE-- AND I'M LESS THAN IMPRESSED!
HE LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR GUY!

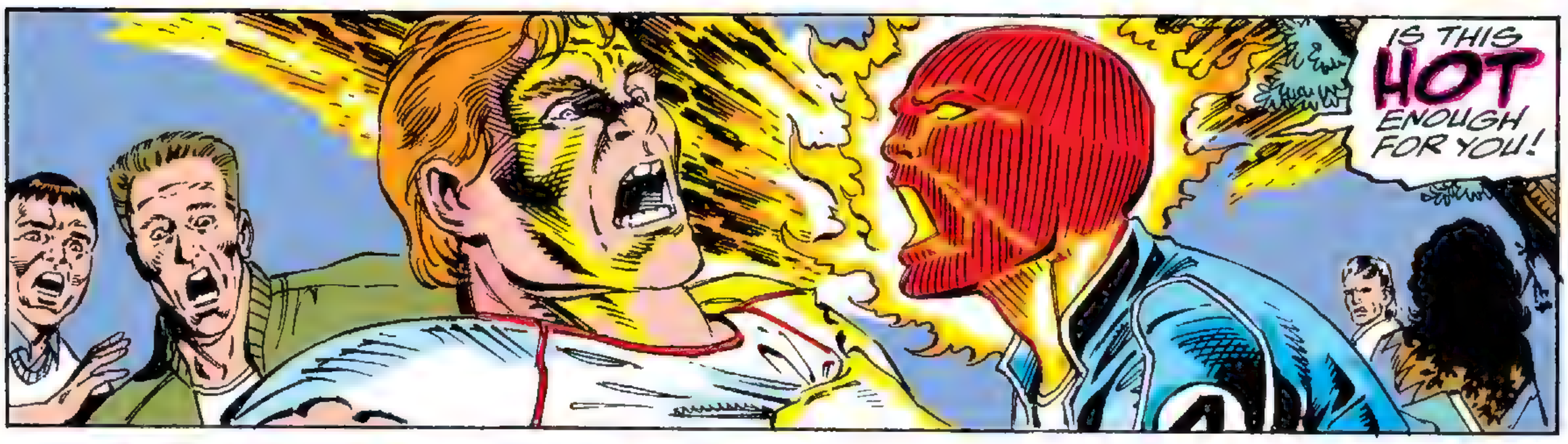
LET'S GET AN AUTOGRAPH.
DON'T BE A DORK! HE PROBABLY GETS THAT KINDA TREATMENT ALL THE TIME!
HEY, TORCH! MY FRIENDS AND I WANNA SEE YOUR STUFF!

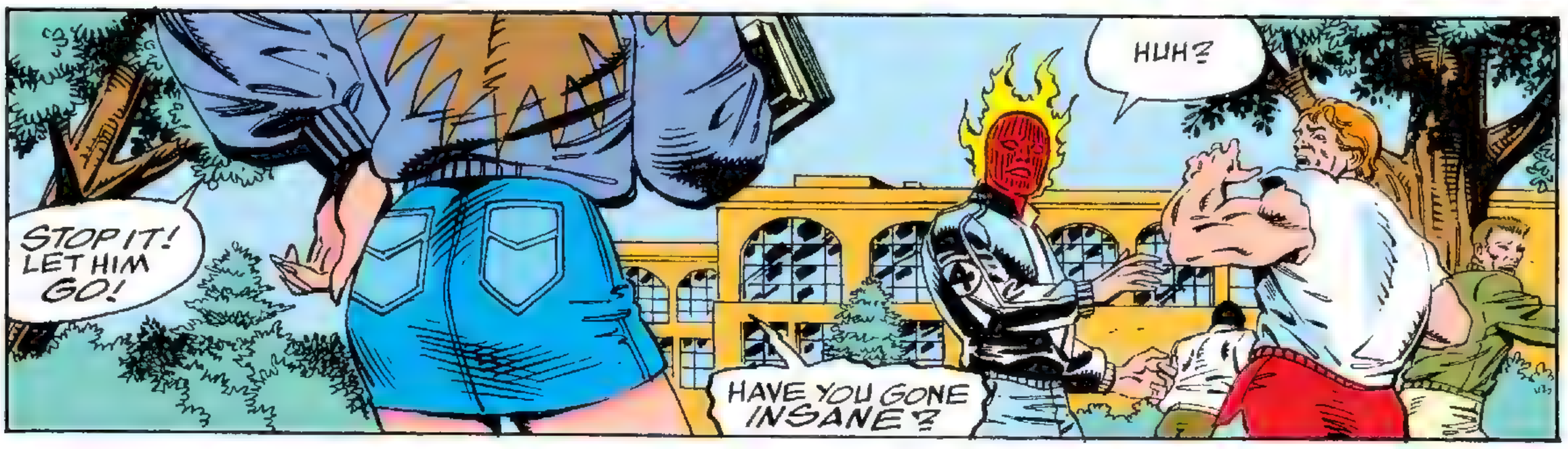

HE... HE'S IGNORING US!
TALK ABOUT STUCK UP!
HE'S REALLY DISSIN' YOU, MAN!


HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU, PAL! BE A LITTLE SOCIABLE!
SHOW US SOME FLAME!!

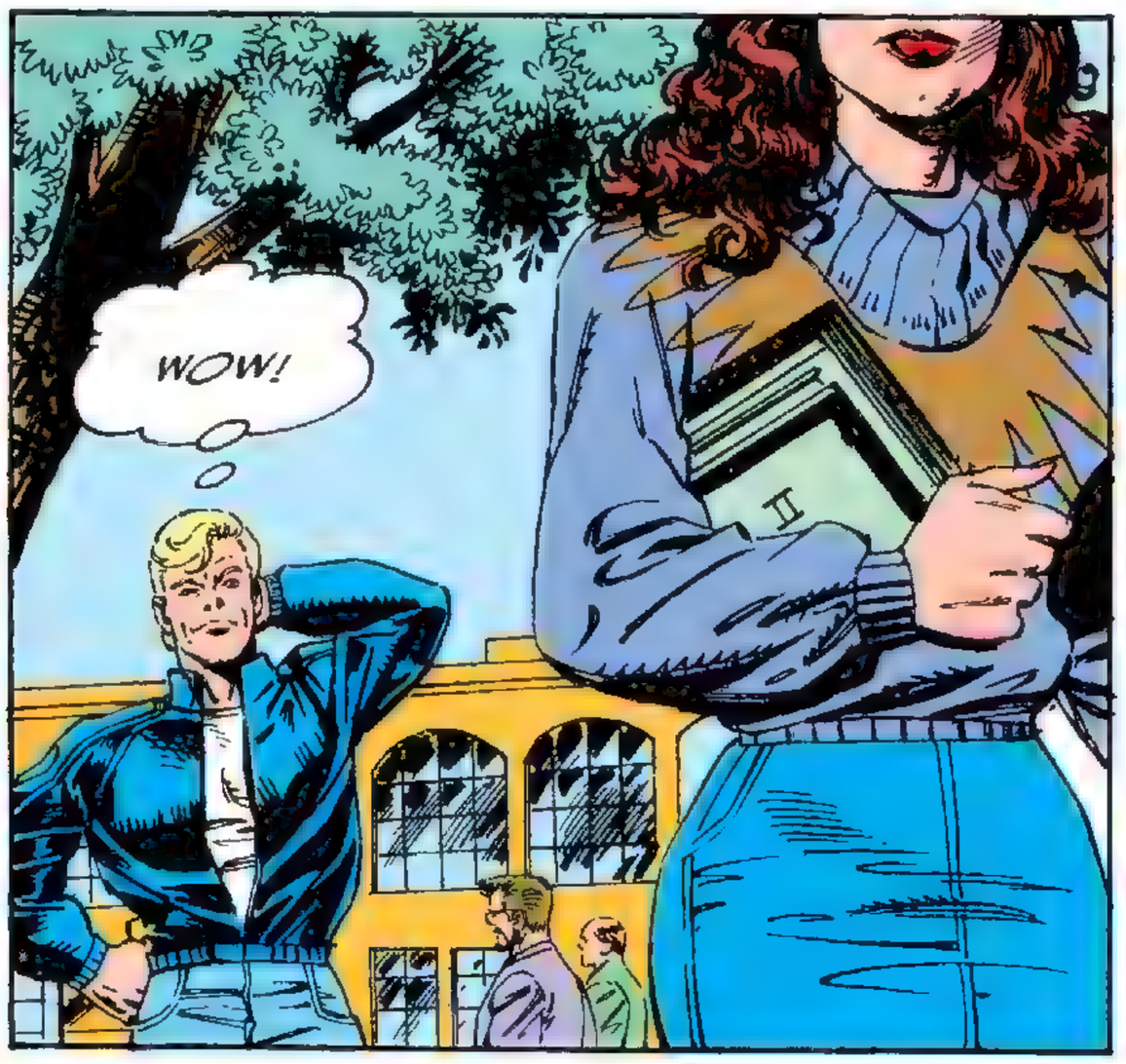

MISTER, YOU PICKED THE WRONG TIME TO BUG THE HUMAN TORCH!

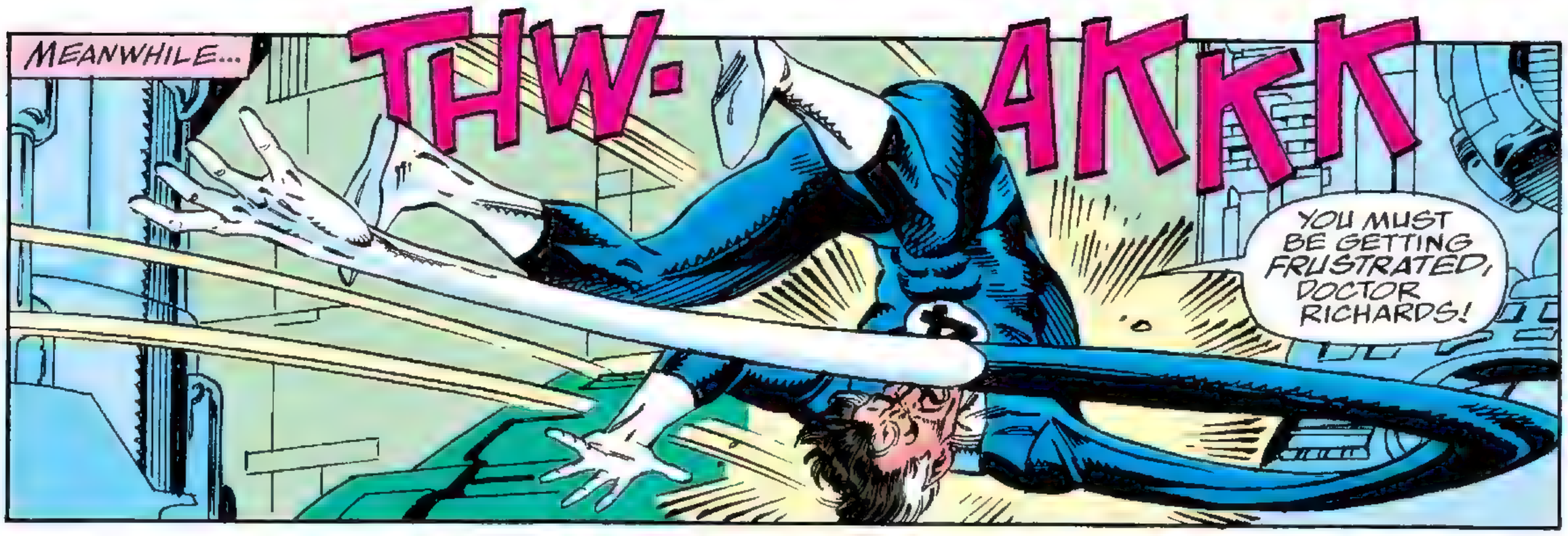

C'MERE, BICEPS FOR BRAINS! YOU'VE GOT MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION NOW!
YOU WANT TO SEE FLAME?!

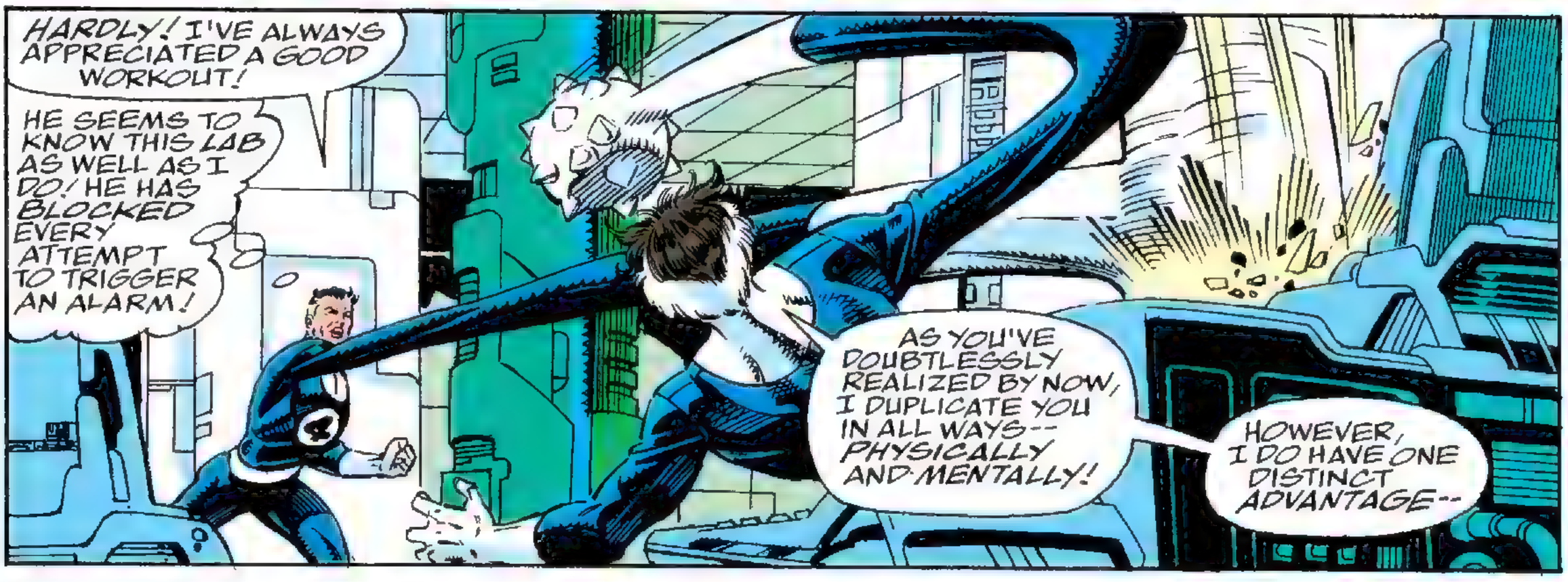

IS THIS HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU!


STOP IT! LET HIM GO!
HUH?
HAVE YOU GONE INSANE?

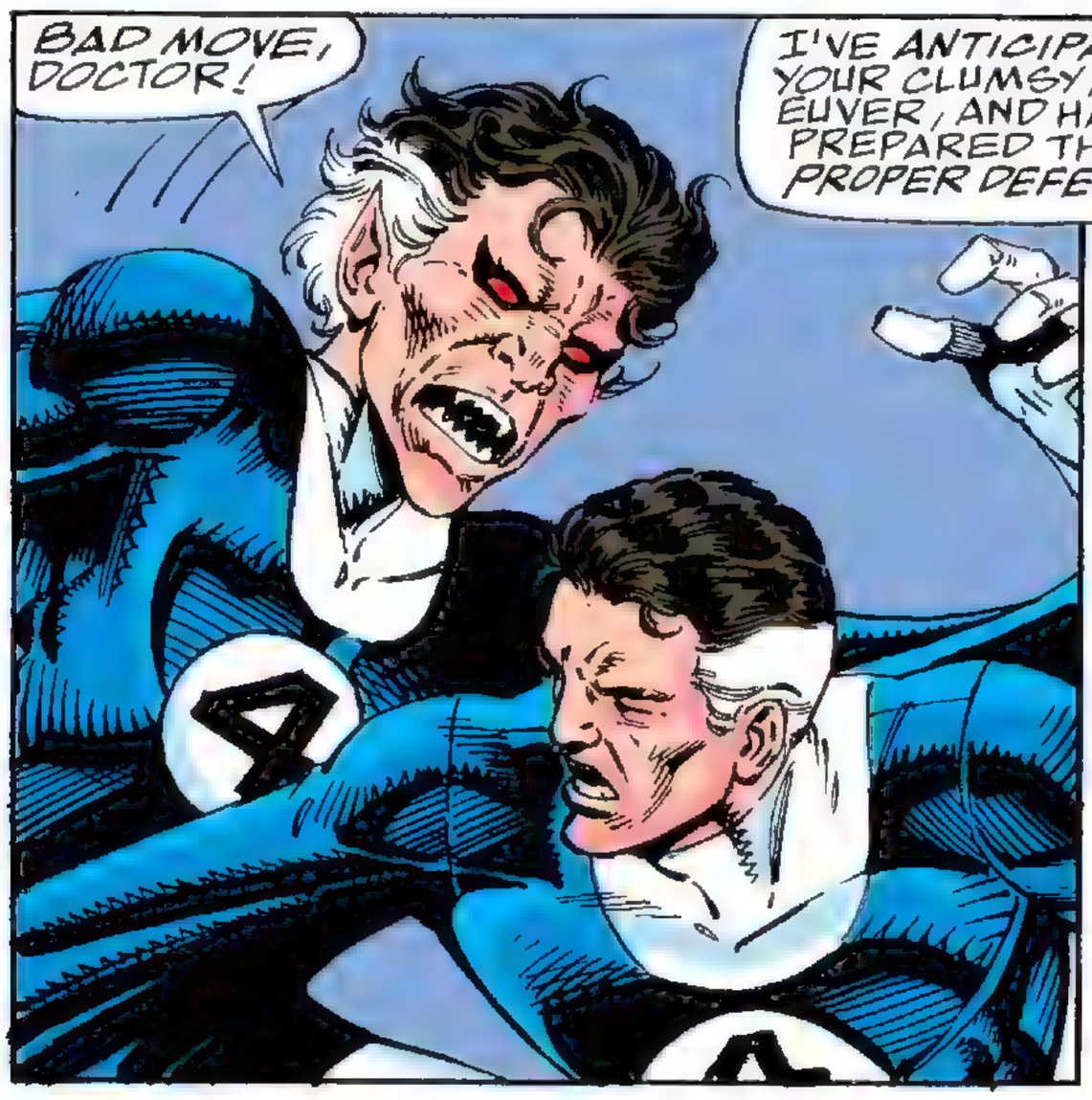
DYLAN MAY'VE BEEN A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO OVERREACT LIKE THAT!
BUT... I... I...
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOUR-SELF!
YOU COULD'VE DISFIGURED HIM FOR LIFE!


WOW!

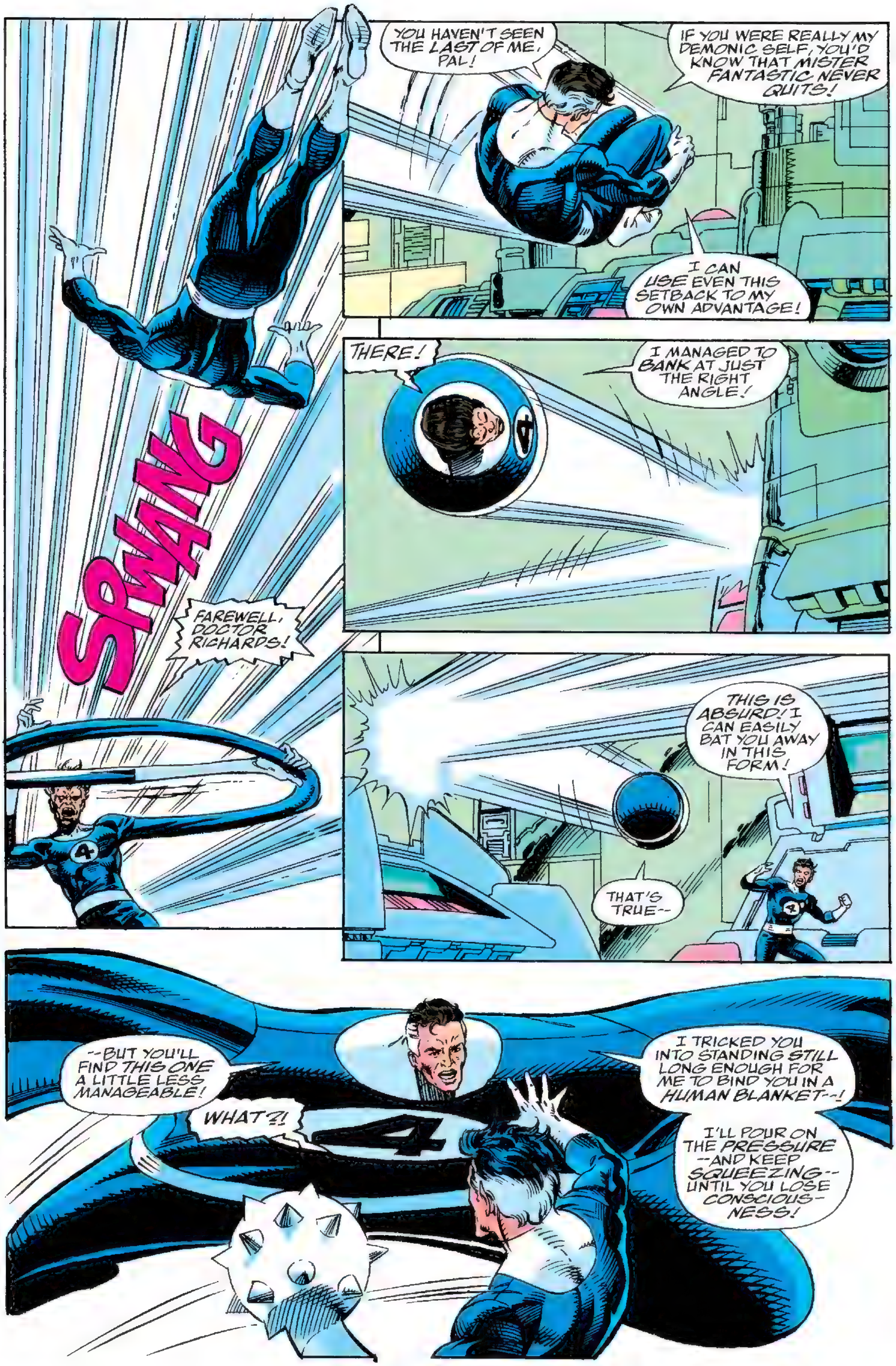

MEANWHILE...
THW-AKKK
YOU MUST BE GETTING FRUSTRATED, DOCTOR RICHARDS!

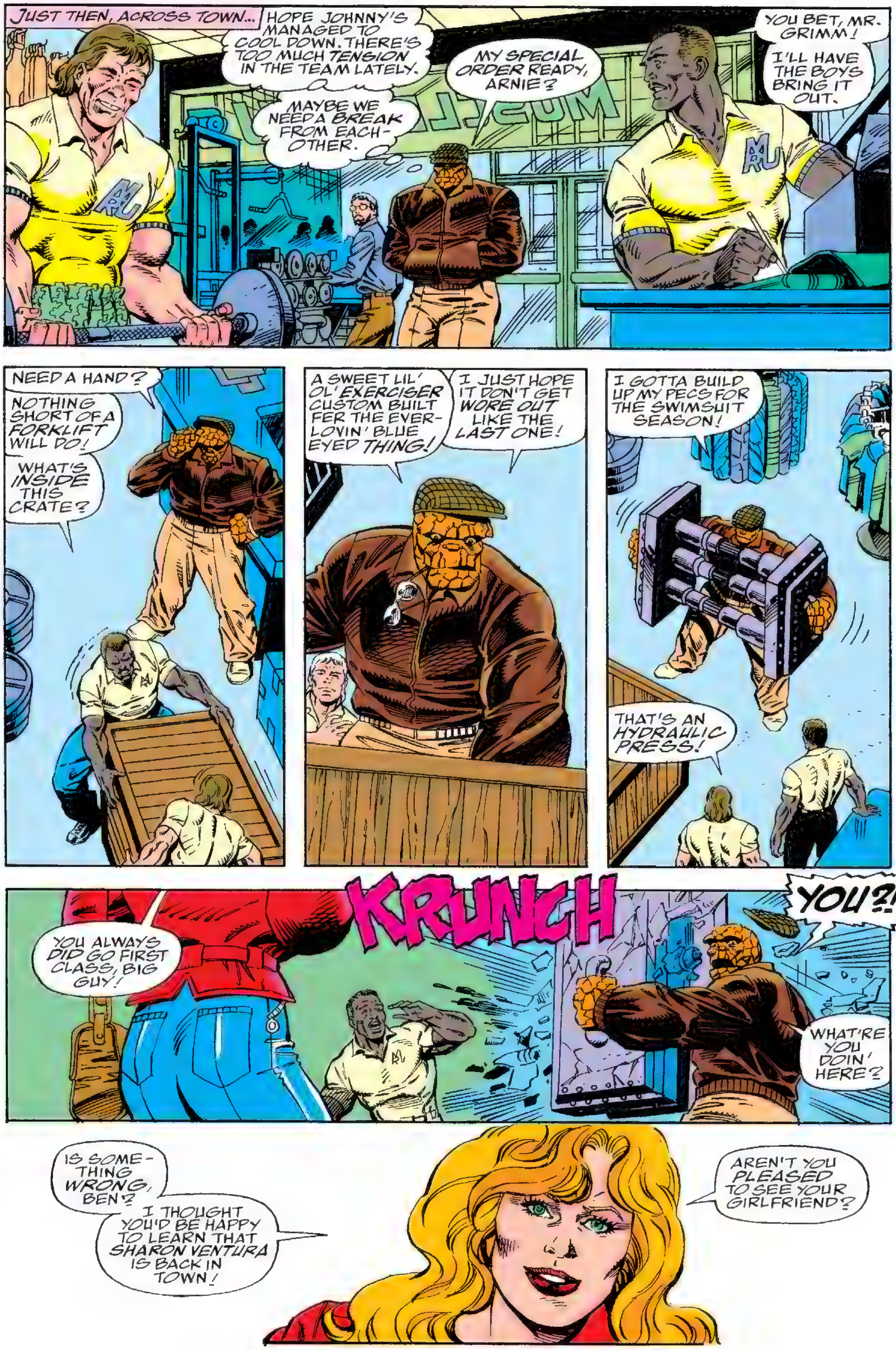

HARDLY! I'VE ALWAYS APPRECIATED A GOOD WORKOUT!
HE SEEMS TO KNOW THIS LAB AS WELL AS I DO! HE HAS BLOCKED EVERY ATTEMPT TO TRIGGER AN ALARM!
AS YOU'VE DOUBTLESSLY REALIZED BY NOW, I DUPLICATE YOU IN ALL WAYS-- PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY!
HOWEVER, I DO HAVE ONE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE--

I POSSESS ALL OF YOUR AGGRESSION AND NONE OF YOUR COMPASSION!
I MUST GET PAST HIM AND REACH THE OTHERS! THEY MAY NEED HELP BATTLING THEIR OWN COUNTERPARTS!
ONE CHANCE... I HAVE TO FORCE HIM OFF-BALANCE, AND--

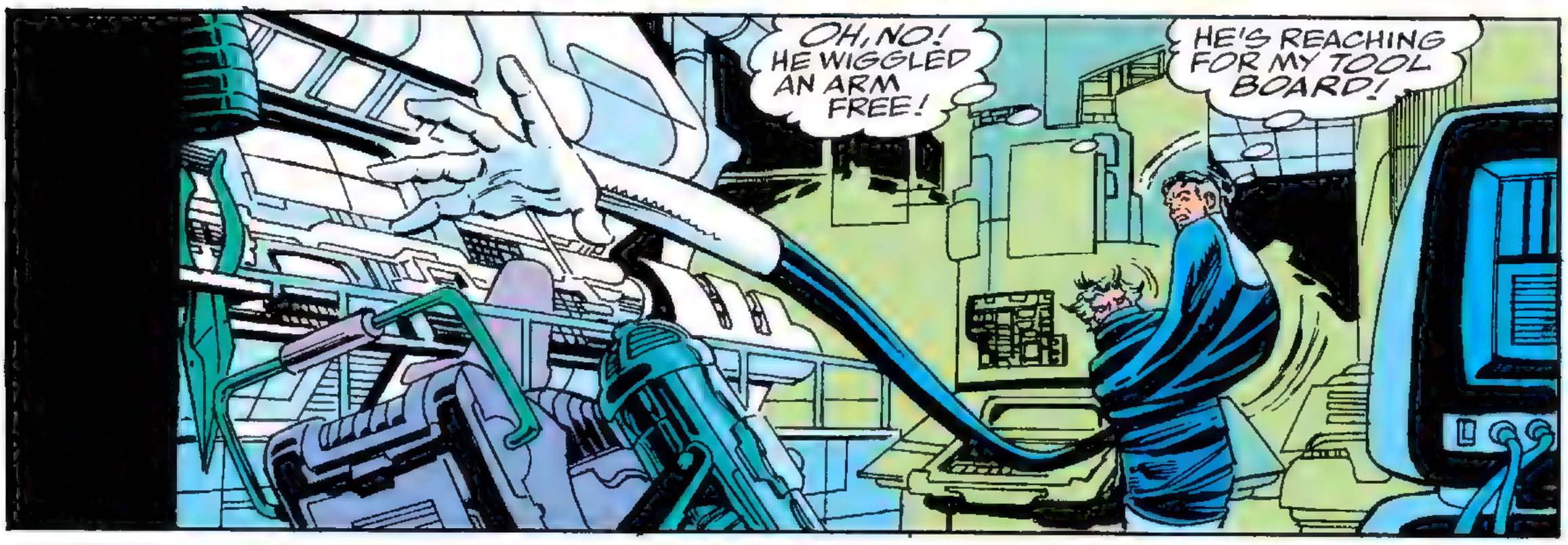

BAD MOVE, DOCTOR!
I'VE ANTICIPATED YOUR CLUMSY MANEUVER, AND HAVE PREPARED THE PROPER DEFENSE!

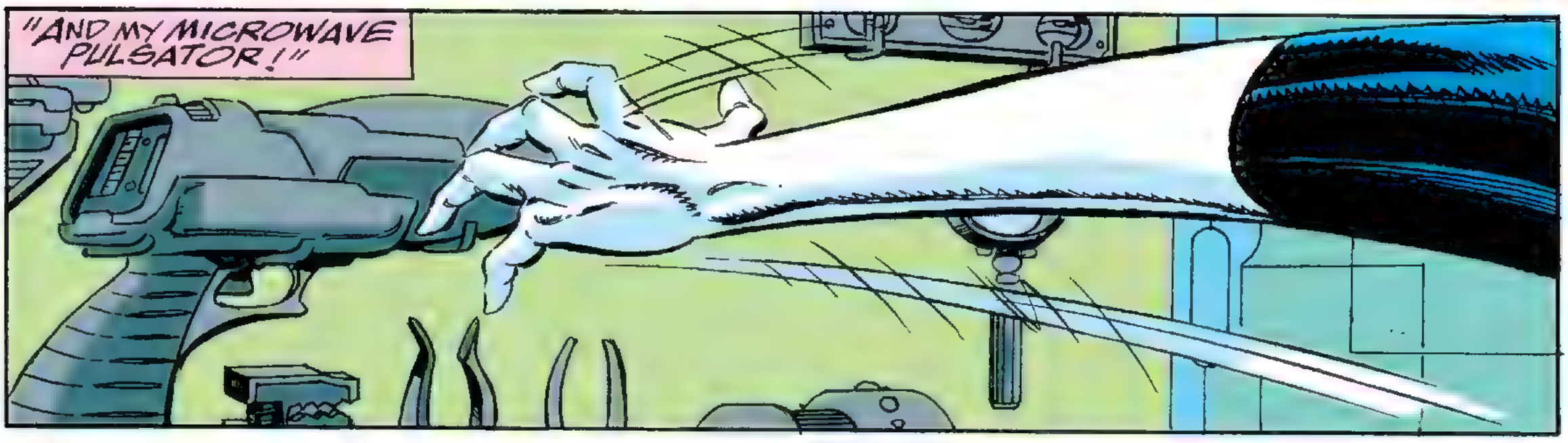
HE'S FORMING HIS ARM INTO A GIANT CROSS-BOW--!


YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME, PAL!
IF YOU WERE REALLY MY DEMONIC SELF, YOU'D KNOW THAT MISTER FANTASTIC NEVER QUITS!
I CAN USE EVEN THIS SETBACK TO MY OWN ADVANTAGE!
SPWANG
FAREWELL, DOCTOR RICHARDS!
THERE!
I MANAGED TO BANK AT JUST THE RIGHT ANGLE!
THIS IS ABSURD! I CAN EASILY BAT YOU AWAY IN THIS FORM!
THAT'S TRUE--
--BUT YOU'LL FIND THIS ONE A LITTLE LESS MANAGEABLE!
WHAT?!
I TRICKED YOU INTO STANDING STILL LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO BIND YOU IN A HUMAN BLANKET--!
I'LL POUR ON THE PRESSURE --AND KEEP SQUEEZING-- UNTIL YOU LOSE CONSCIOUS-- NESS!

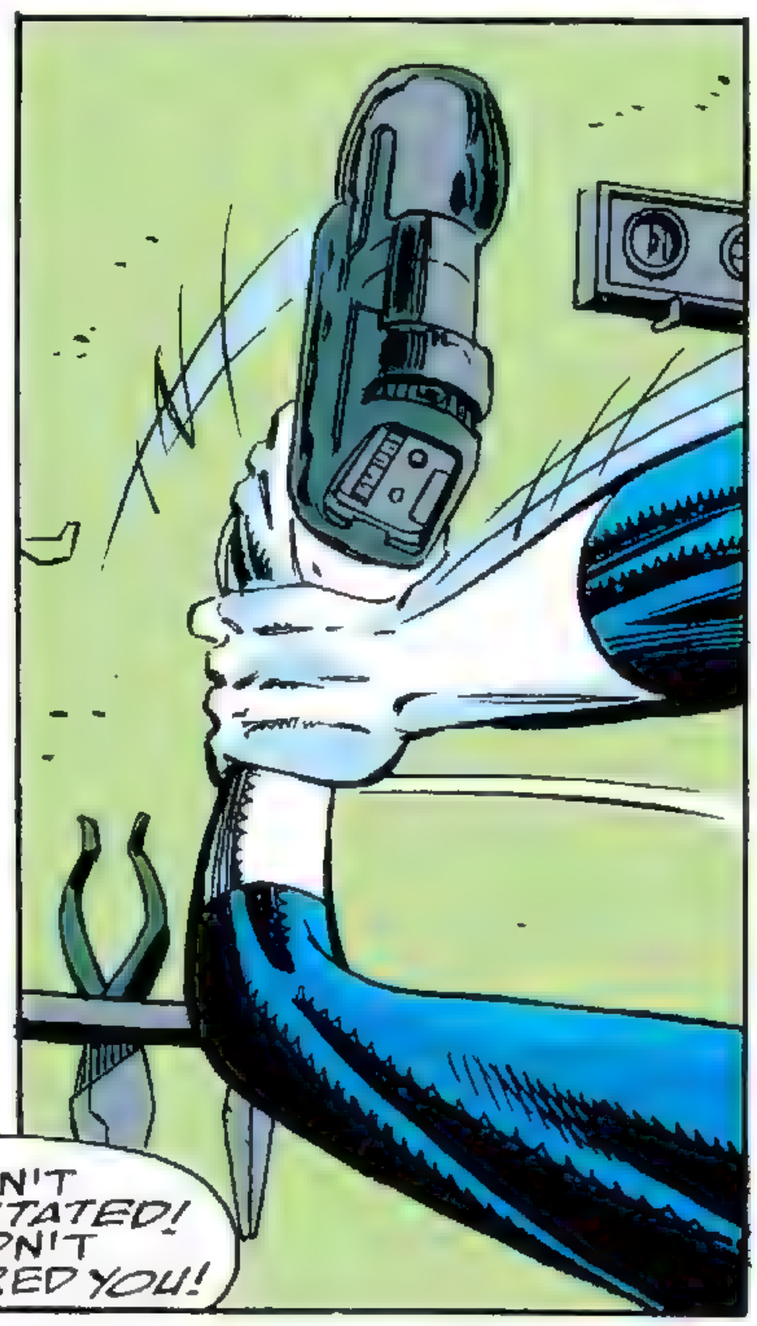

JUST THEN, ACROSS TOWN...
HOPE JOHNNY'S MANAGED TO COOL DOWN. THERE'S TOO MUCH TENSION IN THE TEAM LATELY.
MAYBE WE NEED A BREAK FROM EACH-OTHER.
MY SPECIAL ORDER READY, ARNIE?
YOU BET, MR. GRIMM!
I'LL HAVE THE BOYS BRING IT OUT.
NEED A HAND?
NOTHING SHORT OF A FORKLIFT WILL DO!
WHAT'S INSIDE THIS CRATE?
A SWEET LIL' OL' EXERCISER CUSTOM BUILT FER THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE EYED THING!
I JUST HOPE IT DON'T GET WORE OUT LIKE THE LAST ONE!
I GOTTA BUILD UP MY PECS FOR THE SWIMSUIT SEASON!
THAT'S AN HYDRAULIC PRESS!
KRUNCH
YOU ALWAYS DID GO FIRST CLASS, BIG GUY!
YOU?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?
IS SOME-THING WRONG, BEN?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT SHARON VENTURA IS BACK IN TOWN!
AREN'T YOU PLEASED TO SEE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
HE'S STILL STRUGGLING! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HOLD BACK A MAELSTROM!
AND HIS EYES-- GLARING AT ME WITH SUCH IN-TENSE HATRED! HE MEANS TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH, BUT I WON'T PLAY THAT GAME! WON'T COMPROMISE MY--


OH, NO! HE WIGGLED AN ARM FREE!
HE'S REACHING FOR MY TOOL BOARD!


"AND MY MICROWAVE PULSATOR!"

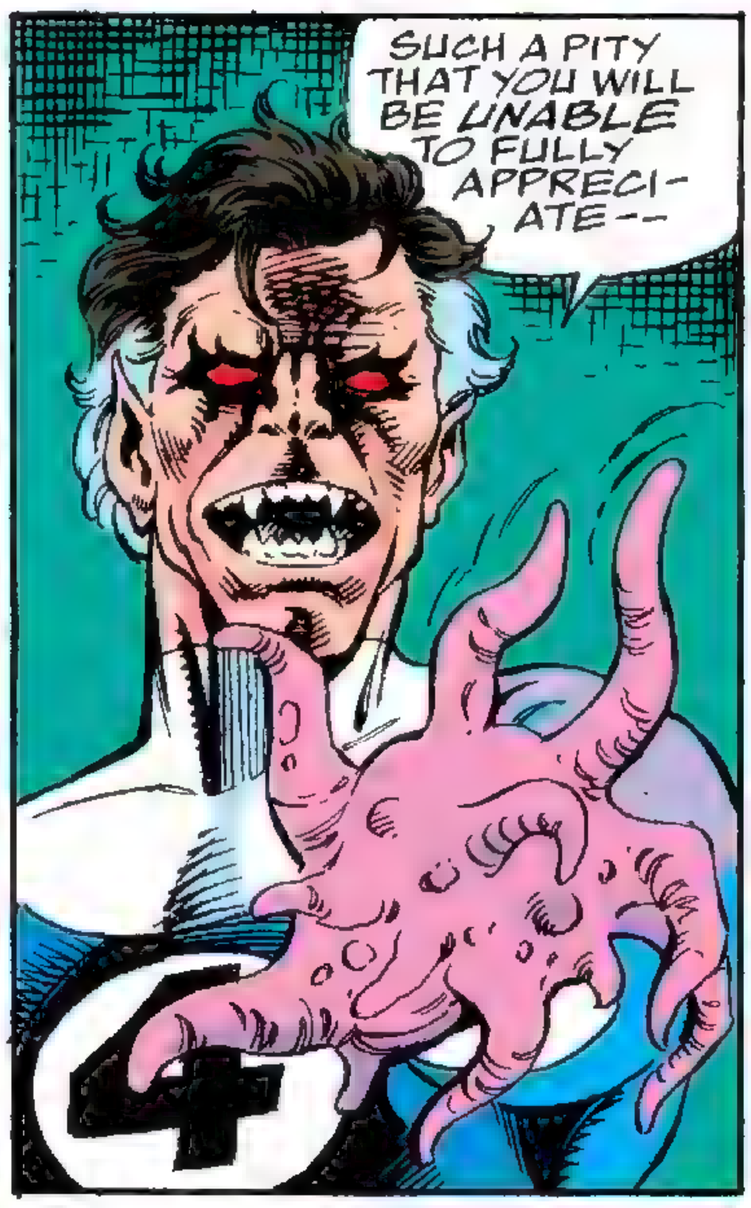
NO!
YOU SHOULD'VE KILLED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE, DR. RICHARDS!

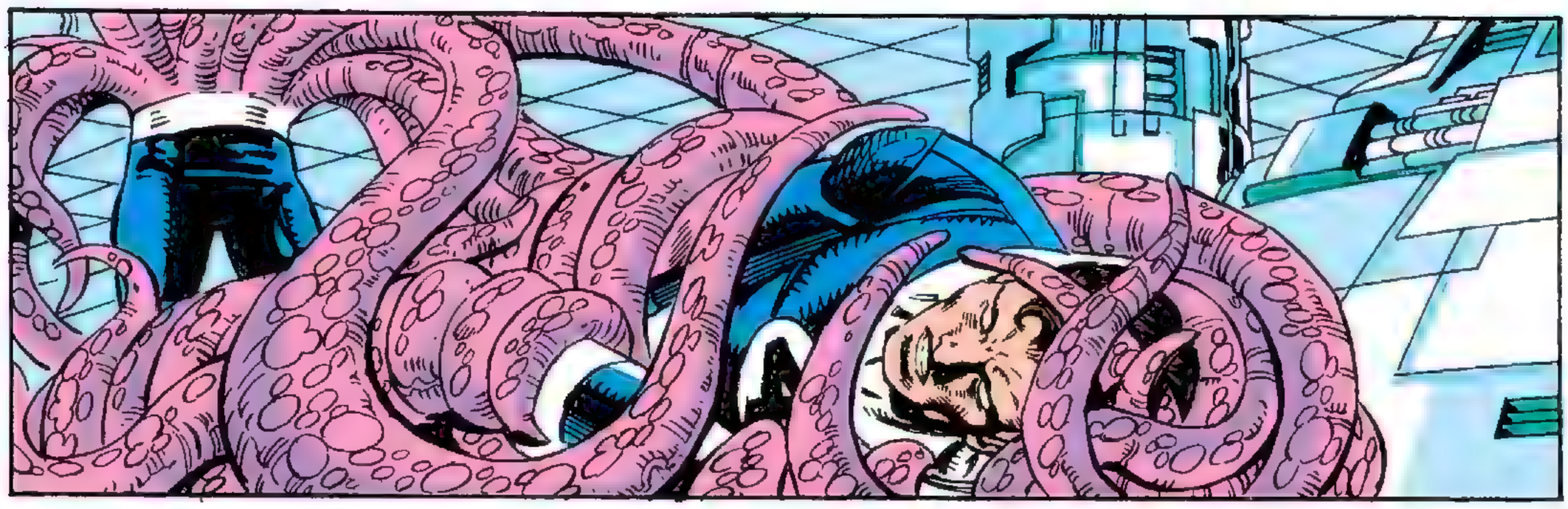

I WOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED! I WOULDN'T HAVE SPARED YOU!

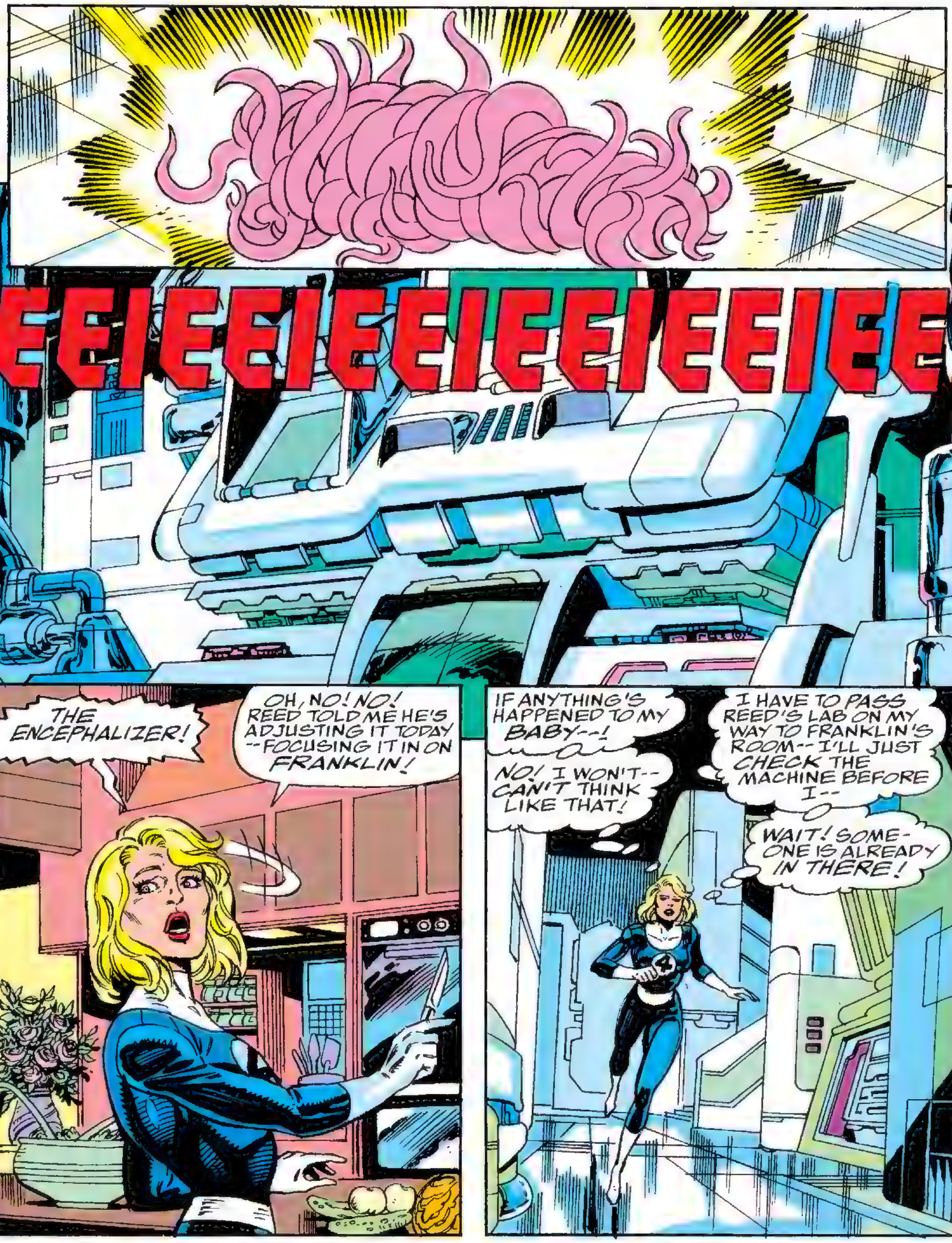
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR MERCY IN THE MODERN WORLD!

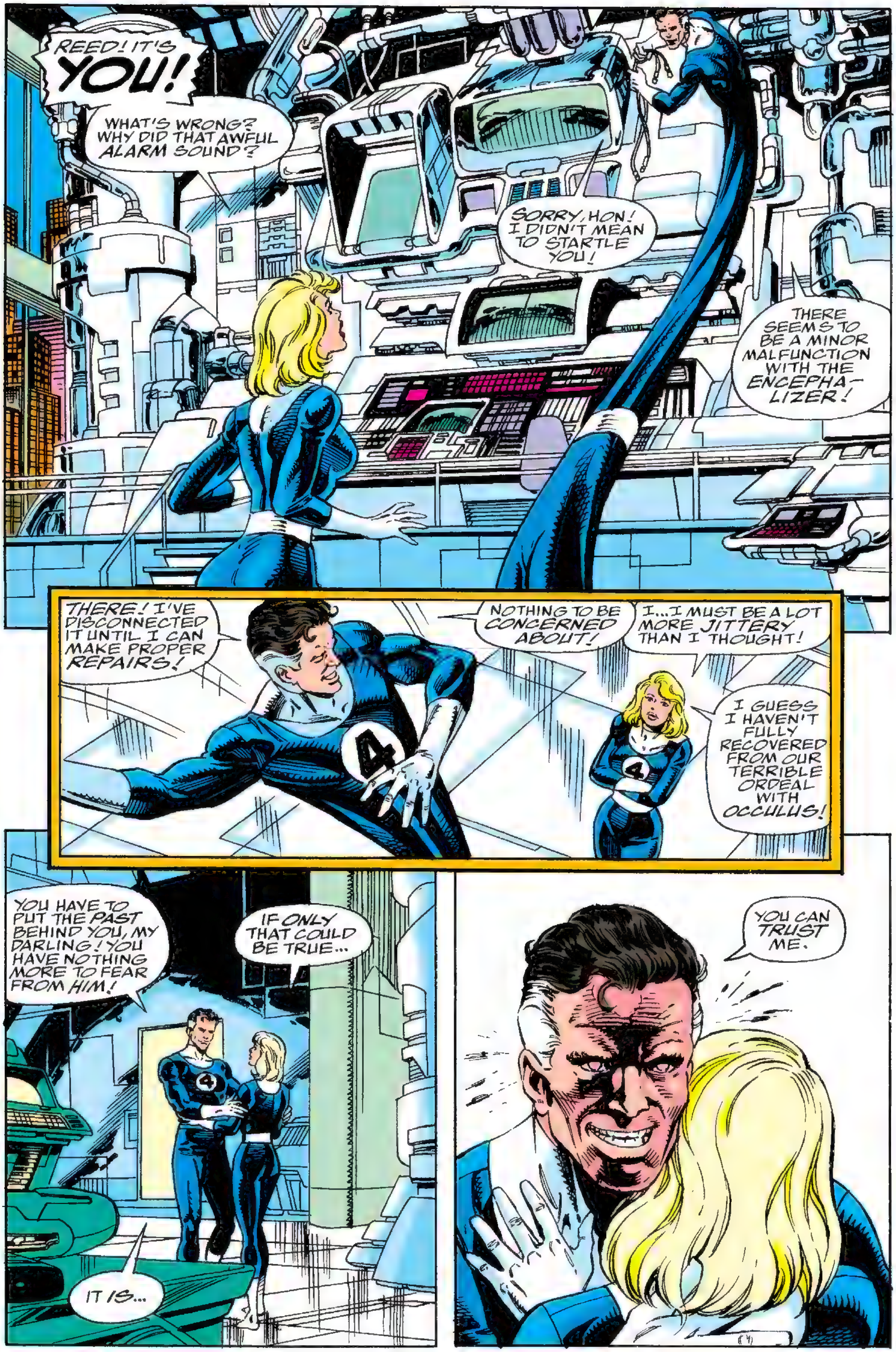
KAZZARIKK

SLEEP WELL, DOCTOR RICHARDS!



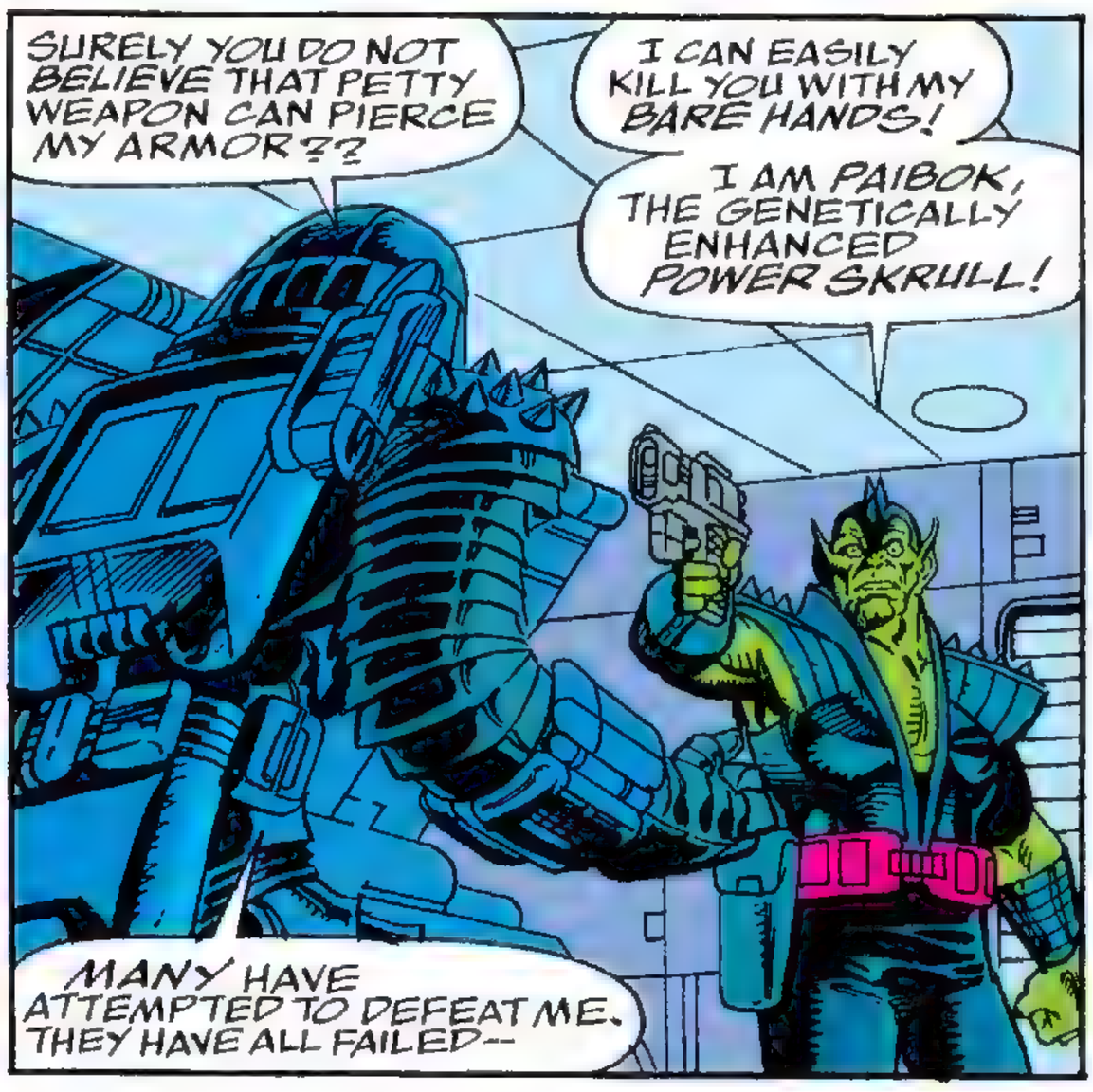



EEIEEIEEIEEIEEIEEI
THE ENCEPHALIZER!
OH, NO! NO! REED TOLD ME HE'S ADJUSTING IT TODAY --FOCUSING IT IN ON FRANKLIN!
IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO MY BABY--!
NO! I WON'T-- CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT!
I HAVE TO PASS REED'S LAB ON MY WAY TO FRANKLIN'S ROOM-- I'LL JUST CHECK THE MACHINE BEFORE I--
WAIT! SOMEONE IS ALREADY IN THERE!

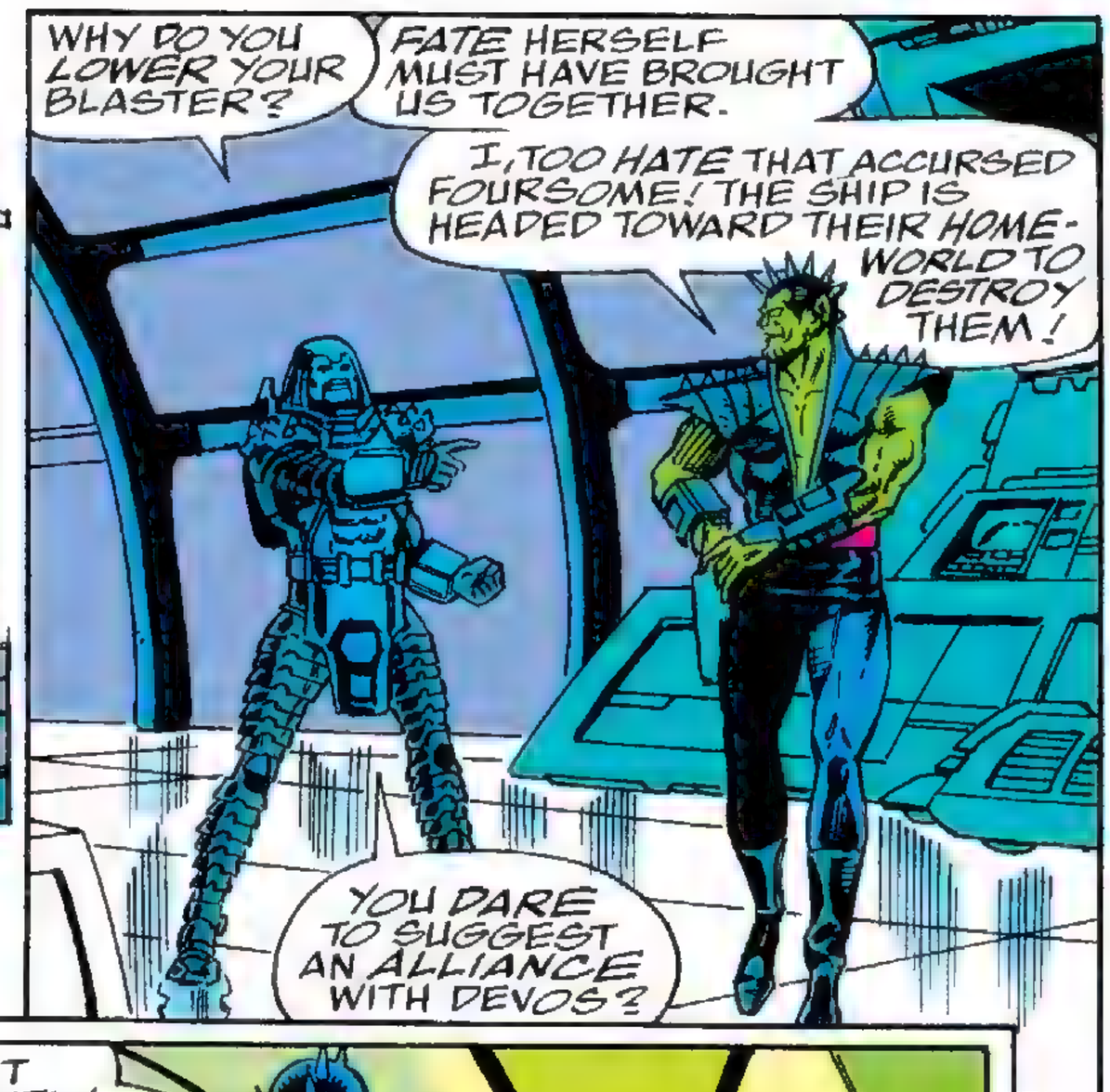

REED! IT'S YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DID THAT AWFUL ALARM SOUND?
SORRY, HON! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU!
THERE SEEMS TO BE A MINOR MALFUNCTION WITH THE ENCEPHALIZER!
THERE! I'VE DISCONNECTED IT UNTIL I CAN MAKE PROPER REPAIRS!
NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT!
I...I MUST BE A LOT MORE JITTERY THAN I THOUGHT!
I GUESS I HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED FROM OUR TERRIBLE ORDEAL WITH OCCULUS!
YOU HAVE TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND YOU, MY DARLING! YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR FROM HIM!
IF ONLY THAT COULD BE TRUE...
IT IS...
YOU CAN TRUST ME.

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, EVENTS ARE OCCURRING IN DEEP SPACE WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE A TRAUMATIC EFFECT ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
AT LAST! MY ESCAPE SHUTTLE IS BEING DRAWN ABOARD A PASSING CRUISER!
THE SHIP APPEARS SKRULL-IAN IN DESIGN!
EXCELLENT! AS THE ULTIMATE GUARDIAN OF PEACE, DEVOS THE DEVASTATOR HAS ALWAYS TAKEN SPECIAL DELIGHT IN THE EXTERMI-NATION OF WAR-LOVING SKRULLS!
HONOR DEMANDS I FIRST THANK MY RESCUER... BEFORE TERMINATING HIM--!
SO! THE RUMORS ARE TRUE! YOU REALLY DO EXIST!
YOU... YOU KNOW ME?!
YOUR FAME IS SPREAD ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, DEVOS!

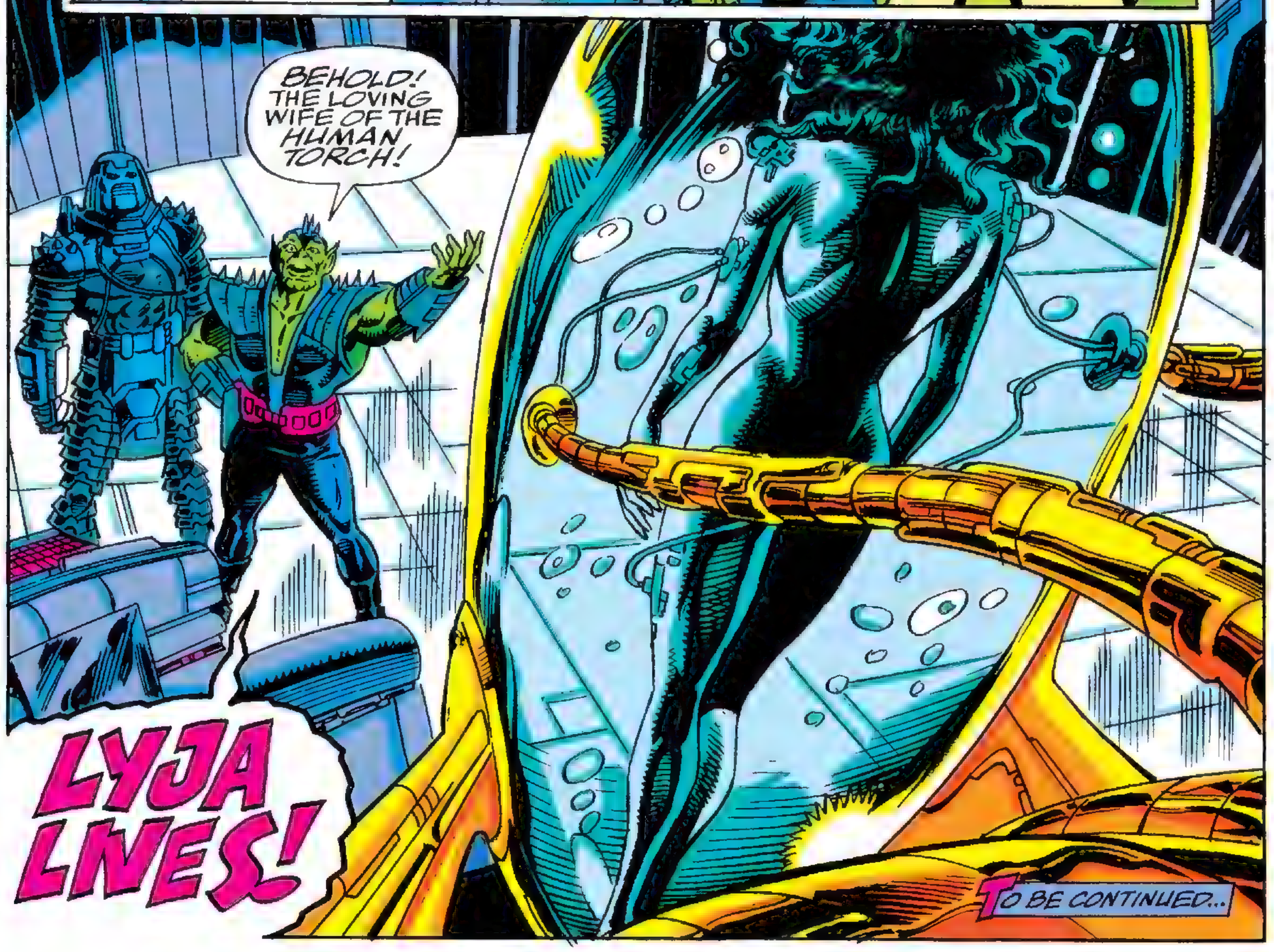
YOU ARE THE MADMAN WHO MURDERS ENTIRE CIVILIZATIONS IN THE NAME OF PEACE!
I MERELY WISHED TO SEE YOU IN PERSON!
MAKE NO RASH MOVES!


SURELY YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PETTY WEAPON CAN PIERCE MY ARMOR??
I CAN EASILY KILL YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!
I AM PAIBOK, THE GENETICALLY ENHANCED POWER SKRULL!
MANY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DEFEAT ME. THEY HAVE ALL FAILED--

--EXCEPT FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


WHY DO YOU LOWER YOUR BLASTER?
FATE HERSELF MUST HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
I, TOO HATE THAT ACCURSED FOURSOME! THE SHIP IS HEADED TOWARD THEIR HOME-WORLD TO DESTROY THEM!
YOU DARE TO SUGGEST AN ALLIANCE WITH DEVOS?

WHY SHOULD I EVEN CONSIDER IT? WHAT HAVE YOU TO OFFER?
THE SINGLE IMPLEMENT WHICH CAN PERMANENTLY DISRUPT THEIR UNITY, AND RENDER THEM ALL COMPLETELY HELP-LESS!
SHOW ME THIS INTRIGUING PIECE OF ORDNANCE!


BEHOLD! THE LOVING WIFE OF THE HUMAN TORCH!
LYJA LIVES!
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS
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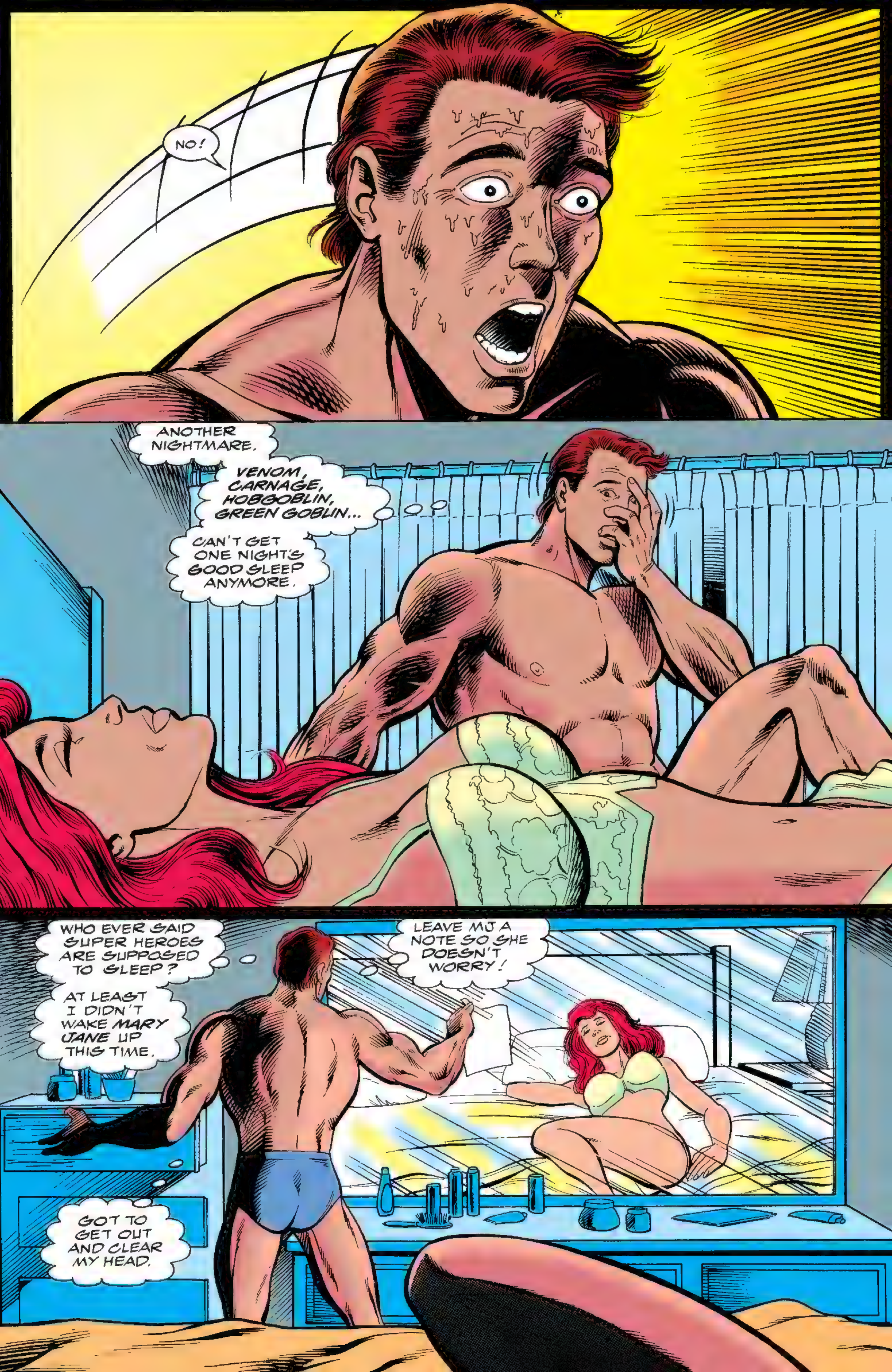
24 JULY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DEMOGOBLIN!
NORMGOBLIN!
SPIDER-MAN
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
PAGLEY & MILGROM

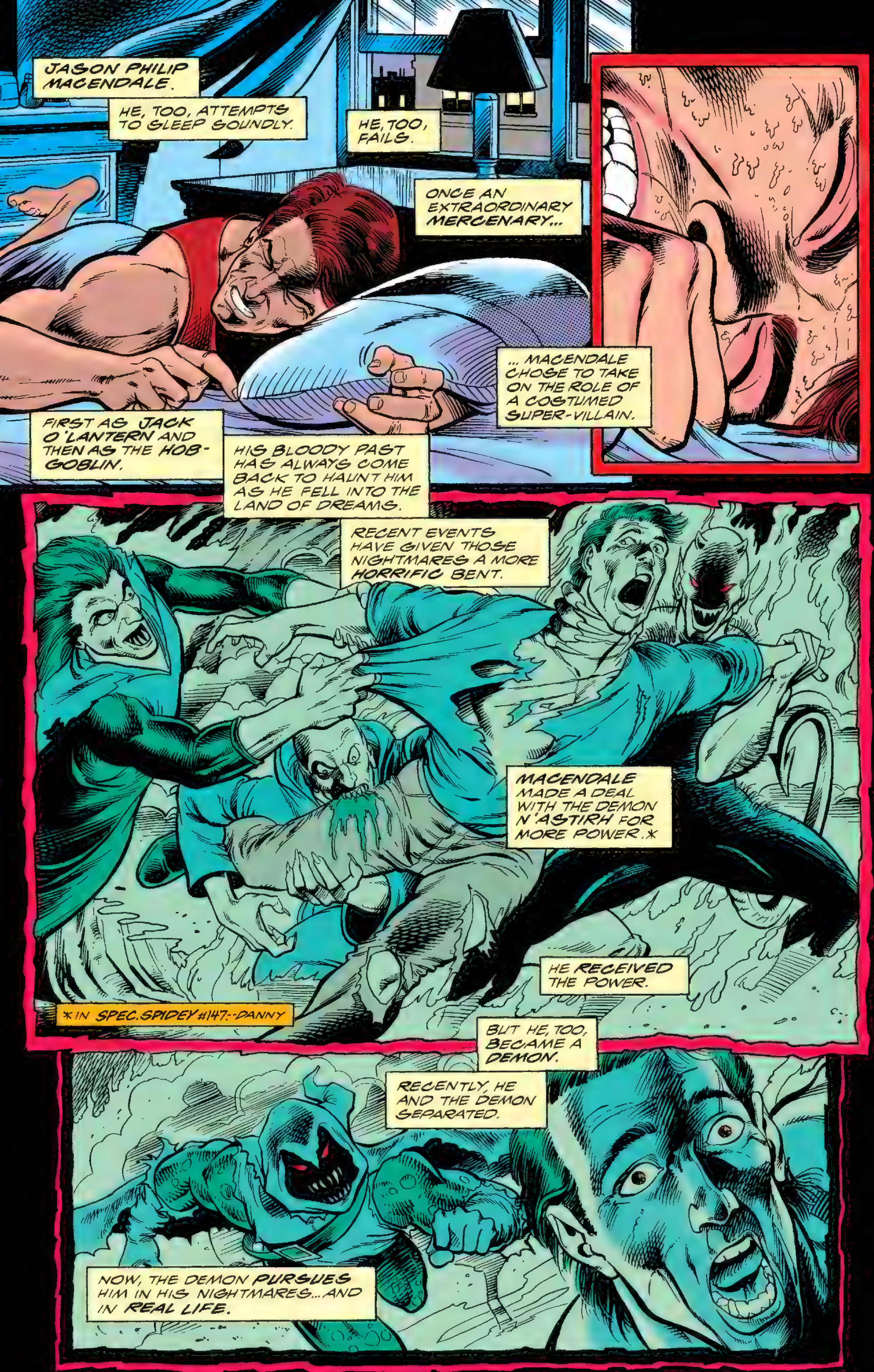
PETER PARKER DREAMS.
STan Lee PRESENTS:
DOUBLE INFINITY
AS SPIDER-MAN HE LIVES MOST PEOPLE'S NIGHTMARES.
SWEET DREAMS, PETER PARKER.
H. AUSTIN MACKIE- WRITER
LARRY ALEXANDER- PENCILS
ANDREW PEPOY- INKS
KATHY KENNEDY- LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT- COLORS
DANNY FINGEROTH- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO- EDITOR IN CHIEF

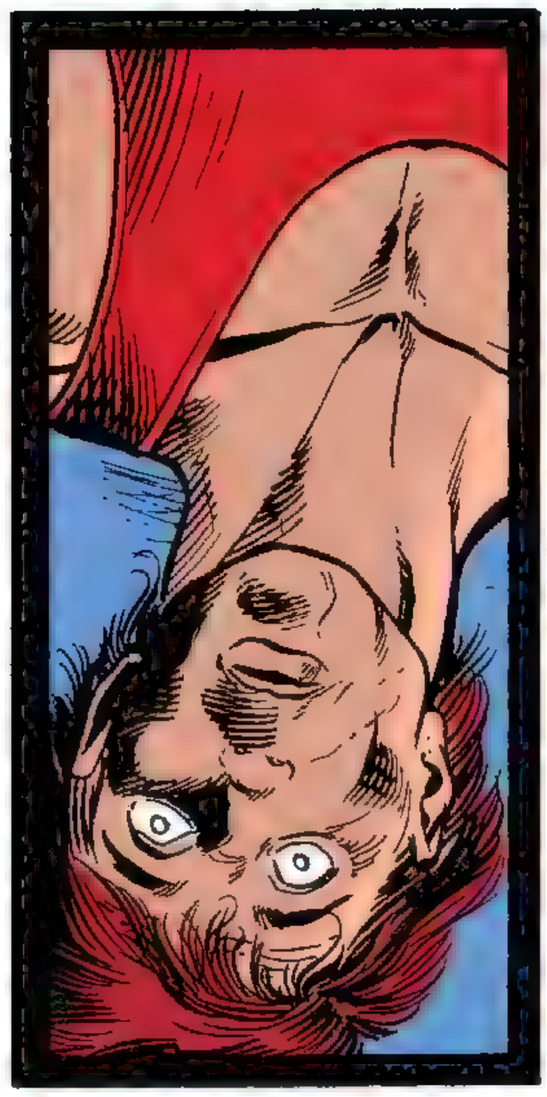

NO!
ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.
VENOM, CARNAGE, HOBGOBLIN, GREEN GOBLIN...
CAN'T GET ONE NIGHT'S GOOD SLEEP ANYMORE.
WHO EVER SAID SUPER HEROES ARE SUPPOSED TO SLEEP?
AT LEAST I DIDN'T WAKE MARY JANE UP THIS TIME.
LEAVE MJ A NOTE SO SHE DOESN'T WORRY!
GOT TO GET OUT AND CLEAR MY HEAD.

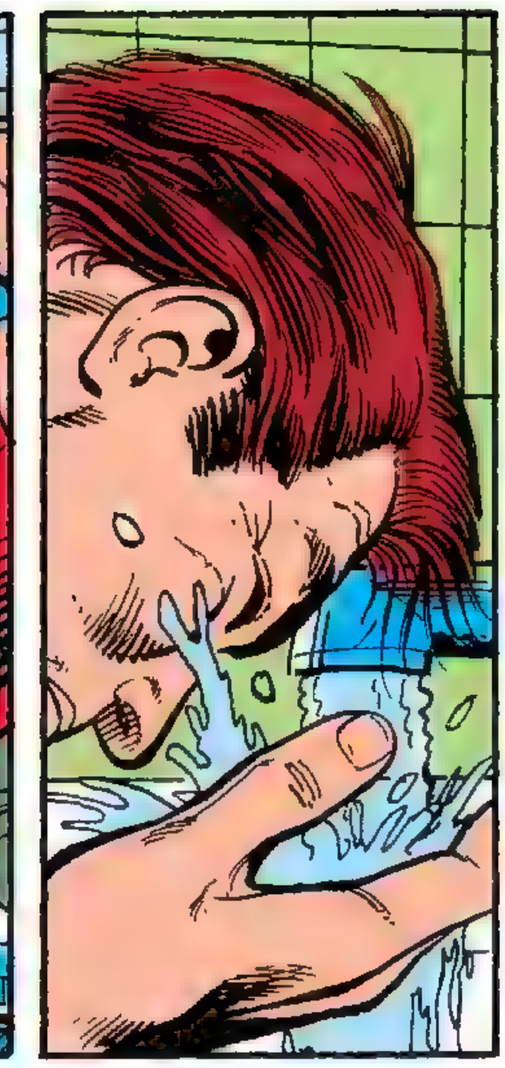
WHO AM I?
PETER PARKER?
OR A SUPER HERO?
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER FROM MARY JANE'S SOAP OPERA.
I HAUNT MY DREAMS AS MY OWN EVIL TWIN.
NAH!
BOY, LACK OF SLEEP MAKES ME CRANKY!
EVIL TWIN?

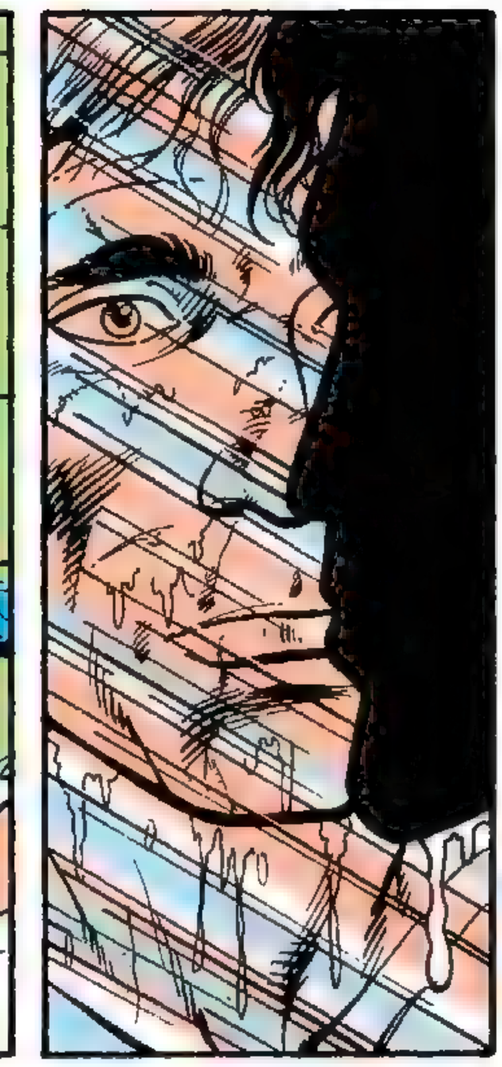
SHEESH!
I'M SPIDER-MAN...
... AND I LOVE BEING ME!
THUMP

I'M GOOD AT WHAT I DO!
THWIP
KILLING ROOKE
HI, CHRIS!
RED A
DUNCAN
DONUTS
OPEN 24 HOURS
SO I GIVE UP A COUPLE OF NIGHTS SLEEP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT I HAVE FUN ANYWAY!


JASON PHILIP MACENDALE.
HE, TOO, ATTEMPTS TO SLEEP SOUNDLY.
HE, TOO, FAILS.
ONCE AN EXTRAORDINARY MERCENARY...
... MACENDALE CHOSE TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF A COSTUMED SUPER-VILLAIN.
FIRST AS JACK O'LANTERN AND THEN AS THE HOB-GOBLIN.
HIS BLOODY PAST HAS ALWAYS COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM AS HE FELL INTO THE LAND OF DREAMS.
RECENT EVENTS HAVE GIVEN THOSE NIGHTMARES A MORE HORRIFIC BENT.
MACENDALE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEMON N'ASTIRH FOR MORE POWER.*
HE RECEIVED THE POWER.
*IN SPEC.SPIDEY #147:--DANNY
BUT HE, TOO, BECAME A DEMON.
RECENTLY, HE AND THE DEMON SEPARATED.
NOW, THE DEMON PURSUES HIM IN HIS NIGHTMARES... AND IN REAL LIFE.







I DON'T NEED THIS HEAD GARBAGE.

THE DEMON IS GONE.

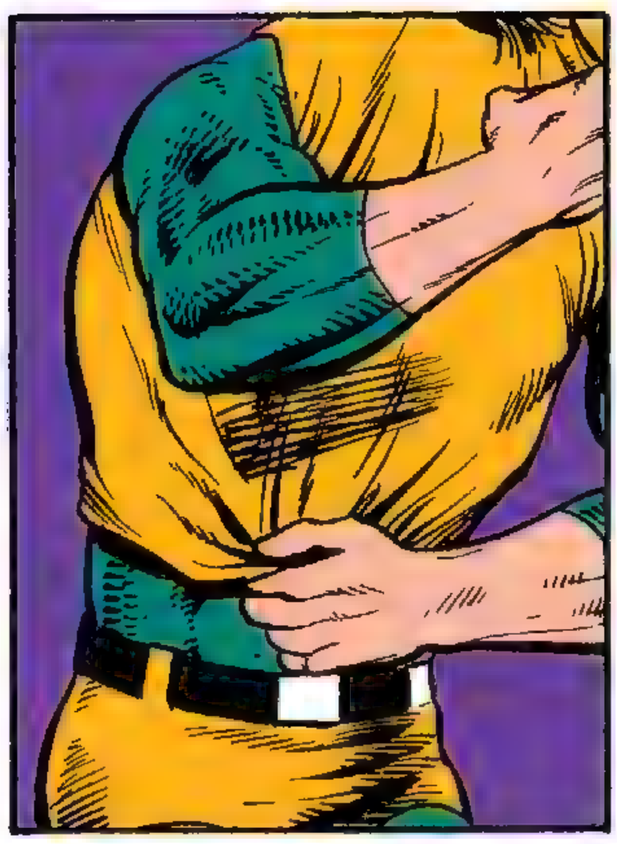
I'M JUST STARTING TO GET MY STRENGTH BACK.

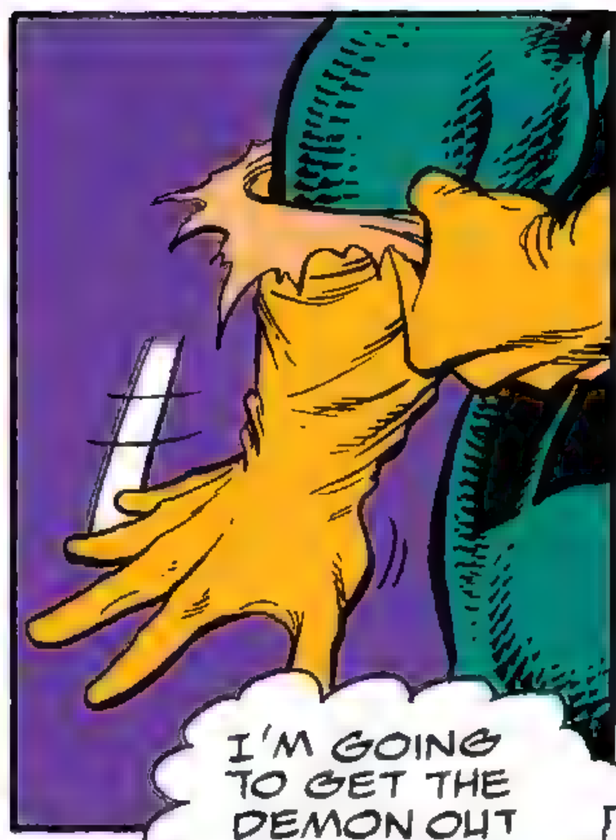
MY REFLEXES.

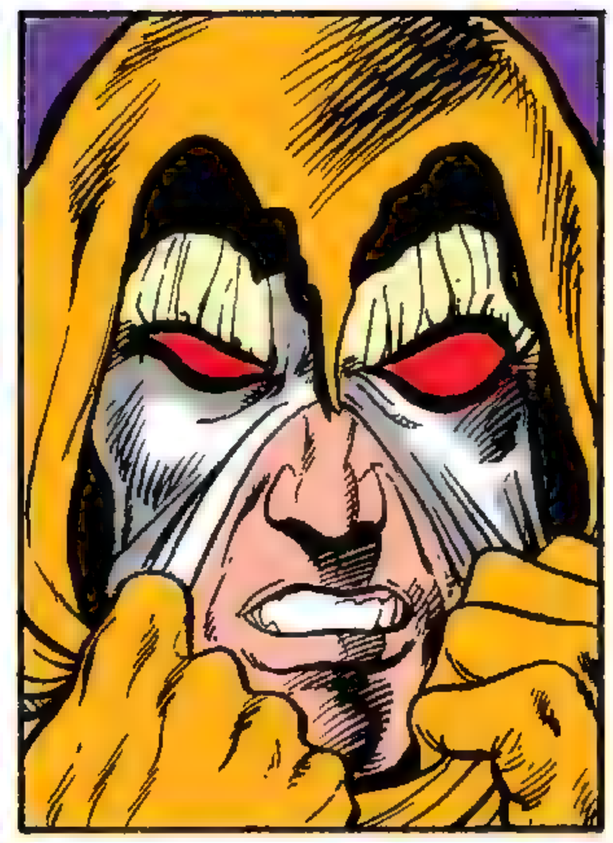
SPAKK

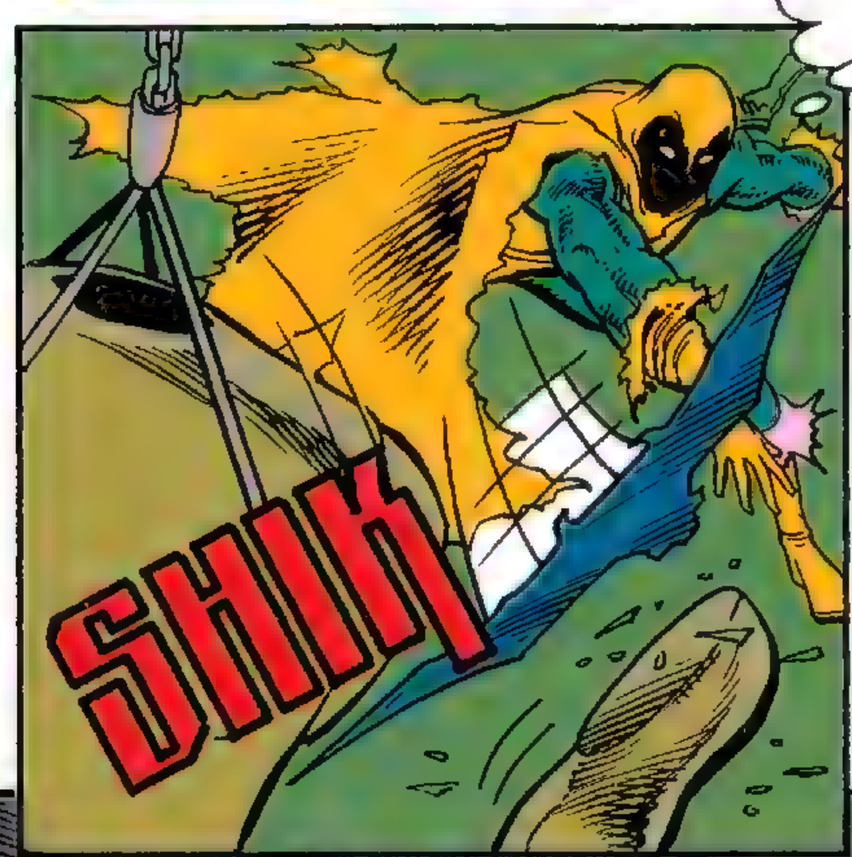
MY SKILL.

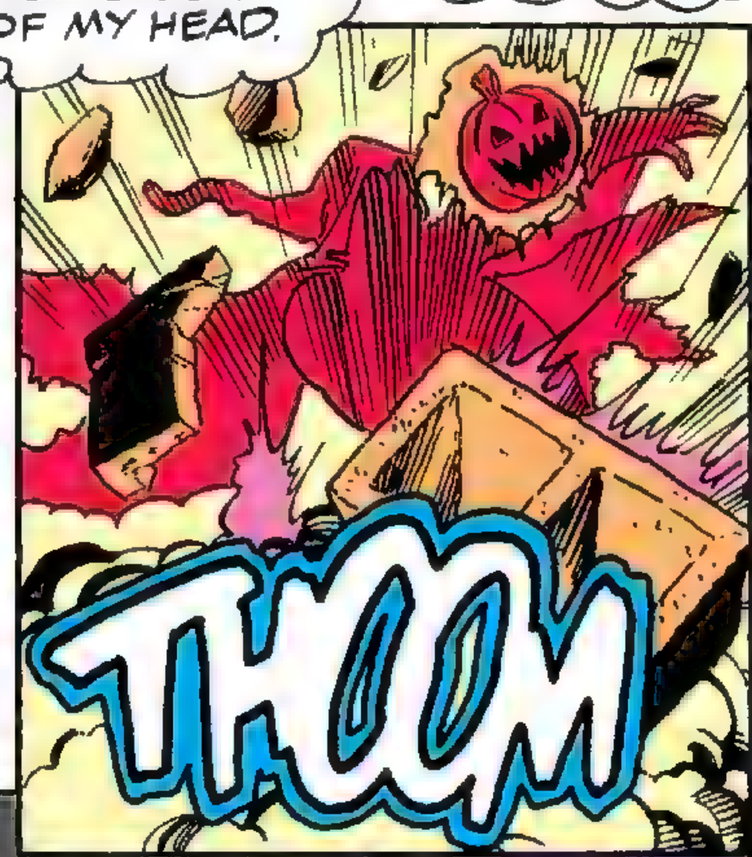
BLAM BLAM BLAM

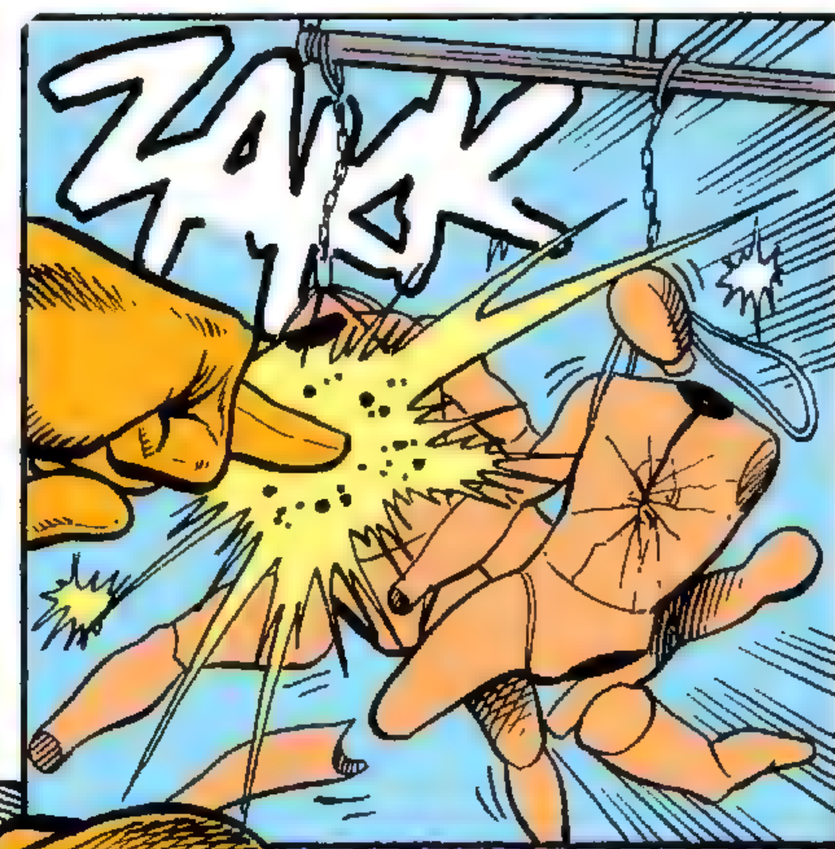








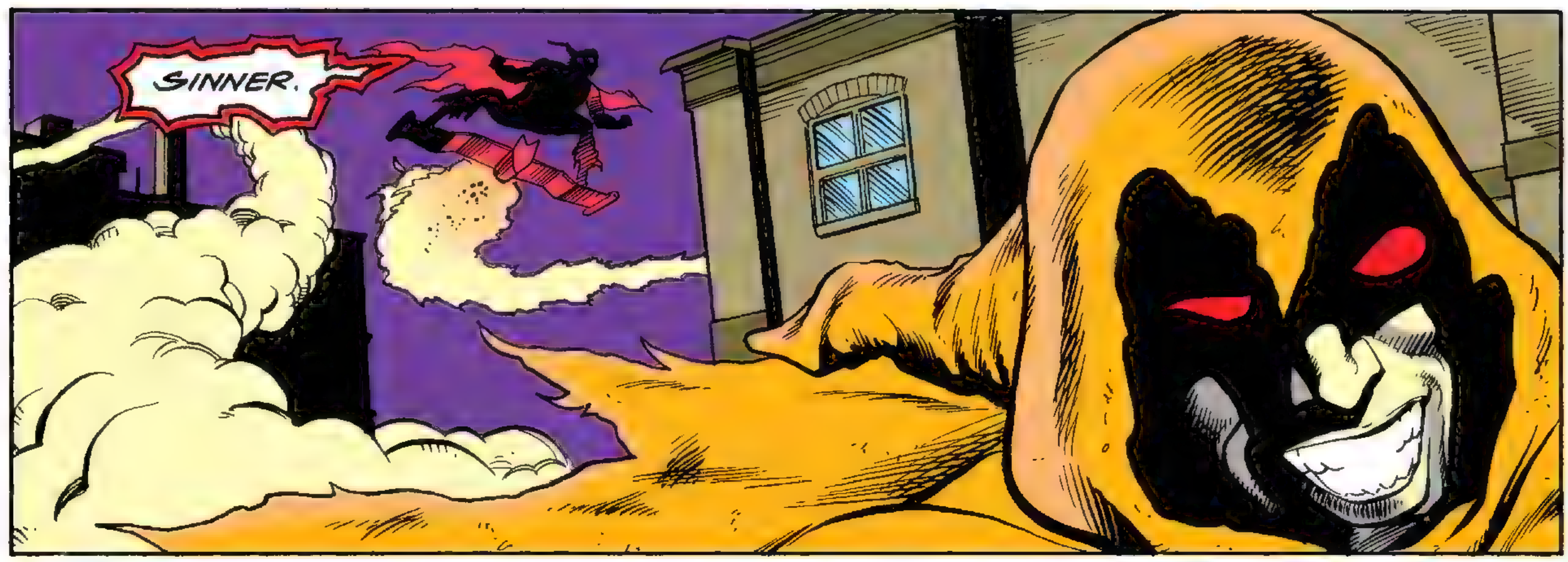




--IN MY OLD RAGGED COSTUME--

--THE ONE *HE* COPIED--

--AND *KILL* HIM.



TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK CITY...

THWIP

SO MANY OF THE SO CALLED VILLAINS I'VE BEEN FIGHTING LATELY EXIST ONLY BECAUSE OF SOME PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST ME.

GREEN GOBLIN.

VENOM.

THE *VULTURE*.

I COULD REDUCE THE SUPER-VILLAIN POPULATION JUST BY HANGING UP MY COSTUME AND--

DIET PEPSI

CAMERAS

HUH ?

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

KRRASH

DID I FORGET TO MENTION *HOBGOBLIN* ?

OH YEAH! NOT TO MENTION HIS NEW *DEMONIC COUNTERPART!*

PREPARE YOURSELF, MERCENARY!

MY MISSION WILL ONLY BE-COME CLEAR TO ME WITH YOUR *DEATH!*

YOU'RE DREAMING, BUDDY!

FRZZAT

I SURVIVED TOO MUCH GAR-BAGE LATELY TO BE OFFED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!

KWOOOM

DEBRIS FALLING TO THE STREET--!

THIS IS WHY I DO WHAT I DO!

THWIP

SPIDER-SENSES GOING CRAZY?!

THWIP

BUT *HOBGOBLIN* AND THE DEMON SEEM TO ONLY HAVE EYES FOR EACH OTHER.

NEITHER IS PAYING ATTENTION TO *ME*!

FWAP

HUH? ANOTHER WEBLINE--?! SHOT BY WHO?

VRITT

WHOA! IT'S RAZOR--

RRIPP

--SHARP!

A GUY COULD START TO GET A COMPLEX AROUND HEEEEERREE--

WEB LINE'S BEEN CUT!

NEED SOMETHING TO BREAK MY FALL!

WUNK

NOT *EXACTLY* WHAT I HAD IN MIND, BUT AT LEAST IT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF CHASING YOU DOWN!

LOOK, SPIDER-MAN, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT TONIGHT!
WELL, YOU GOT ONE ANYWAY! I--
WHAT THE--?
LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, SPIDEY!

WHAT IS THIS THING?
LOOKS LIKE MY EVIL TWIN!
CHOMP
I HAVE BEEN WATCHING TOO MUCH OF MJ'S SOAP OPERA!
GOOD LUCK, SPIDER-MAN!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT!

OH!

WHOOOSH

WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET, MERCENARY!

OH, YES I AM!

LIKE YOU SAY, I'M A MERC!

IF I'M NOT GETTING PAID...

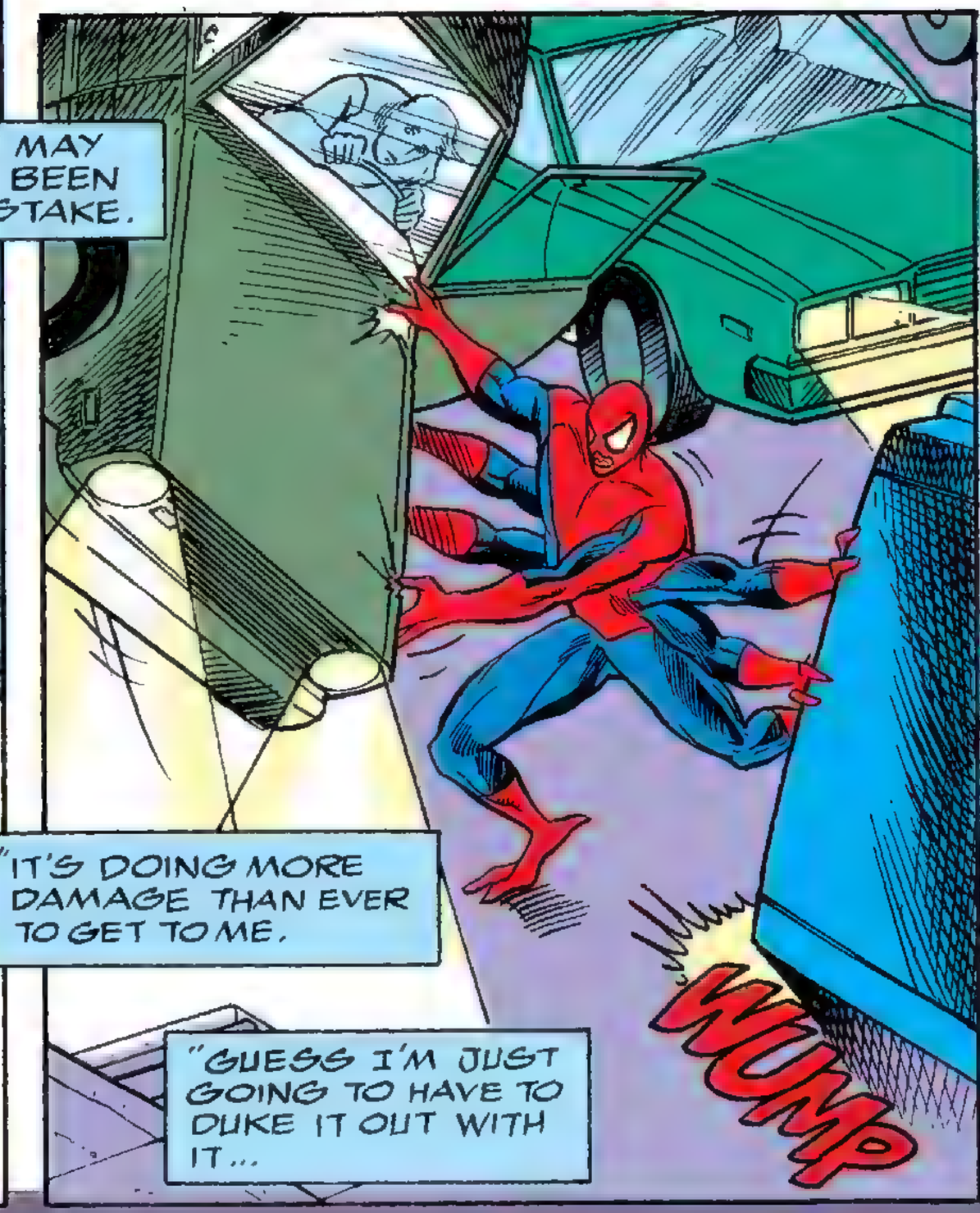
KTOOOM

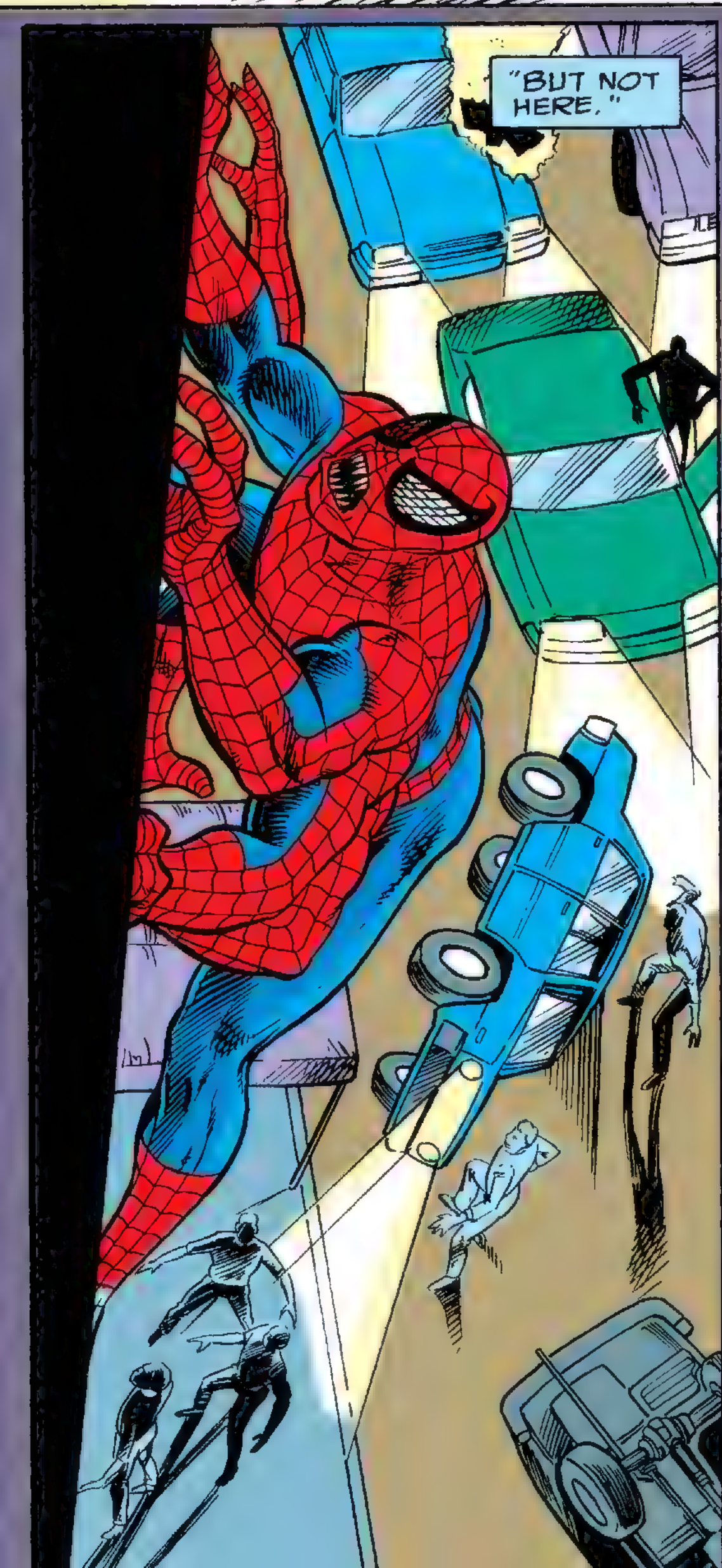
...I'M NOT FIGHTING!

THIS THING IS STRONG!

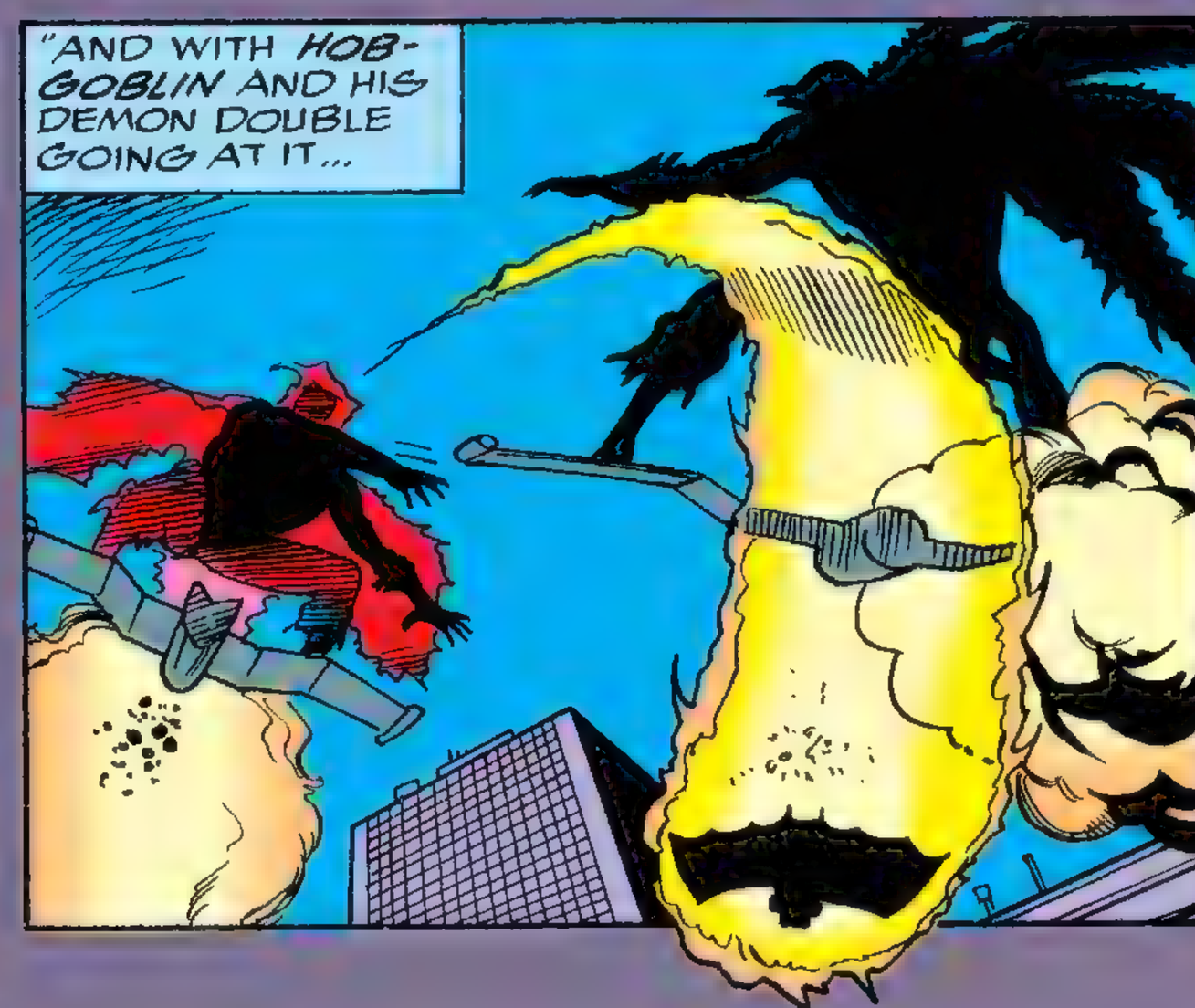
I NEED SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO HANDLE IT!

"OOPS!
SKEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE


"THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE.
"IT'S DOING MORE DAMAGE THAN EVER TO GET TO ME.
"GUESS I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO DUKE IT OUT WITH IT...
WUMP


"BUT NOT HERE."

TOO CROWDED FOR AN ALL OUT BATTLE TO TAKE PLACE.


"AND WITH *HOB-GOBLIN* AND HIS DEMON DOUBLE GOING AT IT...

... I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE FIGHT AWAY FROM TIMES SQUARE.
Office
DIE, SINNER!
NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, DEMON!
GIVE IT A REST, GUYS!
THANKS, PAL! I OWE YOU ONE!
I'M OUT OF HERE!
THAT WAS THE GENERAL IDEA...
THWIPP
FWAP
...BUT NOT WITHOUT COMPANY!

YOU'RE SLOWING ME DOWN, WEB-HEAD!

I NEED ALL THE SPEED I CAN HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM THAT THING!

FRZATT

SO MUCH FOR "OWING ME ONE!"

BUT THE IDEA WASN'T TO LET YOU *ESCAPE*!

YOU *ARE* A CRIMINAL AND WE STILL HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO...

VRITT

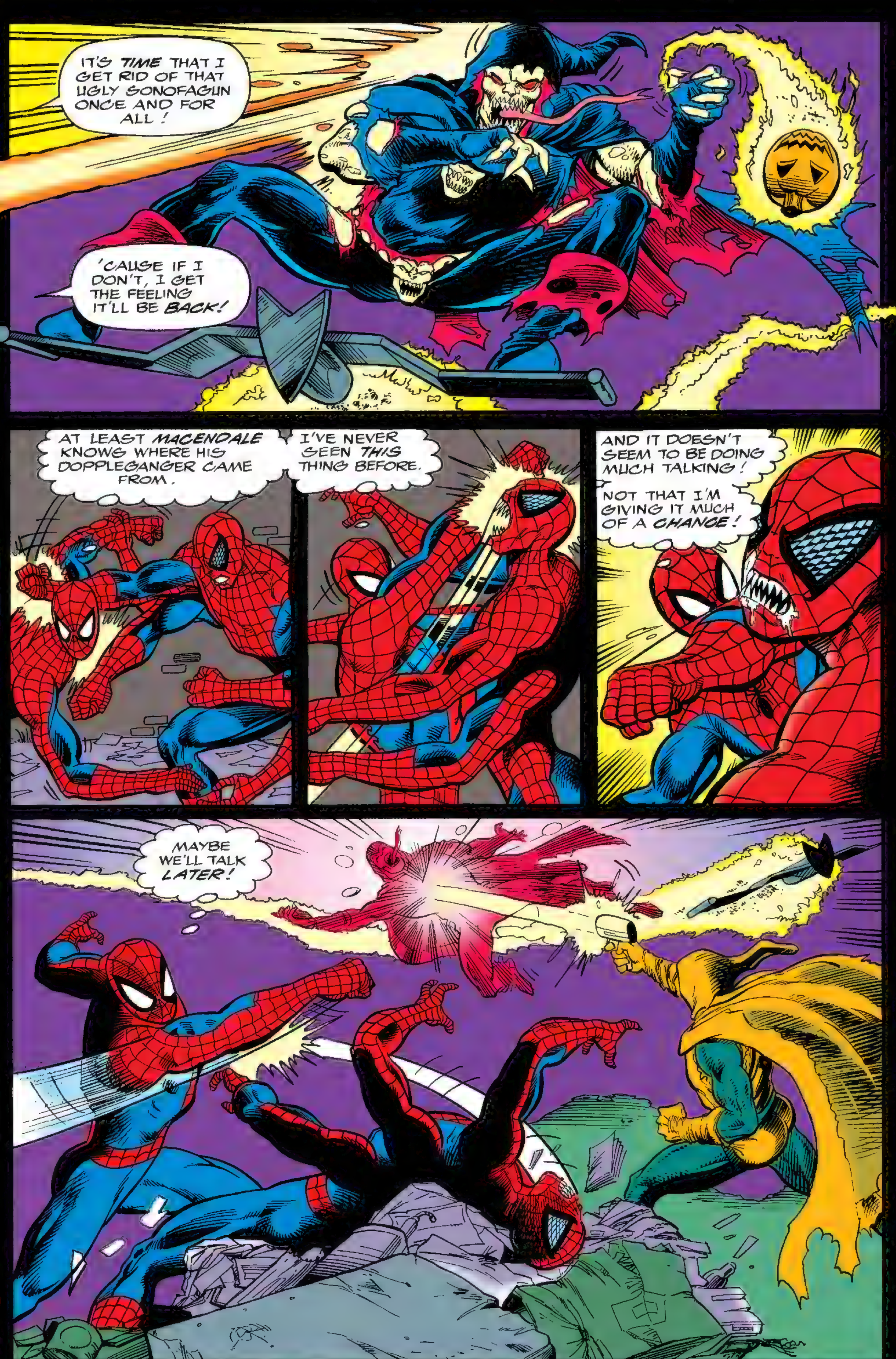
RRIIPP

MAYBE WE CAN FINISH THIS DISCUSSION LATER!

IT APPEARS THAT THE REST OF THE PARTY HAS JOINED US!

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T FIND A CONVENIENTLY PLACED MATTRESS IN A VACANT LOT WHEN YOU NEED ONE?
OR A PILE OF GARBAGE, FOR THAT MATTER.
WHAP
I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY FROM THESE LUNATICS WITHOUT YOUR INTERFERENCE!
LUNATICS? THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE TEFLON, ISN'T IT?
NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT?

LET'S KICK SOME DEMON BUTT!
A GUN?
NOT JUST ANY GUN!
I STILL HAVE LOTS OF CONNECTIONS IN THE MERC COMMUNITY.
A BUDDY HAS SOME FRIENDS WITH A.I.M. AND I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME TO UP MY ARSENAL.
WHICH OF THE TWO DO YOU WANT?
I REALLY DON'T CARE.
I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE THIS BABY CAN DO!


IT'S TIME THAT I GET RID OF THAT UGLY SONOFAGUN ONCE AND FOR ALL!
'CAUSE IF I DON'T, I GET THE FEELING IT'LL BE BACK!
AT LEAST MACENDALE KNOWS WHERE HIS DOPPLEGANGER CAME FROM.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS THING BEFORE.
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING MUCH TALKING!
NOT THAT I'M GIVING IT MUCH OF A CHANCE!
MAYBE WE'LL TALK LATER!

LIKE MAYBE *NOW*.

THIS THING AND THE DEMON HOBGOBLIN ARE DOWN!

STILL... WOOZY... CAN BARELY THINK... BUT I NEED SOME *ANSWERS*!

HEY, *MACENDALE*, ARE YOU...?

CLIK

MY DEMONIC BUDDY GOT AWAY TOO FAST FOR ME TO FOLLOW.

SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SECOND BES--

OOPS. CHANGE OF PLAN.

FZZZZZZTTT

EMPTY.
GUESS YOU OWE ME NOW, SPIDER-MAN. THAT THING WAS GOING TO KILL YOU.
I'LL COLLECT SOMEDAY. BUT I'M A LITTLE WASTED MYSELF, NOW.
SEE YA.
SOON.
I NEED ANSWERS.
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
THIS THING IS SOME SORT OF ALIEN.
AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING BIG GOING ON.
I'M GOING HOME TO MAKE SURE MARY JANE'S ALL RIGHT.
THEN I'M GOING TO SEE REED RICHARDS.
HE'LL COME UP WITH SOME INFO.
DON'T GO 'WAY, BUDDY.

NEXT: Spider-Man's quest continues in **INFINITY WAR,** on sale now! As for Macendale, Demogoblin, and the Doppleganger, **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** is where their stories will be told in the near future.

This mag? Well in *two* months, issue #26 will be our giant-sized Spider-Man 30th Anniversary issue with hologram cover and a great story by DeFalco, Frenz and Larsen.

NEXT month, in issue #25, we've got — appropriately enough — the celebration of *this* magazine's 25th issue! Excalibur's here for the ride — and wait'll you see the *Spider-Phoenix!* See you in thirty. (Days, not years.)

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #8 **PINUP** BY JIM STARLIN

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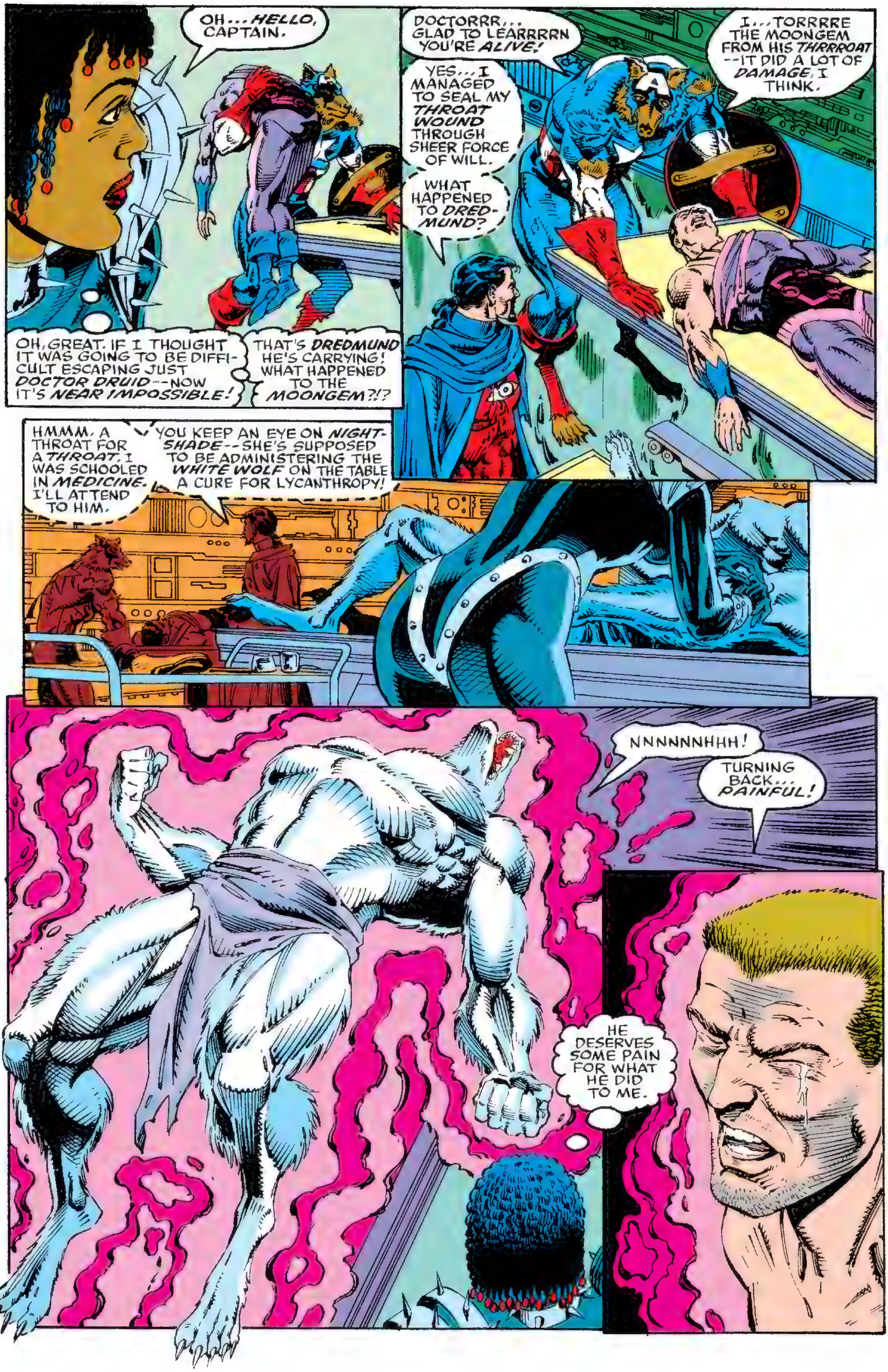
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CAPTAIN AMERICA®
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
THE FINAL FATE OF CAPWOLF!
LEVINS/HUDSON

STEVE ROGERS . . . BORN IN THE U.S.A., RAISED TO CHERISH THE IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY, ENDOWED WITH A SUPERHUMAN PHYSIQUE, AND DRIVEN TO BE THE MOST CAPABLE COMBATANT IN THE WORLD. NOW AS BOTH LONE CRUSADER AND LEADER OF THE RENOWNED AVENGERS, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE FOR LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

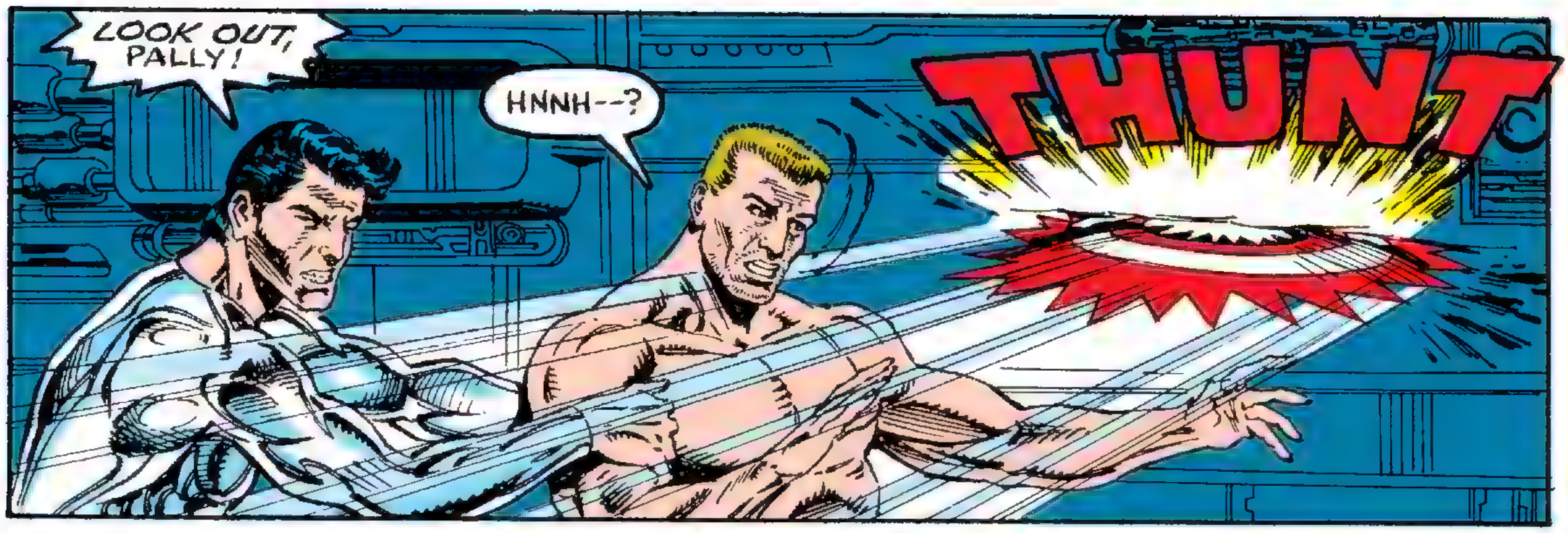
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

. GRUENWALD, WRITER . LEVINS, PENCILER . BULANADI, INKER . ROSEN, LETTERER . ROUSSOS, COLORIST . ROCKWITZ, EDITOR . MACCHIO, GROUP EDITOR . DEFALCO, LOOSE END .


OH...HELLO, CAPTAIN.
DOCTORRR... GLAD TO LEARRRRN YOU'RE ALIVE!
YES... I MANAGED TO SEAL MY THROAT WOUND THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF WILL.
WHAT HAPPENED TO DREDMUND?
I...TORRRRE THE MOONGEM FROM HIS THRRROAT --IT DID A LOT OF DAMAGE, I THINK.
OH, GREAT. IF I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT ESCAPING JUST DOCTOR DRUID--NOW IT'S NEAR IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT'S DREDMUND HE'S CARRYING! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOONGEM?!?
HMMM. A THROAT FOR A THROAT. I WAS SCHOOLED IN MEDICINE. I'LL ATTEND TO HIM.
YOU KEEP AN EYE ON NIGHTSHADE--SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ADMINISTERING THE WHITE WOLF ON THE TABLE A CURE FOR LYCANTHROPY!
NNNNNNHHH!
TURNING BACK... PAINFUL!
HE DESERVES SOME PAIN FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME.

JOHN! JOHN JAMESON!
IN THE FLESH. HAD TO ENCOURAGE NIGHTSHADE INTO WHIPPING UP AN ANTIDOTE BY TURNING HER INTO A FELLOW LYCANTHROPY SUFFERER. SHE TESTED THE ANTIDOTE ON HERSELF.
GRRREAT WORK!
OKAY, NIGHTSHADE --DO HIM NEXT!
SO YOU WERRRE THE LEADERRR OF THE PIT-WOLVES I FOUGHT,*HMMM?
YEAH.
*ISSUE #406.--MIKE
SPPT
YOU PULL ANYTHING, DOC, AND I'LL JAB YOU WITH MORE OF THE WOLF SERUM SO FAST YOU WON'T KNOW WHETHER TO SIT OR HOWL.
YES...I'M SURE YOU WOULD.
BUT SUDDENLY...
WHAT IN--?
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
I'VE COME FOR YOU, MY CAPTAIN!

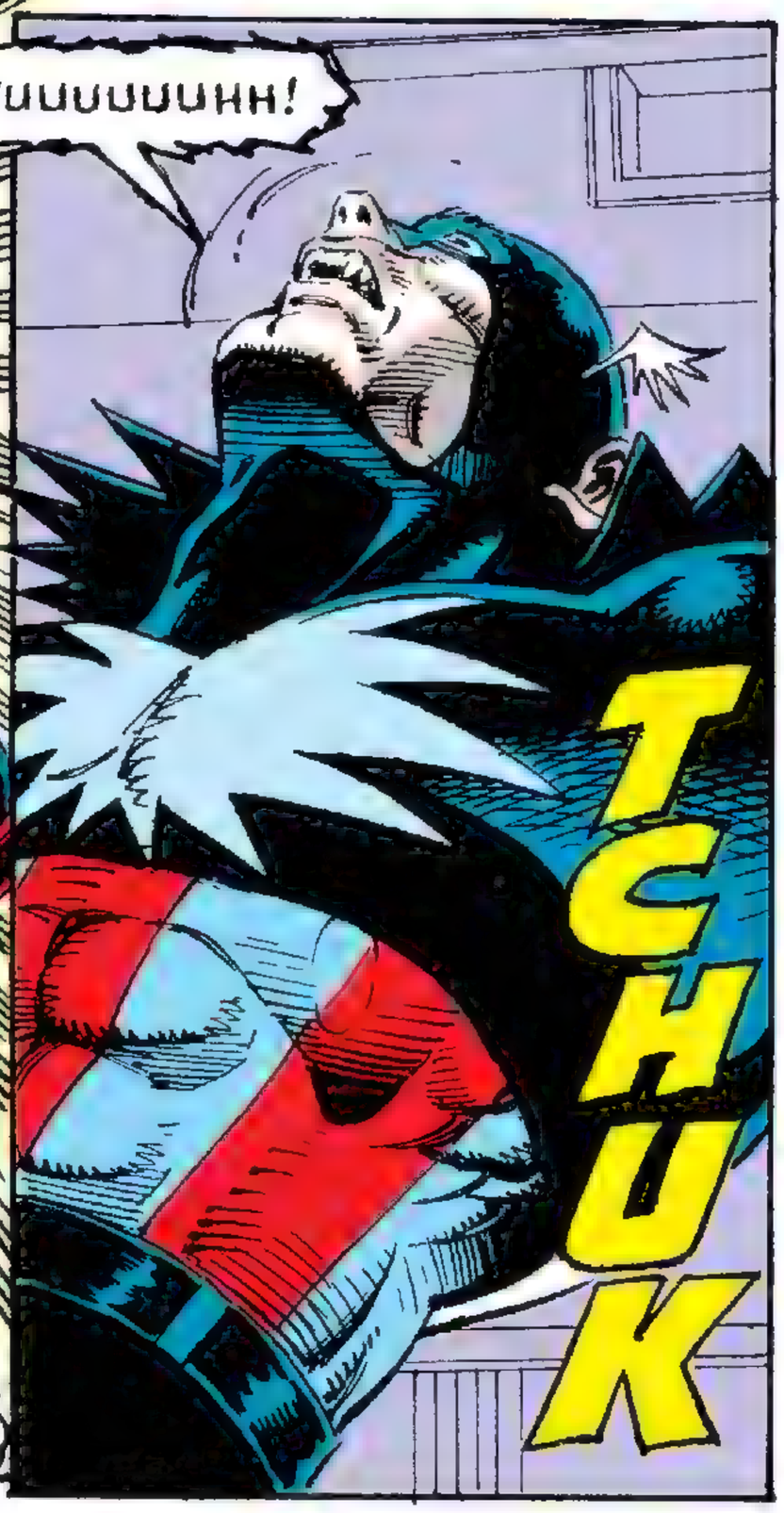
SWAK
ONE OF DREDMUND'S--?
NO! I NEVER SAW HIM BE--
NNNGH!
WOE TO WHOEVER STANDS BETWEEN US!
OH!
WHO IS THIS DARK VERSION OF MYSELF? WHY IS HE HERE NOW?
I'M SO FATIGUED FROM ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, THIS IS THE LAST THING I NEED!
TO TOP IT OFF, NIGHT JABBED ME WITH THE ANTIDOTE--!
B-BEGINNING TO CHANGE--!
THANK
GNNG!

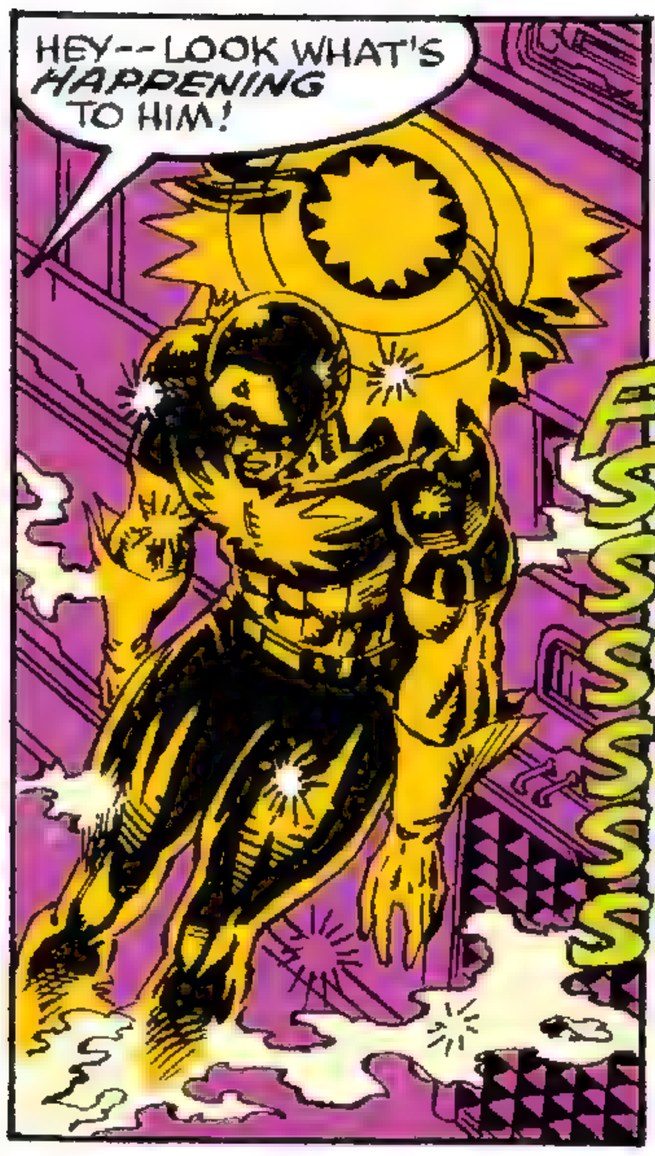

LOOK OUT, PALLY!
HNNH--?
THUNT

EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS A DARK SIDE, CAPTAIN--EVEN YOU! AND TODAY I SHALL PREVAIL!
DOC--WHO--IS--THIS--?

I SENSE THAT IT IS NOT HUMAN--NOT EVEN ALIVE--IT'S SOME SORT OF UNEARTHLY MANIFESTATION!
NOT--ALIVE--? YOU'RE--SURE--?

THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!
SO WEARY--HAVE TO END THIS FAST BEFORE I COLLAPSE!

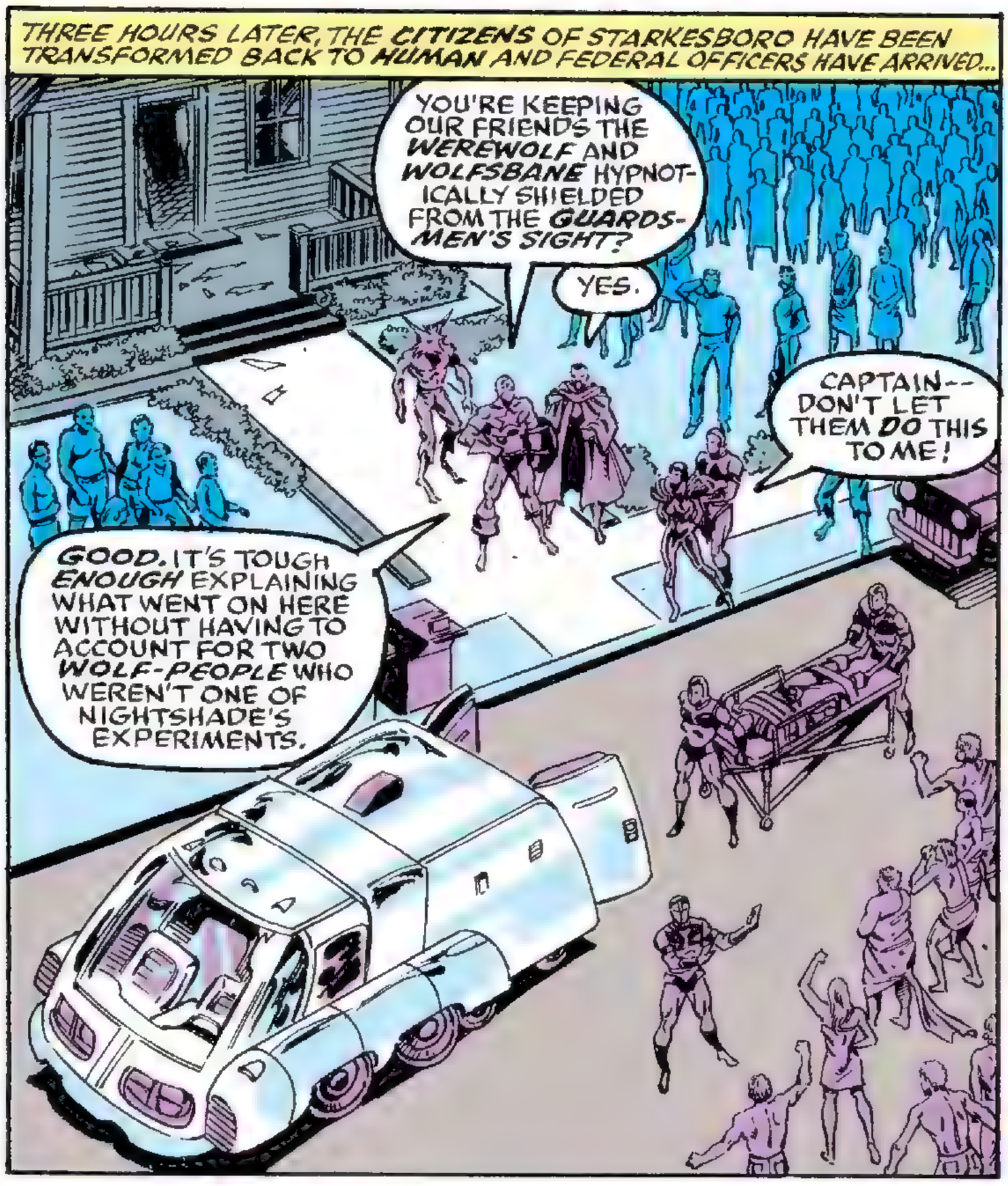

NYUUUUUUHH!
TCHUK


HEY--LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM!
FSSSSSS

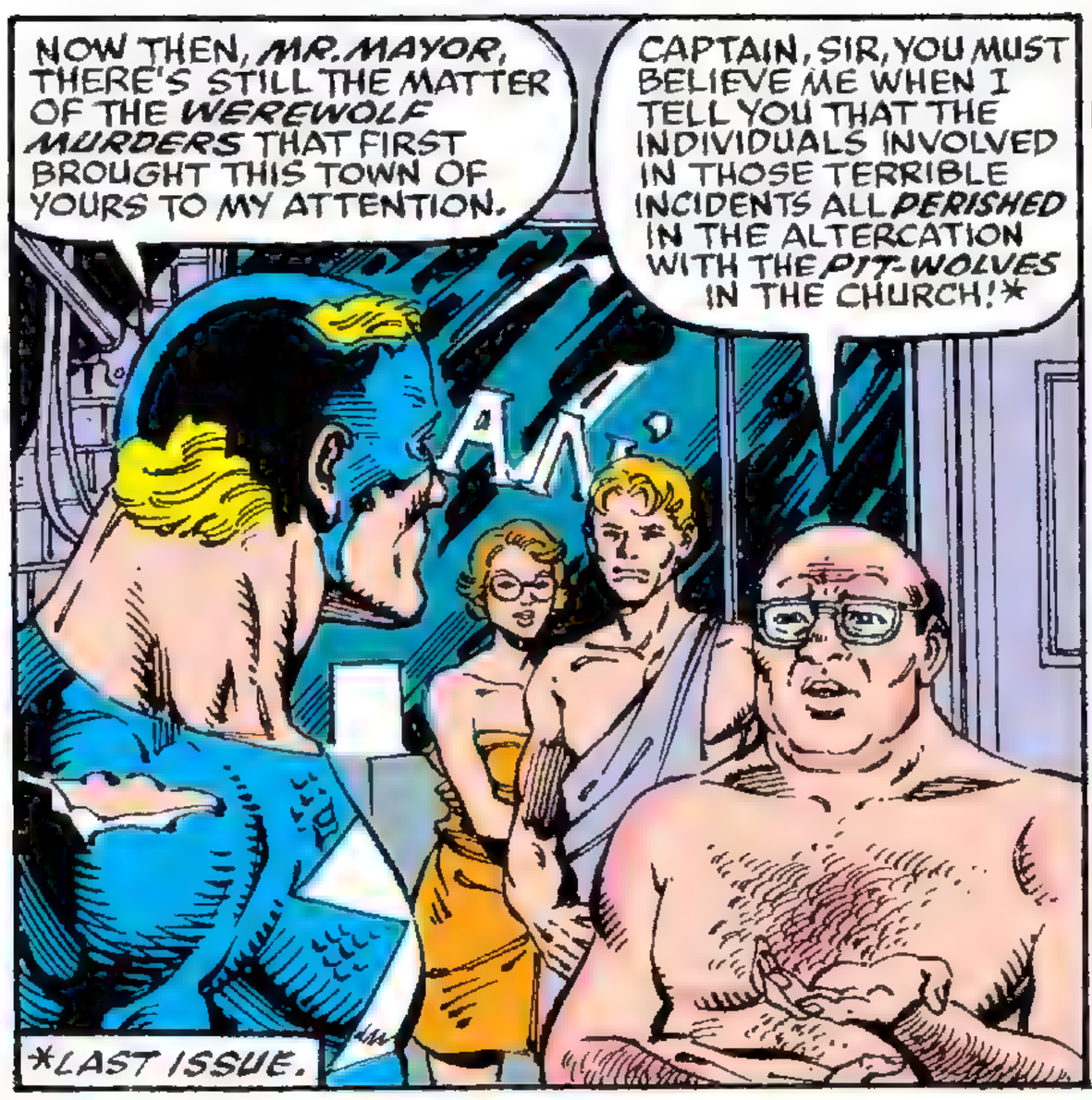
HE'S... GONE!
MONDO SPOOKIOSO!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
HANDS UP, THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE FIGURED OUT THIS EVIL TWIN IS A REFUGEE FROM THE INFINITY WAR! --MIKE

NICE DUKE-OUT THERE, CAPPER.
I CAN'T AGREE. I WAS TIRED... SLOPPY... AND UNCHARACTERISTICALLY BRUTAL.
WHAT D'YA EXPECT? YOU WERE A WOLF TILL A FEW SECONDS AGO!
HMMM.

CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN. IN YOUR ROUGHHOUSING YOU SPILLED ALL THE ANTIDOTE I MADE.
THEN YOU'LL MAKE MORE.
CAN'T. DON'T HAVE THE INGREDIENTS.
THEN WE'LL GET THEM.
SIGH

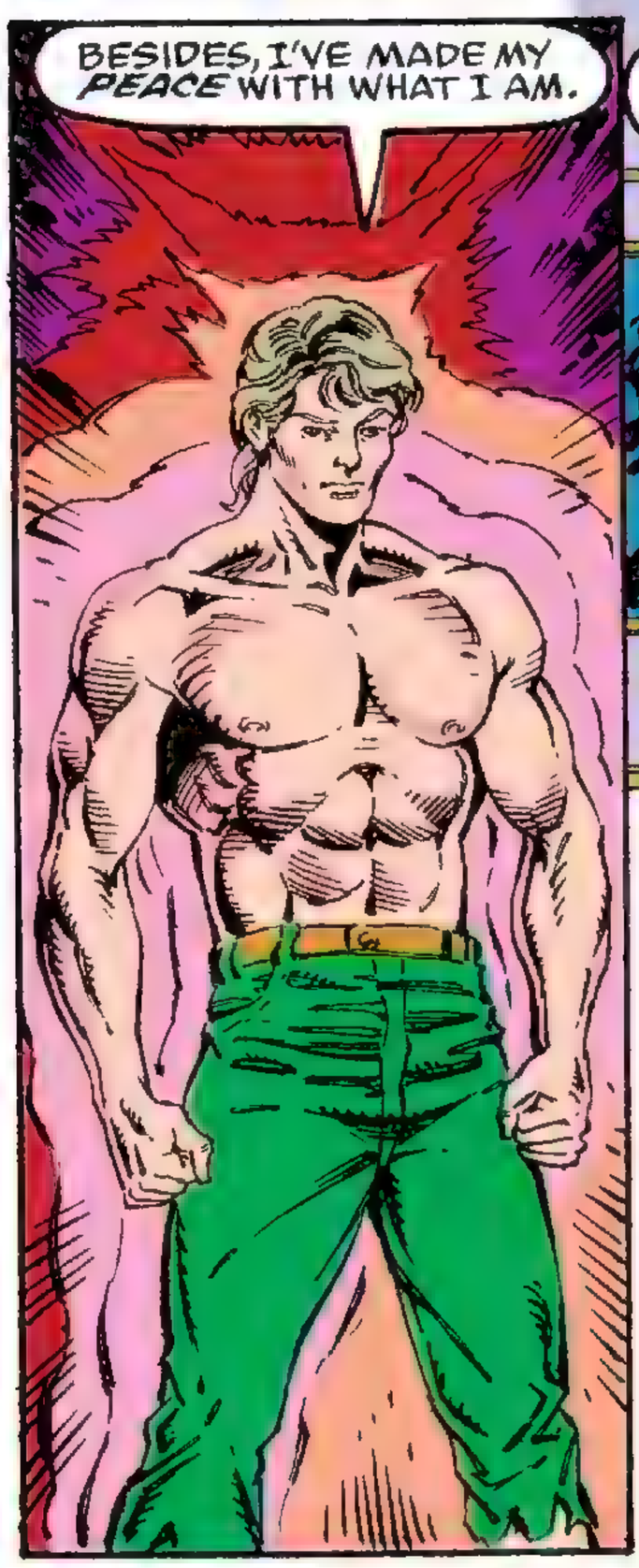

THREE HOURS LATER, THE CITIZENS OF STARKESBORO HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED BACK TO HUMAN AND FEDERAL OFFICERS HAVE ARRIVED...
YOU'RE KEEPING OUR FRIENDS THE WEREWOLF AND WOLFSBANE HYPNOTICALLY SHIELDED FROM THE GUARDSMEN'S SIGHT?
YES.
CAPTAIN--DON'T LET THEM DO THIS TO ME!
GOOD. IT'S TOUGH ENOUGH EXPLAINING WHAT WENT ON HERE WITHOUT HAVING TO ACCOUNT FOR TWO WOLF-PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T ONE OF NIGHTSHADE'S EXPERIMENTS.

DREDMUND MIND-CONTROLLED ME, SAME AS MOON-HUNTER! I'M NOT A WILLING ACCOMPLICE!
THAT'S FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE, LADY.
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS! SUPERIA WILL SEE TO IT!
HMH! SO SHE IS STILL LOYAL TO HER OLD BOSS!*
*SEE ISSUES #390-392. --MIKE


NOW THEN, MR. MAYOR, THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF THE WEREWOLF MURDERS THAT FIRST BROUGHT THIS TOWN OF YOURS TO MY ATTENTION.
CAPTAIN, SIR, YOU MUST BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THOSE TERRIBLE INCIDENTS ALL PERISHED IN THE ALTERCATION WITH THE PIT-WOLVES IN THE CHURCH!*
AK
*LAST ISSUE.

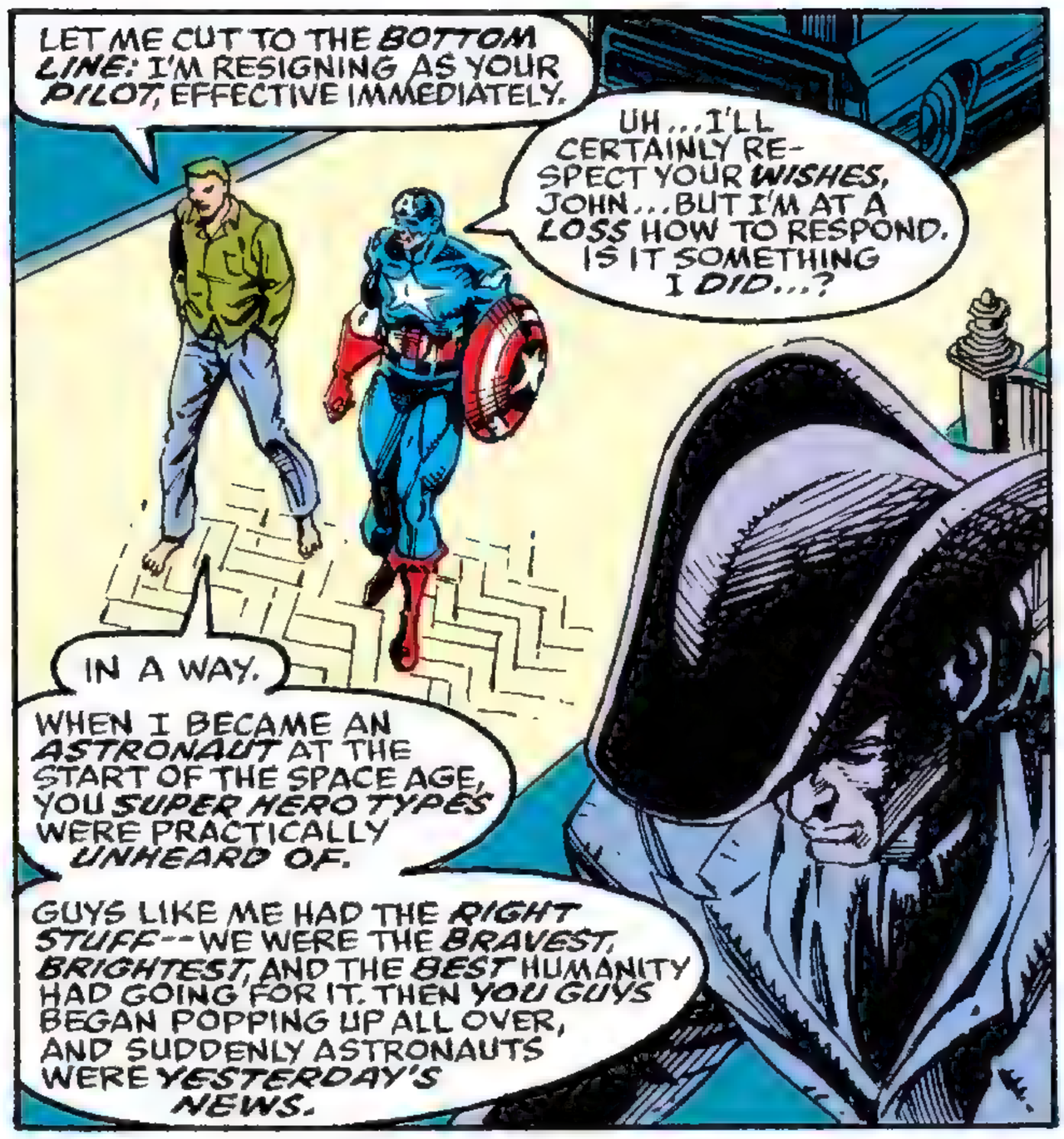
THERE WILL STILL HAVE TO BE A POLICE INVESTIGATION. YOU'LL COOPERATE?
MOST CERTAINLY.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I BELIEVE MR. SEWARD IS TELLING THE TRUTH.

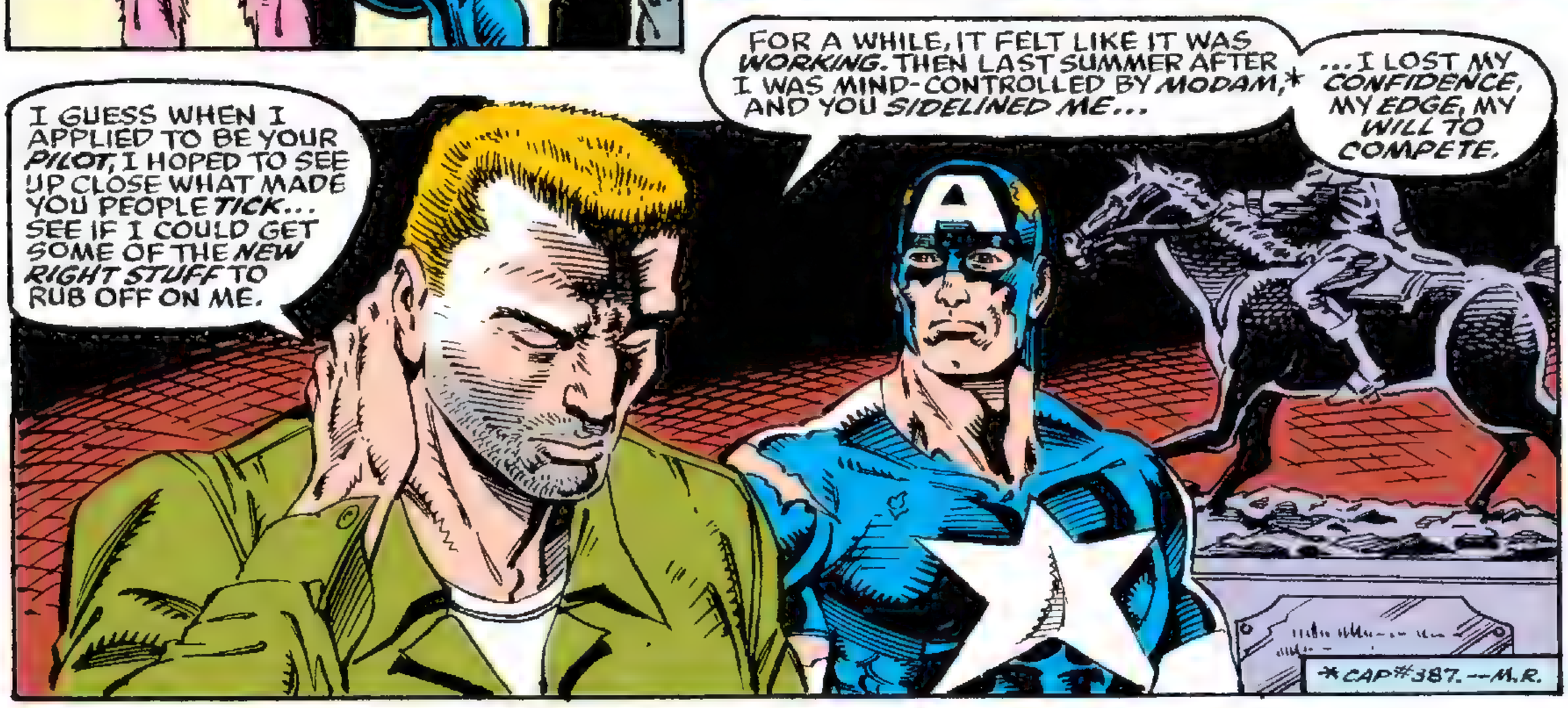
HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. RUSSELL? YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO TRY DR. NIGHTSHADE'S TREATMENT?
IT WON'T WORK ON ME, CAPTAIN. MY LYCANTHROPY IS PART OF A FAMILY CURSE, IF YOU BELIEVE IN THAT SORT OF THING.


BESIDES, I'VE MADE MY PEACE WITH WHAT I AM.

MY RIDE'S HERE.
PEACE, CAP!
LO US INC.
PEPSI
FOOD MILLER'S
VRRRRRM

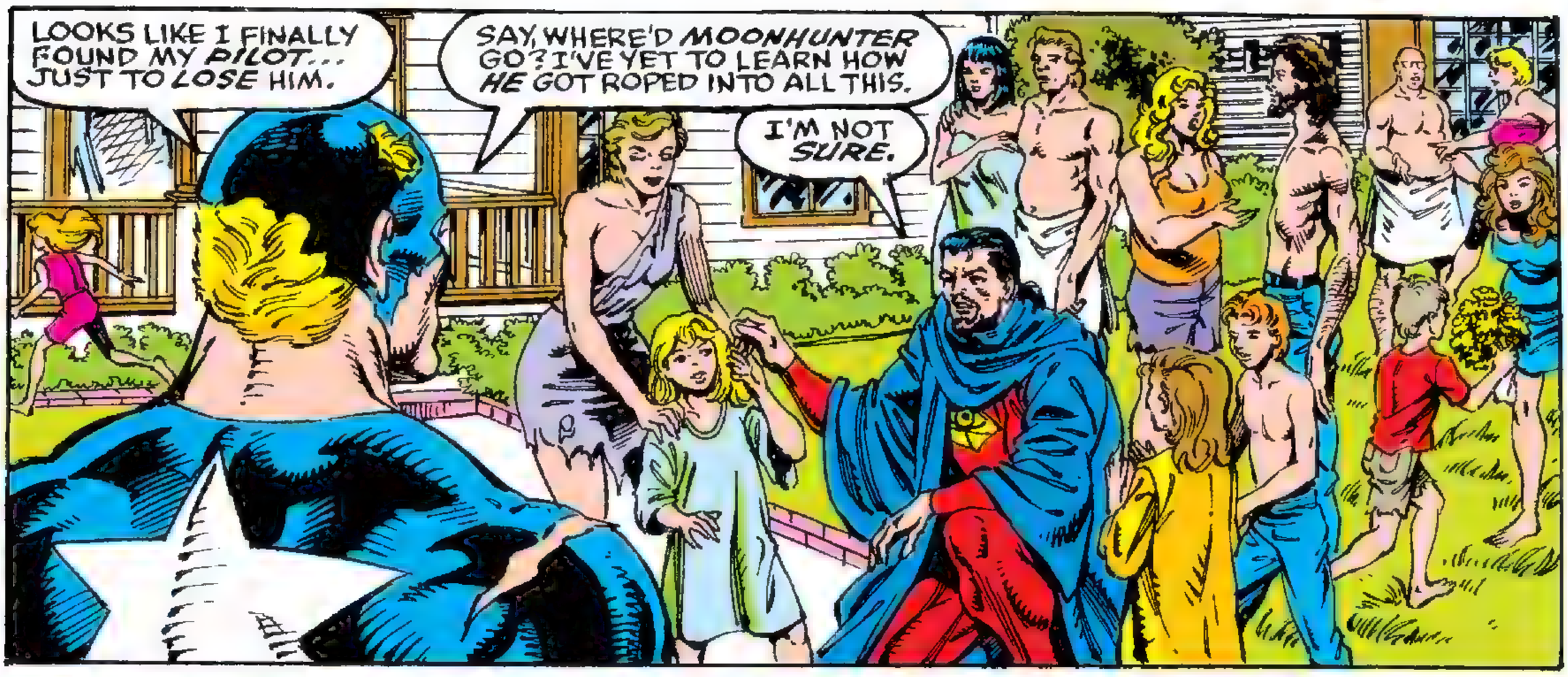
I'LL BE GETTIN' BACK TO WASHIN'-TON, IF YE'VE NO FURTHER NEED OF ME.
DO YOU NEED--
GOT A MOMENT, CAP? I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU... ALONE.
EXCUSE ME, WOLFS-BANE.

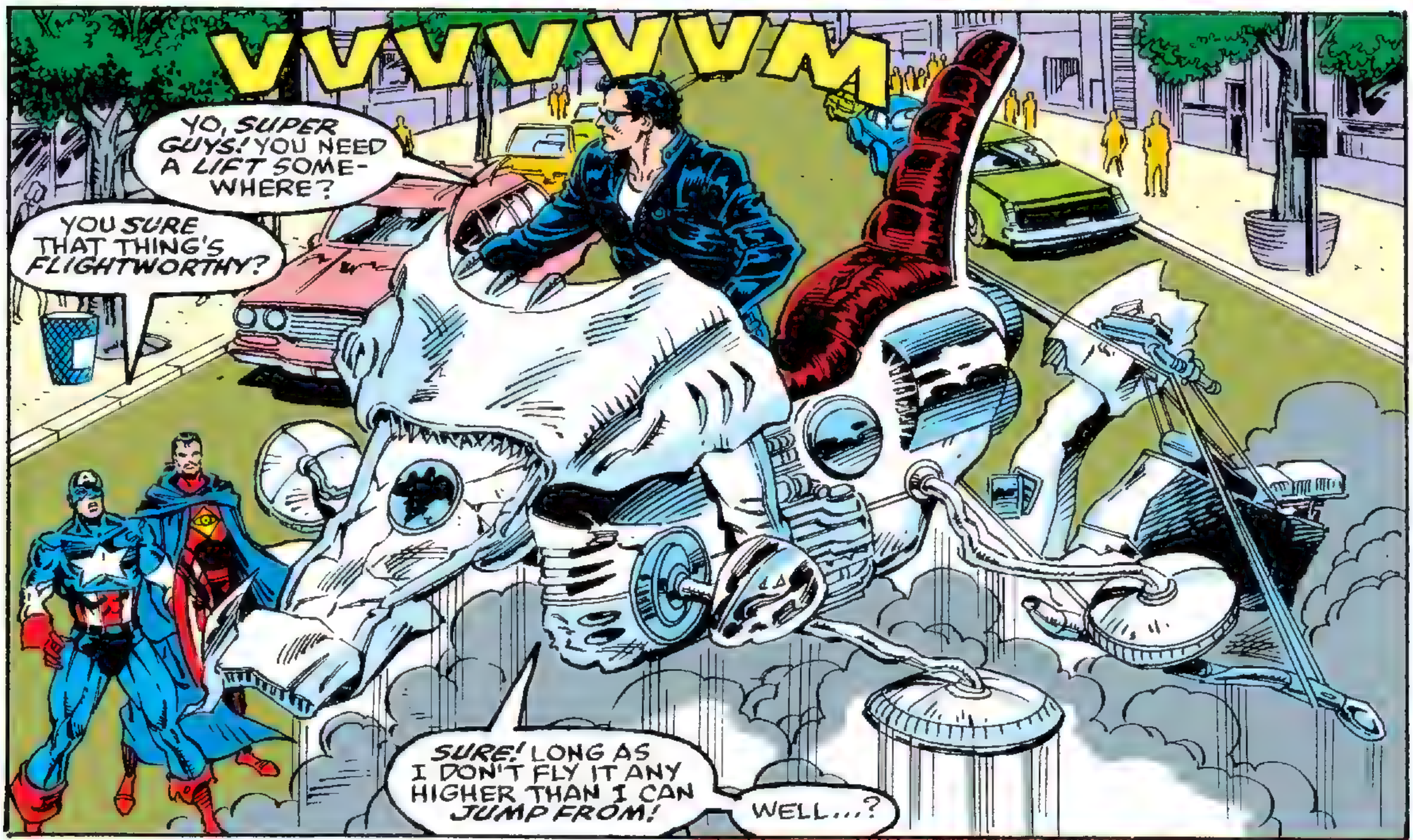

LET ME CUT TO THE BOTTOM LINE: I'M RESIGNING AS YOUR PILOT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
UH... I'LL CERTAINLY RE-SPECT YOUR WISHES, JOHN... BUT I'M AT A LOSS HOW TO RESPOND. IS IT SOMETHING I DID...?
IN A WAY.
WHEN I BECAME AN ASTRONAUT AT THE START OF THE SPACE AGE, YOU SUPER HERO TYPES WERE PRACTICALLY UNHEARD OF.
GUYS LIKE ME HAD THE RIGHT STUFF--WE WERE THE BRAVEST, BRIGHTEST, AND THE BEST HUMANITY HAD GOING FOR IT. THEN YOU GUYS BEGAN POPPING UP ALL OVER, AND SUDDENLY ASTRONAUTS WERE YESTERDAY'S NEWS.


I GUESS WHEN I APPLIED TO BE YOUR PILOT, I HOPED TO SEE UP CLOSE WHAT MADE YOU PEOPLE TICK... SEE IF I COULD GET SOME OF THE NEW RIGHT STUFF TO RUB OFF ON ME.
FOR A WHILE, IT FELT LIKE IT WAS WORKING. THEN LAST SUMMER AFTER I WAS MIND-CONTROLLED BY MODAM,* AND YOU SIDELINED ME...
...I LOST MY CONFIDENCE, MY EDGE, MY WILL TO COMPETE.
*CAP #387. --M.R.

WHEN DREDMUND CONTACTED ME AND SENT ME AFTER THE MOONGEM, I JUMPED AT THE CHANCE, SEEING IT AS MY LAST DITCH AT-TEMPT TO BECOME A HERO LIKE I ONCE WAS.
INSTEAD I GOT IN WAY OVER MY HEAD, AND NEEDED YOU SUPER HERO TYPES TO BAIL ME OUT YET AGAIN.
WILSON'S
BEING NEAR GUYS LIKE YOU, CAP, HAS JUST GOTTEN TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE. I NEED TO DO SOMETHING ELSE WITH MY LIFE.

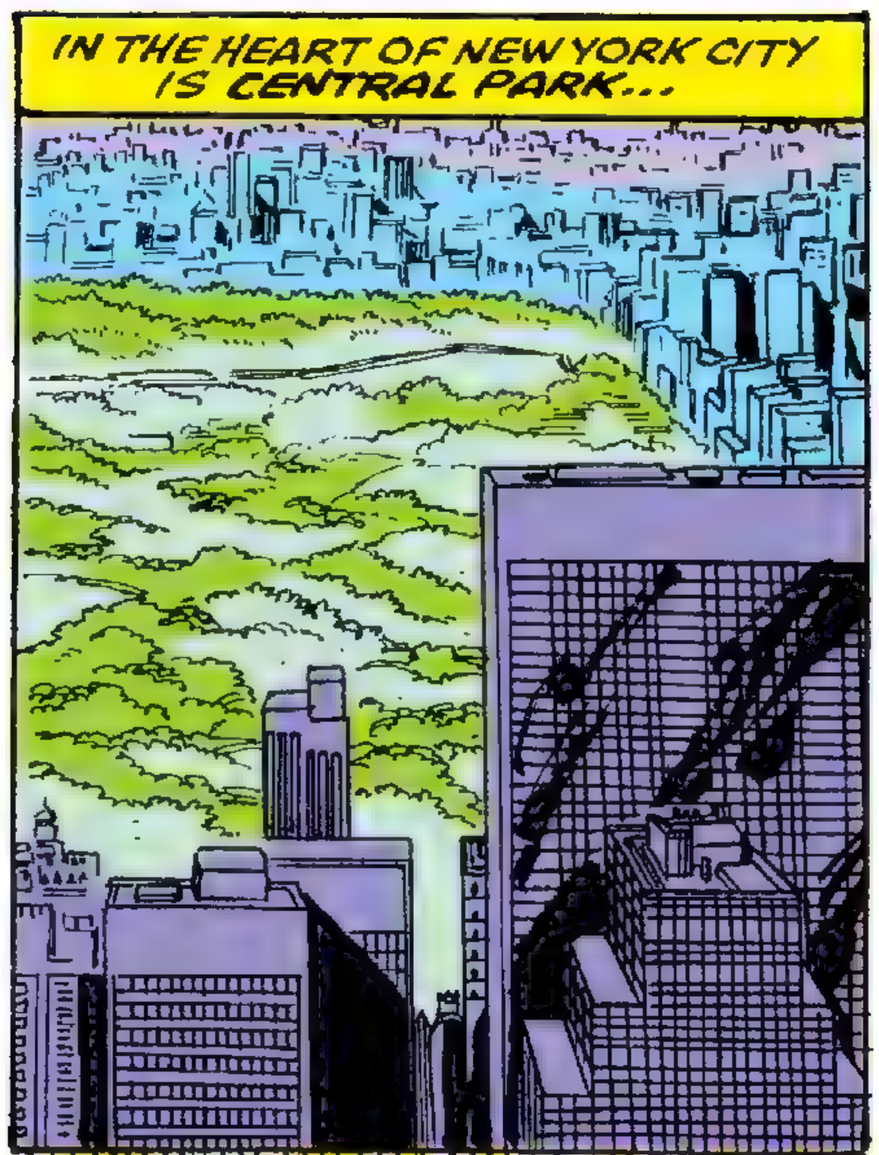
OKAY, JOHN. BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M GOING TO MISS YOU. AS FAR AS I'M CON-CERNED, YOU DO HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF.
IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, THERE'LL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE AVENGERS.
THANKS.

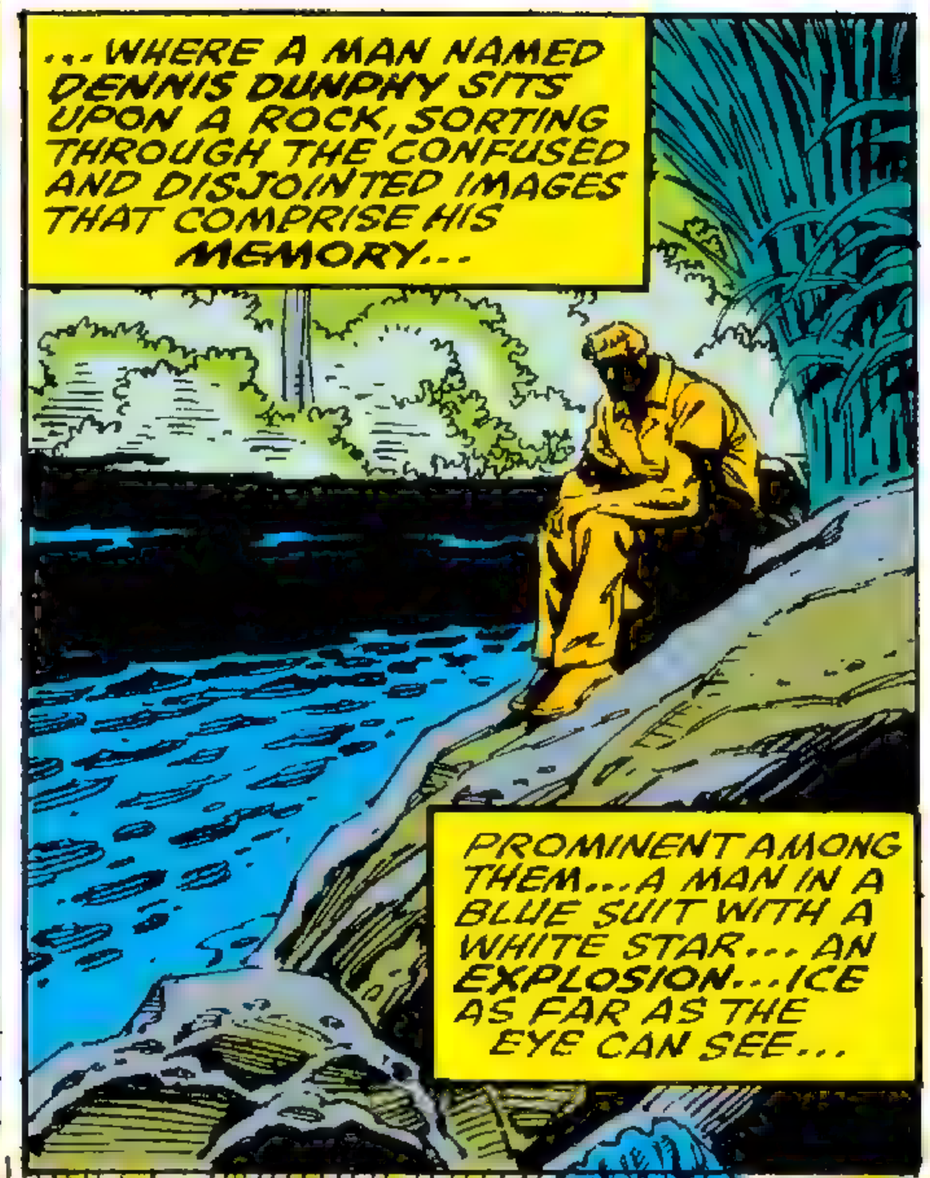

LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY FOUND MY PILOT... JUST TO LOSE HIM.
SAY, WHERE'D MOONHUNTER GO? I'VE YET TO LEARN HOW HE GOT ROPED INTO ALL THIS.
I'M NOT SURE.

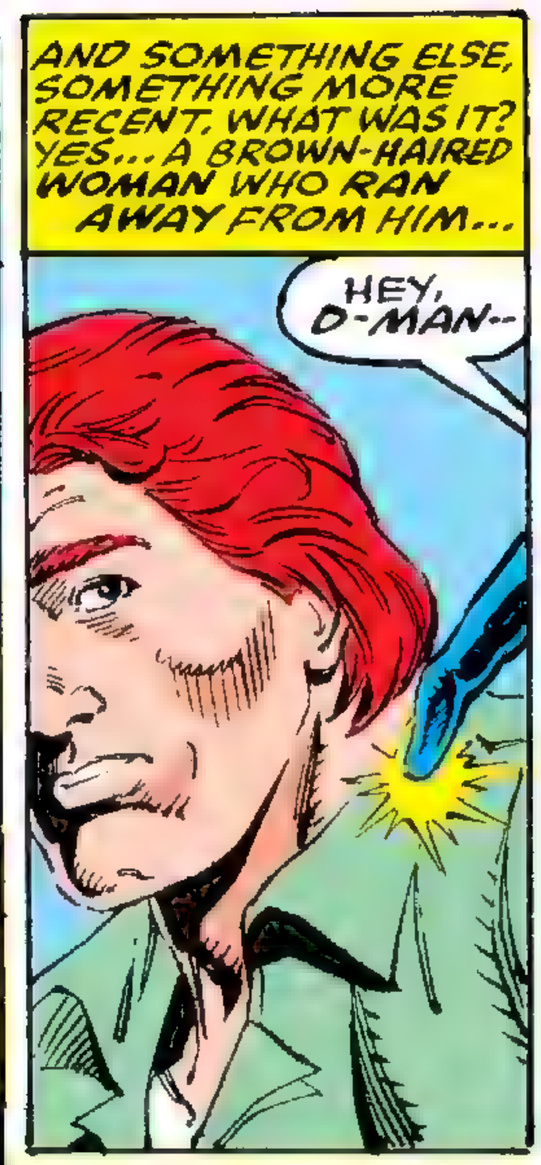

VVVVVVM
YO, SUPER GUYS! YOU NEED A LIFT SOME-WHERE?
YOU SURE THAT THING'S FLIGHTWORTHY?
SURE! LONG AS I DON'T FLY IT ANY HIGHER THAN I CAN JUMP FROM!
WELL...?

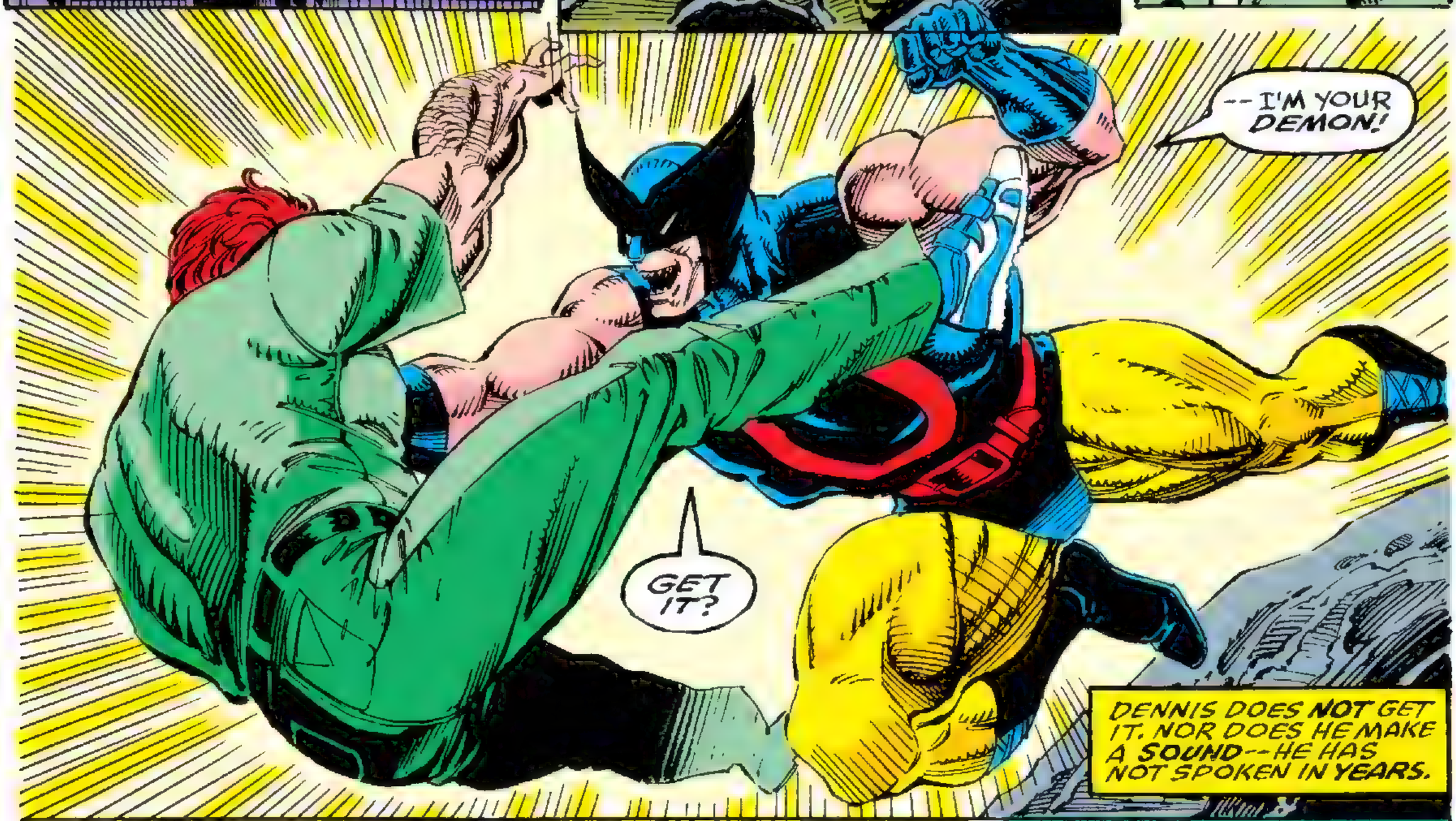
YOUR MACHINE UP TO TOWING MY MACHINE?
WE CAN GIVE IT A TRY.

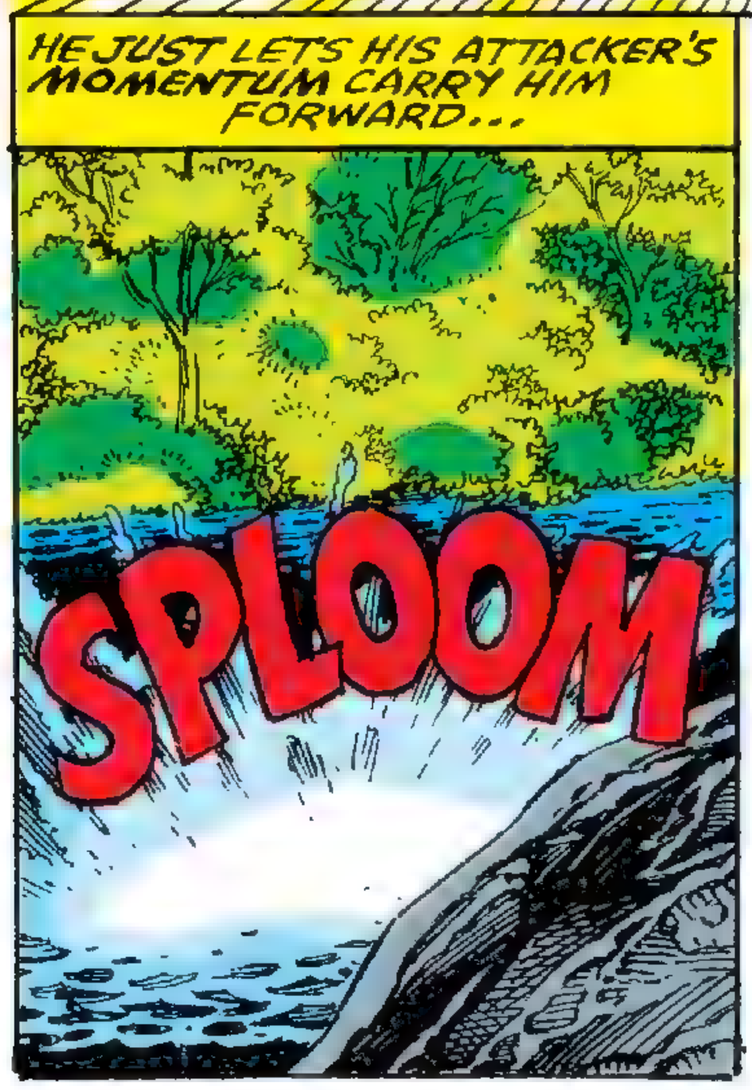
AND...
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDY WITH FLYING VEHICLES, AREN'T YOU, MR. MOON-HUNTER?
YEP. IF IT FLIES, I CAN FLY IT.
OH, AND CALL ME "ZACK," WILLYA?

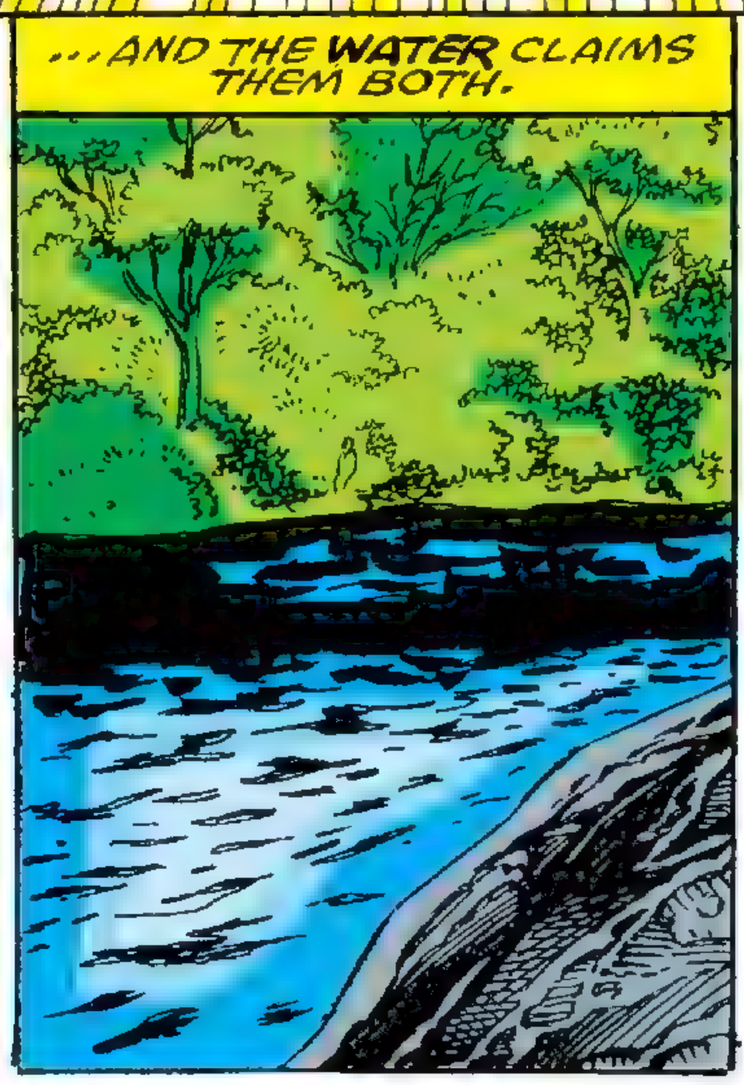

IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY IS CENTRAL PARK...

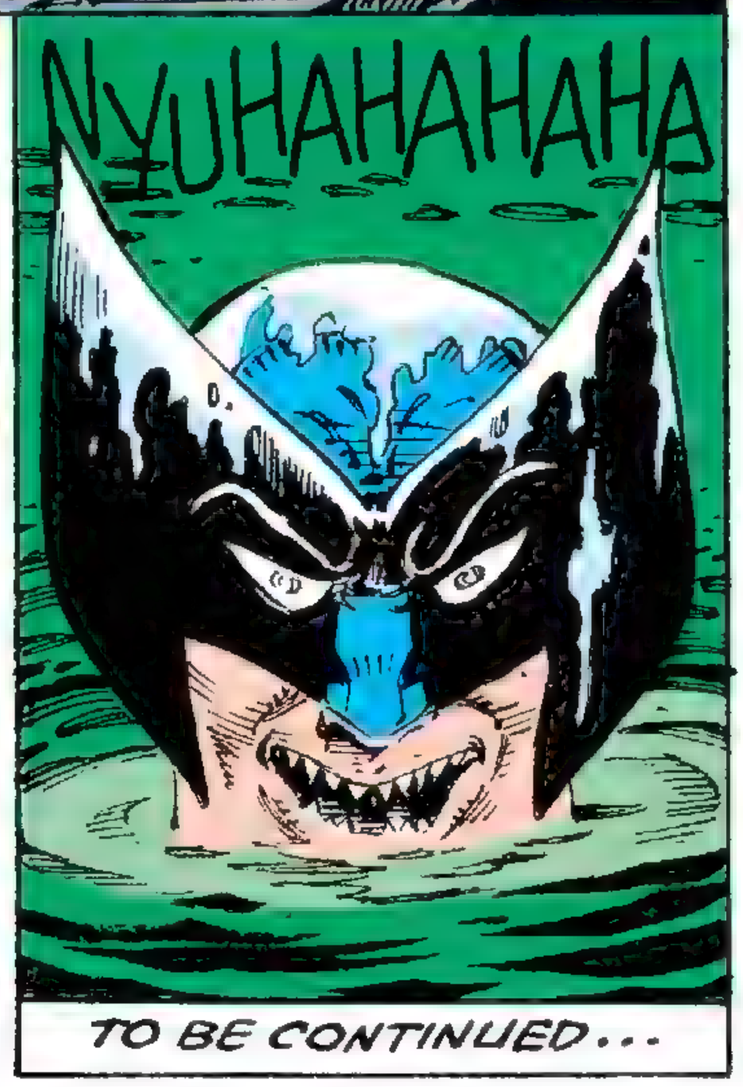

...WHERE A MAN NAMED DENNIS DUNPHY SITS UPON A ROCK, SORTING THROUGH THE CONFUSED AND DISJOINTED IMAGES THAT COMPRISE HIS MEMORY...
PROMINENT AMONG THEM...A MAN IN A BLUE SUIT WITH A WHITE STAR... AN EXPLOSION...ICE AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...


AND SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING MORE RECENT. WHAT WAS IT? YES... A BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WHO RAN AWAY FROM HIM...
HEY, D-MAN--


--I'M YOUR DEMON!
GET IT?
DENNIS DOES NOT GET IT. NOR DOES HE MAKE A SOUND--HE HAS NOT SPOKEN IN YEARS.


HE JUST LETS HIS ATTACKER'S MOMENTUM CARRY HIM FORWARD...
SPLOOM


...AND THE WATER CLAIMS THEM BOTH.


NYUHAHAHAHA
TO BE CONTINUED...

Wonder Man's previous battle with the destructive Angkor ended in defeat. But as he recovered in his friends' care, his ionic powers suddenly surged out of control in this excerpt from ***Wonder Man #12***.

BOMBARDED BY ION RAYS, SIMON WILLIAMS GAINED SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY. NOW, HE WORKS AS A HOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND STUNTMAN, WHILE FIGHTING CRIME AS THE TINSELTOWN AVENGER! STAN LEE PRESENTS... **WONDER MAN!**

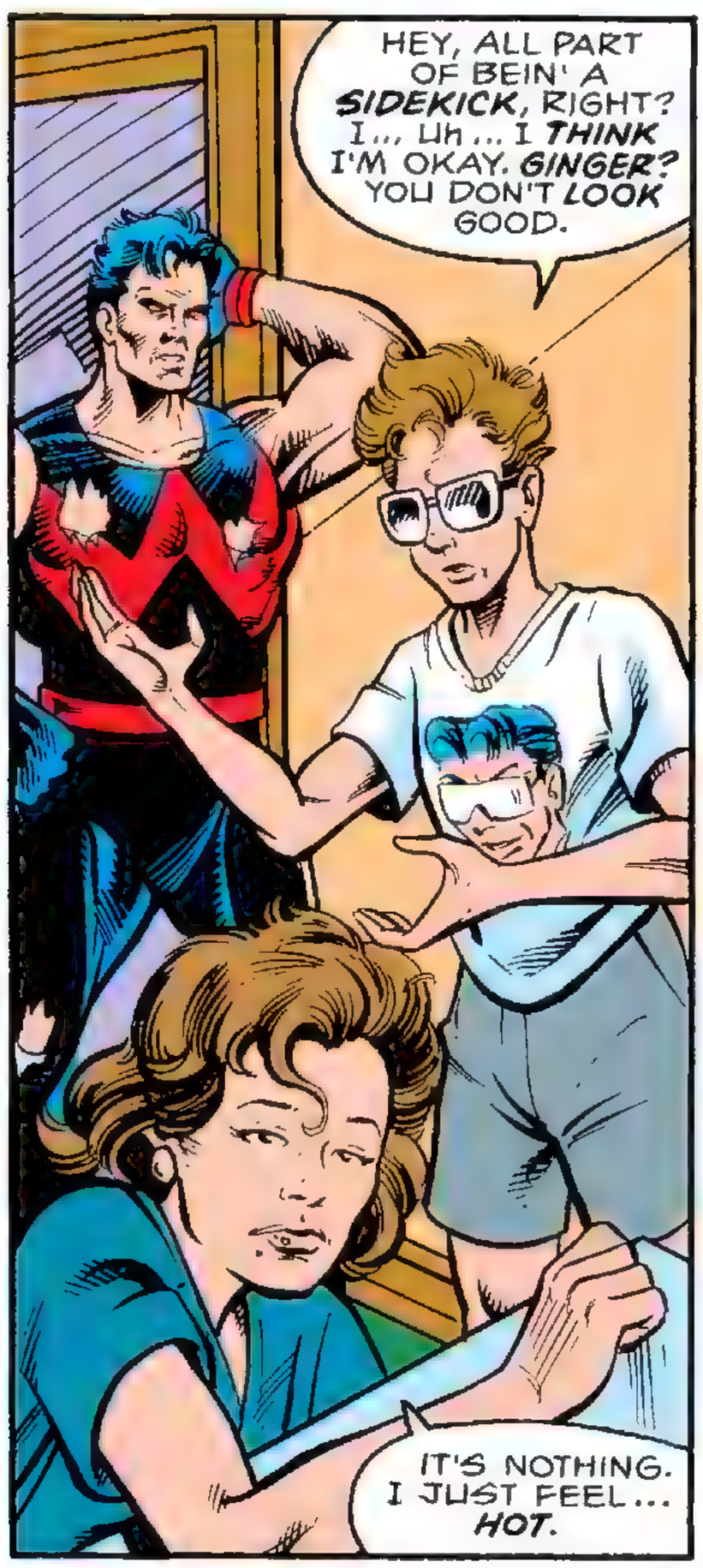
GERARD JONES
HOST WRITER

GORDON PURCELL • ANDREW PEPOY
GUEST PENCILER • GUEST INKER

JOE ROSAS • STARKINGS • FABIAN NICIEZA • TOM DeFALCO
HOST COLORIST • INTERLOPIN' LETTERER • INVITES • CHEF

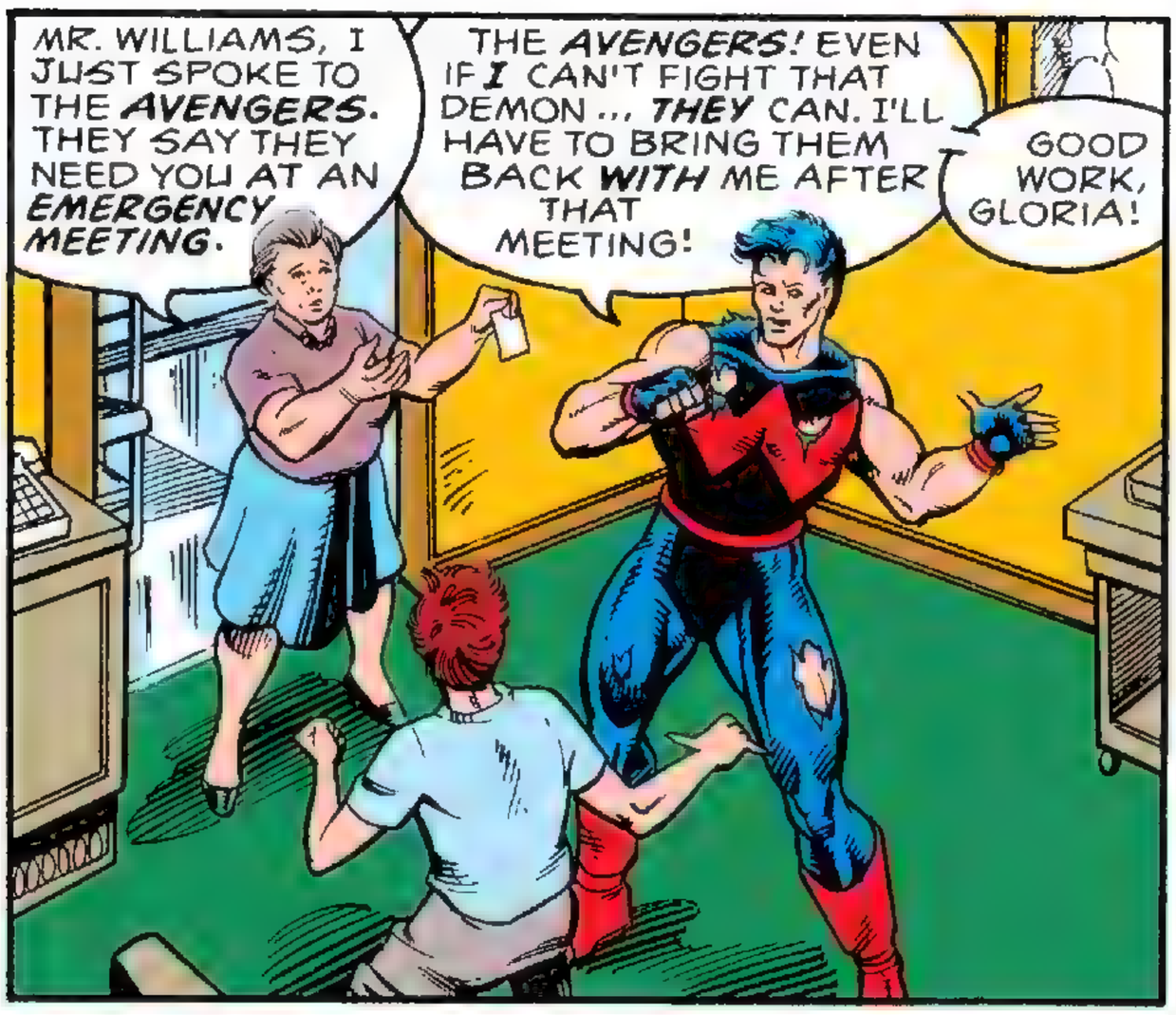
OH... GEEZ...
... WHAT... HAPPENED..?
SIMON -- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

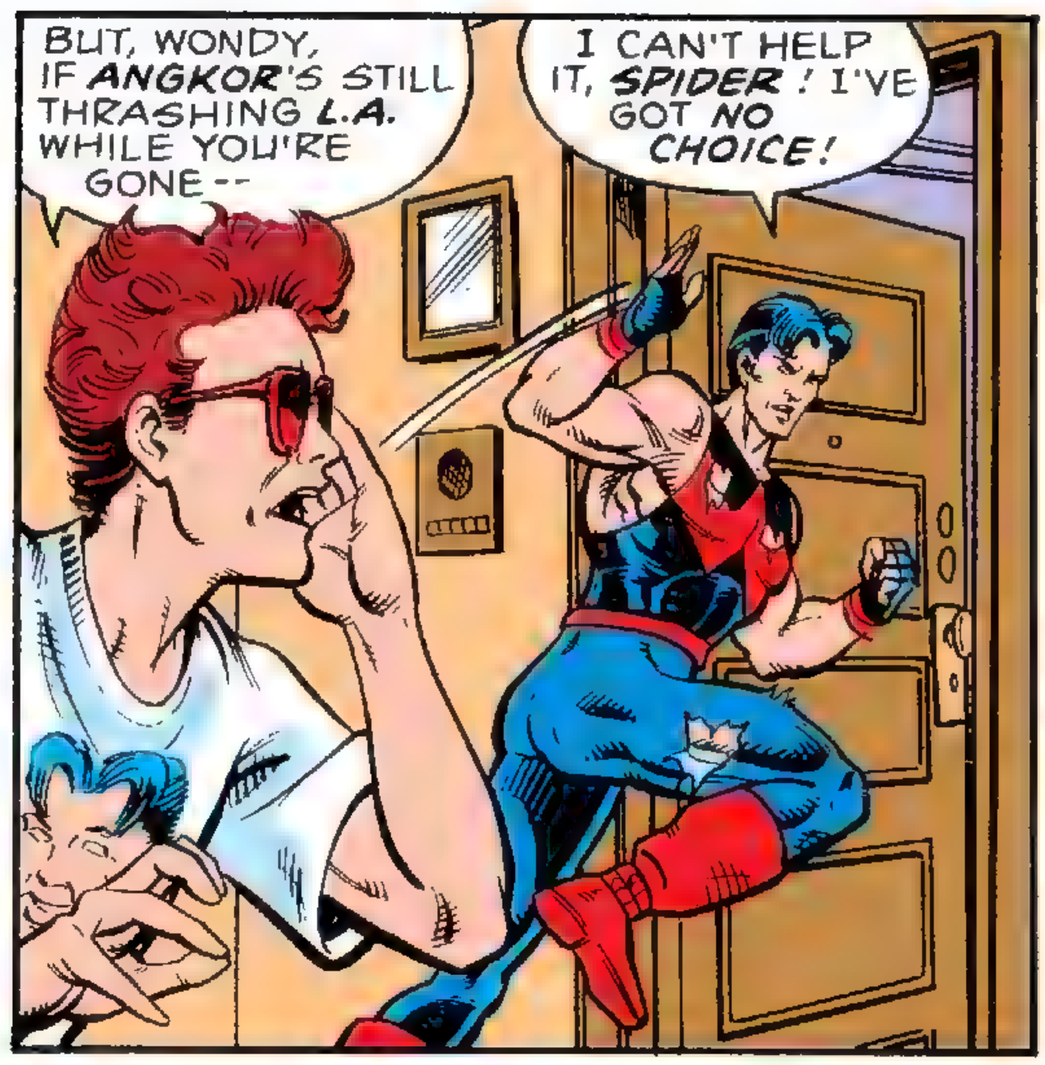
AM I ALL RIGHT?! AUNDRAY... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE ALL OF YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF I'D KNOWN MY POWERS WERE GOING TO EXPLODE, I'D NEVER HAVE LET YOU GET NEAR ME!

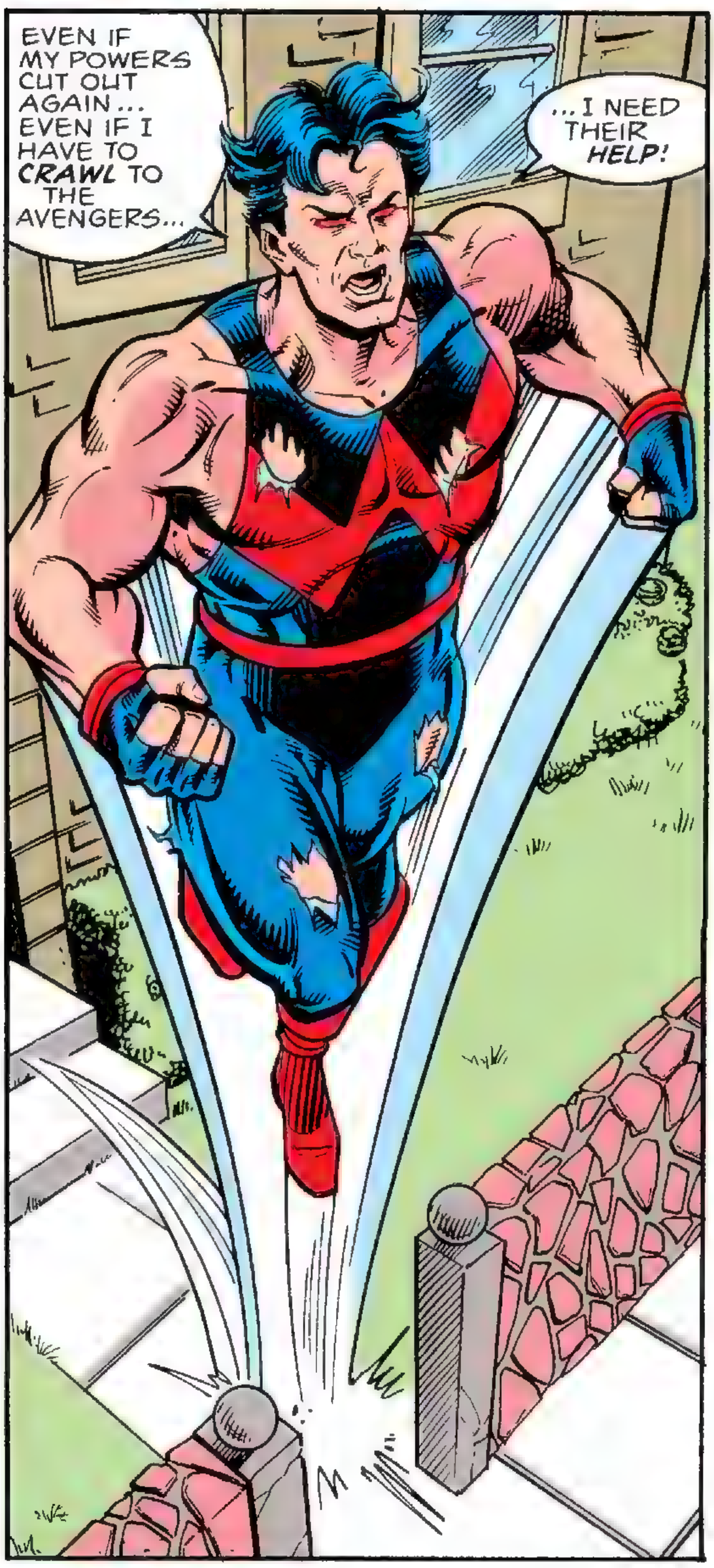

HEY, ALL PART OF BEIN' A SIDEKICK, RIGHT? I... UH... I THINK I'M OKAY. GINGER? YOU DON'T LOOK GOOD.
IT'S NOTHING. I JUST FEEL... HOT.

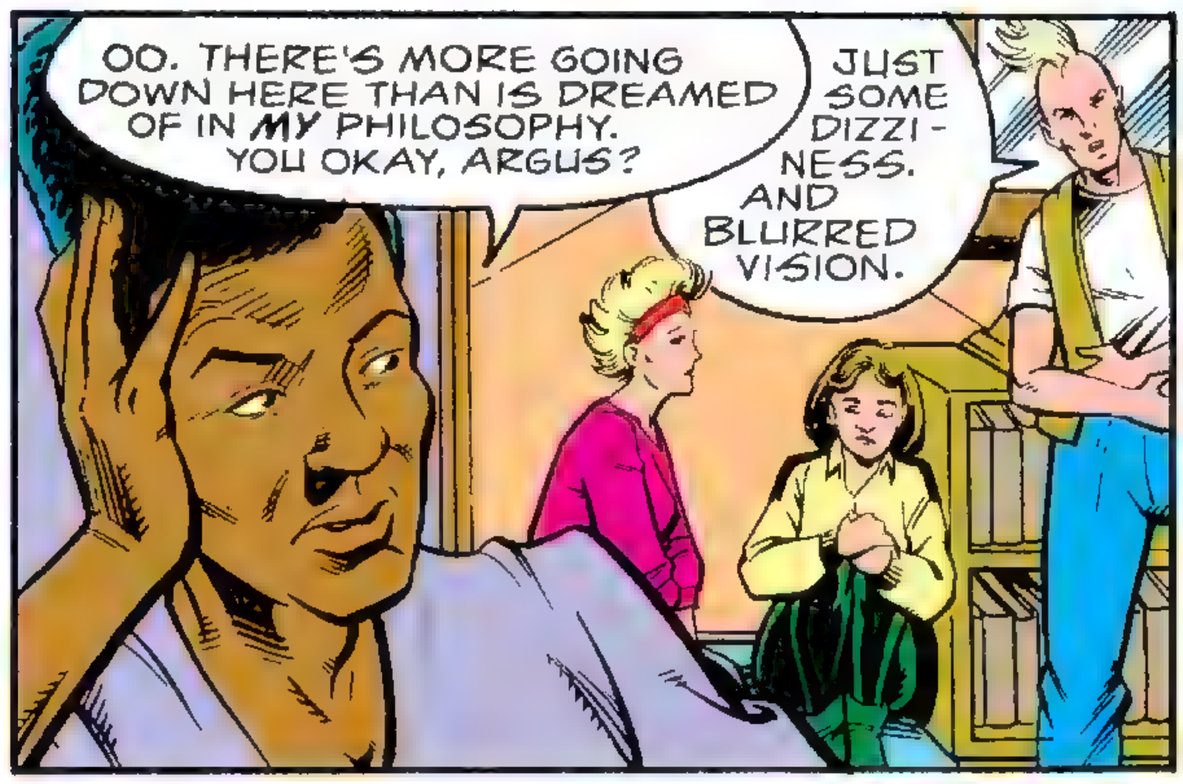
SIMON, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD --
WHAT, ALEX? YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO BACK INTO ACTION --
-- WITH MY POWERS FLUCTUATING UP AND DOWN, WITH MY RAGE MAKING ME EXPLODE IN AN IONIC BLAST? WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT!

BUT SOME-BODY HAS TO STOP ANGKOR!

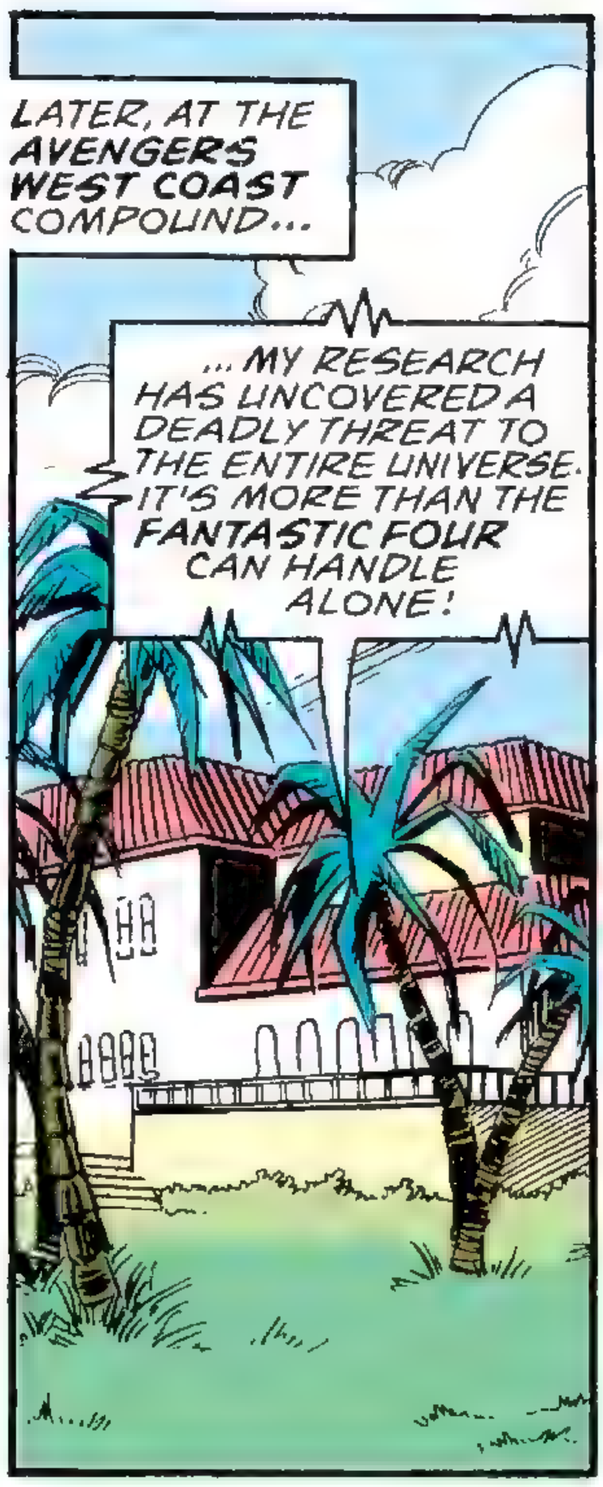

MR. WILLIAMS, I JUST SPOKE TO THE AVENGERS. THEY SAY THEY NEED YOU AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING.
THE AVENGERS! EVEN IF I CAN'T FIGHT THAT DEMON ... THEY CAN. I'LL HAVE TO BRING THEM BACK WITH ME AFTER THAT MEETING!
GOOD WORK, GLORIA!

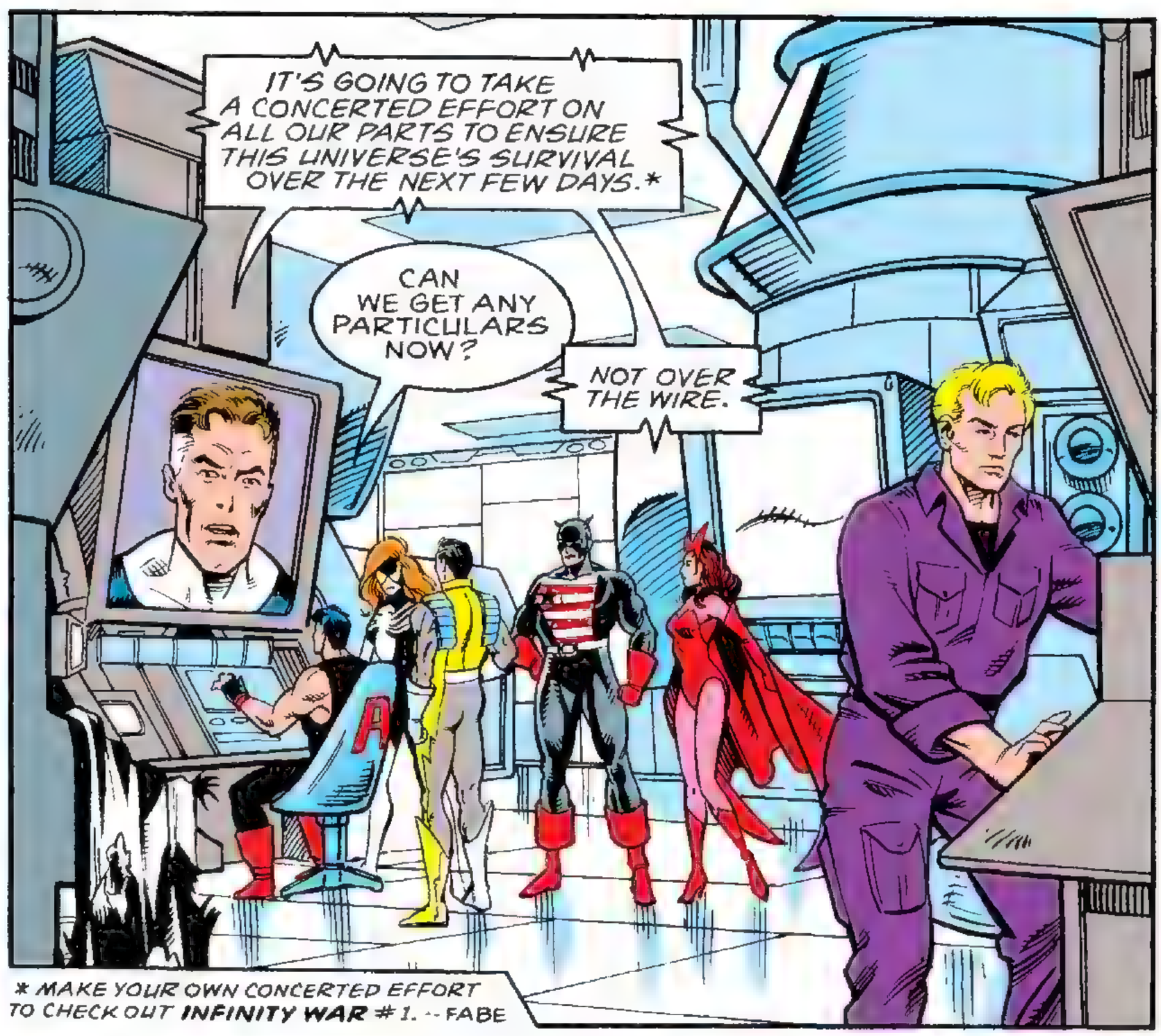

BUT, WONDY, IF ANGKOR'S STILL THRASHING L.A. WHILE YOU'RE GONE --
I CAN'T HELP IT, SPIDER! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

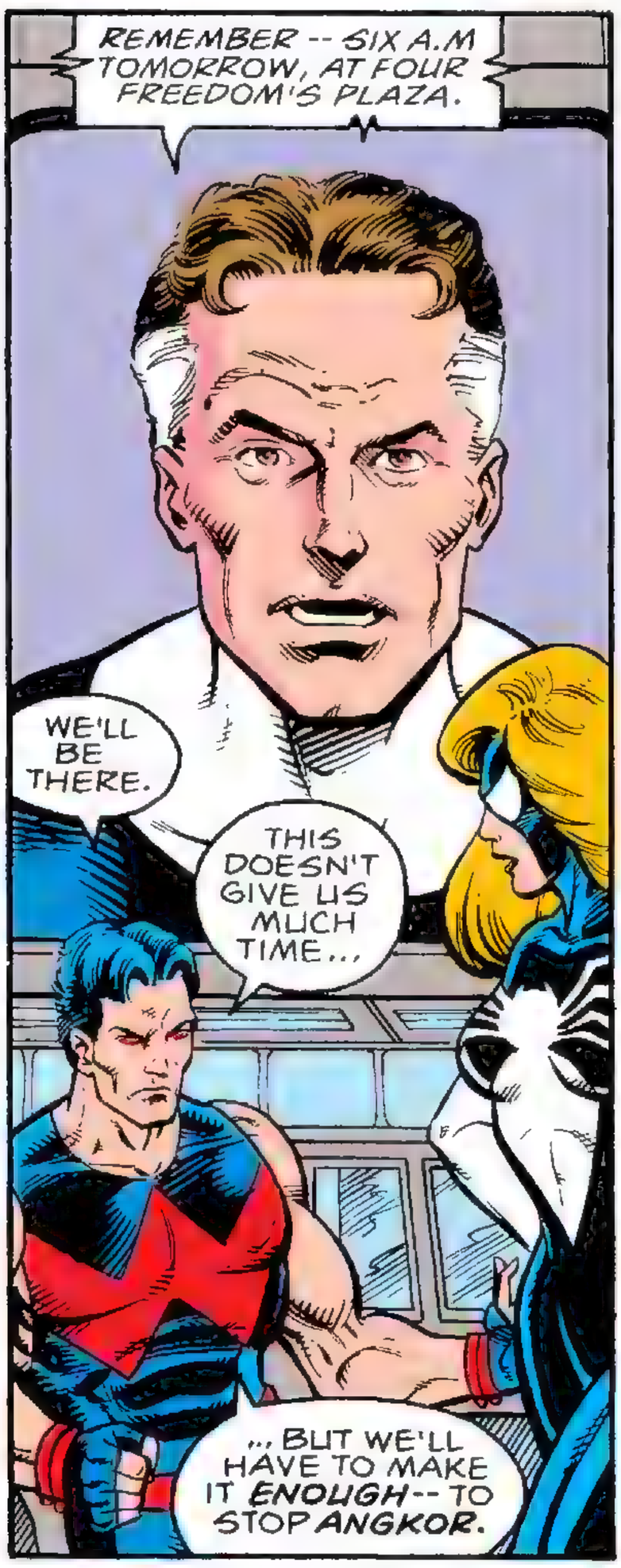

EVEN IF MY POWERS CUT OUT AGAIN... EVEN IF I HAVE TO CRAWL TO THE AVENGERS...
...I NEED THEIR HELP!


OO. THERE'S MORE GOING DOWN HERE THAN IS DREAMED OF IN MY PHILOSOPHY. YOU OKAY, ARGUS?
JUST SOME DIZZI-NESS. AND BLURRED VISION.

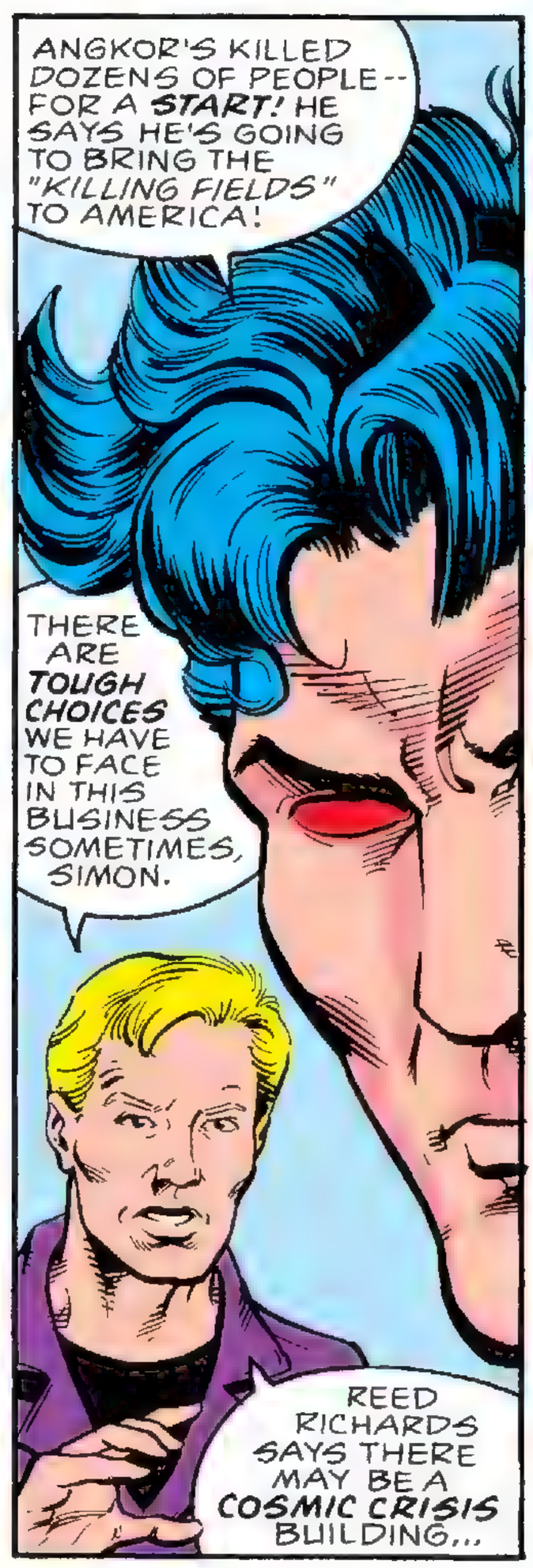
JAMIE? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
Huh?
Oh...
YEAH. SURE, MOM.
FOR A SECOND THERE, I JUST FELT KIND OF ALL... TINGLY.


LATER, AT THE AVENGERS WEST COAST COMPOUND...
... MY RESEARCH HAS UNCOVERED A DEADLY THREAT TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE. IT'S MORE THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN HANDLE ALONE!

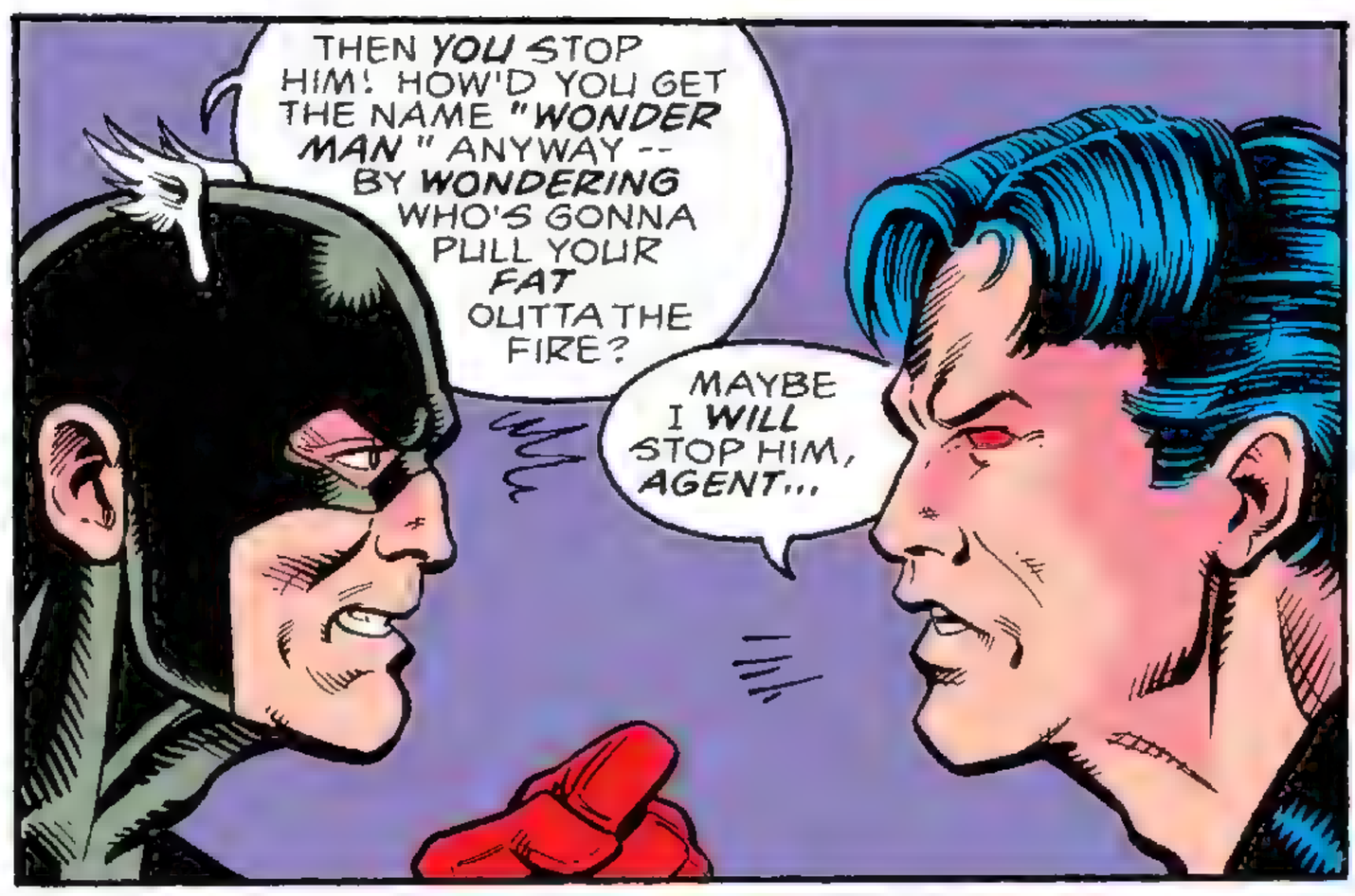

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT ON ALL OUR PARTS TO ENSURE THIS UNIVERSE'S SURVIVAL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.*
CAN WE GET ANY PARTICULARS NOW?
NOT OVER THE WIRE.
* MAKE YOUR OWN CONCERTED EFFORT TO CHECK OUT INFINITY WAR #1. -- FABE

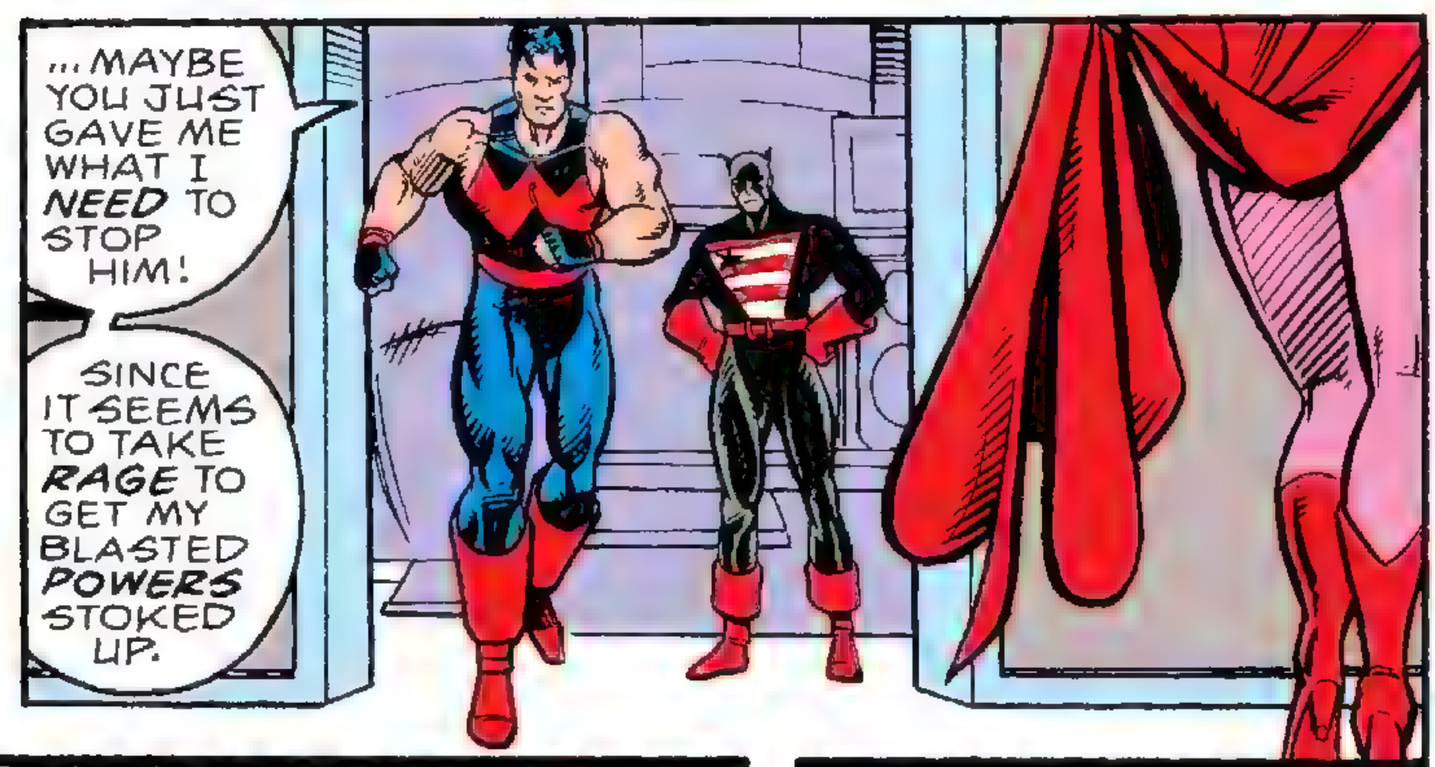

REMEMBER -- SIX A.M TOMORROW, AT FOUR FREEDOM'S PLAZA.
WE'LL BE THERE.
THIS DOESN'T GIVE US MUCH TIME...
... BUT WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT ENOUGH -- TO STOP ANGKOR.

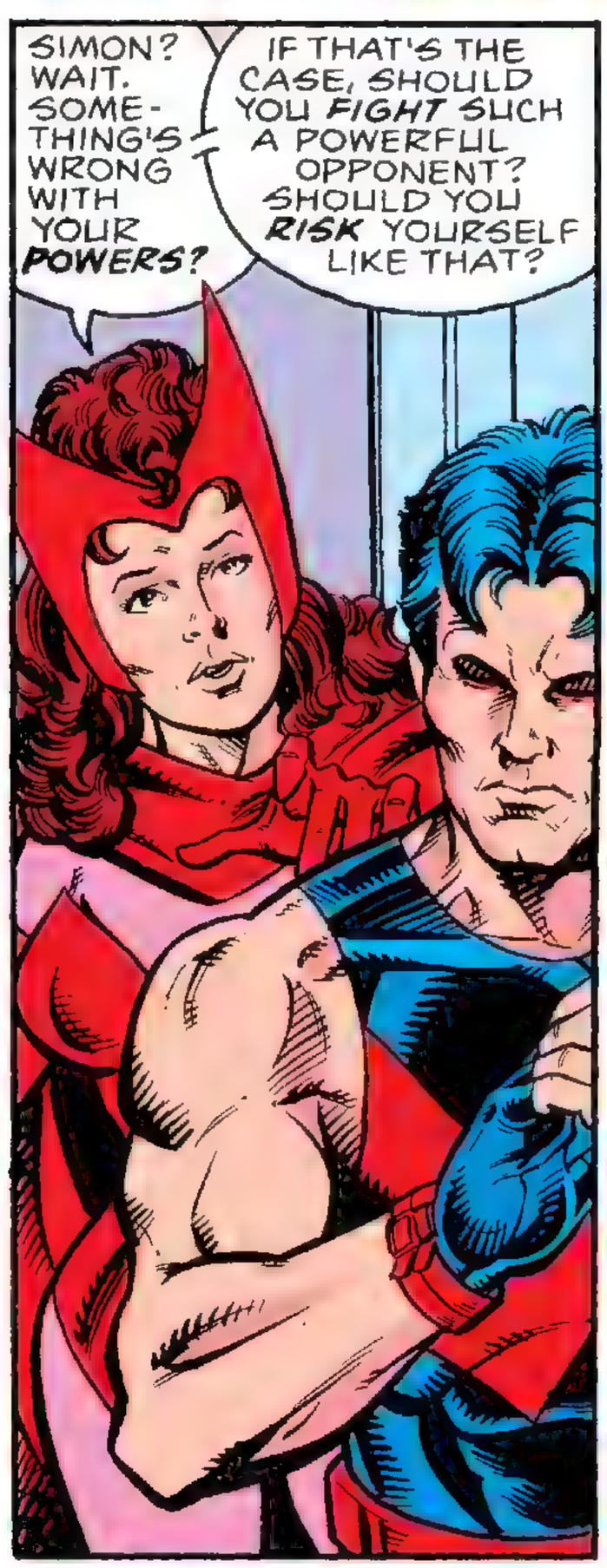
BUT WE CAN'T! HAWKEYE AND IRON MAN ARE STILL MISSING -- WE NEED TO FIND THEM AND MAKE SURE THEY'LL BE AT THIS --
HOLD IT! L.A. IS BEING RAVAGED BY A SUPERNATURAL MONSTER AND YOU WON'T --
SIMON, TO BE IN NEW YORK AT SIX O'CLOCK EASTERN TIME...
... THAT GIVES US ONLY A FEW HOURS TO WRAP UP OUR AVENGERS BUSINESS!


ANGKOR'S KILLED DOZENS OF PEOPLE -- FOR A START! HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO BRING THE "KILLING FIELDS" TO AMERICA!
THERE ARE TOUGH CHOICES WE HAVE TO FACE IN THIS BUSINESS SOMETIMES, SIMON.
REED RICHARDS SAYS THERE MAY BE A COSMIC CRISIS BUILDING...

AND REED'S A GENIUS, IS THAT IT?
REED'S AGENDA CAN'T POSSIBLY BE WRONG?!
IF IT MATTERS, PARTNER, I BEEN RIDING THE RADIO AND THEY'RE SAYING ANGKOR'S DISAPPEARED FOR THE LAST HOUR.
BUT HE'S OUT THERE. HE'LL BE BACK.


THEN YOU STOP HIM! HOW'D YOU GET THE NAME "WONDER MAN" ANYWAY -- BY WONDERING WHO'S GONNA PULL YOUR FAT OUTTA THE FIRE?
MAYBE I WILL STOP HIM, AGENT...


...MAYBE YOU JUST GAVE ME WHAT I NEED TO STOP HIM!
SINCE IT SEEMS TO TAKE RAGE TO GET MY BLASTED POWERS STOKED UP.


SIMON? WAIT. SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOUR POWERS?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, SHOULD YOU FIGHT SUCH A POWERFUL OPPONENT? SHOULD YOU RISK YOURSELF LIKE THAT?

HE'S KILLING PEOPLE, WANDA. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

TOOOM
SIMON?

MARVEL COMICS

109 JUNE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WORLD TOUR '92

ALPHA FLIGHT

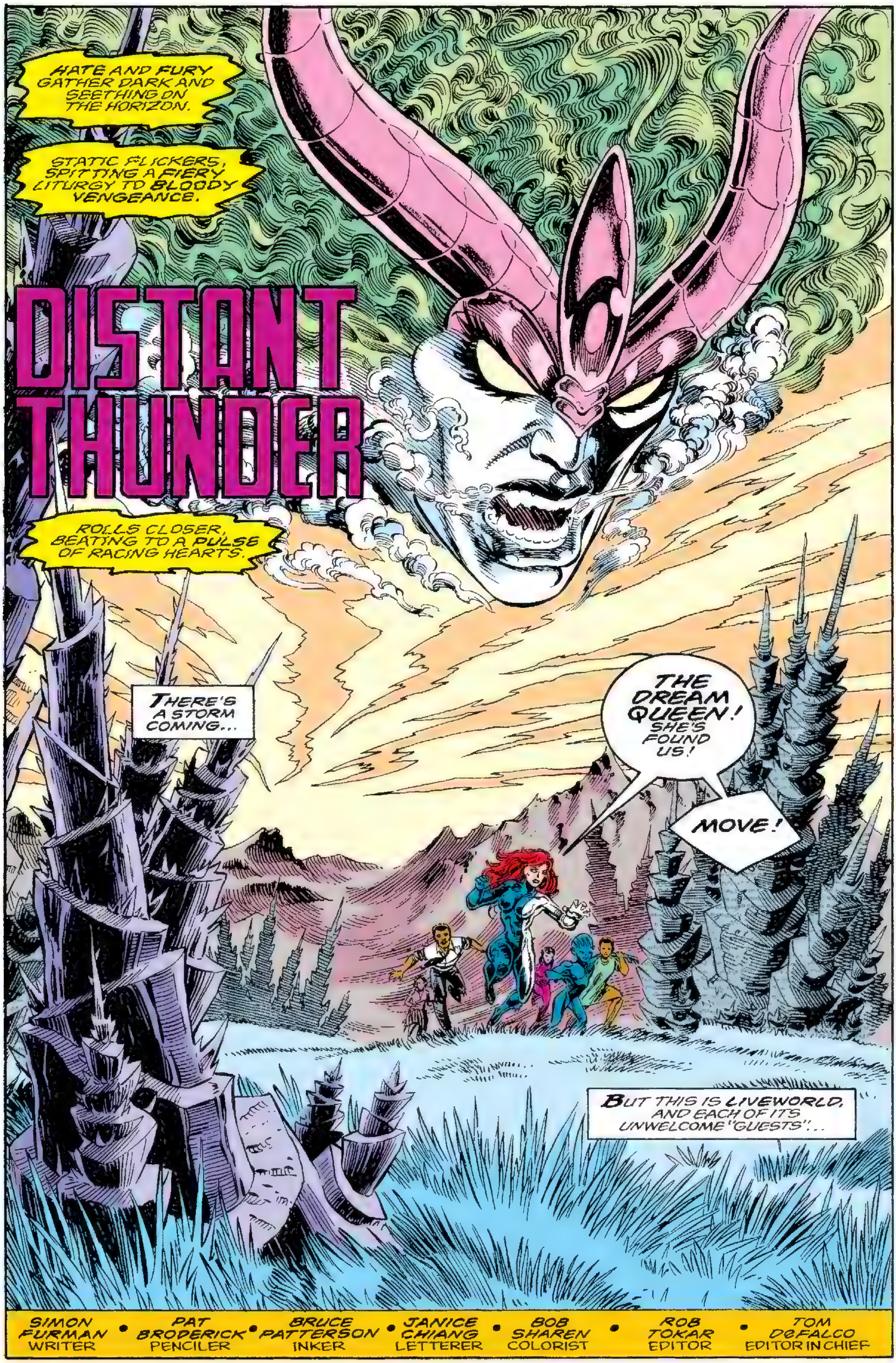
НАПАААЙТЕ!

LAST STOP MOSCOW

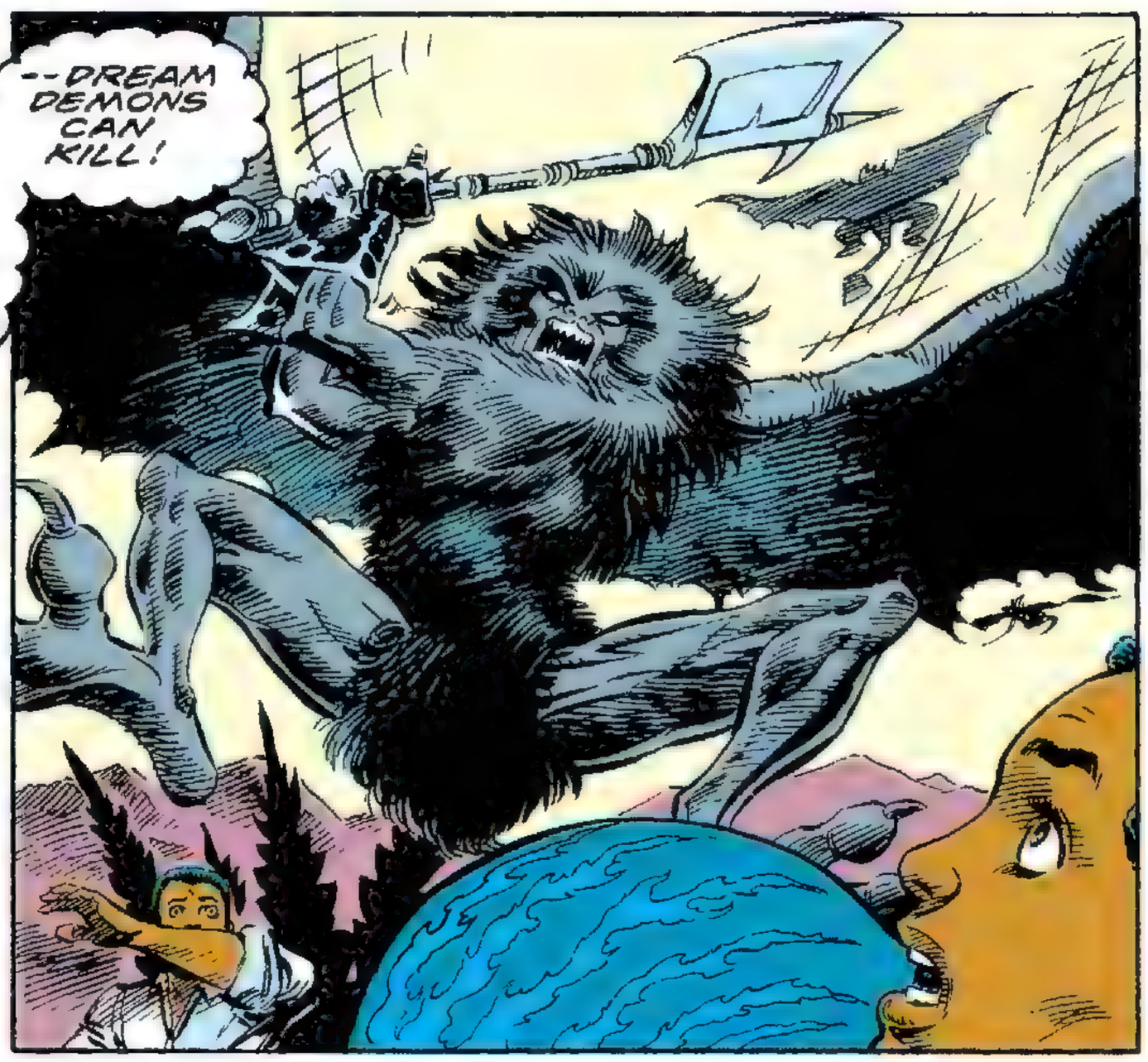
WORLD TOUR '92

MORGAN 12-91

CHAOS IN THE COMMONWEALTH!


HATE AND FURY GATHER DARK AND SEETHING ON THE HORIZON.
STATIC FLICKERS, SPITTING A FIERY LITURGY TO BLOODY VENGEANCE.
DISTANT THUNDER
ROLLS CLOSER, BEATING TO A PULSE OF RACING HEARTS.
THERE'S A STORM COMING...
THE DREAM QUEEN! SHE'S FOUND US!
MOVE!
BUT THIS IS LIVEWORLD, AND EACH OF ITS UNWELCOME "GUESTS"...
SIMON FURMAN WRITER • PAT BRODERICK PENCILER • BRUCE PATTERSON INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • BOB SHAREN COLORIST • ROB TOKAR EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

PERSUASION.
LAURA DEAN.
GOBLYN.
WITCHFIRE.
DARBY AND SUSAN DEAN.
...KNOWS ONLY TOO WELL THAT WHAT ITS MALEVOLENT RULER CREATED--SHE CAN AS EASILY DESTROY!
LOOK!
BRING ME THE GOBLYN CREATURE, THAT I MIGHT COMPLETE ITS DISSECTION!
THE OTHERS' HEADS WILL SUFFICE!
DREAM DEMONS!



DEPARTMENT H, TORONTO. ALPHA FLIGHT HEADQUARTERS. AND CLEAR, BALMY SKIES TO THE CONTRARY...

...THERE'S A STORM COMING!

INCOMING CALL. ORIGIN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, NEW YORK. A PROFESSOR REED RICHARDS...

YES-- YES PUT IT THROUGH!

THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT! CUTTING SHORT ALPHA FLIGHT'S EUROPEAN TOUR RUFFLED MORE THAN A FEW DIPLOMATIC COLLARS.

HH! I FOR ONE WOULD LIKE TO PIN A MEDAL ON RICHARDS.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO BORED IN MY LIFE!

TSK FOR SHAME, JEAN-PAUL!

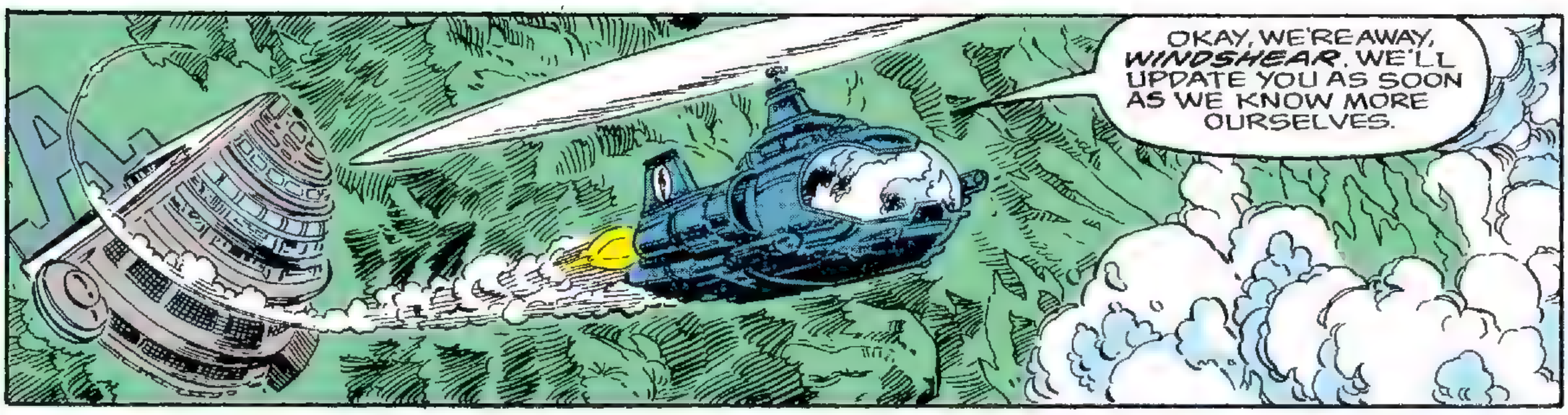
IS THAT WHY YOU INSISTED WE ANSWER THIS SUMMONS, MADISON, EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT CUTTING SHORT OUR HONEYMOON? WERE YOU...BORED?

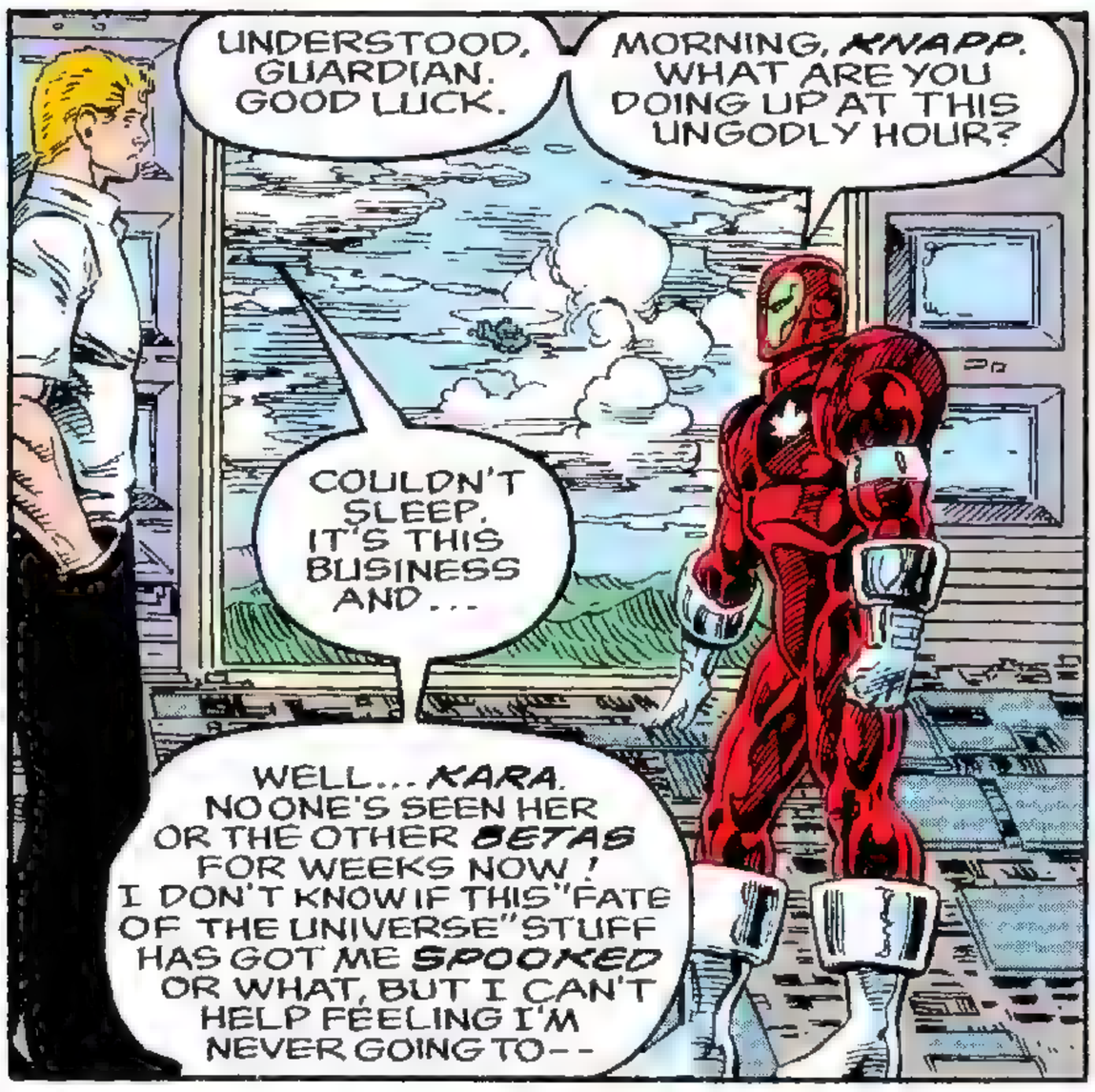
LIL...

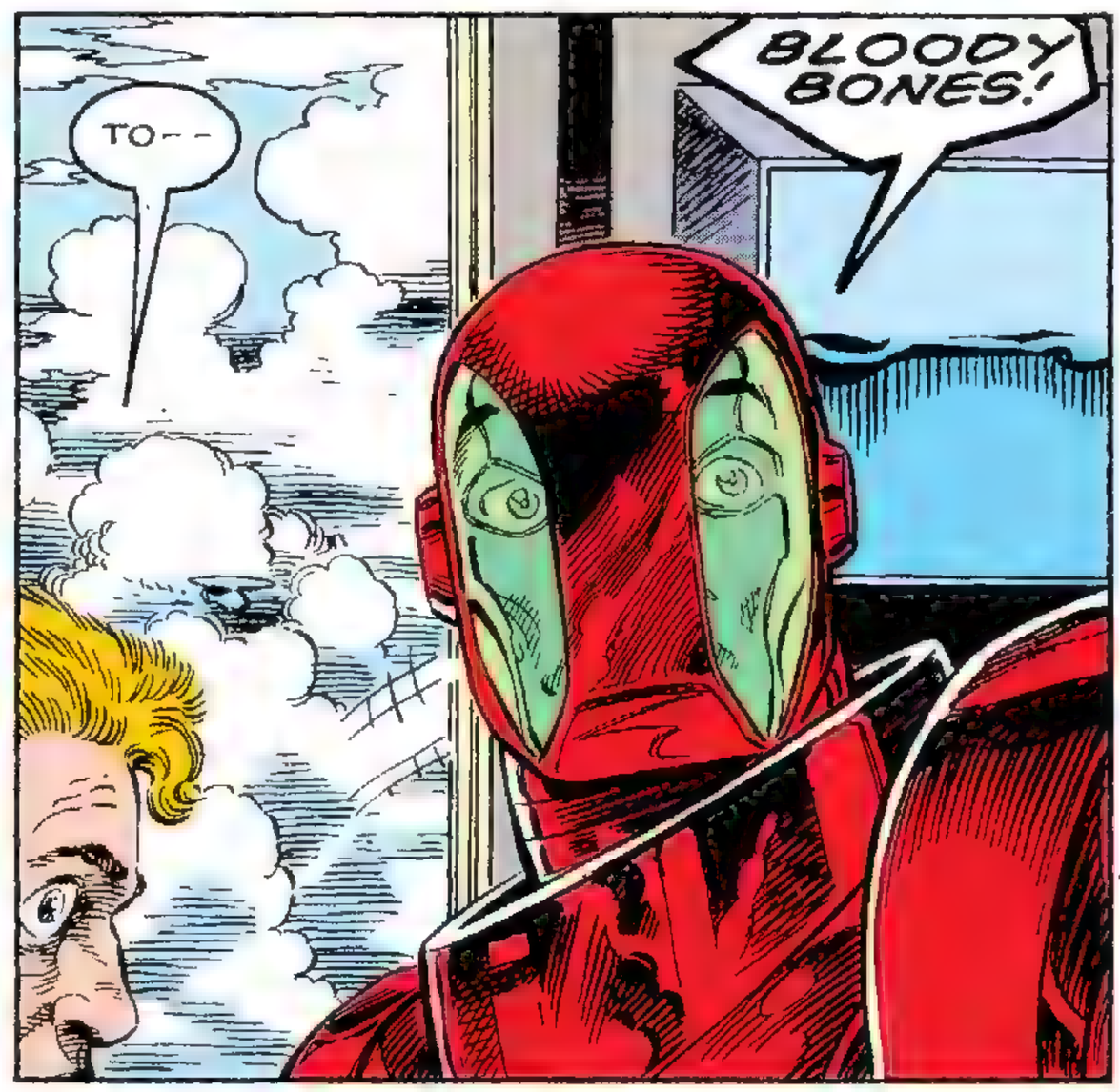
NO, NOT BORED. TWITCHY! OUT OF THAT BOX ARMOR FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS AND YOU'RE STRUNG OUT LIKE A JUNKIE!

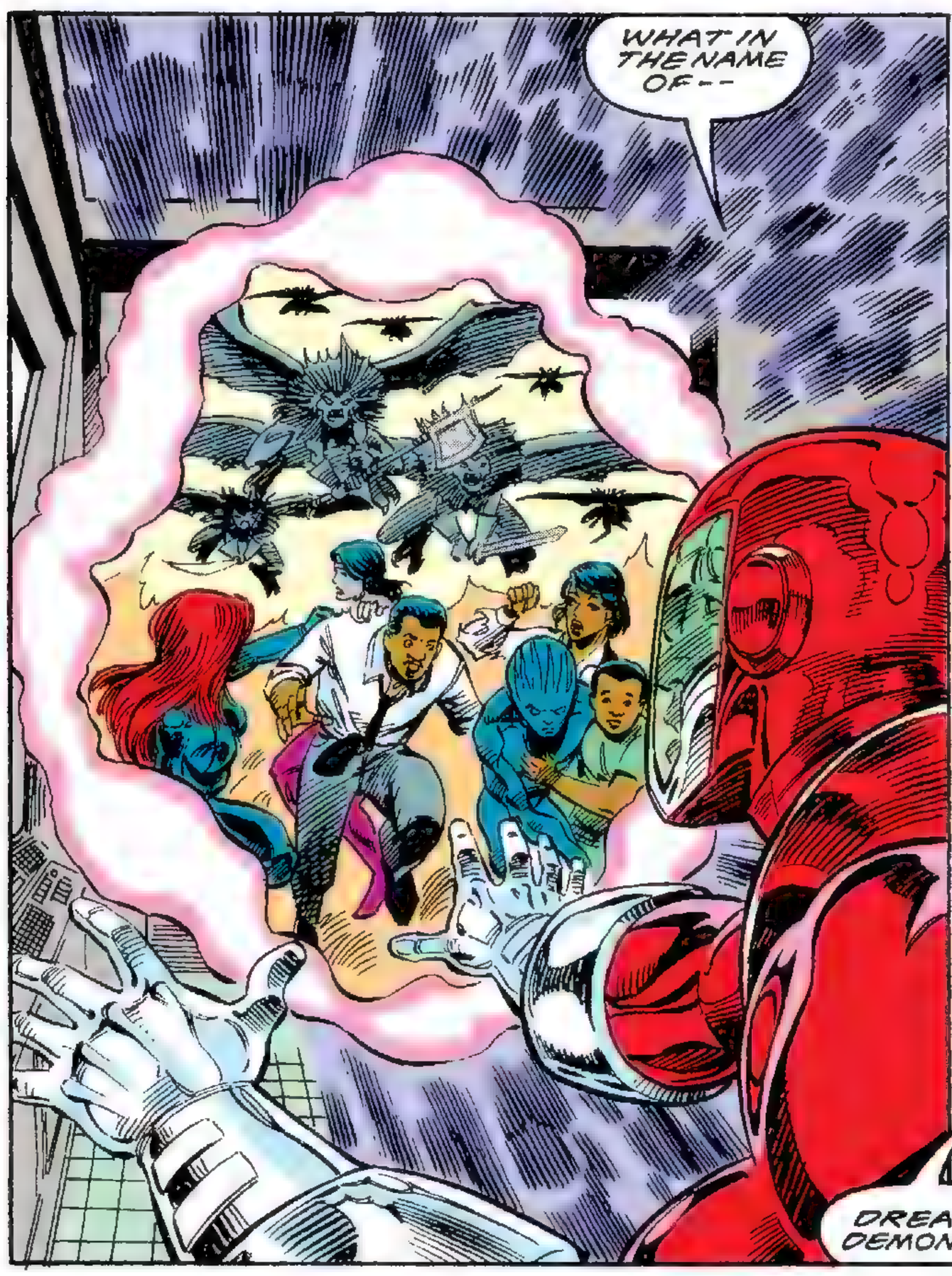
AH, GUARDIAN, THANK YOU FOR ASSEMBLING YOUR TEAM. I HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR 6 AM TOMORROW. IT IS IMPERATIVE ALPHA FLIGHT ATTEND. TRUST ME WHEN I SAY--

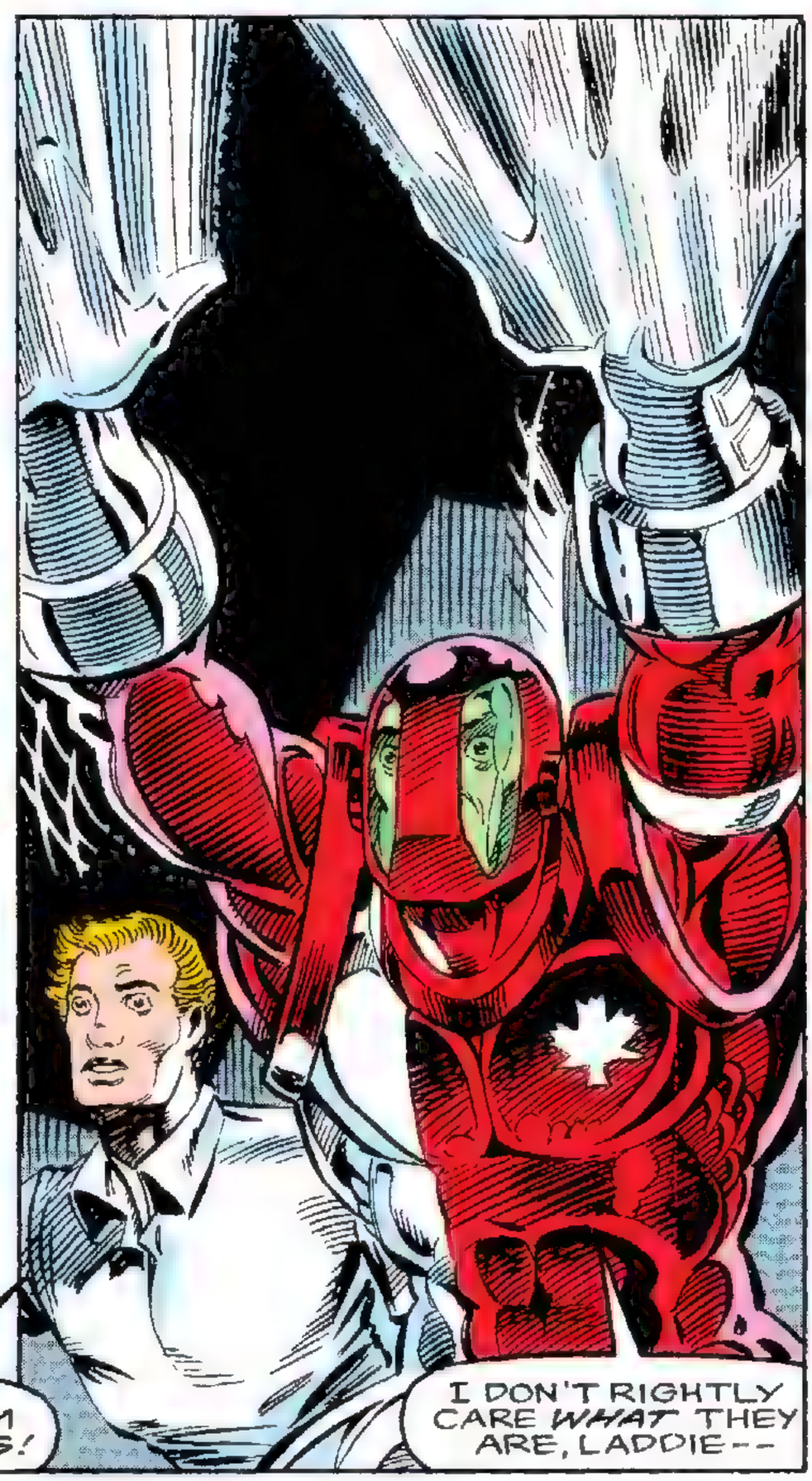
--THE FATE OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.


OKAY, WE'RE AWAY, WINDSHEAR. WE'LL UPDATE YOU AS SOON AS WE KNOW MORE OURSELVES.


UNDERSTOOD, GUARDIAN. GOOD LUCK.
MORNING, KNAPP. WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR?
COULDN'T SLEEP. IT'S THIS BUSINESS AND...
WELL... KARA. NO ONE'S SEEN HER OR THE OTHER BETAS FOR WEEKS NOW! I DON'T KNOW IF THIS "FATE OF THE UNIVERSE" STUFF HAS GOT ME SPOOKED OR WHAT, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING I'M NEVER GOING TO--


TO--
BLOODY BONES!


WHAT IN THE NAME OF--
DREAM DEMONS!


I DON'T RIGHTLY CARE WHAT THEY ARE, LADDIE--

--THEY'RE NOT COMING IN HERE!

SOLID AIR BLAST'S PUSHED THEM BACK THROUGH! LAURA, CLOSE YOUR PORTAL!

NOW!

GONE! YOU... YOU...

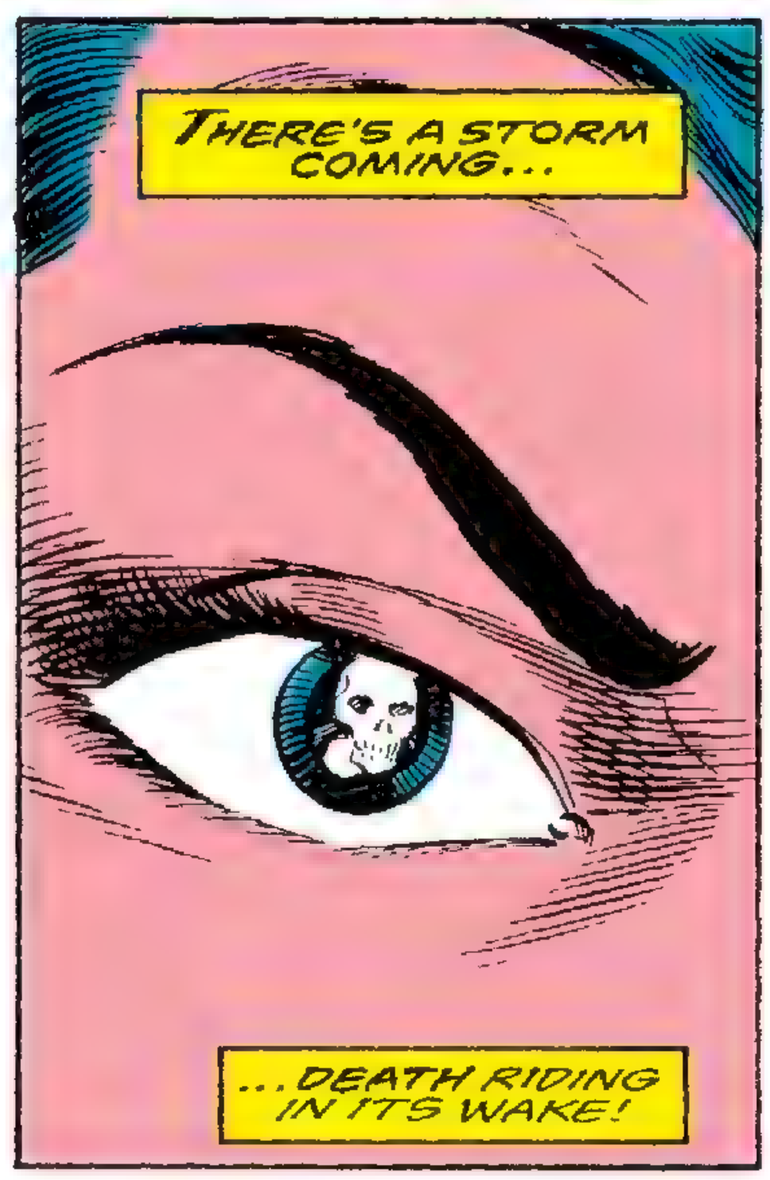
BLASTED AMATEURS! WHAT THE HECK DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING, BRINGING AN ARMY RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF DEPARTMENT H?

YOU KIDS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO--

HANG ON, HUME, THAT'S NOT FAIR! IF YOU'D SEEN WHAT--

HOW DARE YOU, WINDSHEAR! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION OUR ABILITIES, OUR WORTH!

YOU--WRAPPED IN STEEL, HIDDEN BEHIND A DESK!



MARVEL COMICS
16 OCT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DEATHLOK
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
DEAD RINGERS

CONEY ISLAND...
PUT IT DOWN RIGHT HERE--
THAT'S IT. NOW LET'S GET IT OPEN.
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, VINCE?
YOU REMEMBER THAT "ROBOT VIGILANTE" OR WHATEVER IT WAS THAT NAILED US A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK?*
SURE! WE ALMOST DID TIME BEHIND THAT ONE!
*SEE DEATHLOK LIMITED SERIES #2.--TOM
WELL, I BIN DOIN' SOME RESEARCH. THE ROBOT HANGS OUT AROUND HERE.
KRAK
NOBODY DOGS ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT. IT'S PAYBACK TIME.
YOU MUST BE SOME KIND OF NEW FOOL! LAST TIME WE SAW THAT THING YOU HIT IT WITH YOUR CAR AND IT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN!
SO WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT RUNNING HIM OVER?

MURDERED AFTER DISCOVERING A SECRET WEAPONS PROJECT, PACIFIST AND CYBERNETICS EXPERT MICHAEL COLLINS FOUND HIMSELF RESURRECTED INSIDE HIS WORST NIGHTMARE -- AN UNSTOPPABLE CYBORG KILLING MACHINE. TAKING CONTROL OF HIS NEW BODY, COLLINS DEFIED HIS WOULD-BE MASTERS, AND ESCAPED INTO A WORLD THAT HOLDS NO PLACE FOR HIM. NOW, CURSED WITH THE POWER TO BACK UP HIS CONVICTIONS, HE SEEKS JUSTICE FOR OTHERS AND PEACE FOR HIMSELF. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DEATHLOK

This unit undamaged by unprovoked attack.

TACTICAL SCAN: Four hostiles armed with light anti-tank weapon.

I WANT 'EM.

Hostiles present no serious threat to this unit. Query: Abandon primary mission to pursue?

YOU HEARD ME. LET'S GO GET 'EM.

Running...

JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS

DWAYNE McDUFFIE - SCRIPT
WALTER McDANIEL - PENCILS
JIMMY PALMIOTTI - INKS
BRAD VANCATA - COLORS
KEN LOPEZ - LETTERS
TOM BREVOORT - EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO - EDITOR IN CHIEF

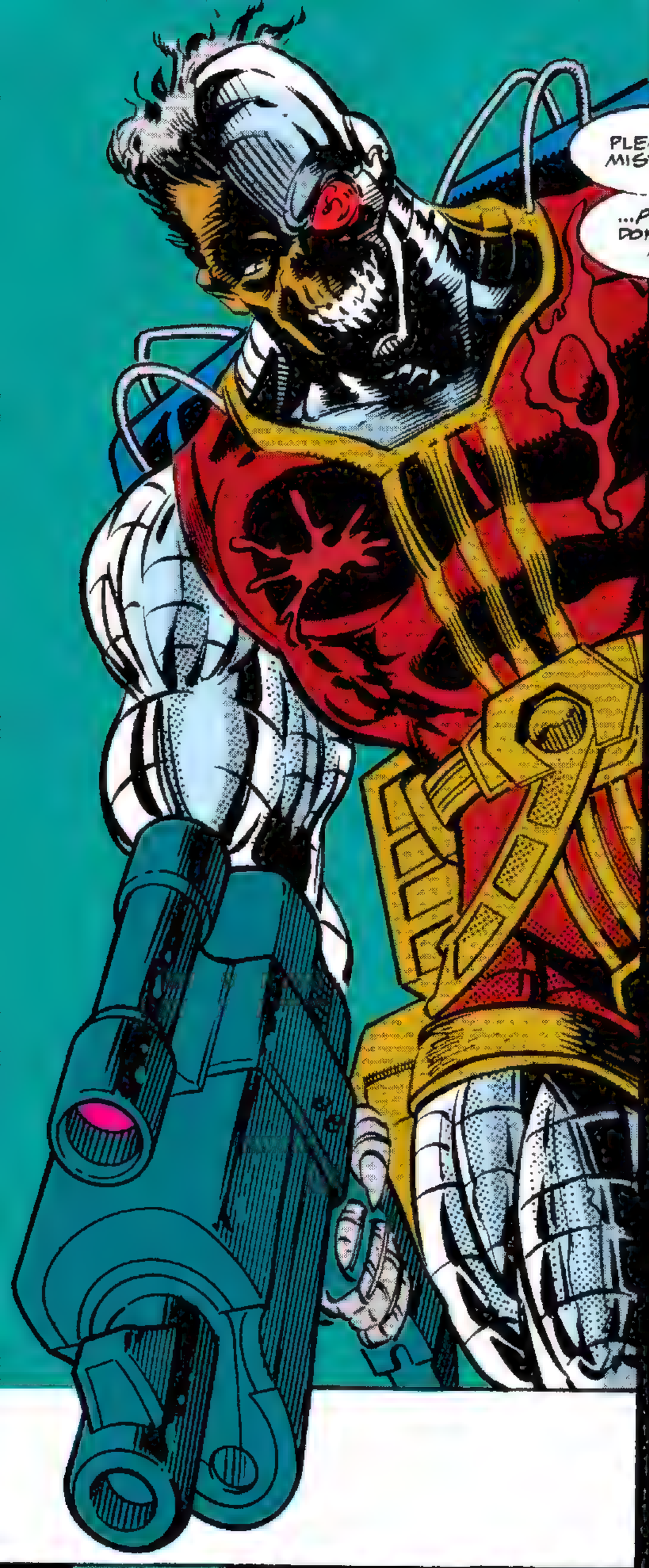
AAAGH!

ZZRAK

GIMME JUST ONE MORE SECOND, YOU SON OF A--!

Shots: 3
Hits: 3
Remaining Hostiles: 1

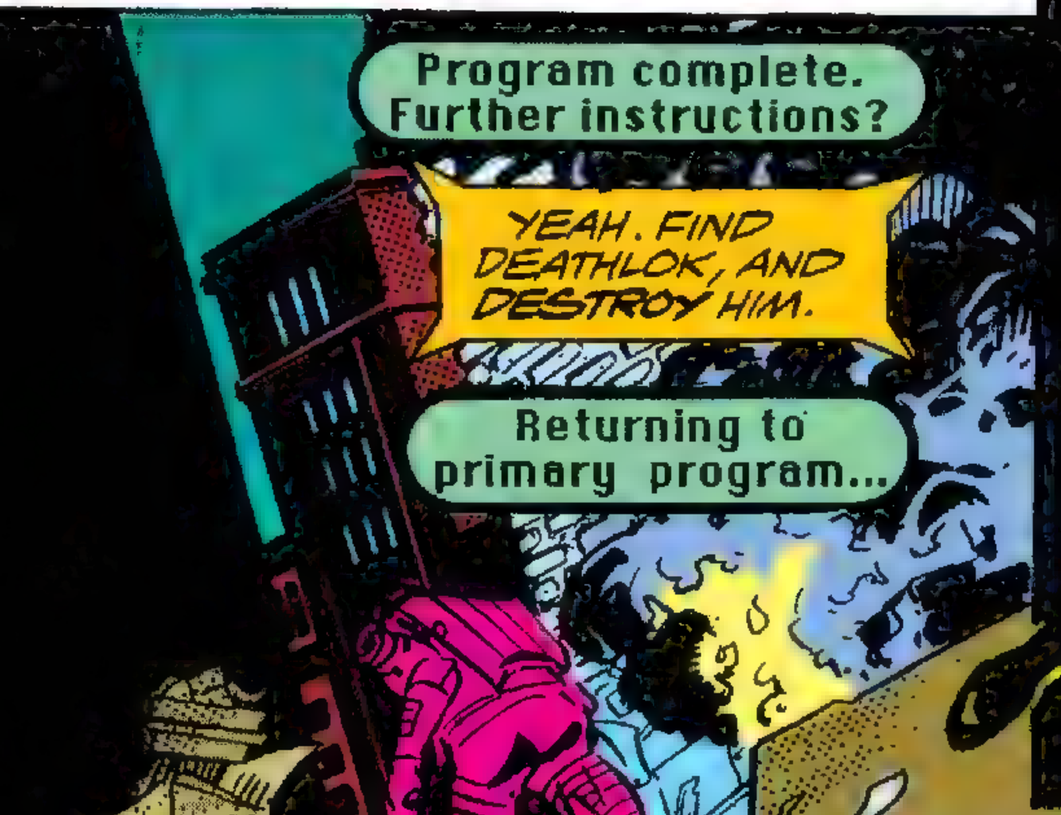
ZZRAK



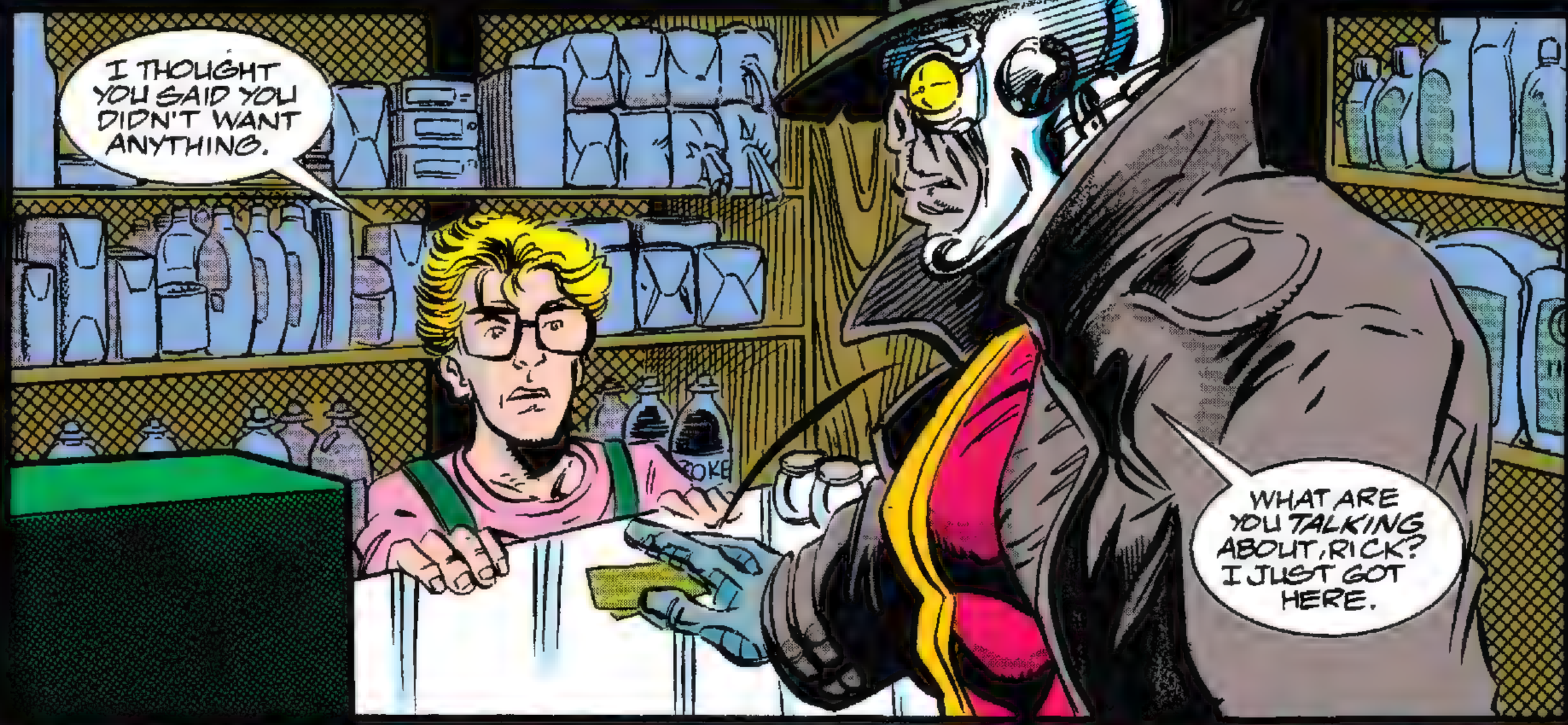
PLEASE, MISTER...
...PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.
Remaining hostile presents no serious threat to this unit.

OH! THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOUTHA--

SMASH!

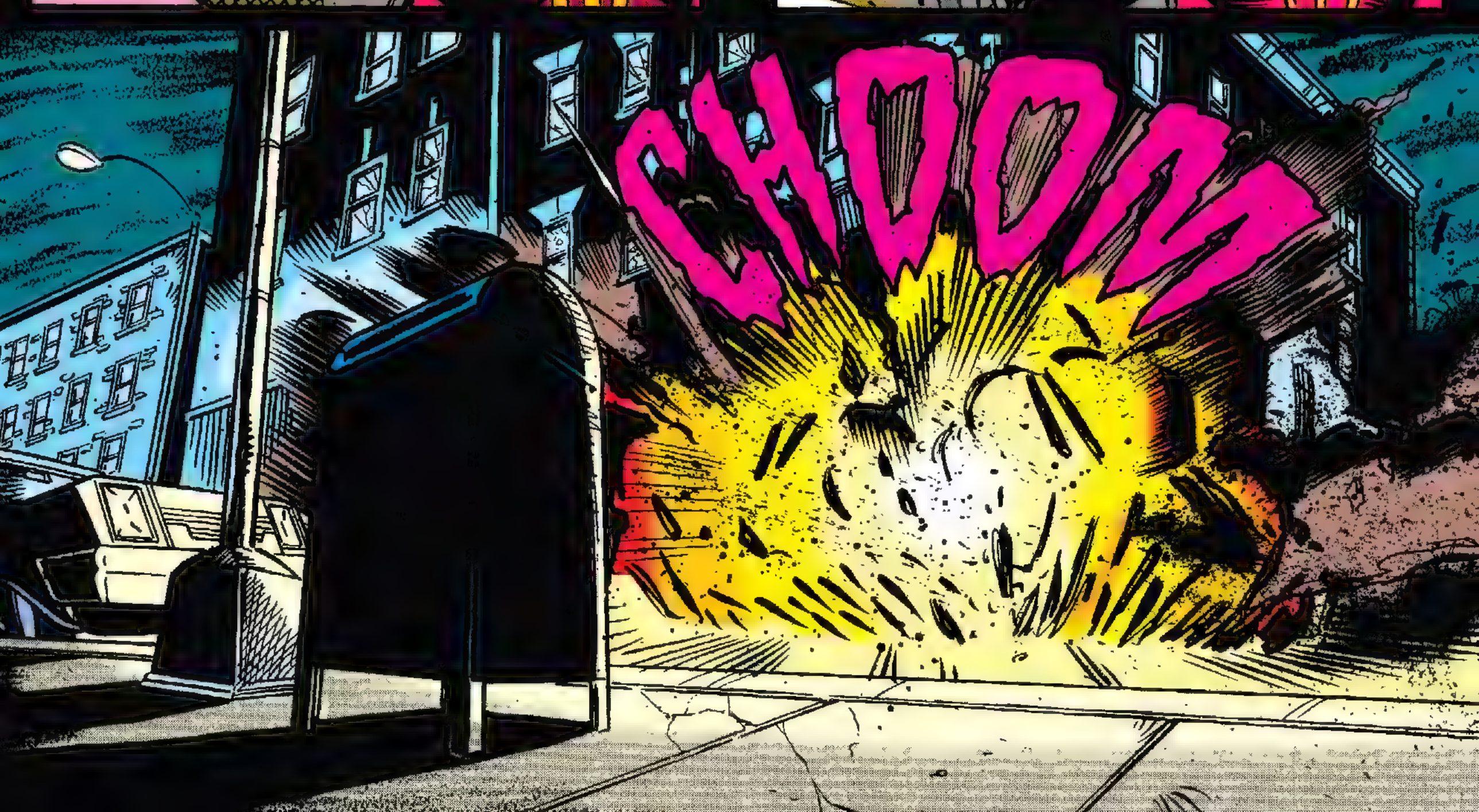

Program complete. Further instructions?
YEAH. FIND DEATHLOK, AND DESTROY HIM.
Returning to primary program...

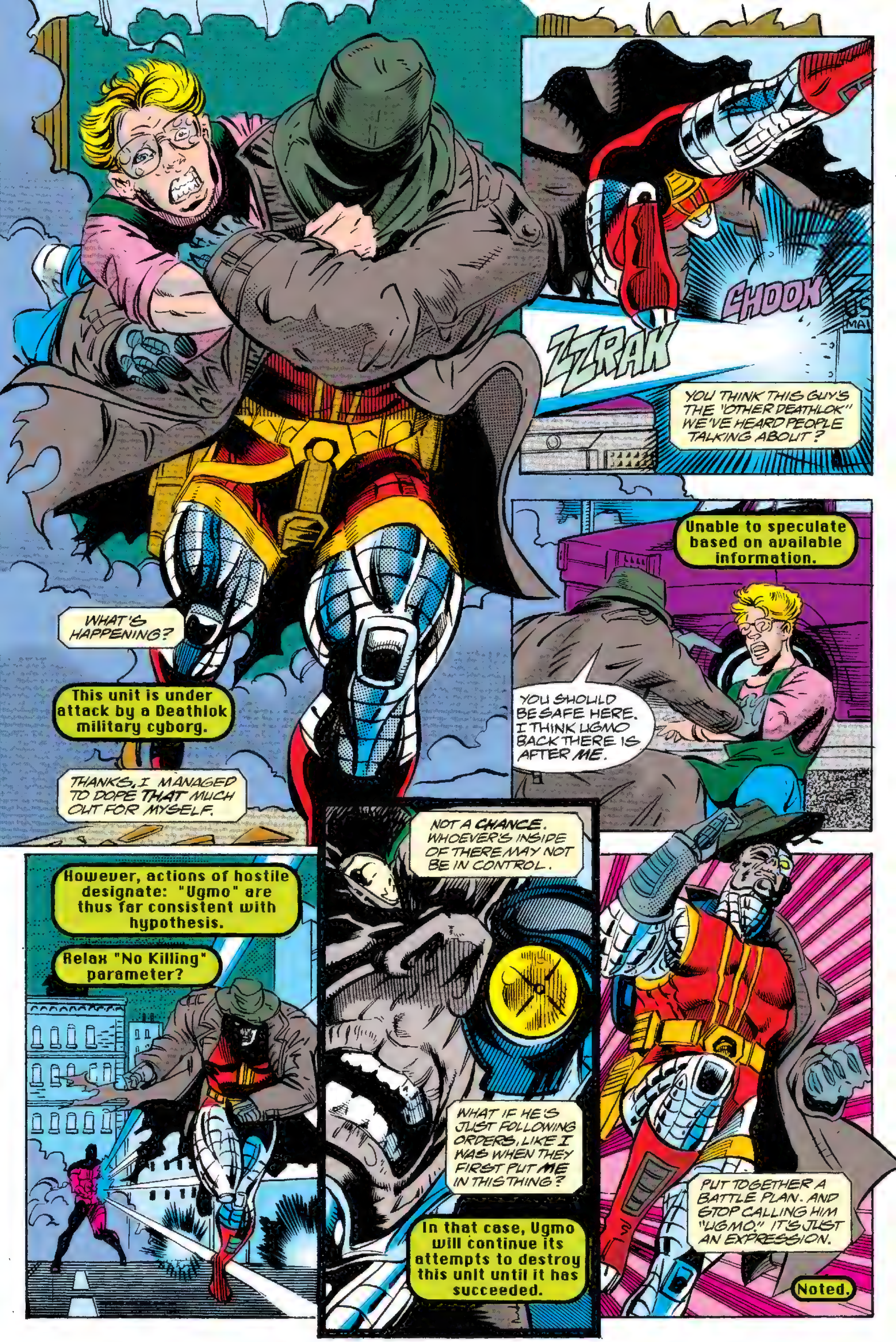
THERE'S A WAR GOING ON, AN INFINITY WAR. IT IS A BATTLE BETWEEN GODS FOR STAKES BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING.*
IN THIS WAR, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES ARE LITTLE MORE THAN PAWNS IN THE SERVICE OF A BEING KNOWN AS WARLOCK.
BUT EVEN PAWNS MUST BE COUNTERED, AND WARLOCK'S OPPONENT IN THIS COSMIC CONFLAGRATION UNDERSTANDS THIS WELL.
THE MAGUS HAS CREATED "COSMIC CLONES," EVIL DUPLICATES OF THE HEROES' DARK SIDE, SOMEHOW BROUGHT TO LIFE. FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, THIS IS A CONCEIT THAT AMUSES THE MAGUS.
THE CLONES' MISSION IS SIMPLE: TO DEFEAT THEIR ALTER EGOS AND TAKE OVER THEIR BODIES.
BUT ONE OF EARTH'S HEROES, DR. REED RICHARDS, HAS DISCOVERED THE PLOT AND SEEKS TO WARN HIS FELLOWS.
* SEE THE INFINITY WAR MINI-SERIES FOR DETAILS! --TOM
DEATHLOK. YOU ARE IN GREAT DANGER, AND I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR WORLD MAY SHARE THAT CONDITION. CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.
AT LEAST ONE OF DR. RICHARDS' WARNINGS WILL GO UNHEEDED.
I DON'T GET IT, TRACY...
...WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY APARTMENT?
THAT'S NOT AN APARTMENT, MICHAEL. IT'S A WAREHOUSE.
IF YOU INSIST ON LIVING AWAY FROM THE FAMILY, AT LEAST YOU COULD FIX THE PLACE UP.
THIS IS IT. THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK HOME IF YOU WANT.
NO, GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S LATE AND YOU'VE GOT A LONG DRIVE BACK TO JERSEY.
I THOUGHT ME AND JESUS HAD FIXED THE PLACE UP PRETTY WELL...
APPLES 5¢ EA
OPEN
2 FOR +1 ORANGES

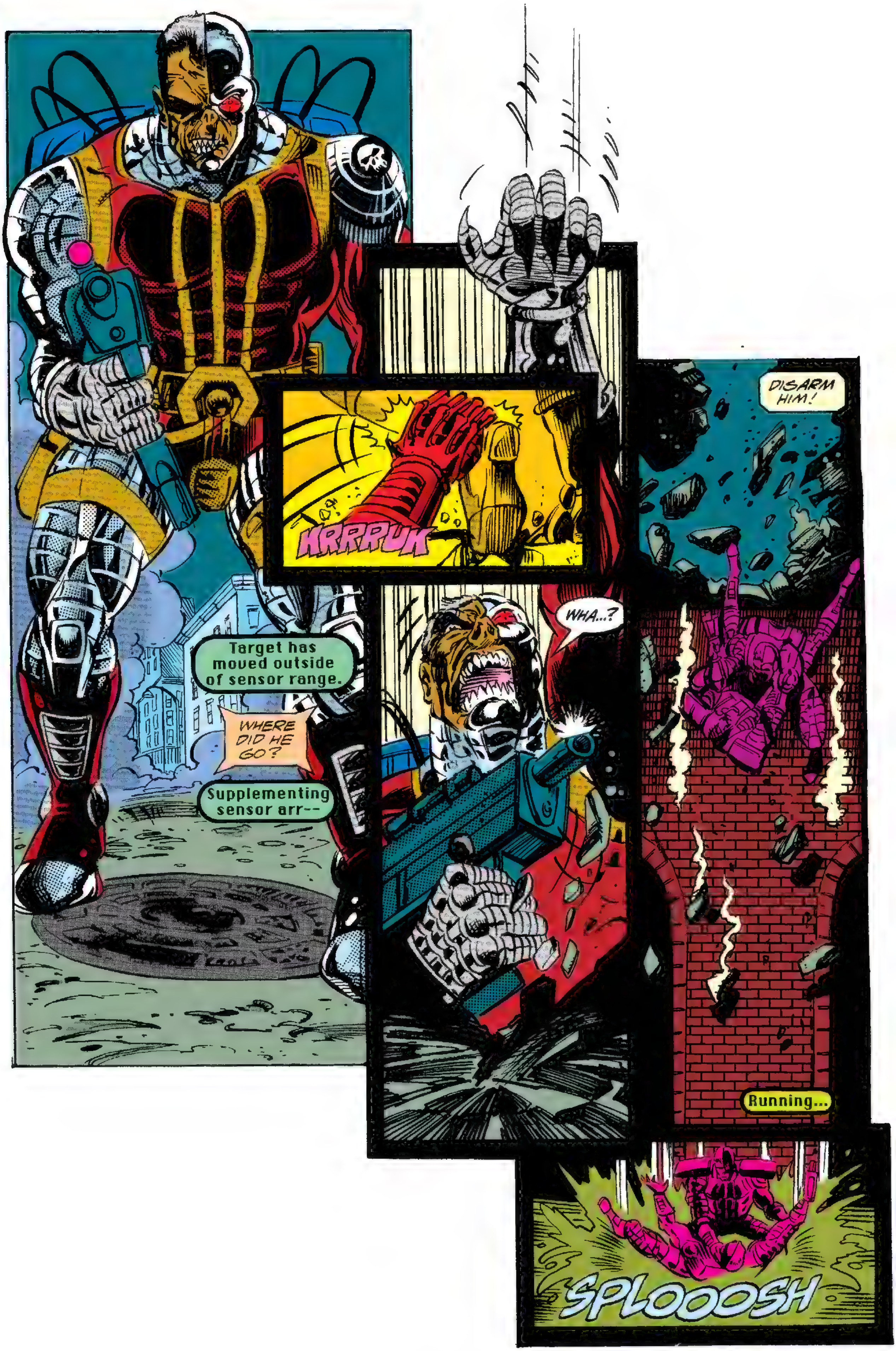

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RICK? I JUST GOT HERE.

MY MISTAKE. MUST'VE BEEN SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU.
99¢
I'M TELLING YOU, I JUST GO--
DON'T BE SUCH A SKEPTIC, DEATHLOK...

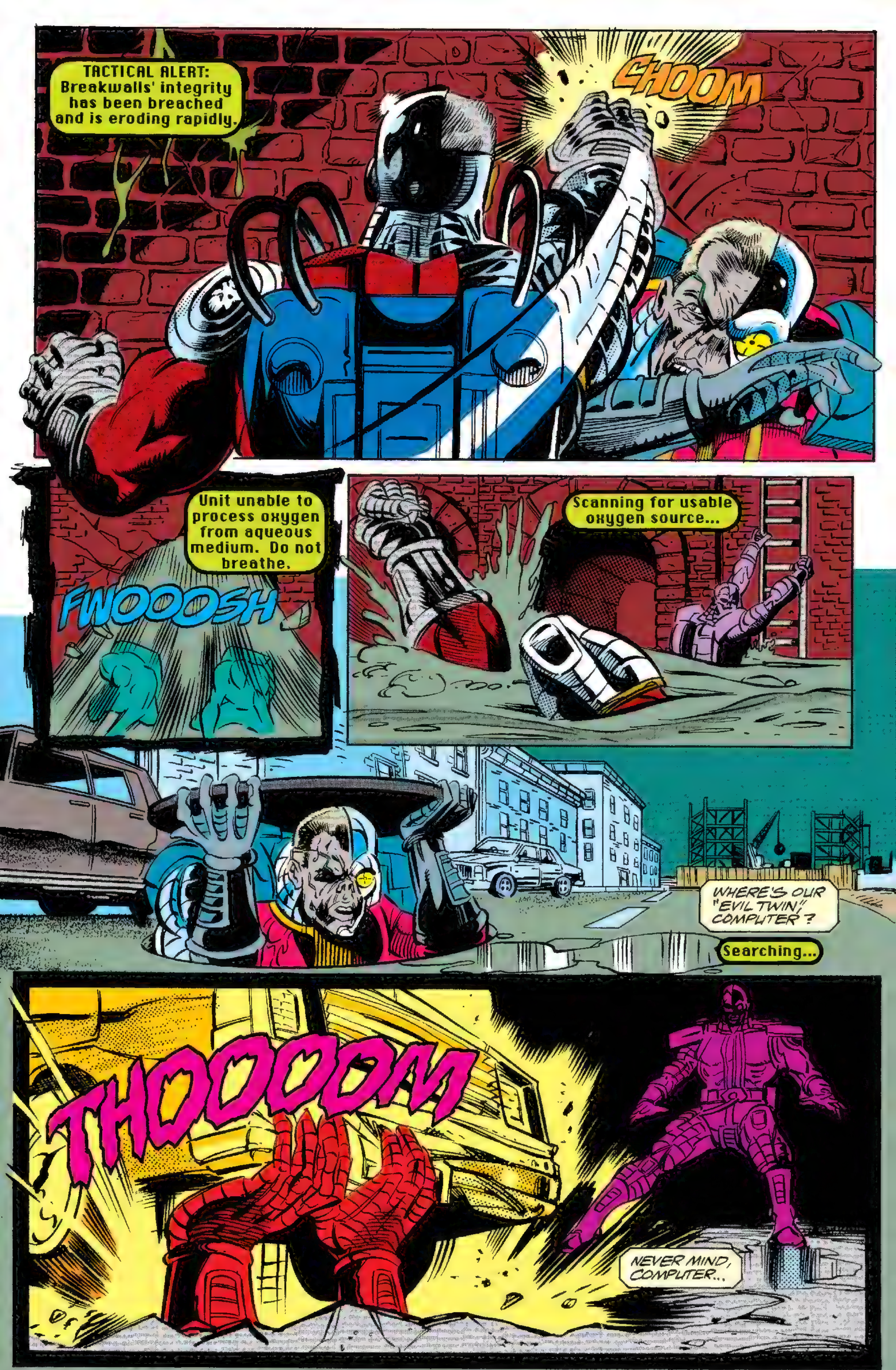
...ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.
99¢
2 FOR $1.50
The unit has been targeted.
Initiating evasive action.


CHOOM

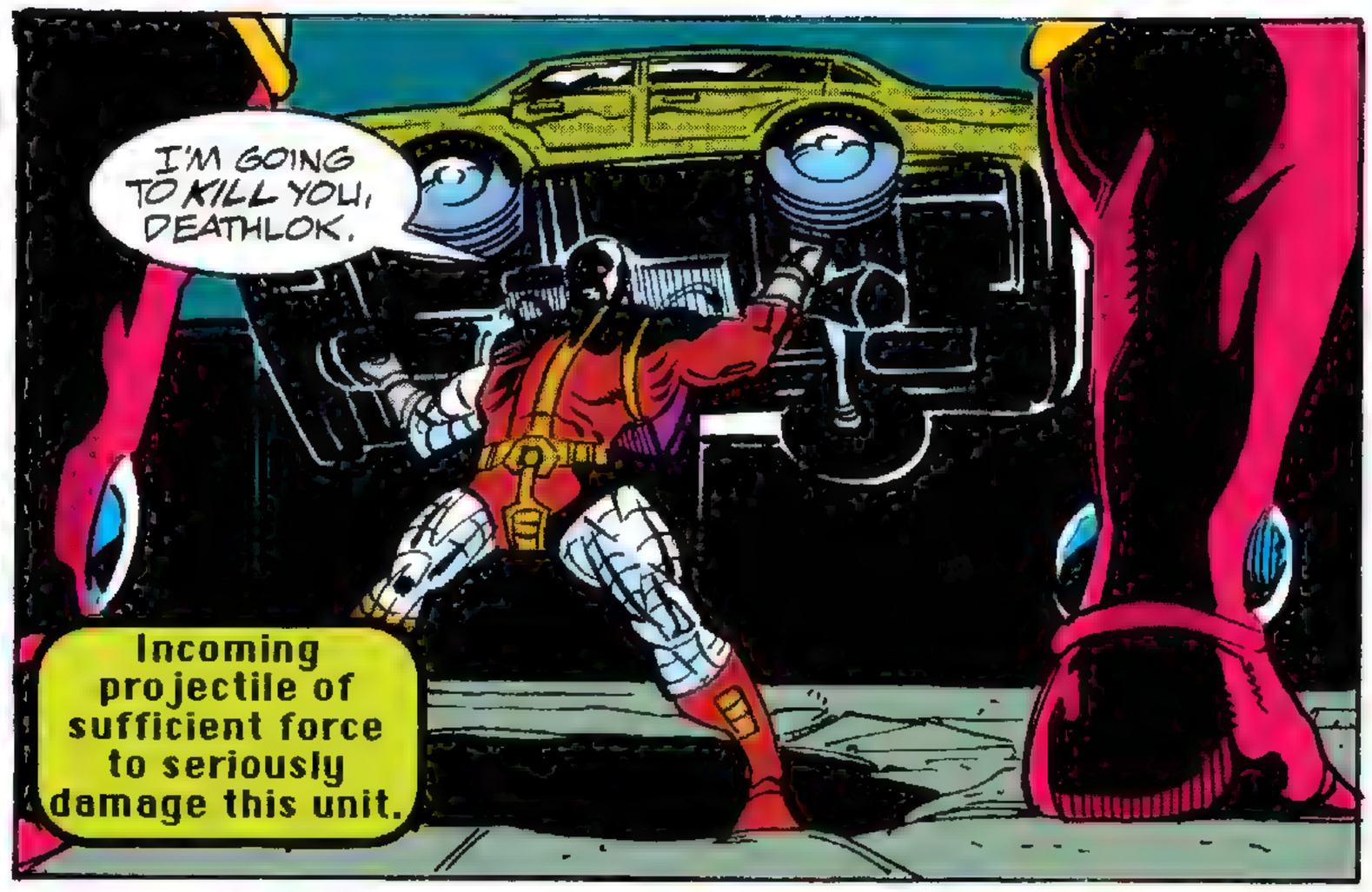

ZZRAK
CHOOK
YOU THINK THIS GUY'S THE "OTHER DEATHLOK" WE'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
This unit is under attack by a Deathlok military cyborg.
THANKS, I MANAGED TO DOPE THAT MUCH OUT FOR MYSELF.
Unable to speculate based on available information.
YOU SHOULD BE SAFE HERE. I THINK UGMO BACK THERE IS AFTER ME.
However, actions of hostile designate: "Ugmo" are thus far consistent with hypothesis.
Relax "No Killing" parameter?
NOT A CHANCE. WHOEVER'S INSIDE OF THERE MAY NOT BE IN CONTROL.
WHAT IF HE'S JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, LIKE I WAS WHEN THEY FIRST PUT ME IN THIS THING?
In that case, Ugmo will continue its attempts to destroy this unit until it has succeeded.
PUT TOGETHER A BATTLE PLAN. AND STOP CALLING HIM "UGMO." IT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION.
Noted.

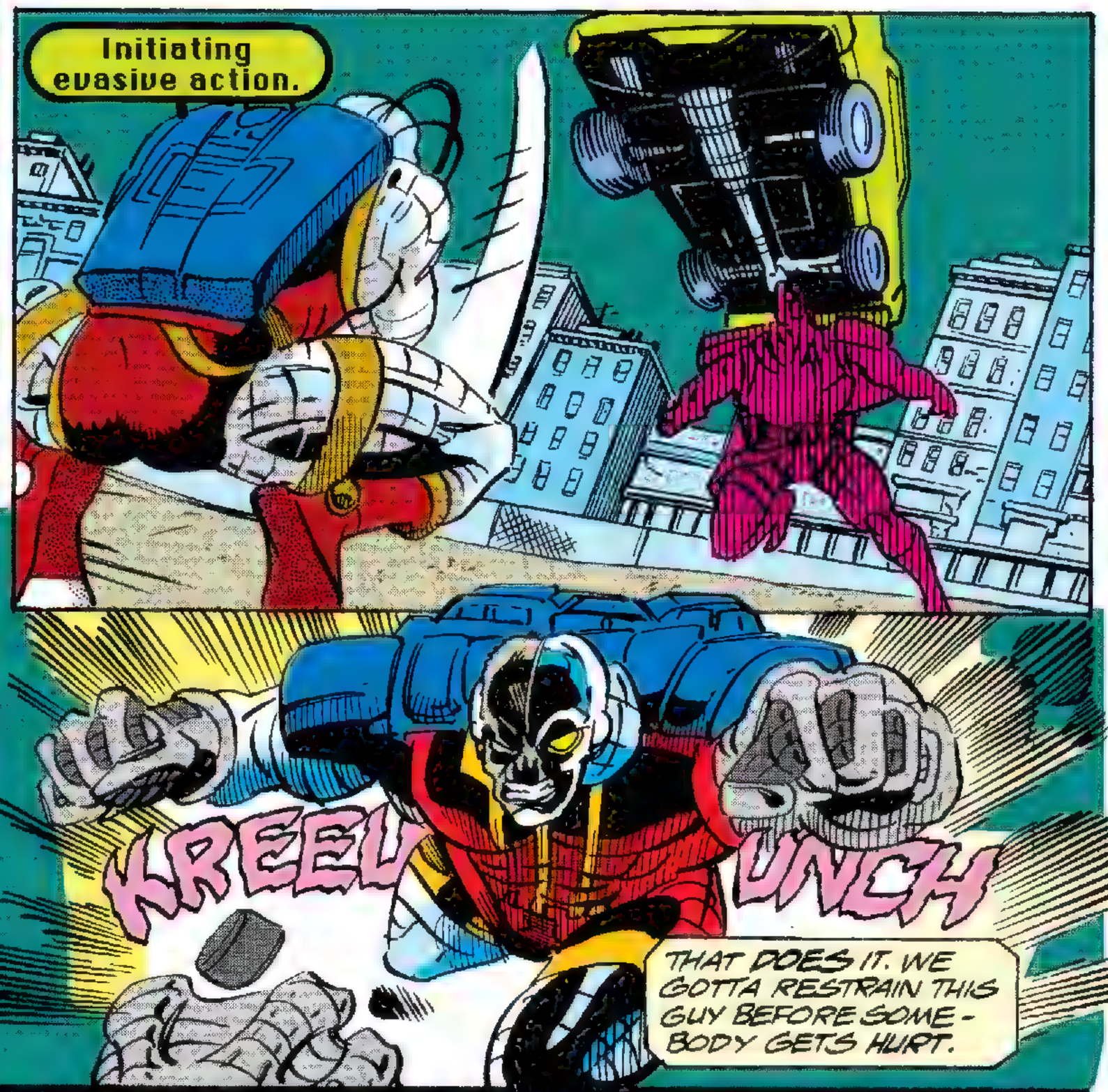

KRRRUK
DISARM HIM!
Target has moved outside of sensor range.
WHERE DID HE GO?
Supplementing sensor arr--
WHA...?
Running...
SPLOOOSH

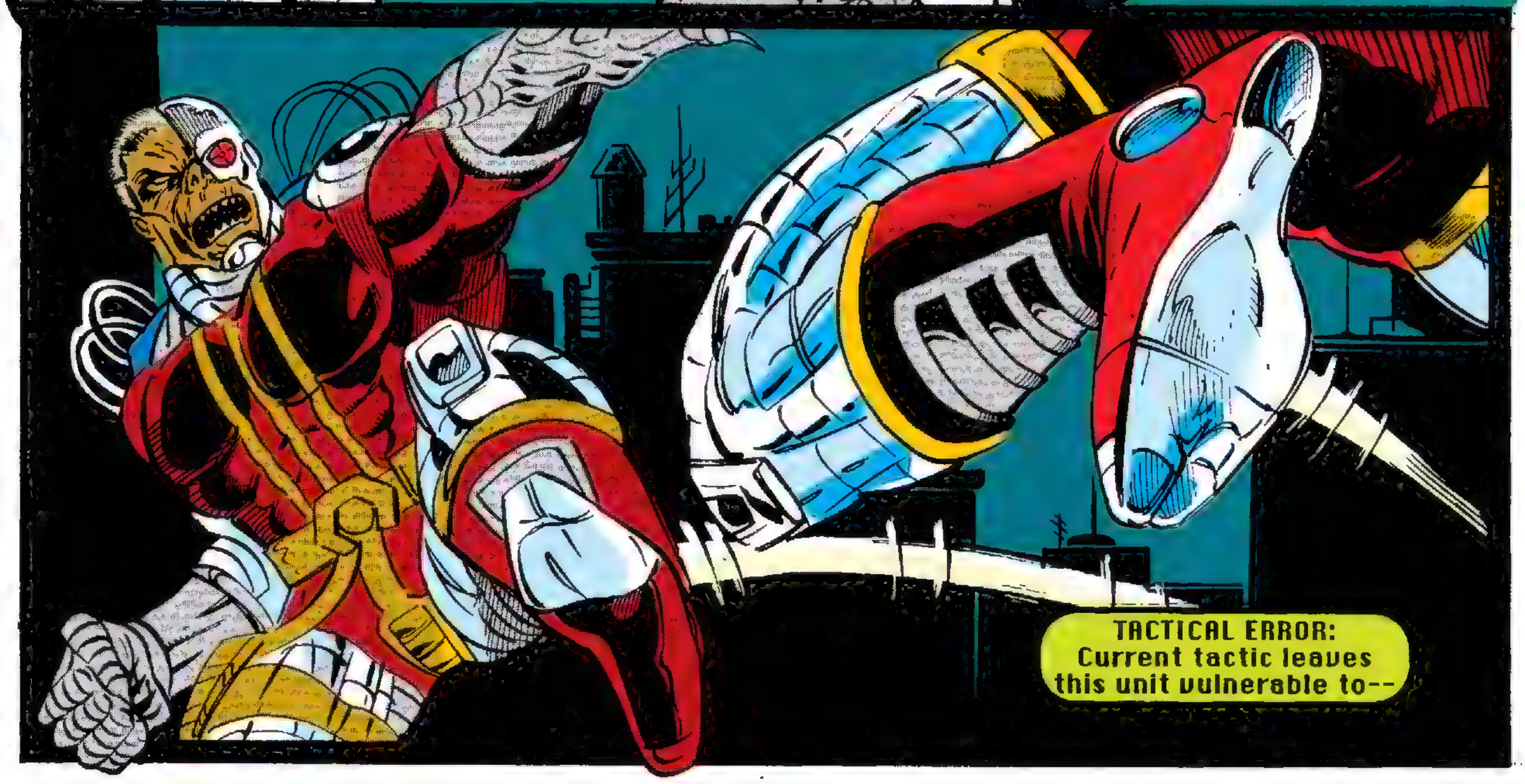
KRRUNK
I DON'T NEED MY PISTOL...
...TO KILL YOU.
TONGG
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME?
WHY?
BECAUSE THIS SEWER ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US.
KLONGG
THIS IS GOING JUST SWELL SO FAR, DON'T YOU THINK?
TACTICAL UPDATE: Attacking hostile is apparently identical to this unit.
Adjusting tactics to allow for new information...


TACTICAL ALERT: Breakwalls' integrity has been breached and is eroding rapidly.
CHOOM
Unit unable to process oxygen from aqueous medium. Do not breathe.
FWOOOSH
Scanning for usable oxygen source...
WHERE'S OUR "EVIL TWIN" COMPUTER?
Searching...
THOOOOM
NEVER MIND, COMPUTER...

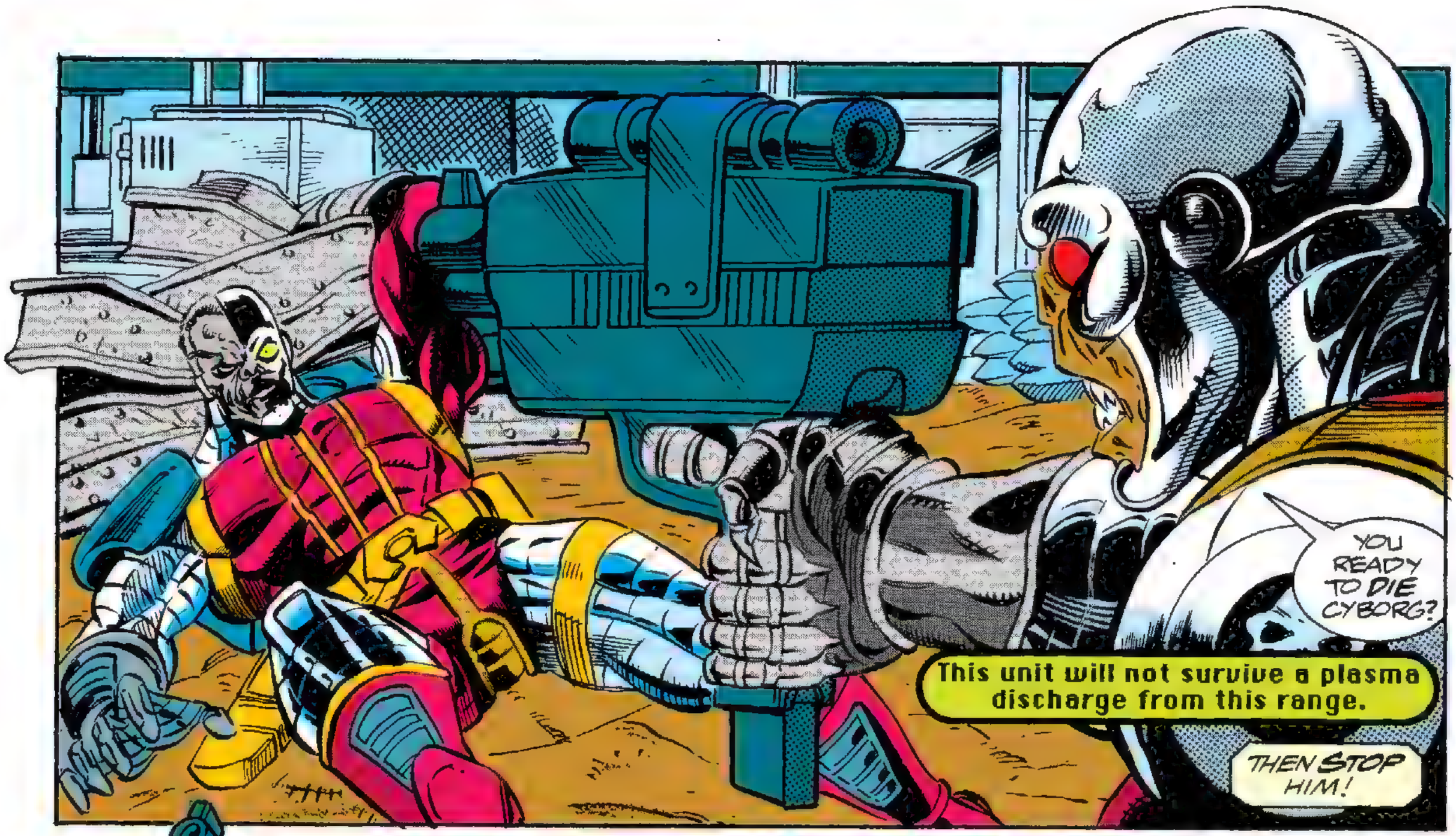
...FOUND HIM MYSELF.

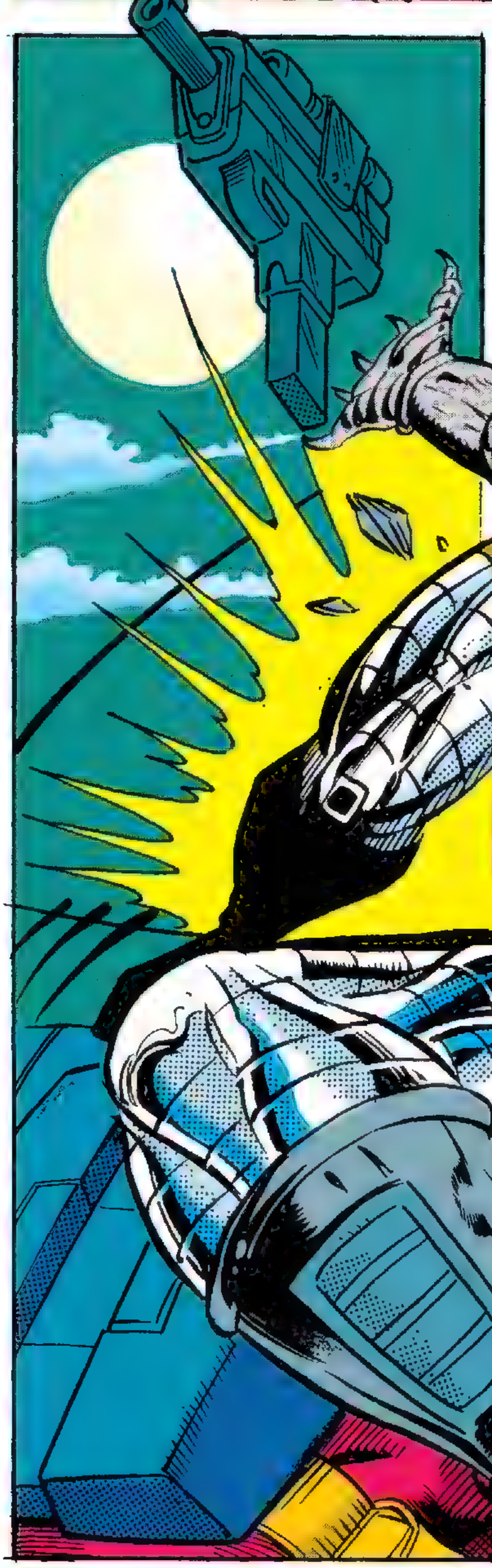

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, DEATHLOK.
Incoming projectile of sufficient force to seriously damage this unit.

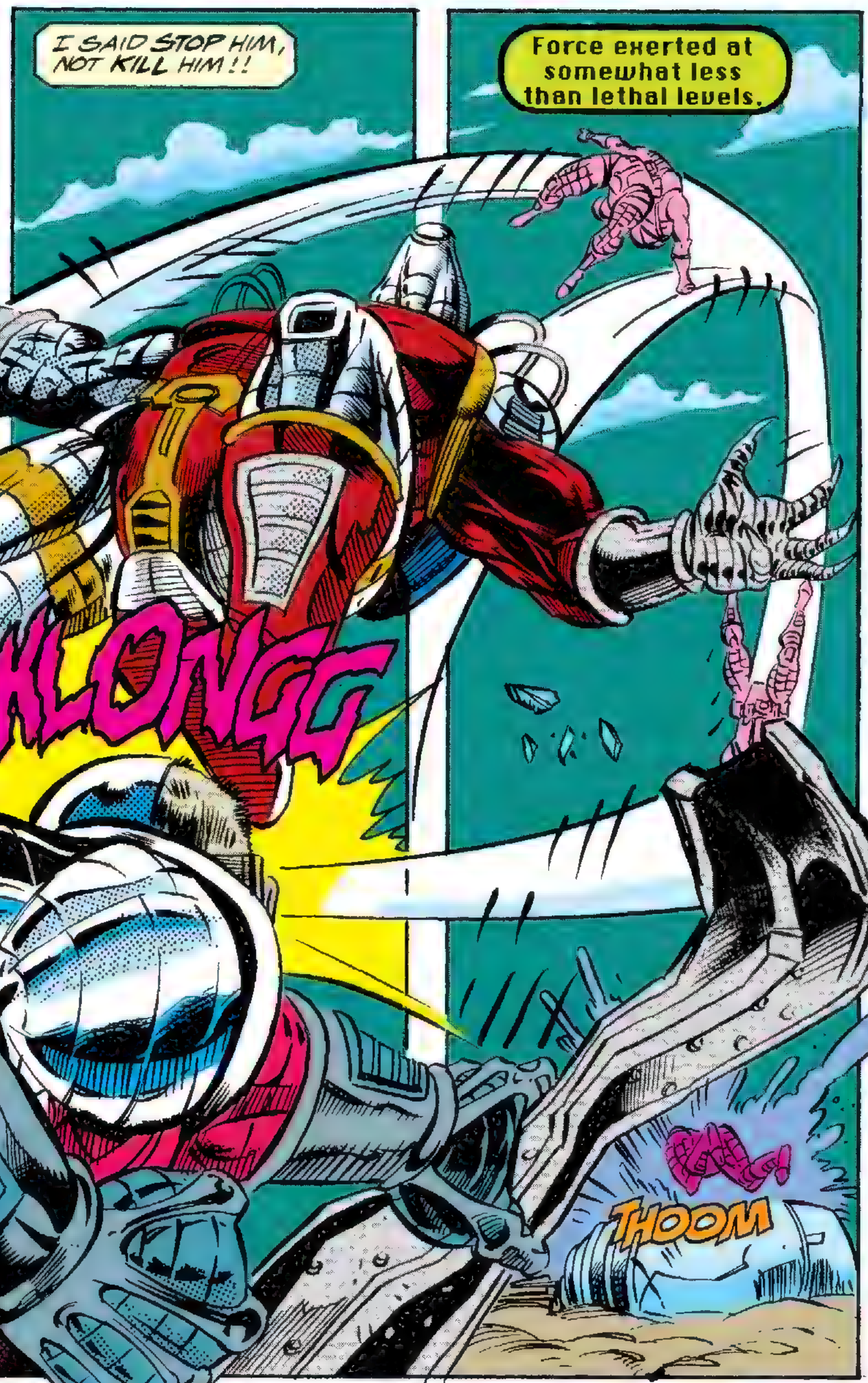

Initiating evasive action.
KREEU
UNCH
THAT DOES IT. WE GOTTA RESTRAIN THIS GUY BEFORE SOME-BODY GETS HURT.

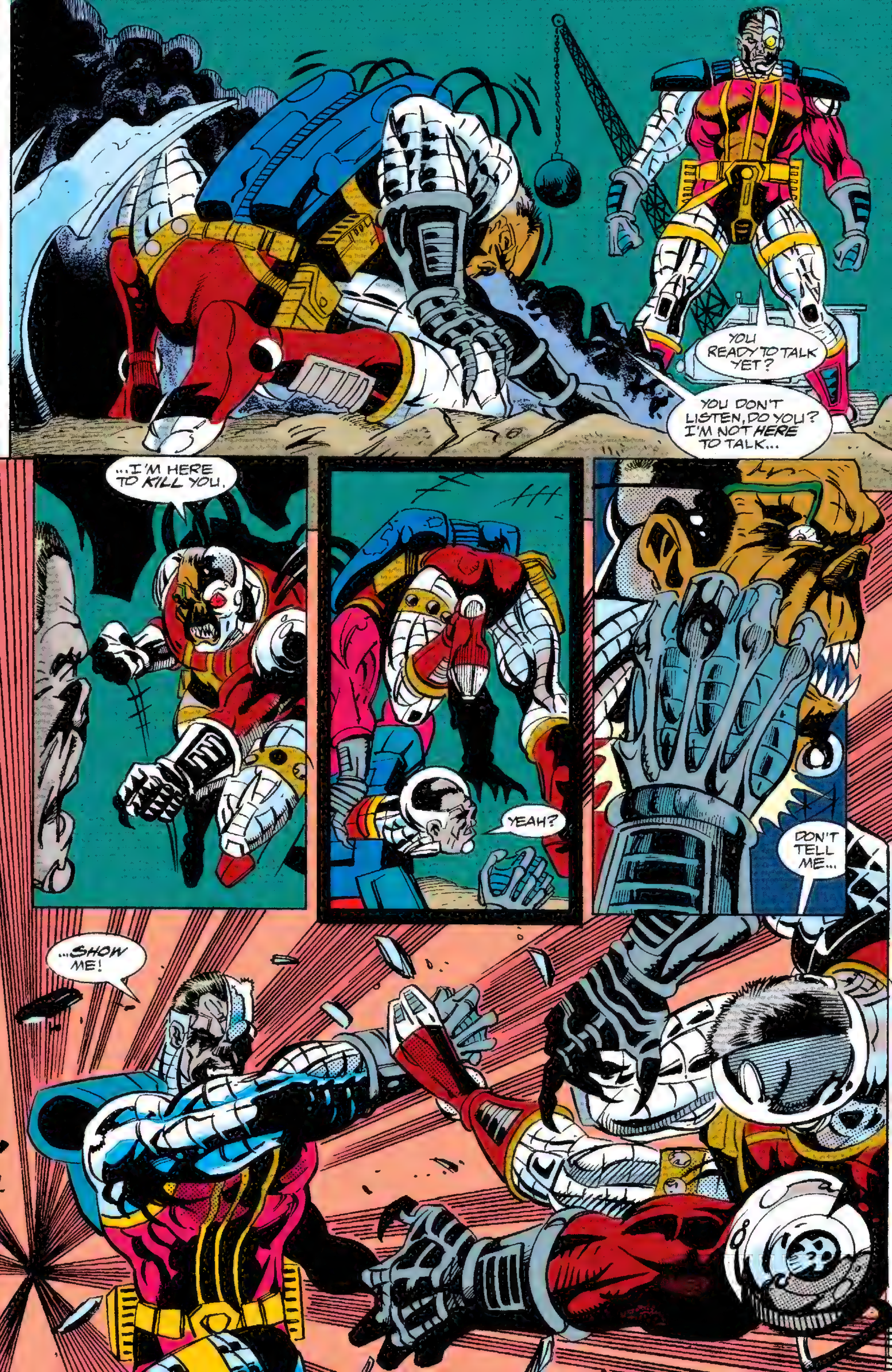

TACTICAL ERROR: Current tactic leaves this unit vulnerable to--

--counterattack.
WONG
KRUNCH
KLAKAKLAK
WHUNG

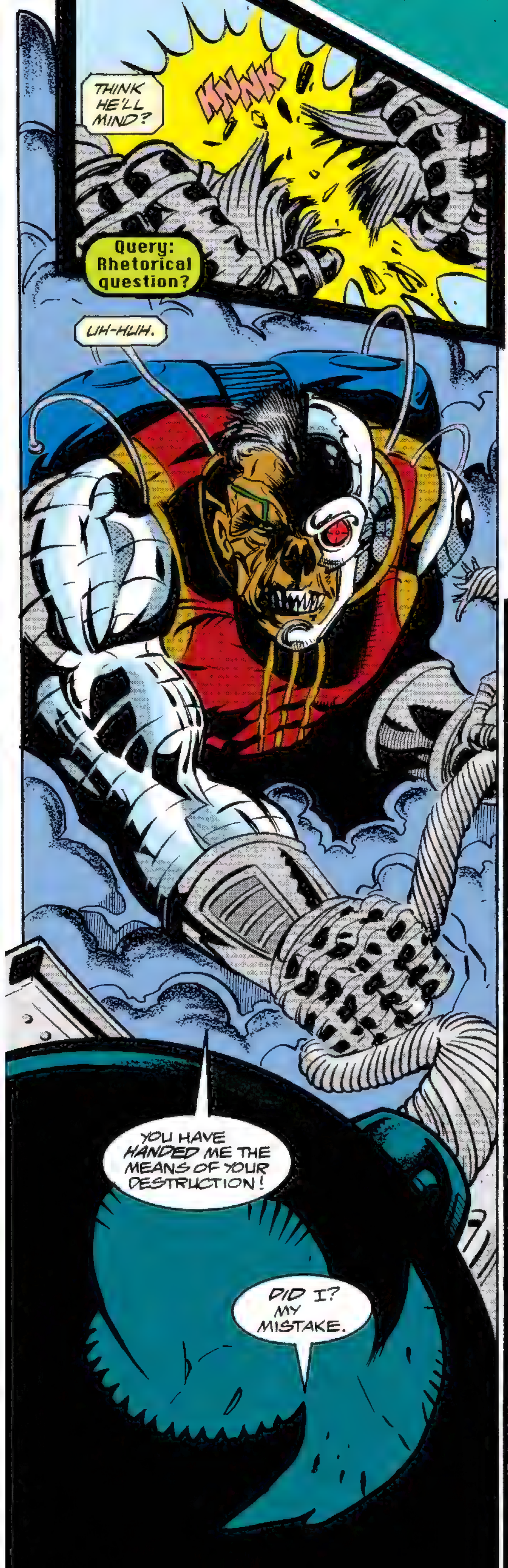

YOU READY TO DIE CYBORG?
This unit will not survive a plasma discharge from this range.
THEN STOP HIM!




I SAID STOP HIM, NOT KILL HIM!!
Force exerted at somewhat less than lethal levels.
KLONGG
THOOM


YOU READY TO TALK YET?
YOU DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU? I'M NOT HERE TO TALK...
...I'M HERE TO KILL YOU.
YEAH?
DON'T TELL ME...
...SHOW ME!

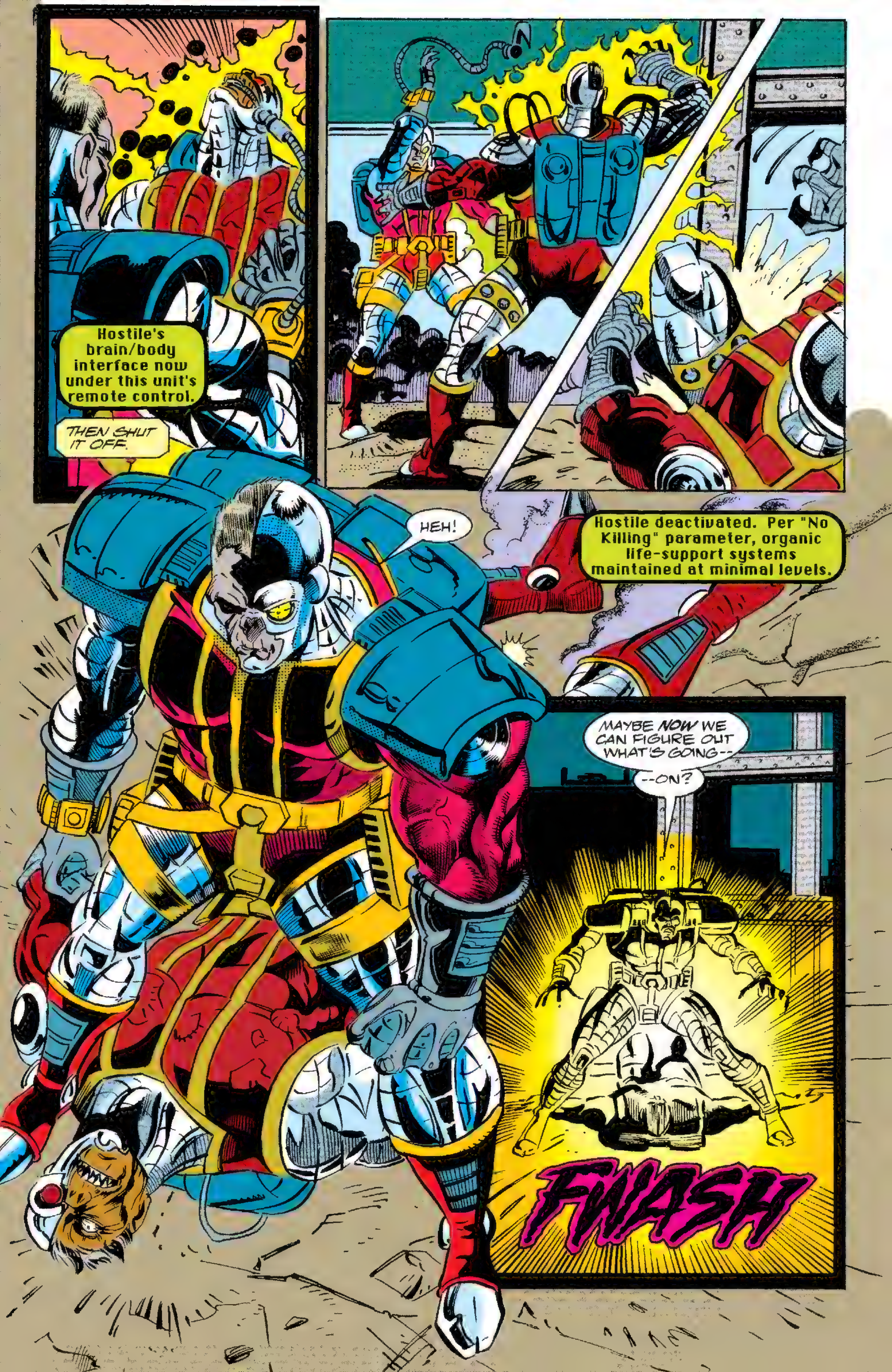
CHOOM
KREEEE
UHHH...
KRASH
YOU THINK THIS THING'LL WORK?
Affirmative. Attachment is fully operational.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
KLIK
SO ALL WE GOT TO DO NOW IS GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TRY IT.


THINK HE'LL MIND?
KNNK
Query: Rhetorical question?
UH-HUH.
YOU HAVE HANDED ME THE MEANS OF YOUR DESTRUCTION!
DID I? MY MISTAKE.

COMPUTER? WE NEED ONE OF THOSE PLANS...
Initiating evasive action.
SKIP IT, COMPUTER. I'LL HANDLE IT MYSELF.
SEE, I USED TO HAVE THIS TOY WHEN I WAS A KID. IT WAS A ROPE WITH A BIB MARBLE ON EACH END. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO WHIP THEM AROUND AND BOUNCE THE MARBLES OFF OF EACH OTHER.
RROOORRUU
...BUT IT WAS PRETTY HARD TO GET IT GOING RIGHT. AND WHENEVER I DID MY ROTTEN BROTHER WOULD TOSS A SOCK OR SOMETHING AT THE ROPE.

RROOORROOOP
PROO
ROO
THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THE ROPE WOULD GET ALL TANGLED UP...
WHUMP
NNNGG!
...AND HE'D LAUGH HIS HEAD OFF. I NEVER SAW WHAT WAS SO FUNNY...
...UNTIL NOW.
Hostile's weapon effectively neutralized.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WILL BE FREE!
THRUK
I'M GOING TO TAKE A FLYER HERE AND GUESS THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO KISS AND MAKE UP.

DIE! DIE! DIE!
ONE THING I'LL SAY FOR YOU--
--YOU'VE GOT GREAT CONCENTRATION.
CLANG
TACTICAL NOTE: This unit is precisely equal in strength to our opponent.
GOOD. RUN THE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL...
Running...
WARR KLIK KLAK KINK
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
This unit has successfully infiltrated duplicate cyborg's I/O ports.
TRANSMIT INSTRUCTIONS...


Hostile's brain/body interface now under this unit's remote control.
THEN SHUT IT OFF.
HEH!
Hostile deactivated. Per "No Killing" parameter, organic life-support systems maintained at minimal levels.
MAYBE NOW WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING--
--ON?
FWASH

LATER...

HEY, MIKE, IS THAT YOU?

YOU BEEN GONE FOR HOURS. DID YOU GO BACK TO JERSEY WITH TRACY?

NO, JUST TO THE STORE.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED?

BEATS ME.

IT DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE. FIRST I GET ATTACKED BY ANOTHER DEATH-LOK CYBORG--

ANOTHER ONE...?

YEAH. HE TRIED TO KILL ME FOR NO REASON, BUT I FOUND A WAY TO SHUT HIM DOWN. THEN WHEN I TRIED TO QUESTION HIM, HE... HE, UH...

YEAH?

HE SORT OF... DISAPPEARED.

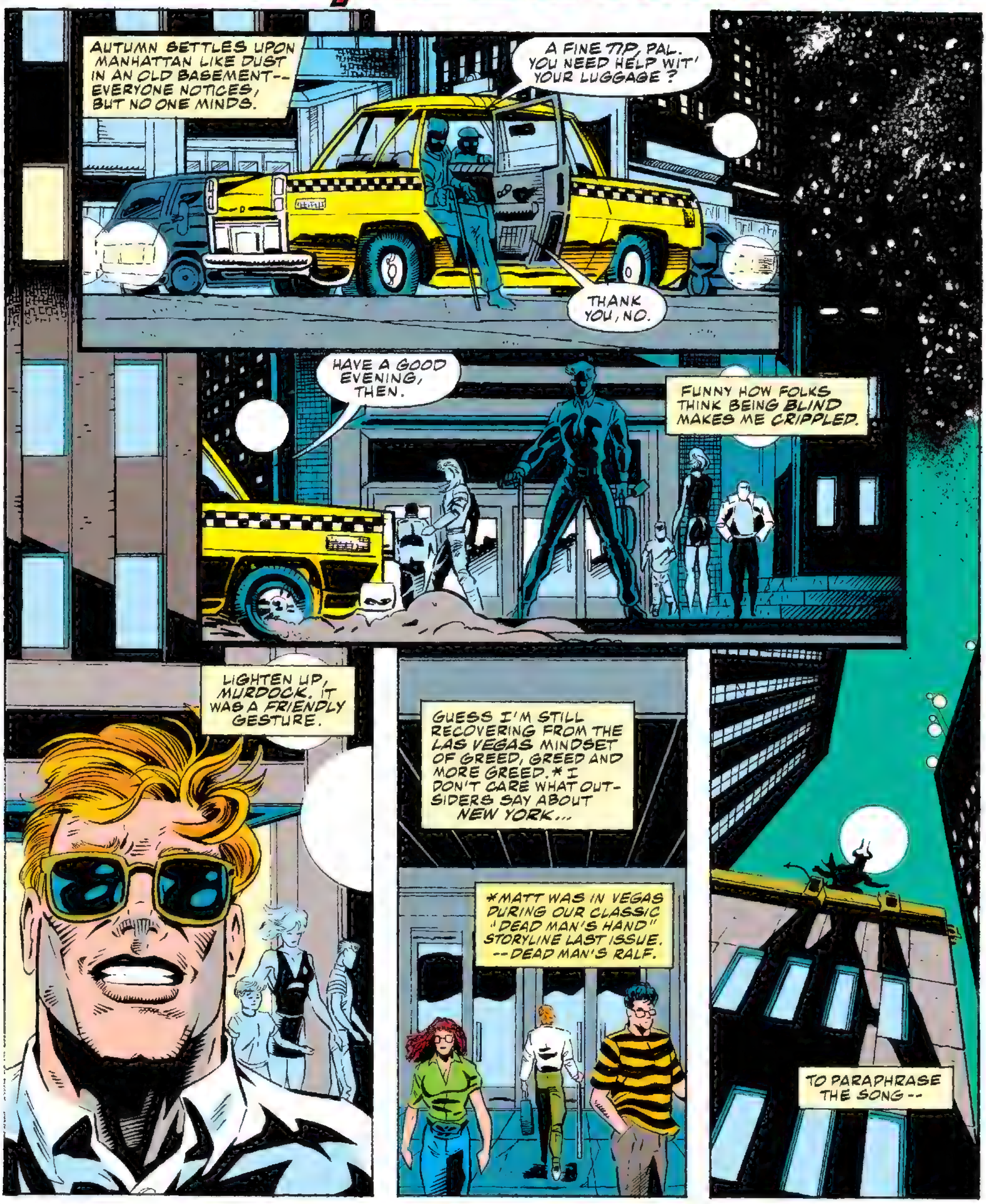
YOU'RE RIGHT, MIKE. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. GOOD NIGHT.

NEXT BODYQUEST!

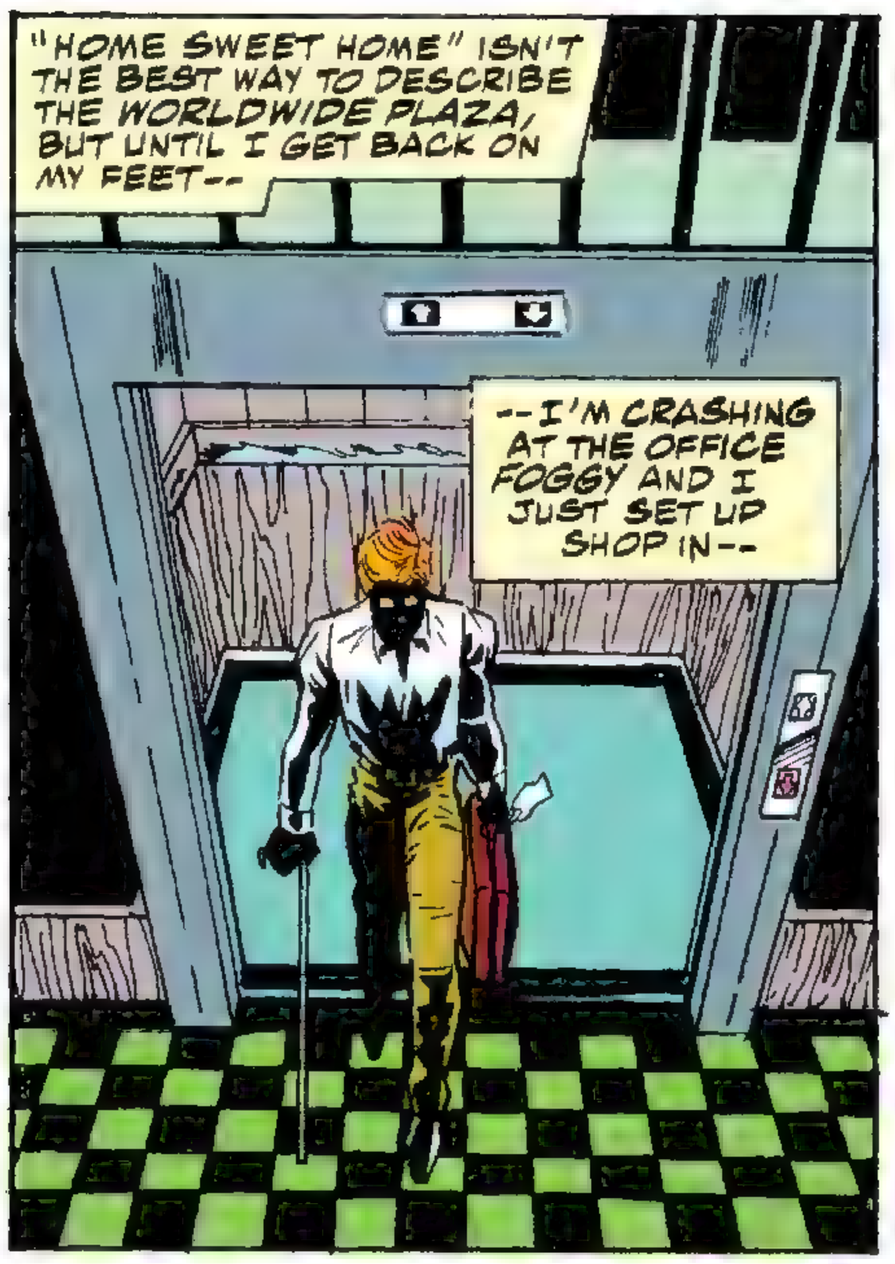
MARVEL COMICS
CALYPSO'S BACK!
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
DAREDEVIL
© 1992 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.
$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN/UK 70p
310
NOV
CC 02459
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
McDANIEL
LaROSA

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

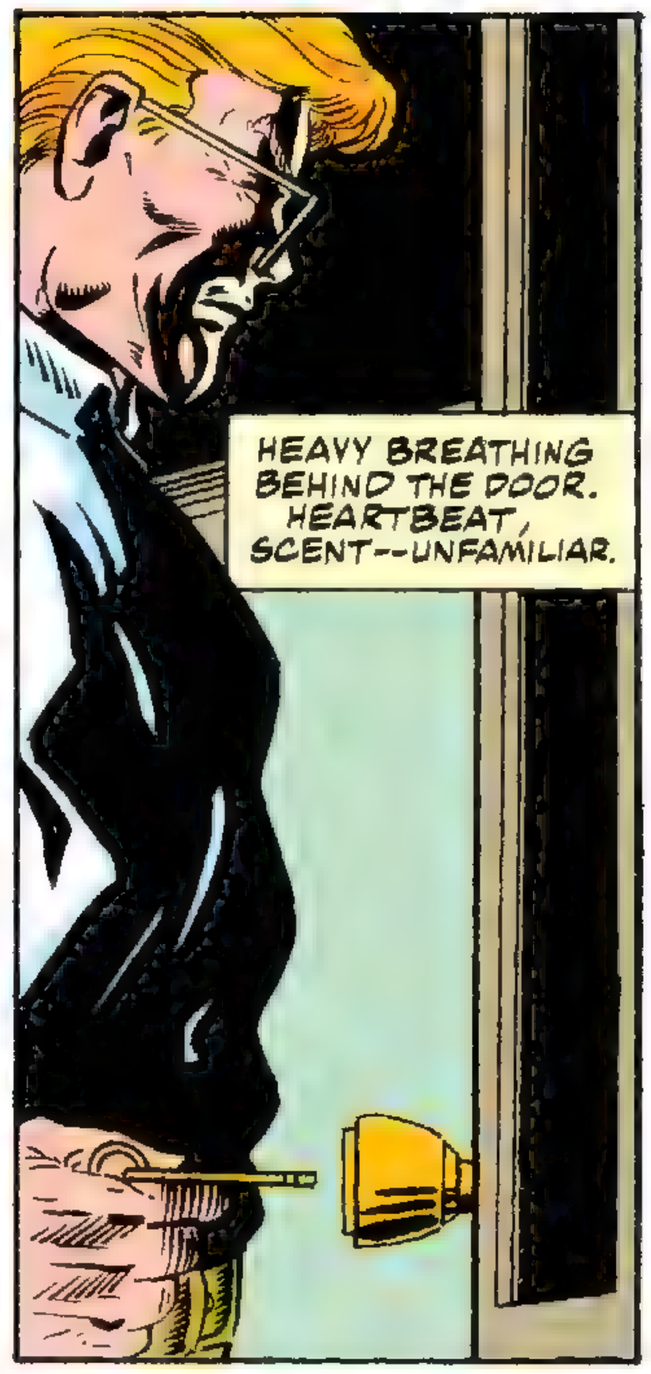
STAN LEE PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

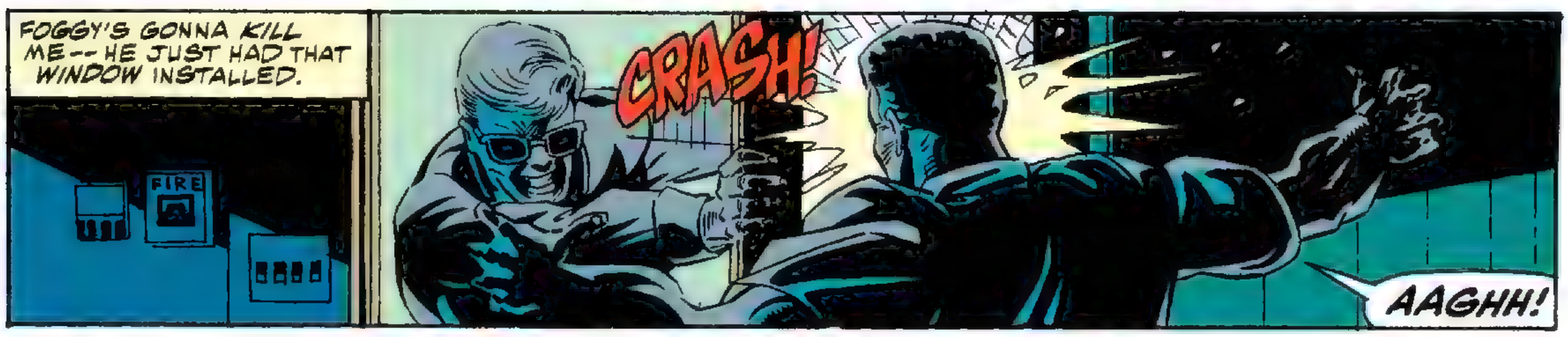


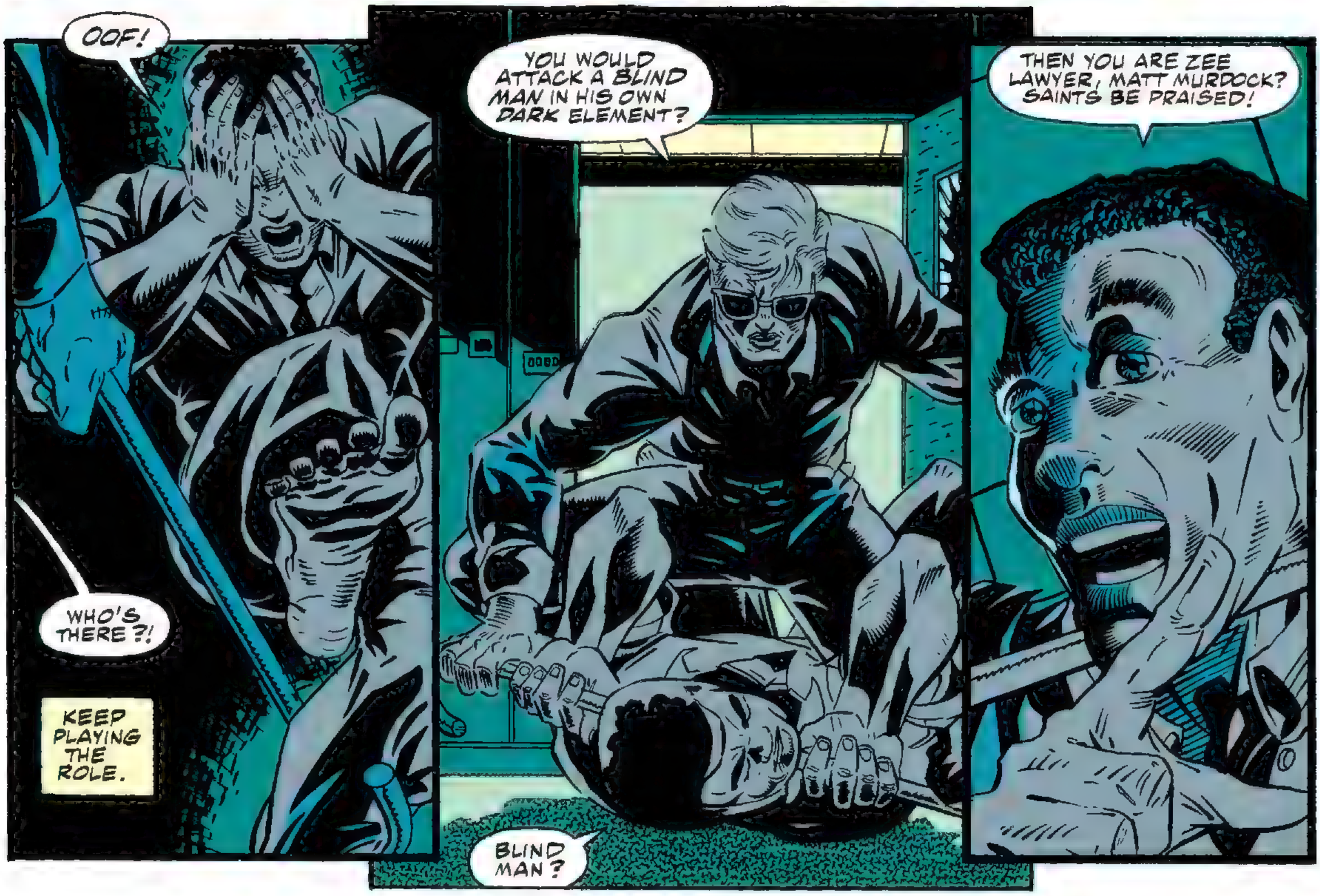
--IT'S A DEVIL OF A TOWN!
Devil Ge Rouge
GLENN ALAN HERDLING WRITER
SCOTT ALAN McDANIEL PENCILER
BUD ALAN LAROSA INKER
BILL ALAN OAKLEY LETTERER
MAX ALAN SCHEELE COLORIST
RALPH ALAN MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM ALAN DEFALCO BOSU BICORNE


"HOME SWEET HOME" ISN'T THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THE WORLDWIDE PLAZA, BUT UNTIL I GET BACK ON MY FEET--
--I'M CRASHING AT THE OFFICE FOGGY AND I JUST SET UP SHOP IN--

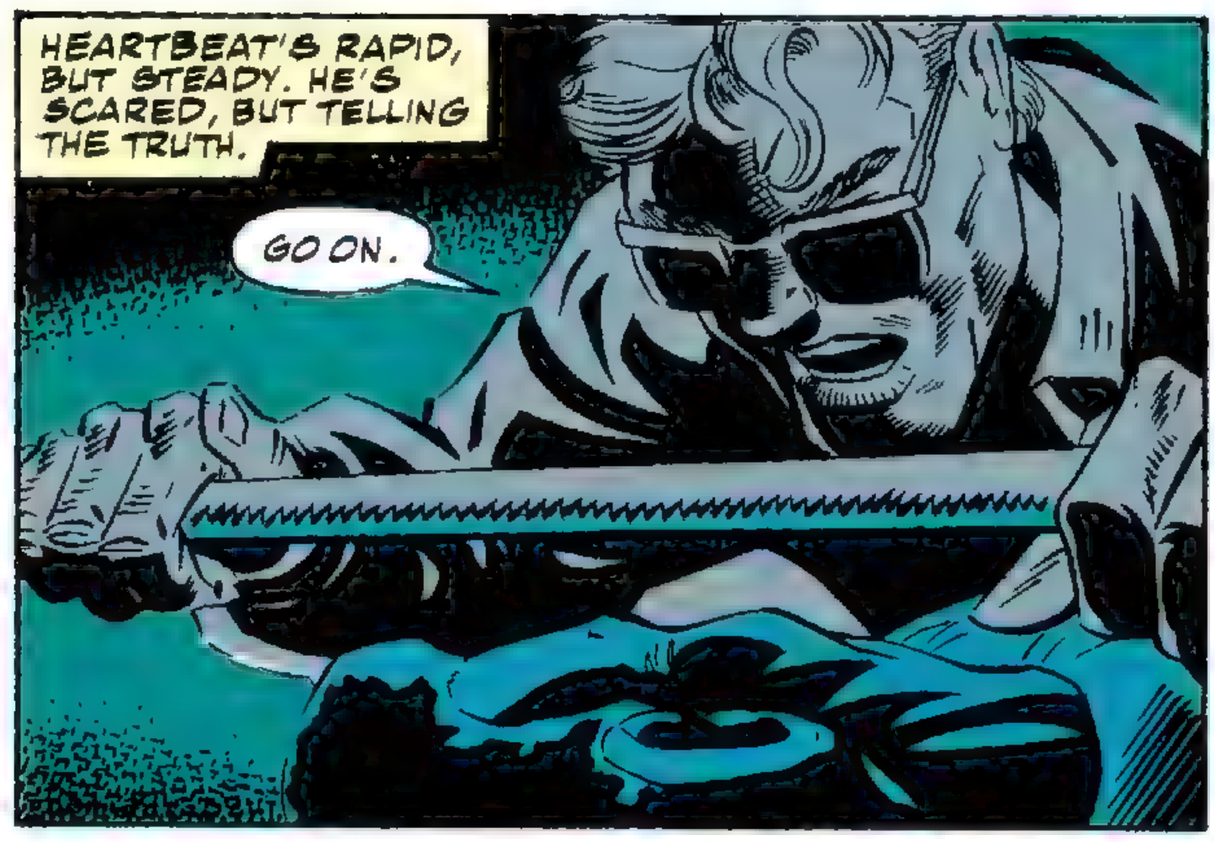
--EH?
NELSON & MURDOCK OFFICES


HEAVY BREATHING BEHIND THE DOOR. HEARTBEAT, SCENT--UNFAMILIAR.


FOGGY'S GONNA KILL ME--HE JUST HAD THAT WINDOW INSTALLED.
FIRE
CRASH!
AAGHH!


OOF!
WHO'S THERE?!
KEEP PLAYING THE ROLE.
YOU WOULD ATTACK A BLIND MAN IN HIS OWN DARK ELEMENT?
BLIND MAN?
THEN YOU ARE ZEE LAWYER, MATT MURDOCK? SAINTS BE PRAISED!

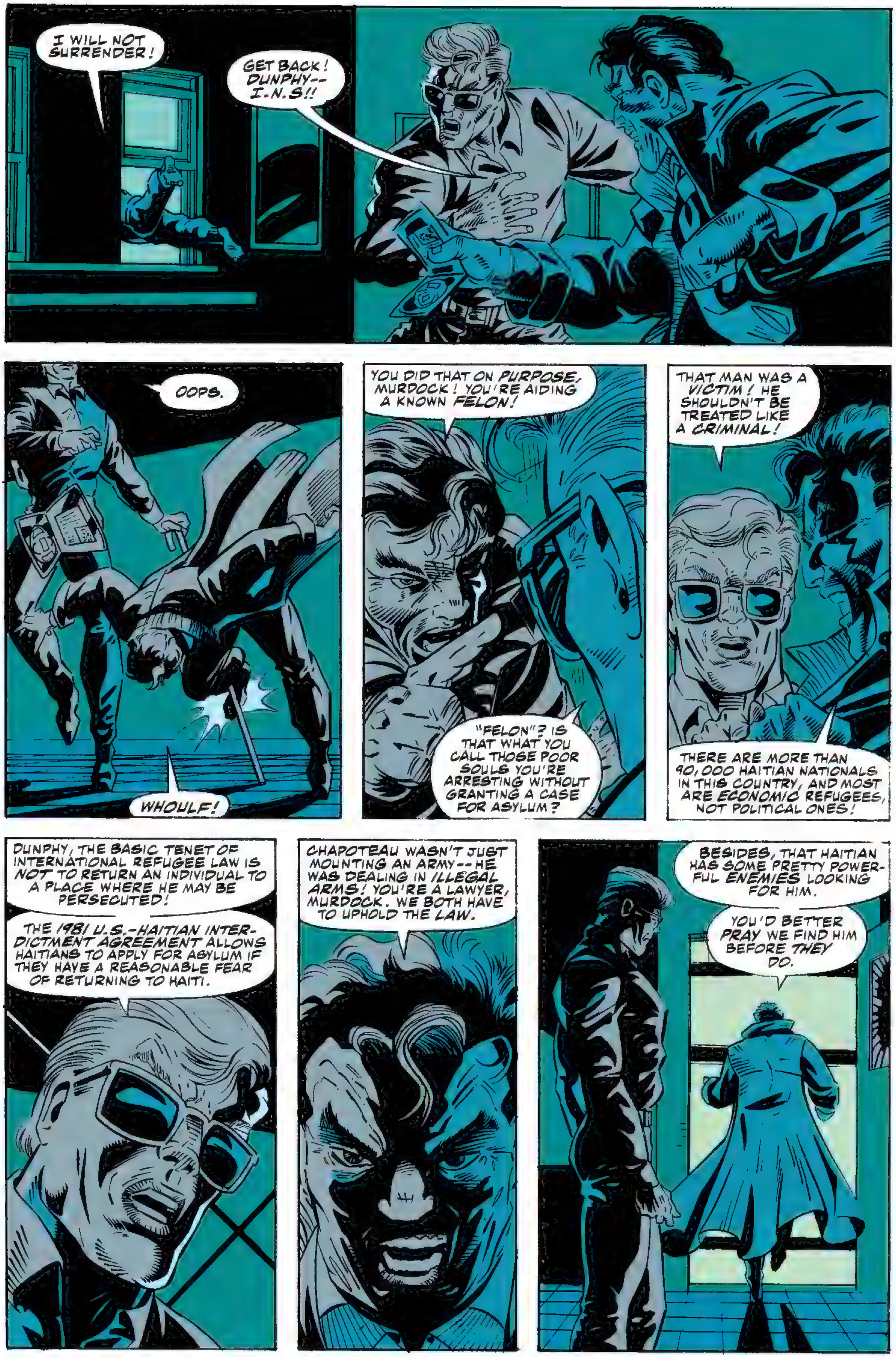
I AM YVES CHAPOTEAU. YOUR SERVICES COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FROM A FRIEND IN HELL'S KITCHEN.
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU-- HIDING IN YOUR OFFICE.
MSSR. MURDOCK, I AM A FUGITIVE FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MY OWN. I AM A HAITIAN REFUGEE, AND I HAVE COME TO YOU SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM.

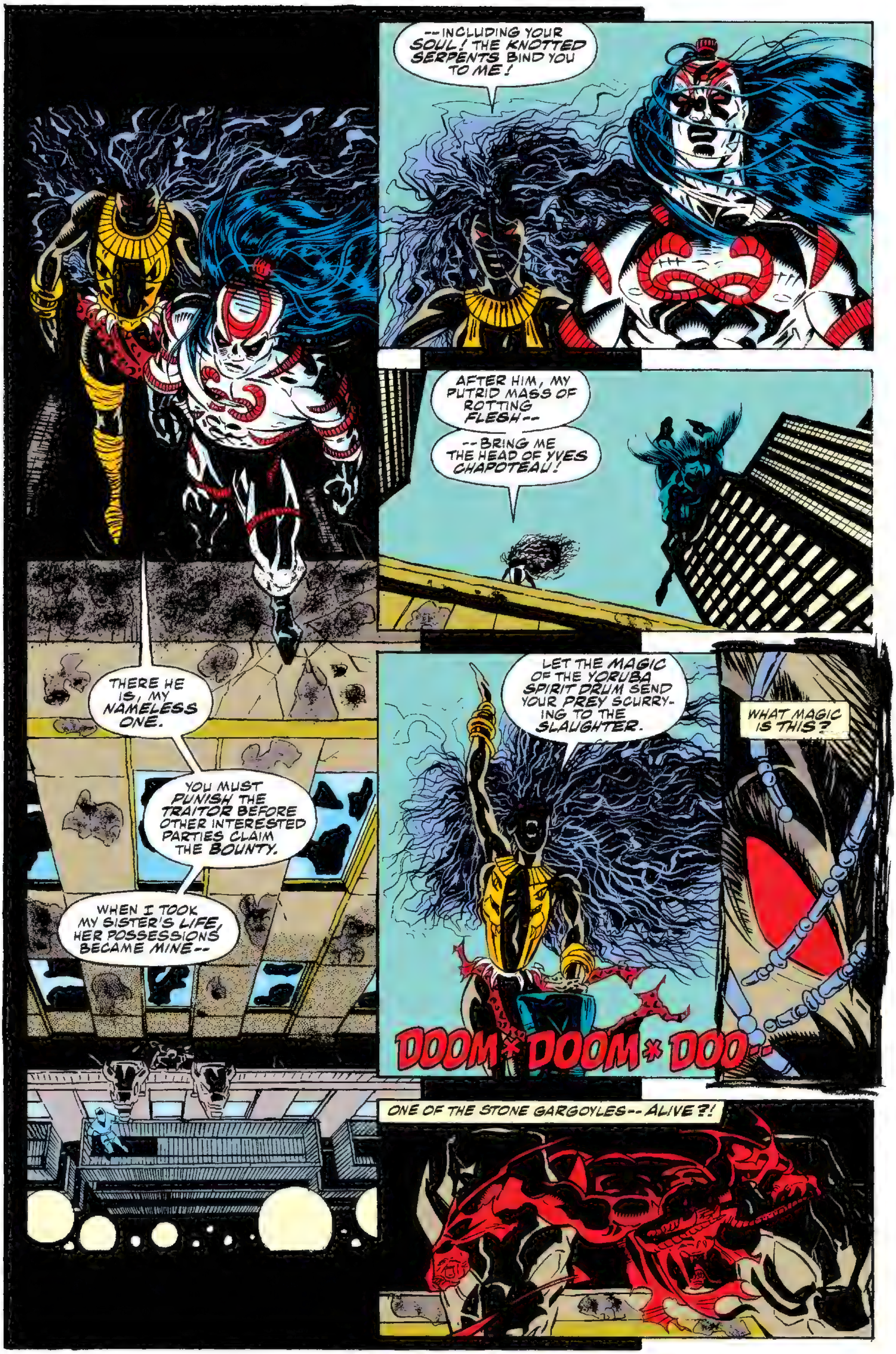

HEARTBEAT'S RAPID, BUT STEADY. HE'S SCARED, BUT TELLING THE TRUTH.
GO ON.

I ESCAPED HAITI SOON AFTER ZEE MILITARY OVERTHREW OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT ARISTIDE. I CAME TO NEW YORK AND ORGANIZED A KAKO GROUP TO INVADE ZEE HOMELAND.
BUT ZEE NEW DICTATOR LEARNED OF OUR PLAN AND SENT HIS MEN AFTER ME. WHEN I WOKE THIS MORNING, I KNEW THEY HAD FOUND ME--

-- MY SHOES HAD BEEN SPIKED TO ZEE FLOOR!
YOUR TRAIL'S NOT HARD TO FOLLOW, CHAPOTEAU--
EH?

-- WHY DON'T YOU MAKE THIS EASY ON YOURSELF AND COME WITH ME?
NO--!!


I WILL NOT SURRENDER!
GET BACK! DUNPHY-- I.N.S!!
OOPS.
WHOULF!
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, MURDOCK! YOU'RE AIDING A KNOWN FELON!
"FELON"? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL THOSE POOR SOULS YOU'RE ARRESTING WITHOUT GRANTING A CASE FOR ASYLUM?
THAT MAN WAS A VICTIM! HE SHOULDN'T BE TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL!
THERE ARE MORE THAN 90,000 HAITIAN NATIONALS IN THIS COUNTRY, AND MOST ARE ECONOMIC REFUGEES, NOT POLITICAL ONES!
DUNPHY, THE BASIC TENET OF INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW IS NOT TO RETURN AN INDIVIDUAL TO A PLACE WHERE HE MAY BE PERSECUTED!
THE 1981 U.S.-HAITIAN INTER-DICTMENT AGREEMENT ALLOWS HAITIANS TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM IF THEY HAVE A REASONABLE FEAR OF RETURNING TO HAITI.
CHAPOTEAU WASN'T JUST MOUNTING AN ARMY--HE WAS DEALING IN ILLEGAL ARMS! YOU'RE A LAWYER, MURDOCK. WE BOTH HAVE TO UPHOLD THE LAW.
BESIDES, THAT HAITIAN HAS SOME PRETTY POWER-FUL ENEMIES LOOKING FOR HIM.
YOU'D BETTER PRAY WE FIND HIM BEFORE THEY DO.


--INCLUDING YOUR SOUL! THE KNOTTED SERPENTS BIND YOU TO ME!
AFTER HIM, MY PUTRID MASS OF ROTTING FLESH--
--BRING ME THE HEAD OF YVES CHAPOTEAU!
THERE HE IS, MY NAMELESS ONE.
YOU MUST PUNISH THE TRAITOR BEFORE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES CLAIM THE BOUNTY.
WHEN I TOOK MY SISTER'S LIFE, HER POSSESSIONS BECAME MINE--
LET THE MAGIC OF THE YORUBA SPIRIT DRUM SEND YOUR PREY SCURRYING TO THE SLAUGHTER.
WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?
DOOM * DOOM * DOO--
ONE OF THE STONE GARGOYLES--ALIVE?!

PROMISED FOGGY THAT I WOULD TRY TO CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF CHARITY CASES.

BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR YVES. OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM IS SUPPOSED TO--

SNAKT

EH?

HEUGHH!!

NOTHING.

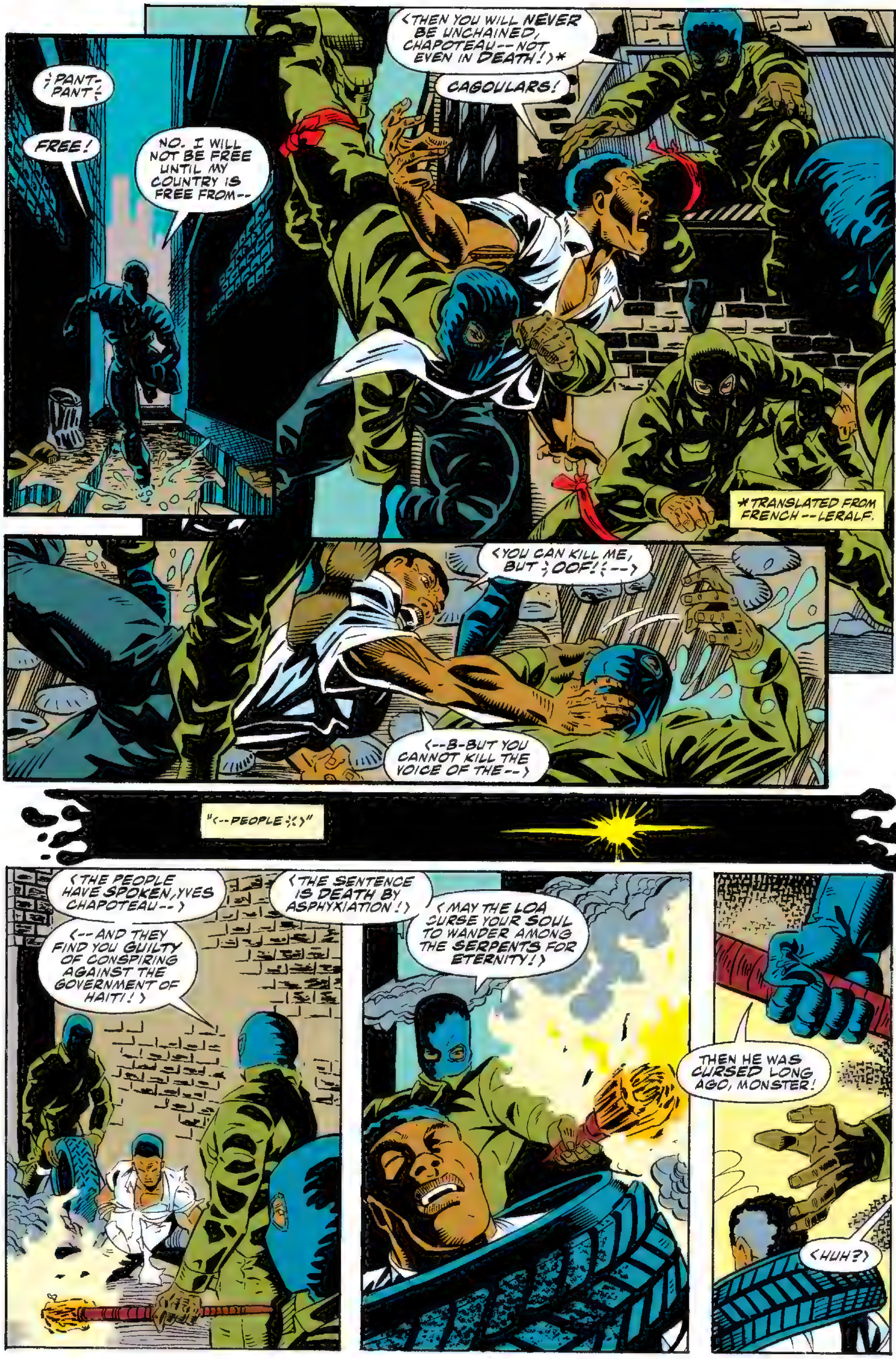
NOTHING BUT MY OWN SCENT. BETTER SHOWER ONCE I'VE DONE MY ROUTINE AS--

THE REDMAN. THE DAREDEVIL!

I THOUGHT MY SOULMATE, THE HUNTER, HAD EXAGGERATED WHEN HE DESCRIBED YOU! WE WILL NOW FINISH WHAT HE STARTED...*

*SEE DAREDEVIL #104 --RALF'S DOPPELGANGER.

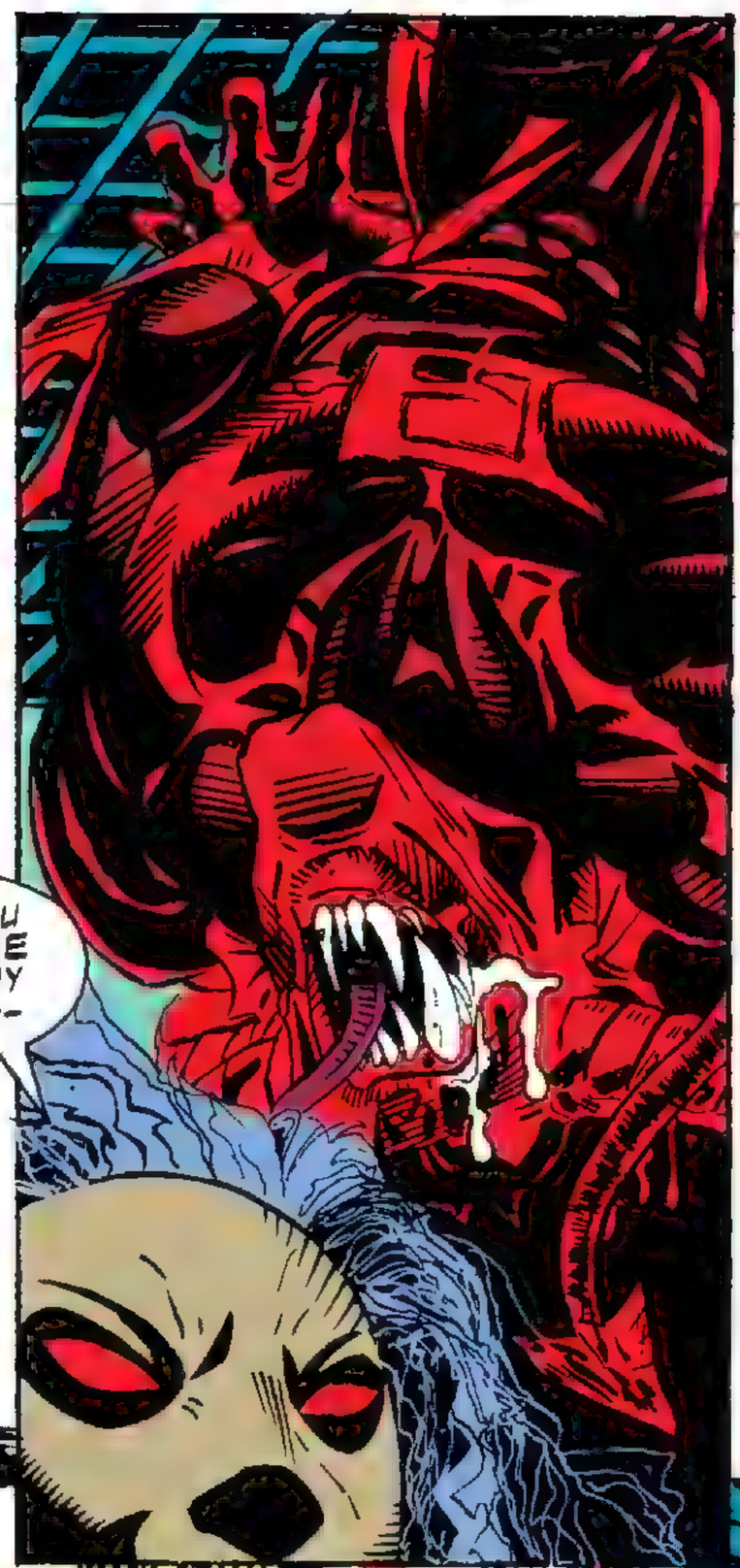
...THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF THE NAMELESS ONE!


;PANT-PANT;
FREE!
NO. I WILL NOT BE FREE UNTIL MY COUNTRY IS FREE FROM--
<THEN YOU WILL NEVER BE UNCHAINED, CHAPOTEAU--NOT EVEN IN DEATH!>*
CAGOULARS!
*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH--LERALF.
<YOU CAN KILL ME, BUT ;OOF!;-->
<--B-BUT YOU CANNOT KILL THE VOICE OF THE-->
"<--PEOPLE;<>"
<THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN, YVES CHAPOTEAU-->
<--AND THEY FIND YOU GUILTY OF CONSPIRING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI!>
<THE SENTENCE IS DEATH BY ASPHYXIATION!>
<MAY THE LOA CURSE YOUR SOUL TO WANDER AMONG THE SERPENTS FOR ETERNITY!>
THEN HE WAS CURSED LONG AGO, MONSTER!
<HUH?>

FRENCH WAS NEVER ONE OF MY BEST SUBJECTS, BUT I KNOW ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THESE GOONS, EVEN THROUGH THEIR HAITIAN DIALECT.
AAGH!
OOF!
¿UHH!¿
<RUN!>
BOSU BICORNE!!
DIDN'T CATCH THAT PHRASE.
"BOSU BICORNE"?
UNH.
THEY WERE CAGOULARS, PART OF THE HAITIAN CIVIL MILITIA. THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TERRIBLE TWO-HORNED GOD OF THE LOA.
HEH. CRIMINALS ARE A COWARDLY AND SUPERSTITIOUS--
ROTTING FLESH. ROCK. CLAY...
WHOOPS!
YUP. I KNOW THIS GUY.
AAGK!

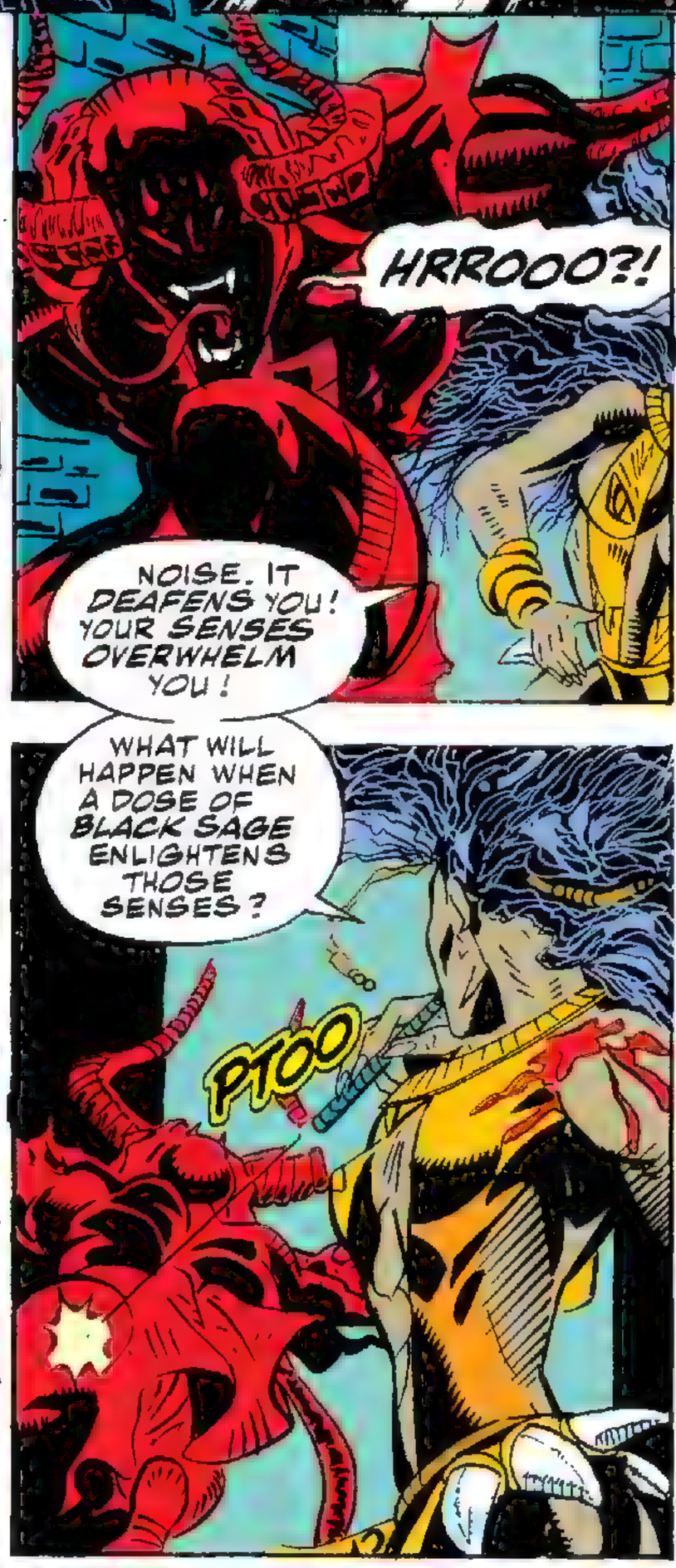
I KNOW OF YOU, REDMAN.
YOU WILL TRY TO ROB ME OF MY HONOR WITH YOUR--
CLAWS?
SNAP
TAIL?
AGH! I CAN PLAY DIRTY, TOO, REDMAN!
CHOMP
:PTU:
FLEE MONSTER--
EEEEEEEEEIIIIAA
--YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM A TRUE HUNTER!

MY SOUL-MATE ONCE WARNED ME THAT DARKNESS IS YOUR DOMAIN...


THAT YOU HAVE THE UNCANNY ABILITY--

--TO "SEE" IN THE DARK!

HHKKUKK!
THUK
AAAAAA

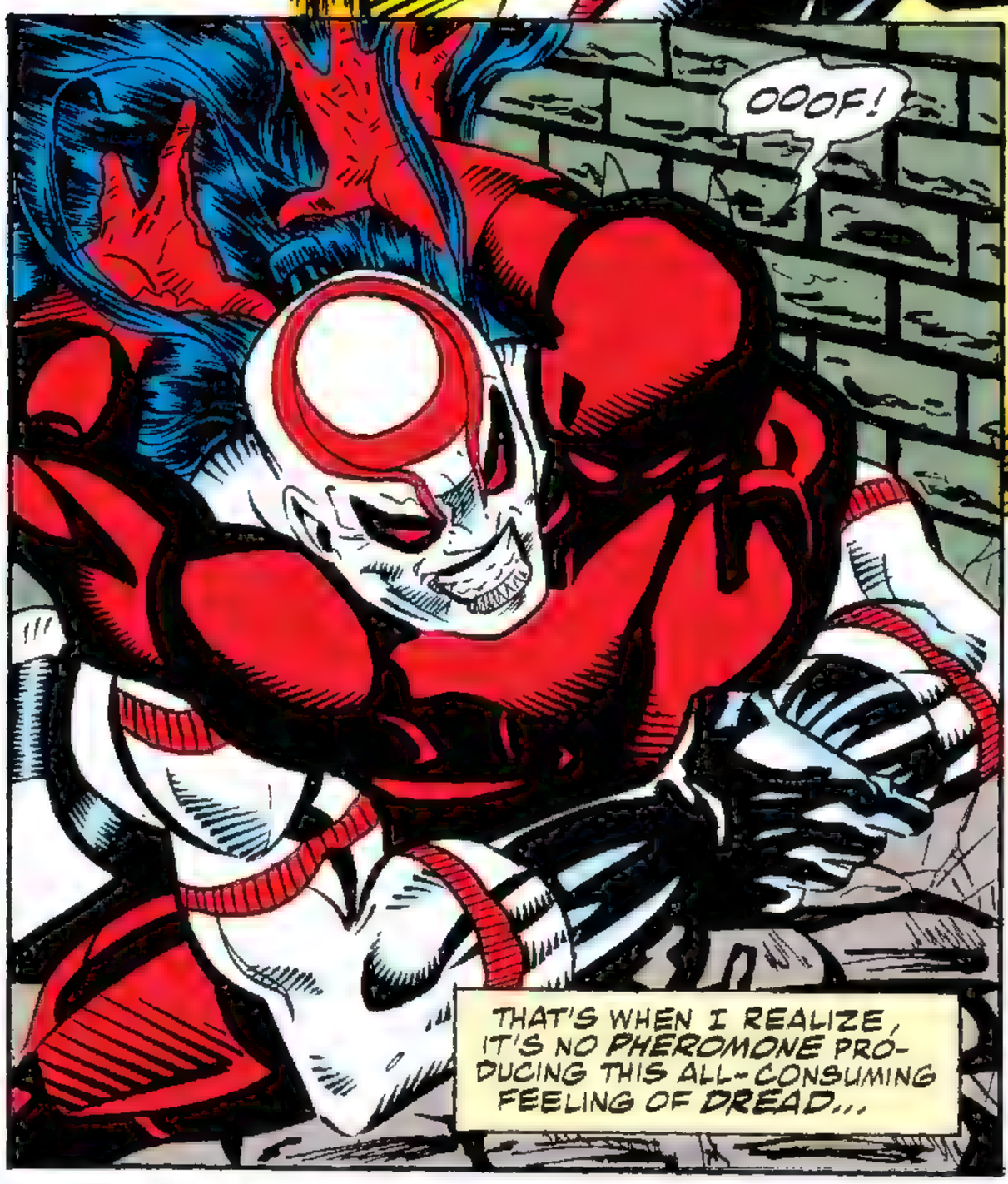

HRROOO?!
NOISE. IT DEAFENS YOU! YOUR SENSES OVERWHELM YOU!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN A DOSE OF BLACK SAGE ENLIGHTENS THOSE SENSES?
PTOO

LAST TIME IT TURNED THE "MAN WITHOUT FEAR" INTO A QUIVERING MASS OF JELLY.

ONLY THEN ITS MISSION WAS TO PUNISH A WILD-MAN CRACK DEALER.*

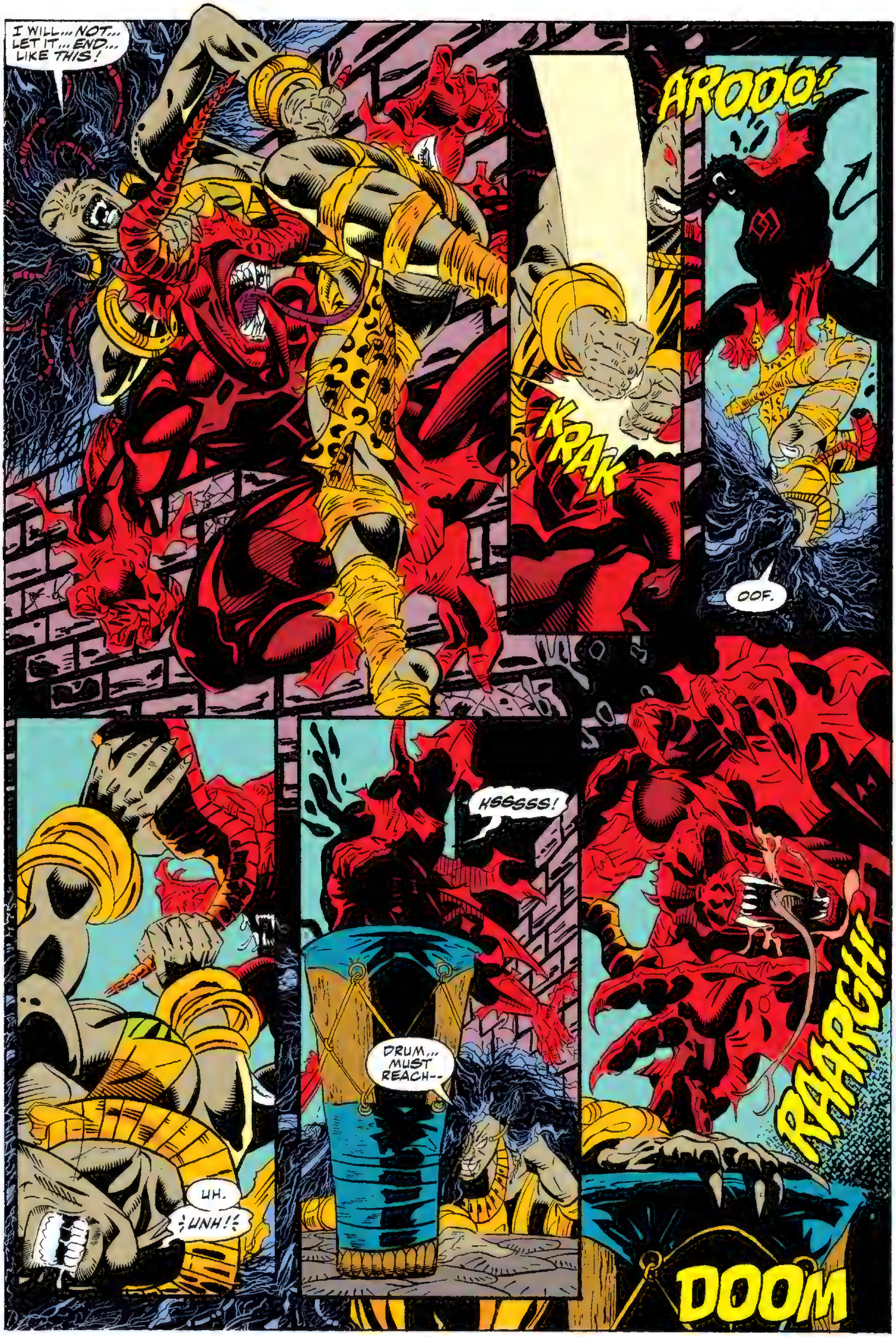
*SEE DAREDEVIL #244 --QUIVERING RALF.

CONTROL THE FEAR.

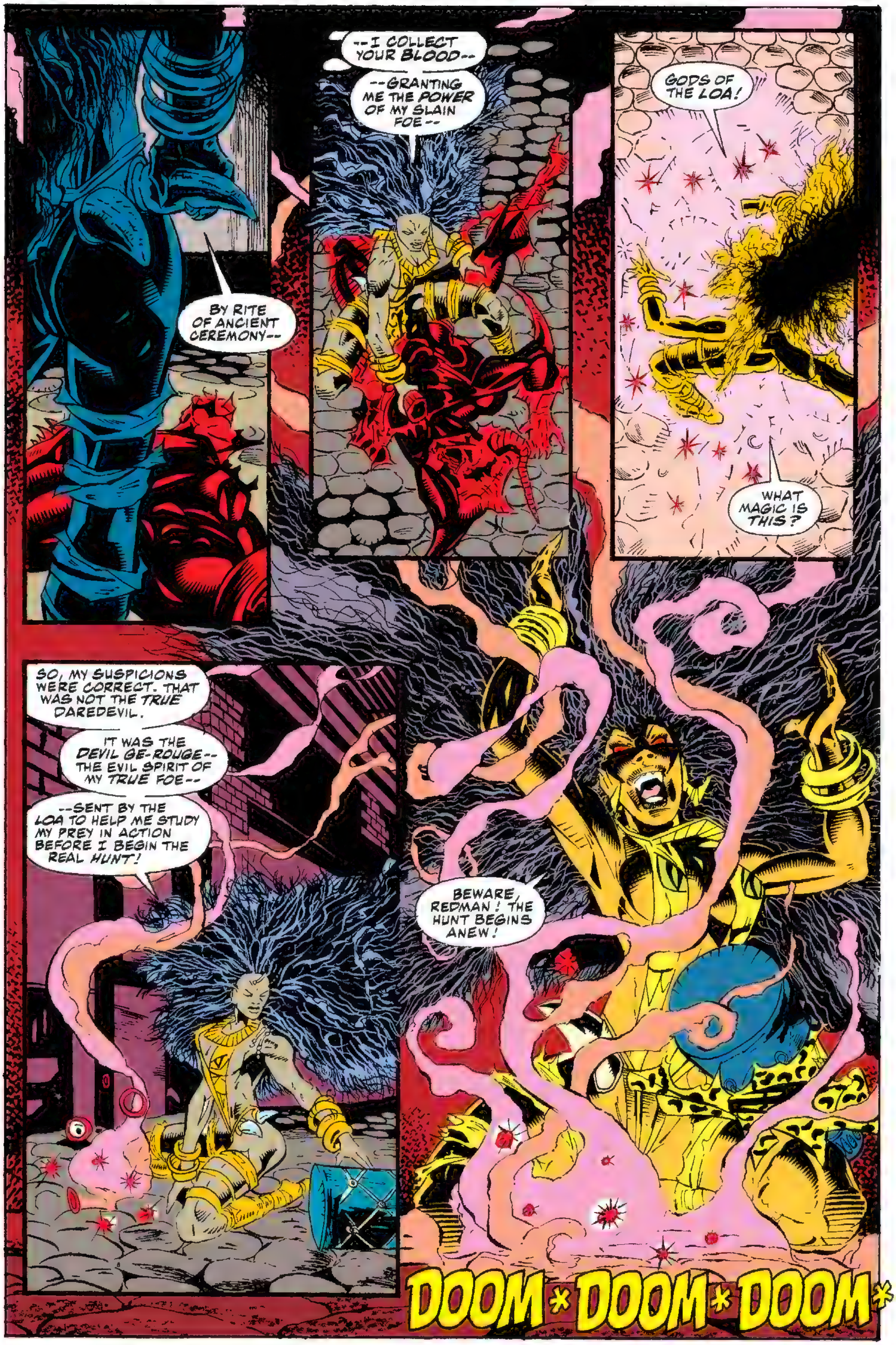


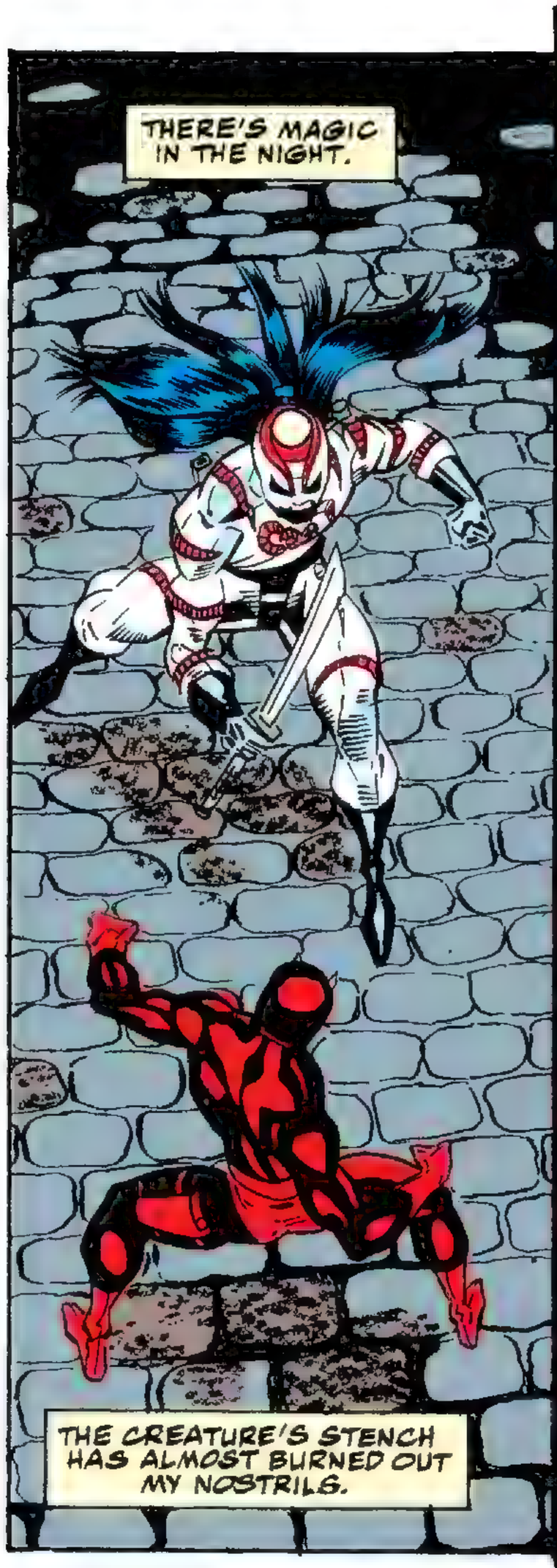
DIE, REDMAN! THE POISON IN THAT DART WILL--
EH?
PLUCK
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SHOULD HAVE ABSORBED ENOUGH BLACK SAGE TO BRING DOWN AN ELEPHANT!
HMMM? HEH-HEH.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
NO! STAY BACK! I COMMAND Y--
AAA AAAAAA
THUK
HA HA HA HA

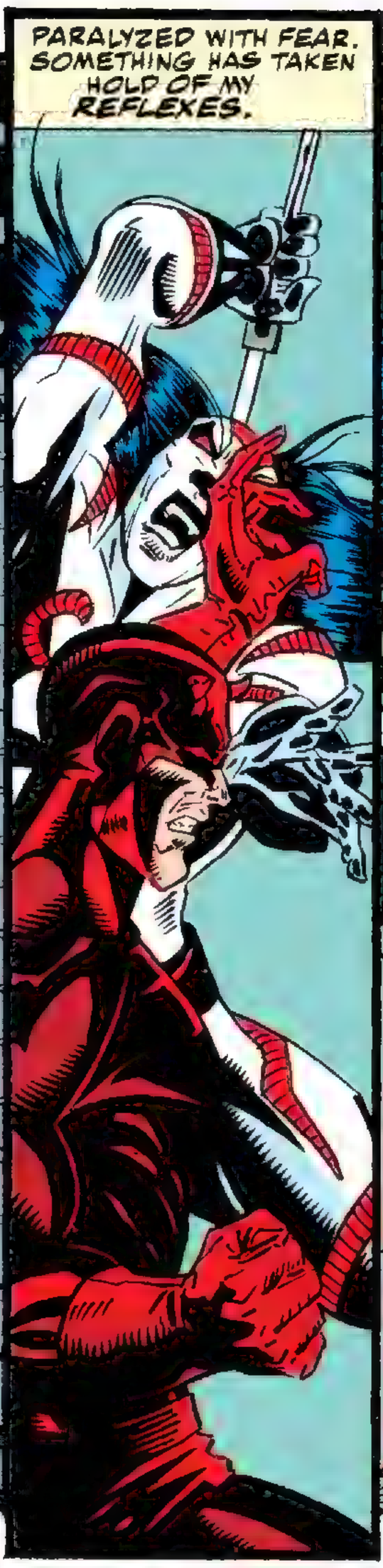
SQUEEZING THE LIFE OUT OF ME. ONLY ONE CHANCE...
SPAK
HAND-OVER-HAND...
COIL...
CLAP...
THWOP
THWOP
DROP...
HKKUKK!
WAIT...
SNAP
THIS HAS GOT TO END.


I WILL... NOT... LET IT... END... LIKE THIS!
KRAK
AROOO!
OOF.
HSSSSS!
DRUM... MUST REACH--
UH.
UNH!
RAARGH!
DOOM

BACK, DEMON!
ACK!
THE YORUBA SPIRIT DRUM IS USED BY HUNTERS TO SEND PREY STAMPEDING IN TERROR INTO OUR SNARES.
THROUGH THE ANIMAL'S HEIGHTENED SENSES, THE RHYTHM AFFECTS THAT PART OF ITS MIND WHICH CONTROLS ITS INSTINCTS AND REFLEXES --
--LONG ENOUGH FOR THE HUNTER...
DOOM * DOOM * DOOM *
...TO MAKE THE KILL!
HA HA HA HA
THUK
THUK
THUK

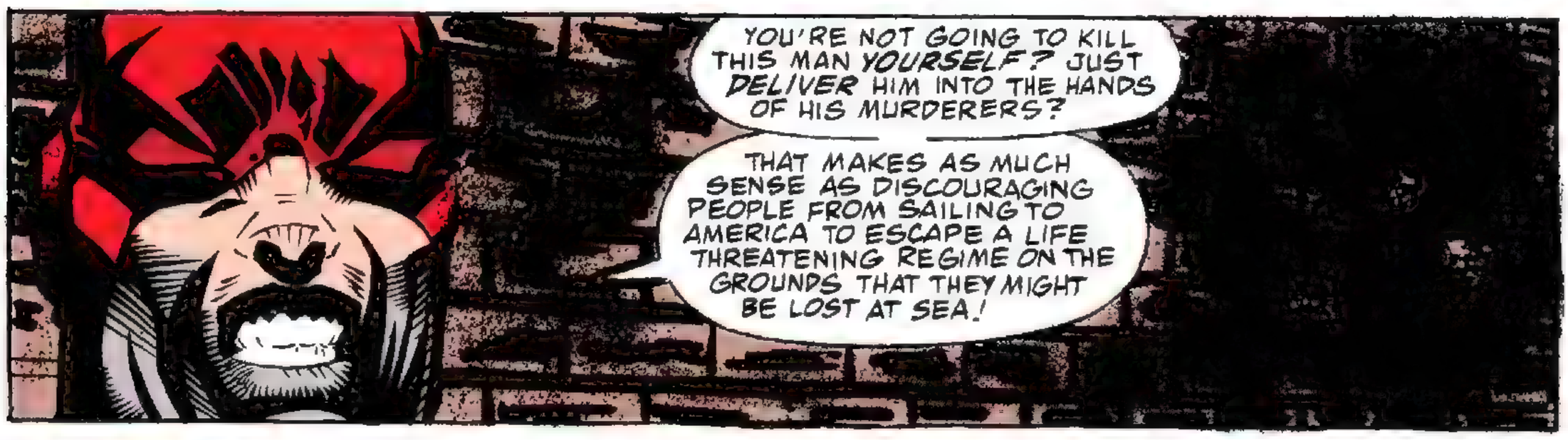

BY RITE OF ANCIENT CEREMONY--
--I COLLECT YOUR BLOOD--
--GRANTING ME THE POWER OF MY SLAIN FOE--
GODS OF THE LOA!
WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?
SO, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT. THAT WAS NOT THE TRUE DAREDEVIL.
IT WAS THE DEVIL GE-ROUGE-- THE EVIL SPIRIT OF MY TRUE FOE--
--SENT BY THE LOA TO HELP ME STUDY MY PREY IN ACTION BEFORE I BEGIN THE REAL HUNT!
BEWARE, REDMAN! THE HUNT BEGINS ANEW!
DOOM*DOOM*DOOM*

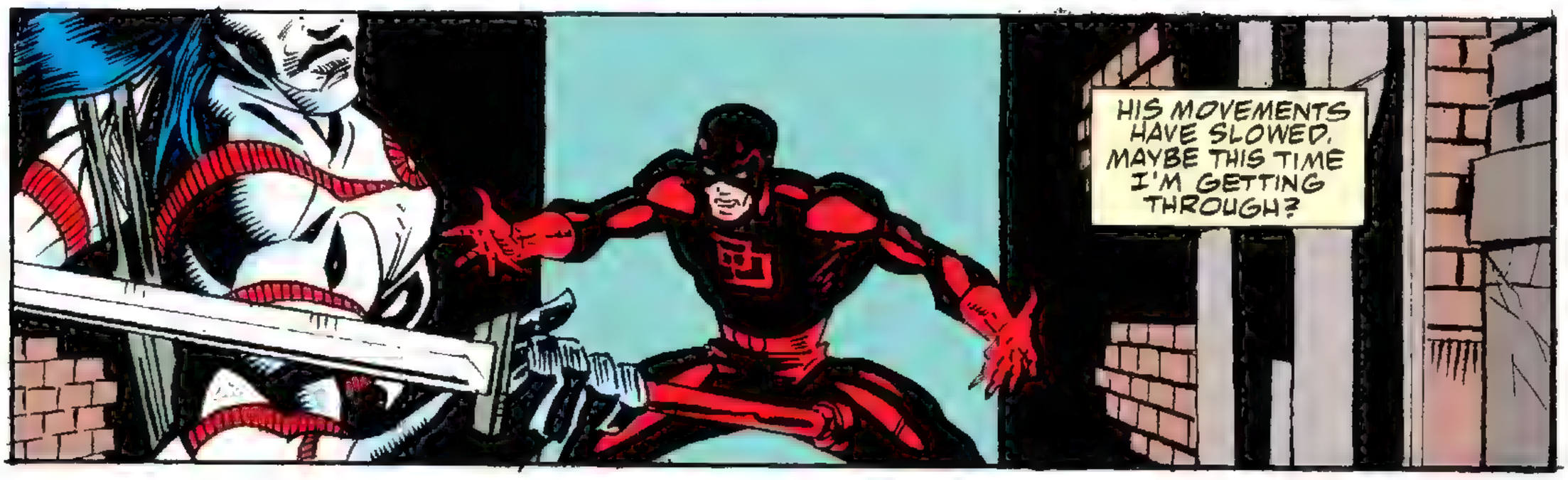

THERE'S MAGIC IN THE NIGHT.
THE CREATURE'S STENCH HAS ALMOST BURNED OUT MY NOSTRILS.

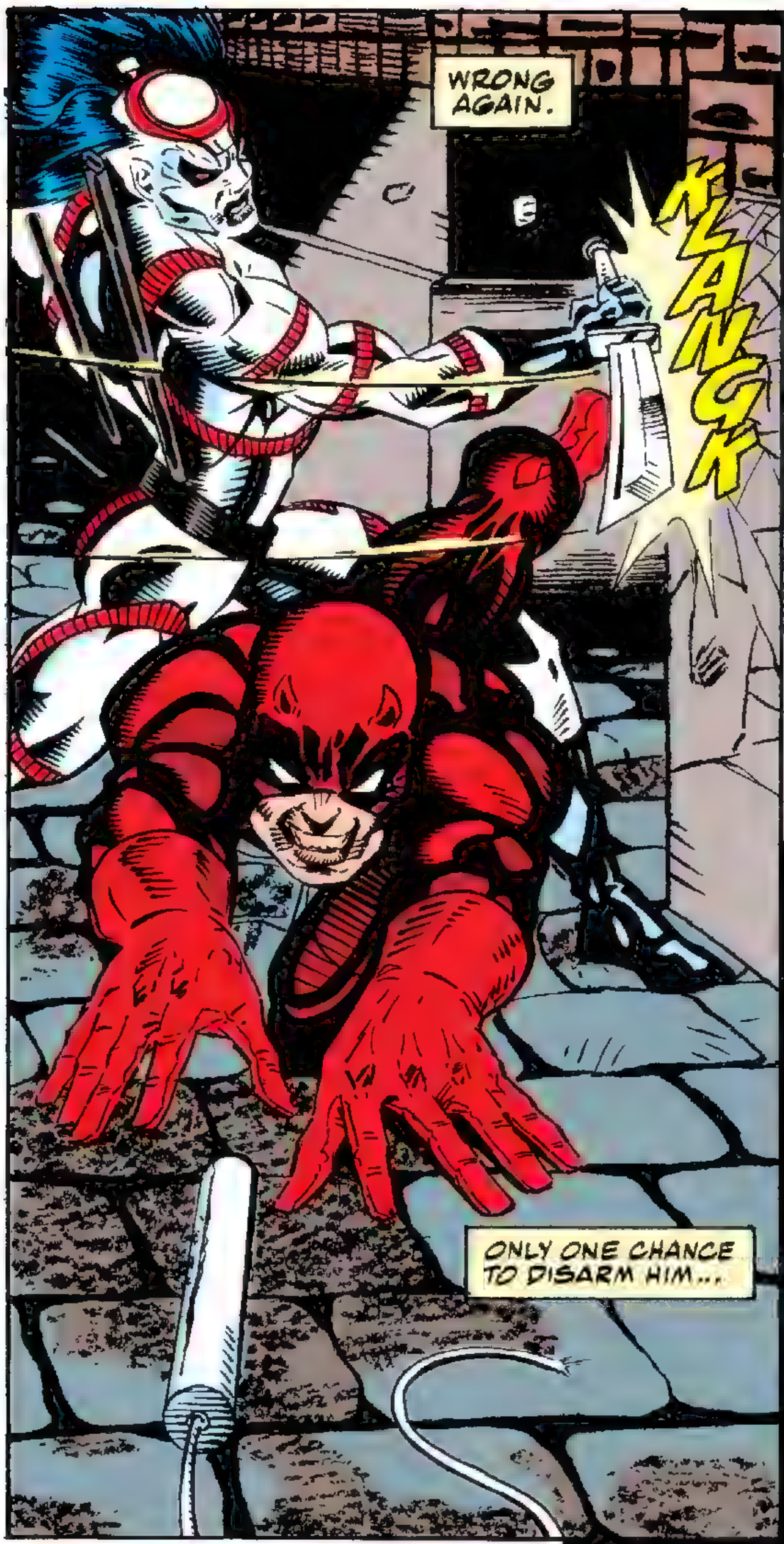

PARALYZED WITH FEAR. SOMETHING HAS TAKEN HOLD OF MY REFLEXES.

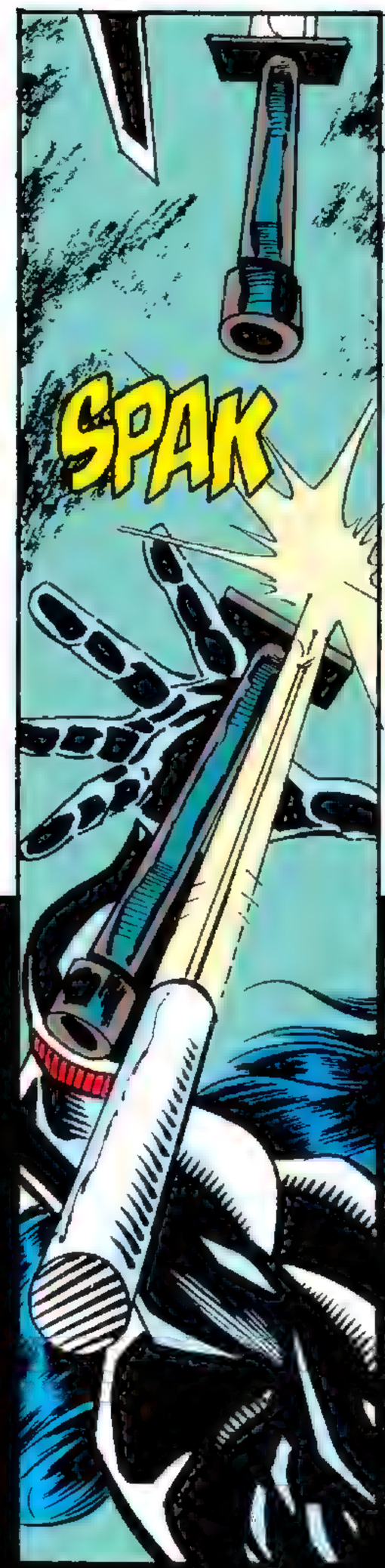
NO!!

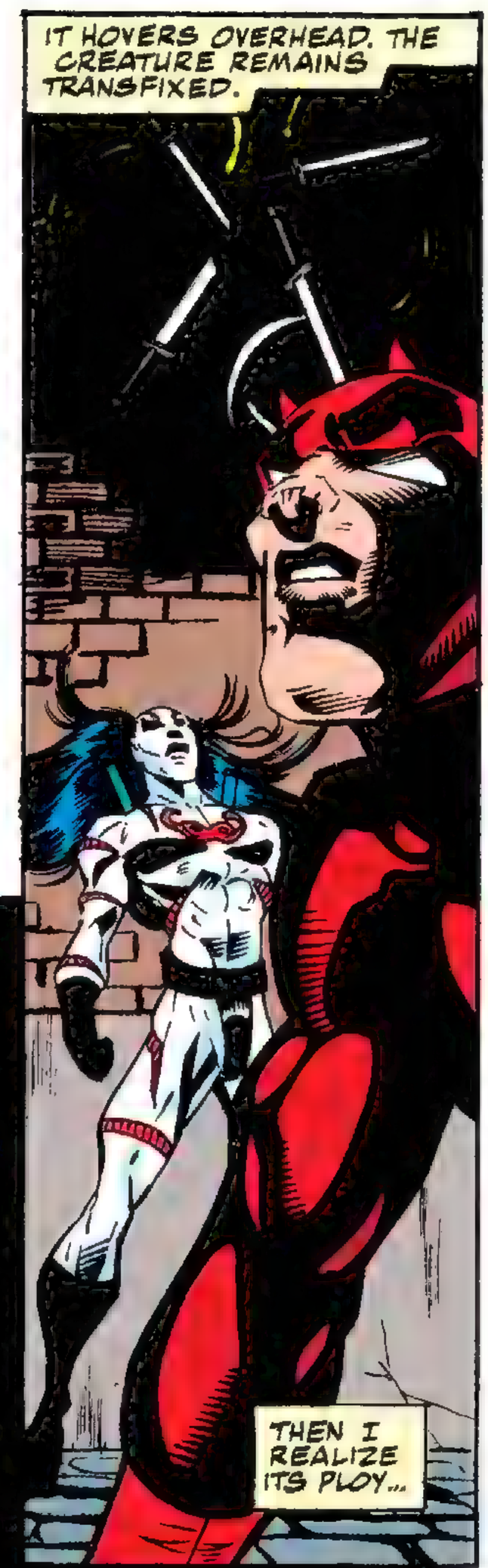
TEMPORARY REPRIEVE. I'VE GOT TO TURN THIS SELF-DOUBT OUTWARD...


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL THIS MAN YOURSELF? JUST DELIVER HIM INTO THE HANDS OF HIS MURDERERS?
THAT MAKES AS MUCH SENSE AS DISCOURAGING PEOPLE FROM SAILING TO AMERICA TO ESCAPE A LIFE THREATENING REGIME ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY MIGHT BE LOST AT SEA!

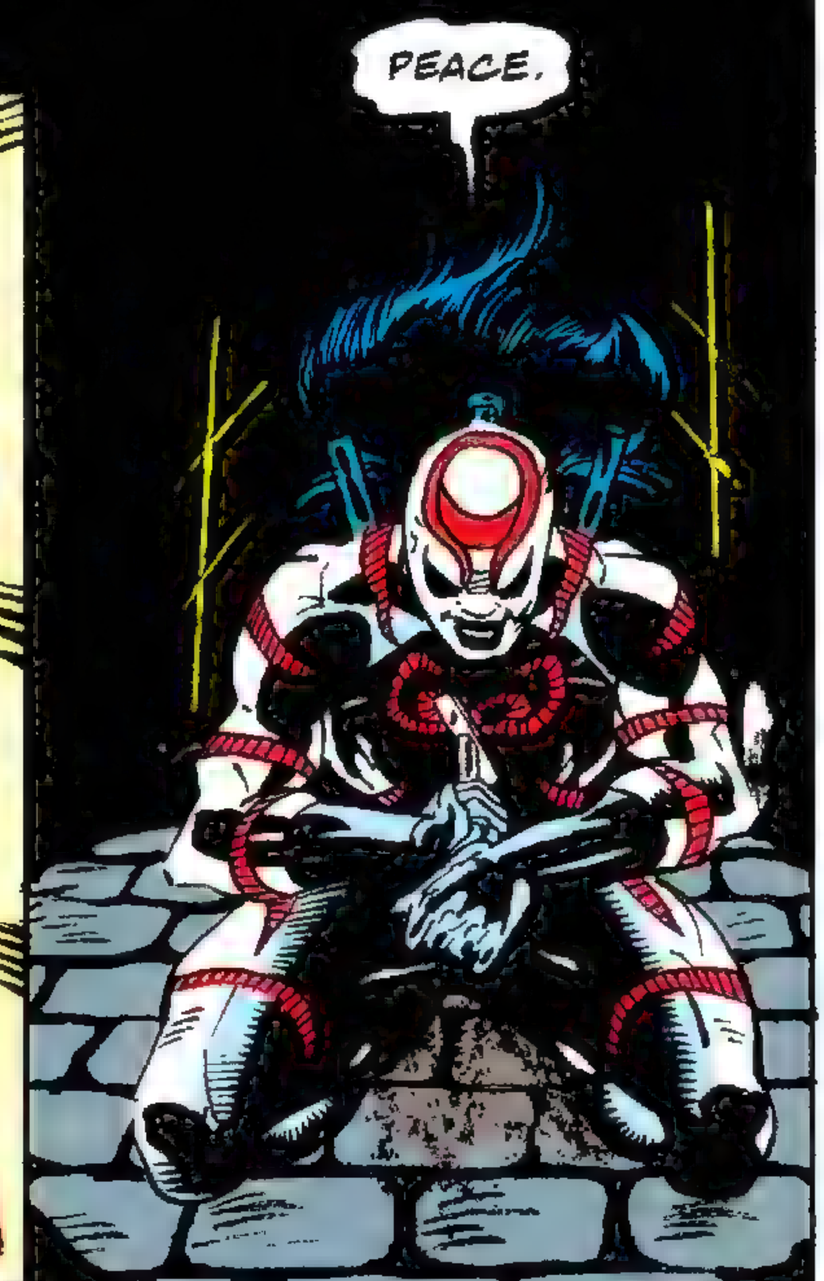

HIS MOVEMENTS HAVE SLOWED. MAYBE THIS TIME I'M GETTING THROUGH?


WRONG AGAIN.
KLANGK
ONLY ONE CHANCE TO DISARM HIM...

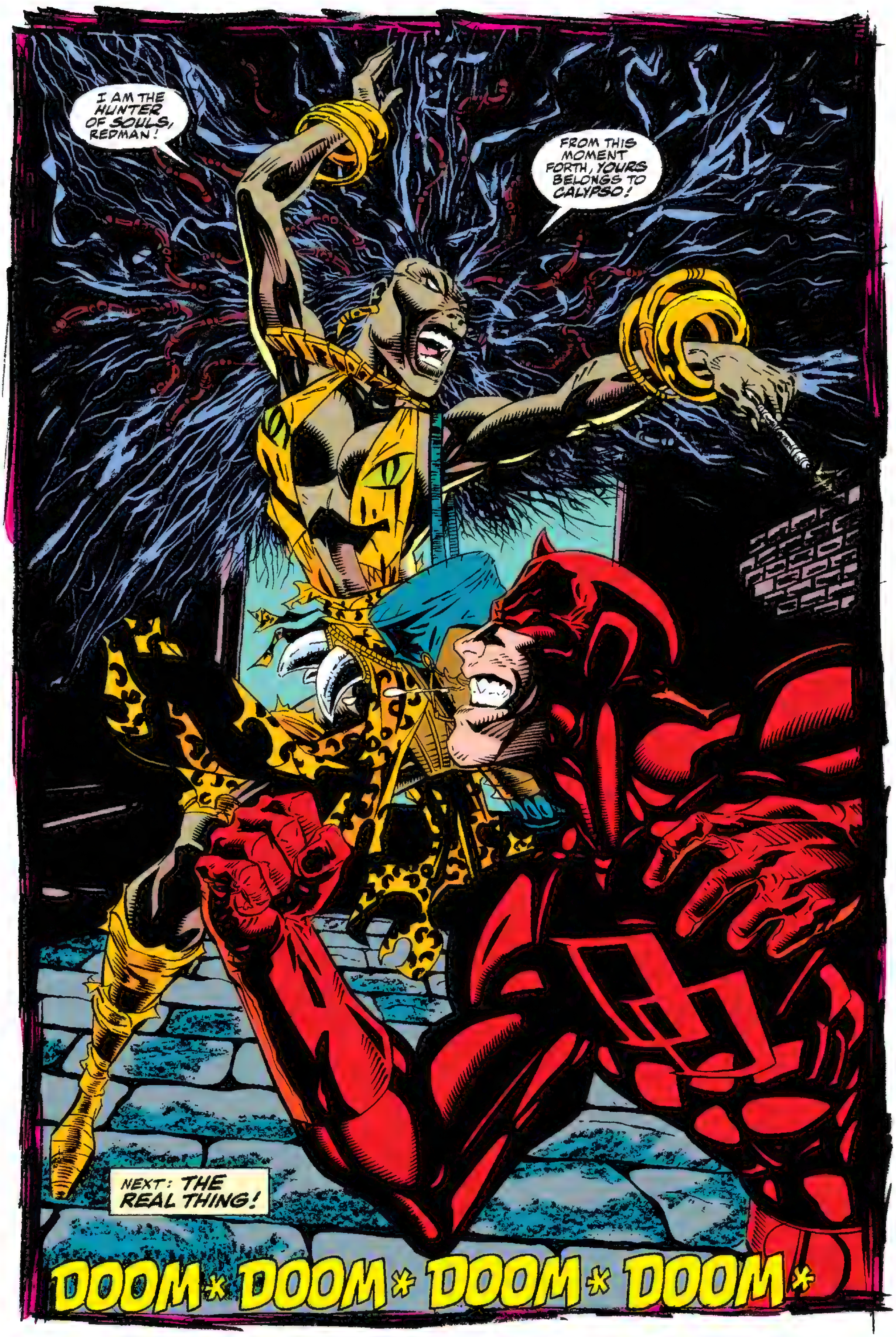

SPAK

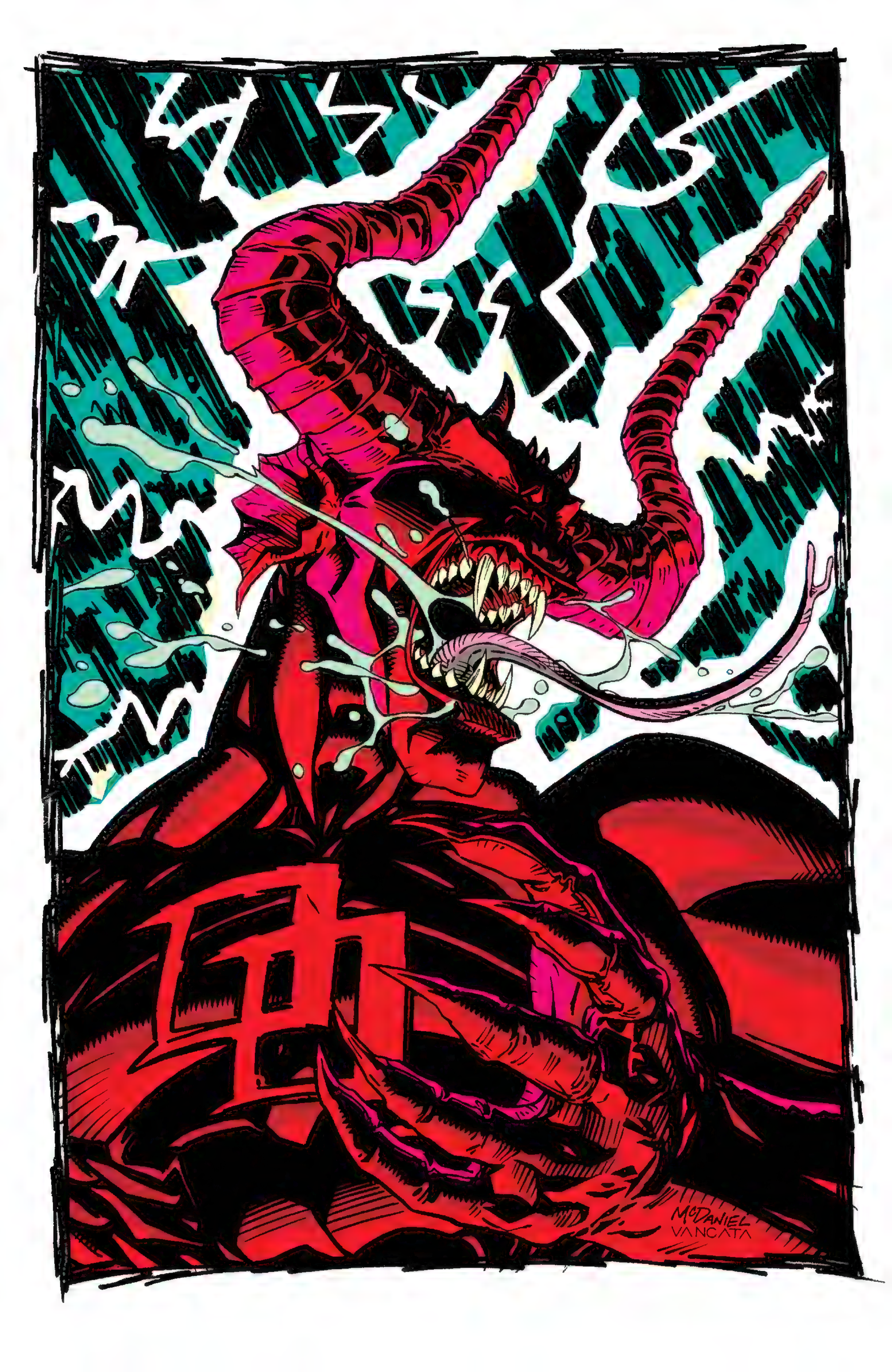

IT HOVERS OVERHEAD. THE CREATURE REMAINS TRANSFIXED.
THEN I REALIZE ITS PLOY...

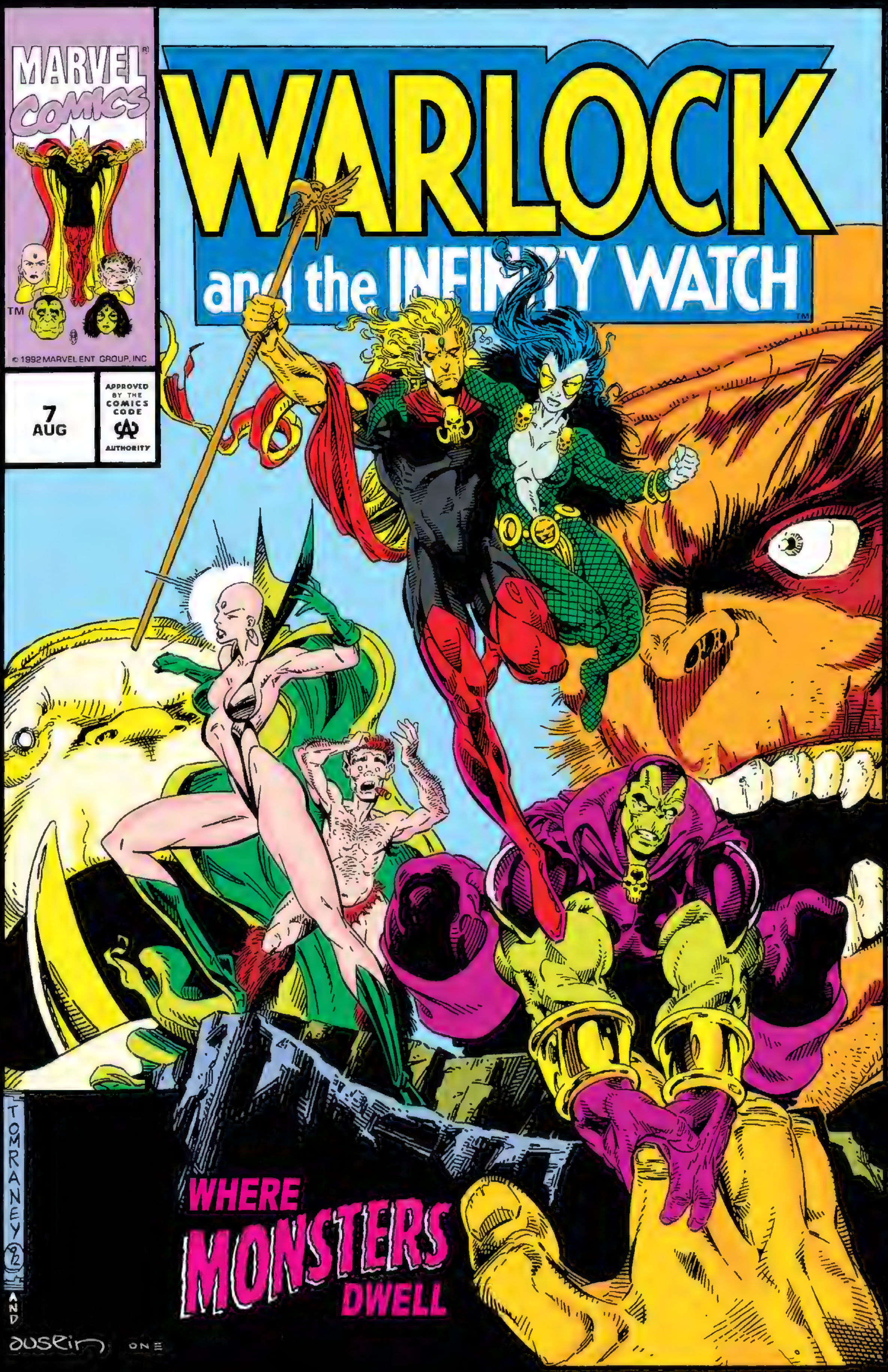
SLITCHH
NOOOO!


PEACE.

YOU DID IT, MSSR. DAREDEVIL!
I-IS HE DEAD?
NON. ZEE SABER SEVERED ZEE BOUND SNAKES ON HIS CHEST, RELEASING HIS SOUL FROM CAPTIVITY.
ZEE NAMELESS ONE IS FREE!
;PHEW!;
DOOM*DOOM*DOOM*
NOW WHAT?! IS THIS AN ASSAULT ON ALL MY SENSES?
DON'T YOU HEAR IT?
I HEAR NOTHING.
IT'S LIKE THE RHYTHMIC BEATING OF A JUNGLE DRUM REVERBERATING THROUGH MY MIND!
JUNGLE DRUM? YES! THE WITCH!
THE WITCH IS HUNTING! WE MUST FLEE!
WAIT--
--WHO IS...?
DOOM*DOOM*DOOM*DOOM*DOOM*


I AM THE HUNTER OF SOULS, REDMAN!
FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, YOURS BELONGS TO CALYPSO!
NEXT: THE REAL THING!
DOOM * DOOM * DOOM * DOOM *


McDANIEL
VANCATA


MARVEL COMICS
WARLOCK
and the INFINITY WATCH
WHERE MONSTERS DWELL
7
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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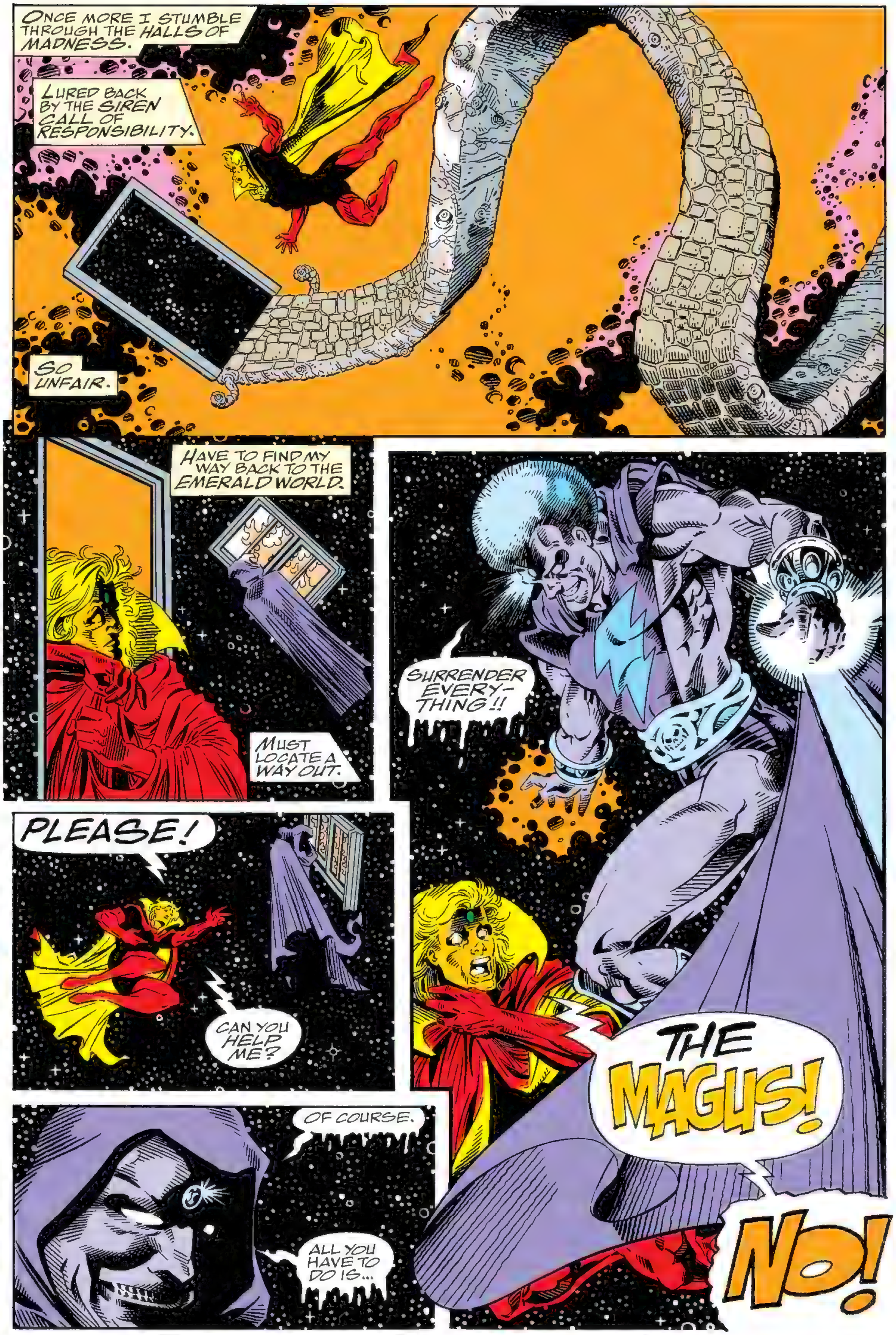
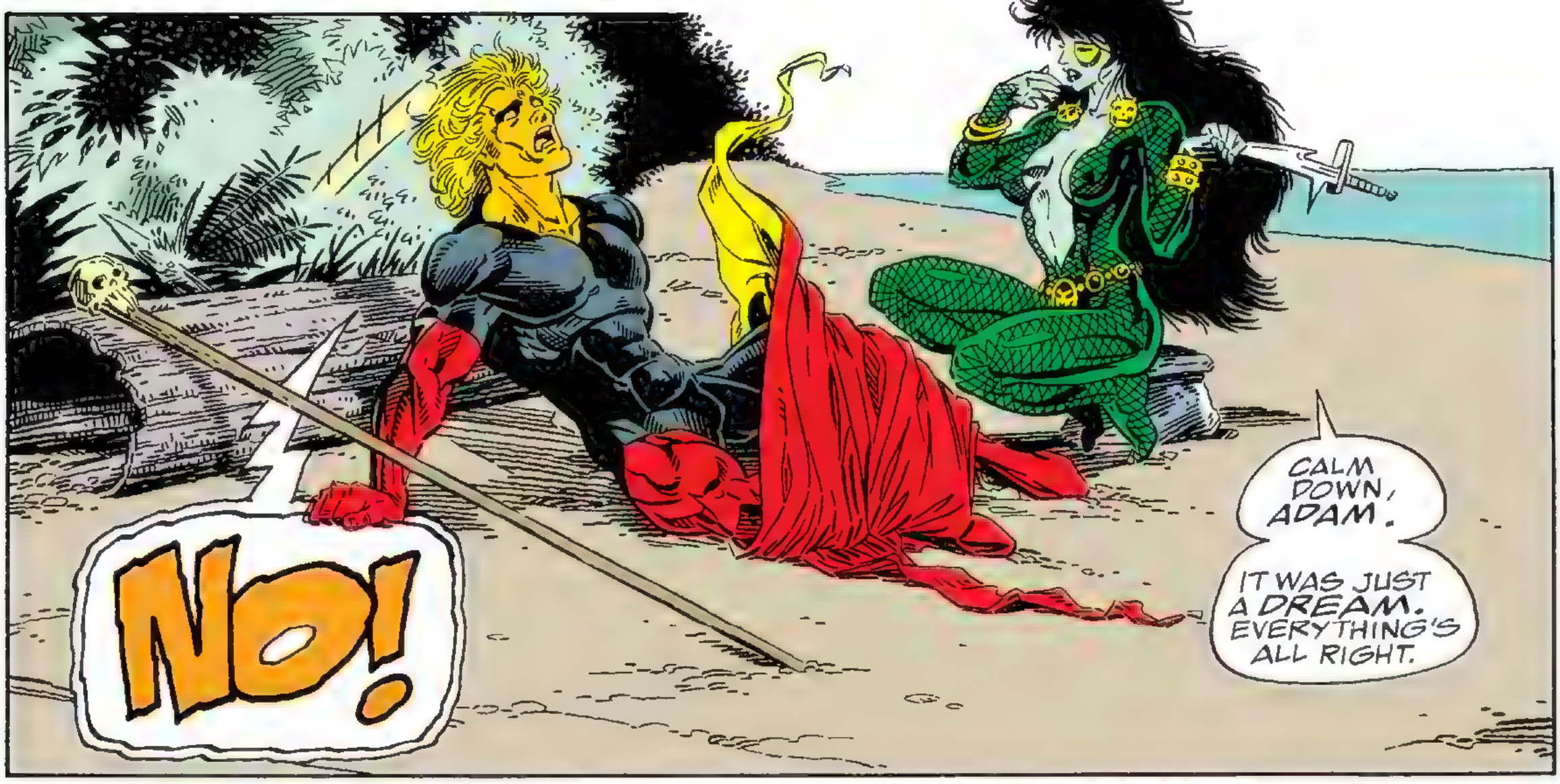
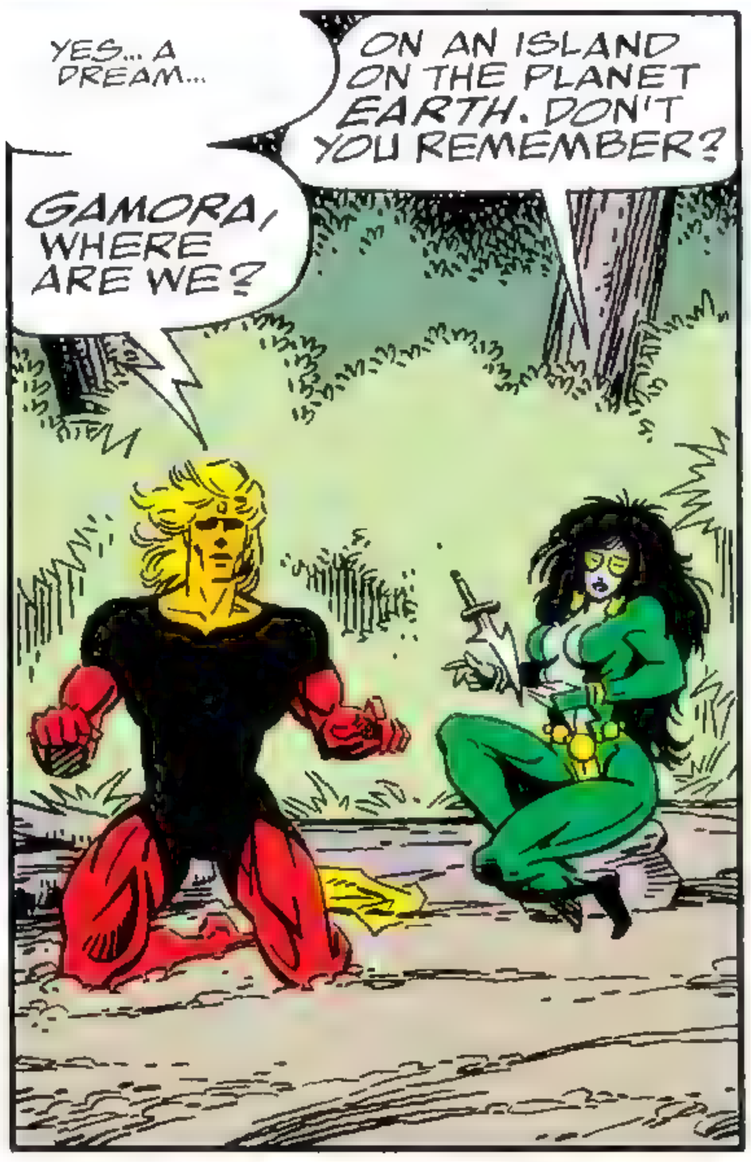
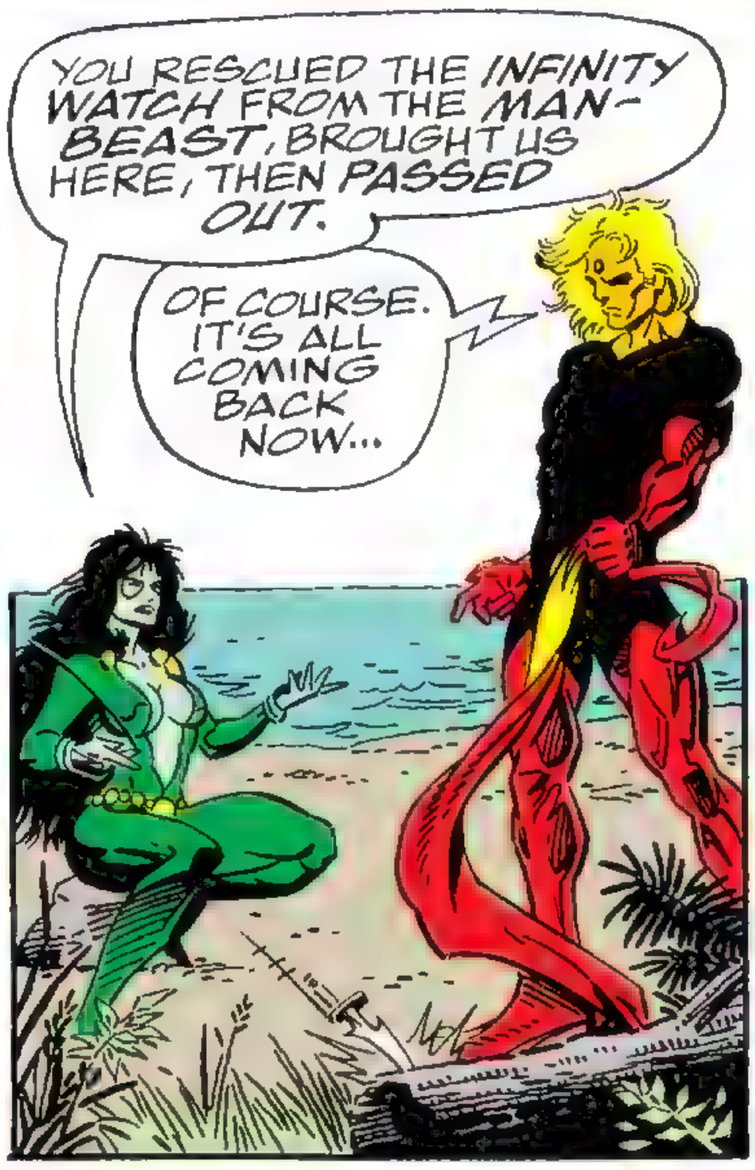
TOMRANEY 92
AND
austin
ONE

IT'S ALL WRONG!
IT'S NEVER BEEN RIGHT!
NOT TRUE! FOR A SHORT SPELL IT WAS WONDERFUL!
BUT SO SHORT A TIME....
NOW I'VE LOST IT AGAIN.
THE ISLAND!

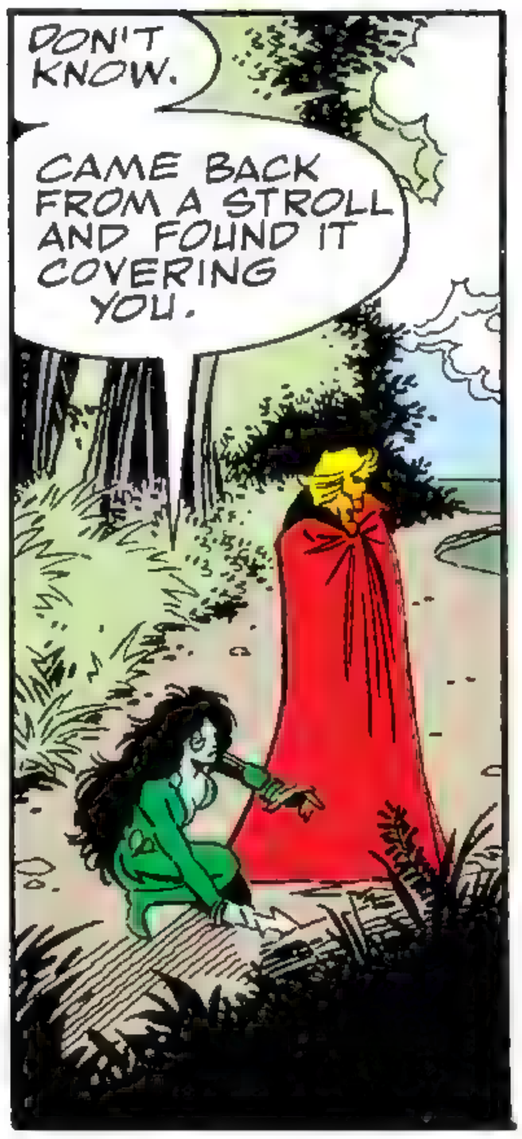

ONCE MORE I STUMBLE THROUGH THE HALLS OF MADNESS.
LURED BACK BY THE SIREN CALL OF RESPONSIBILITY.
SO UNFAIR.
HAVE TO FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE EMERALD WORLD.
MUST LOCATE A WAY OUT.
SURRENDER EVERY-THING!!
THE MAGUS!
NO!
PLEASE!
CAN YOU HELP ME?
OF COURSE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS...


No!
CALM DOWN, ADAM.
IT WAS JUST A DREAM. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.


YES... A DREAM...
ON AN ISLAND ON THE PLANET EARTH. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
GAMORA, WHERE ARE WE?


YOU RESCUED THE INFINITY WATCH FROM THE MAN-BEAST, BROUGHT US HERE, THEN PASSED OUT.
OF COURSE. IT'S ALL COMING BACK NOW...

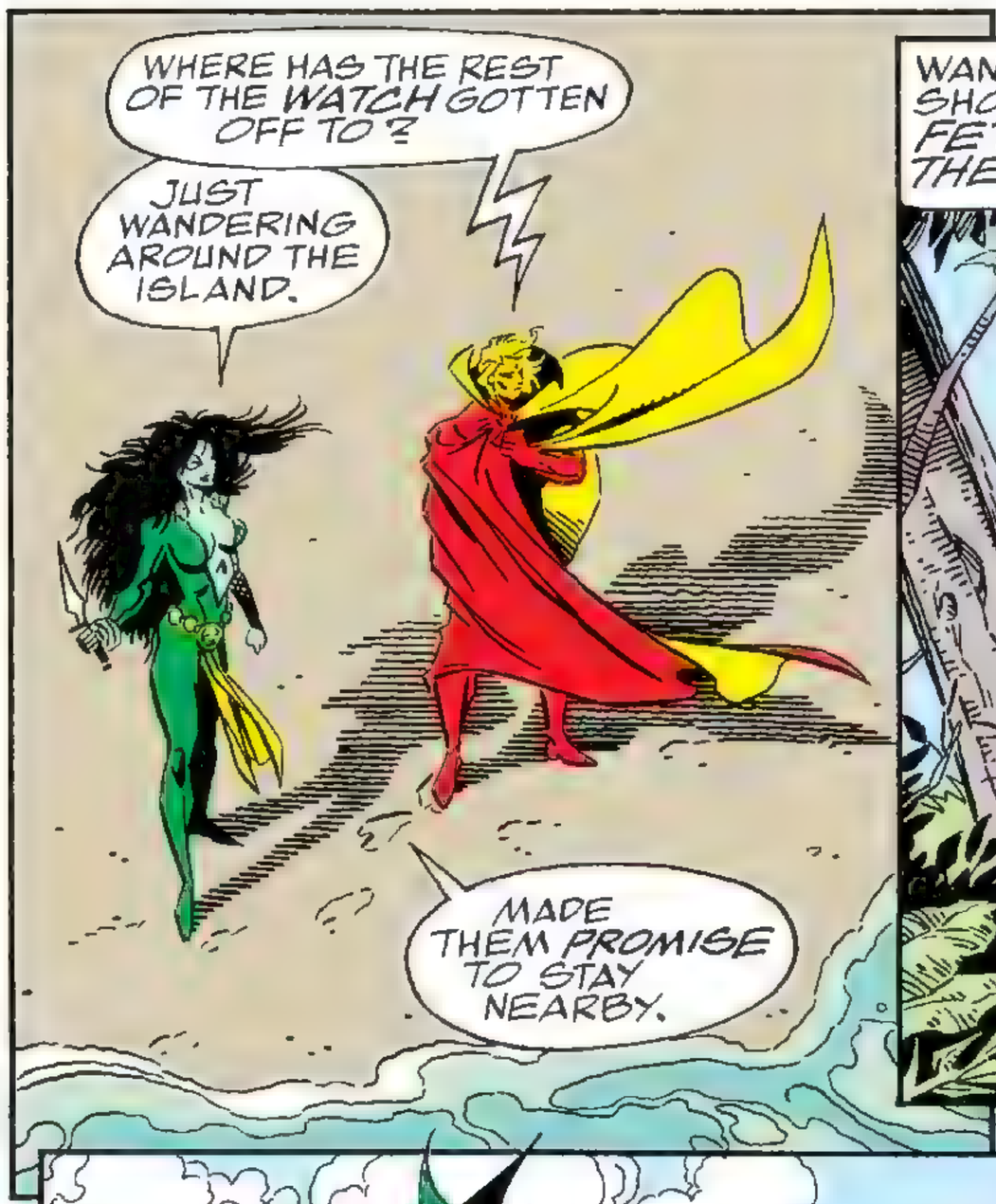
BUT I ALSO RECALL MY CAPE BEING DESTROYED IN THE BATTLE WITH THE BEAST.
WHERE DID THIS ONE COME FROM?

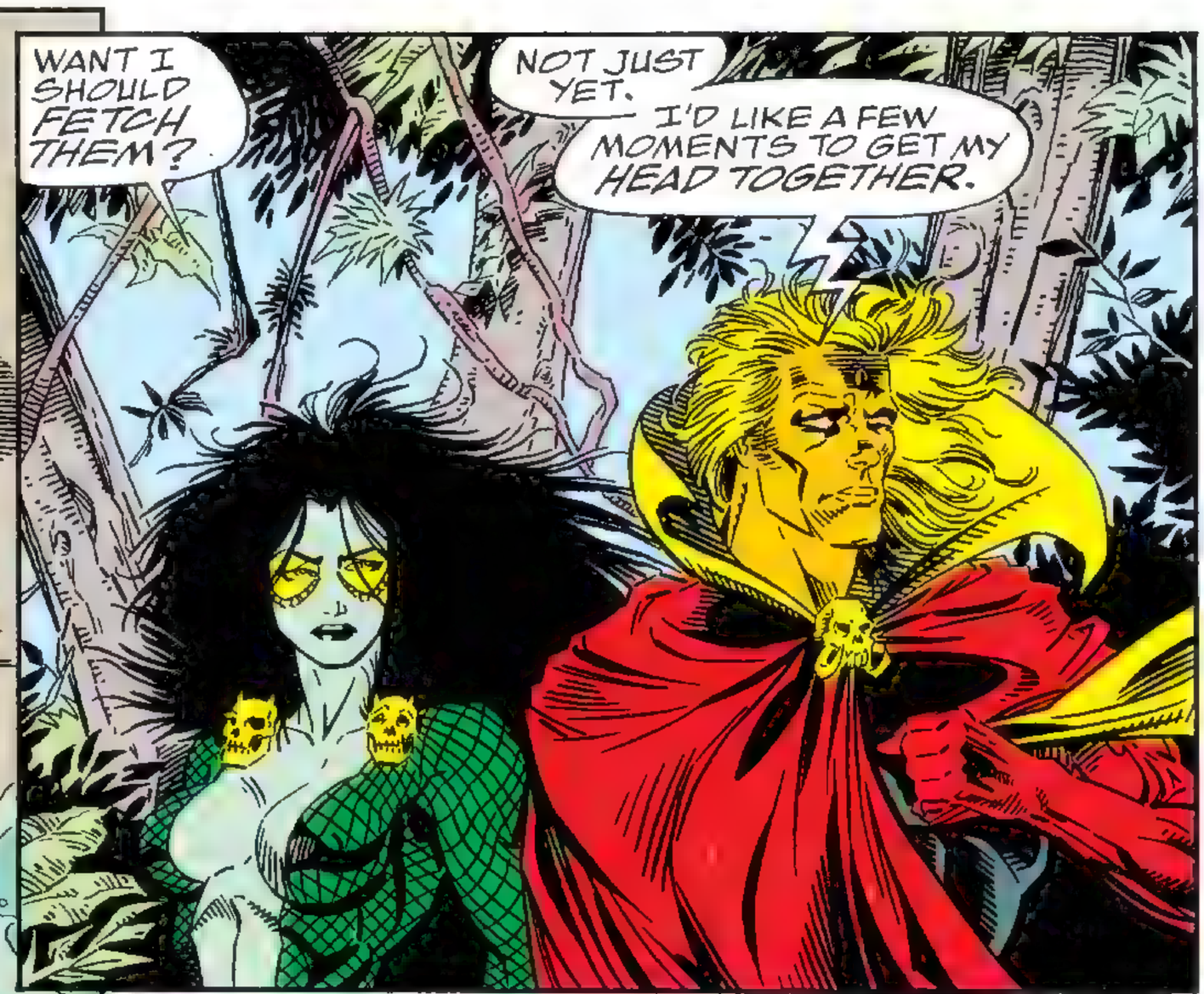

DON'T KNOW.
CAME BACK FROM A STROLL AND FOUND IT COVERING YOU.

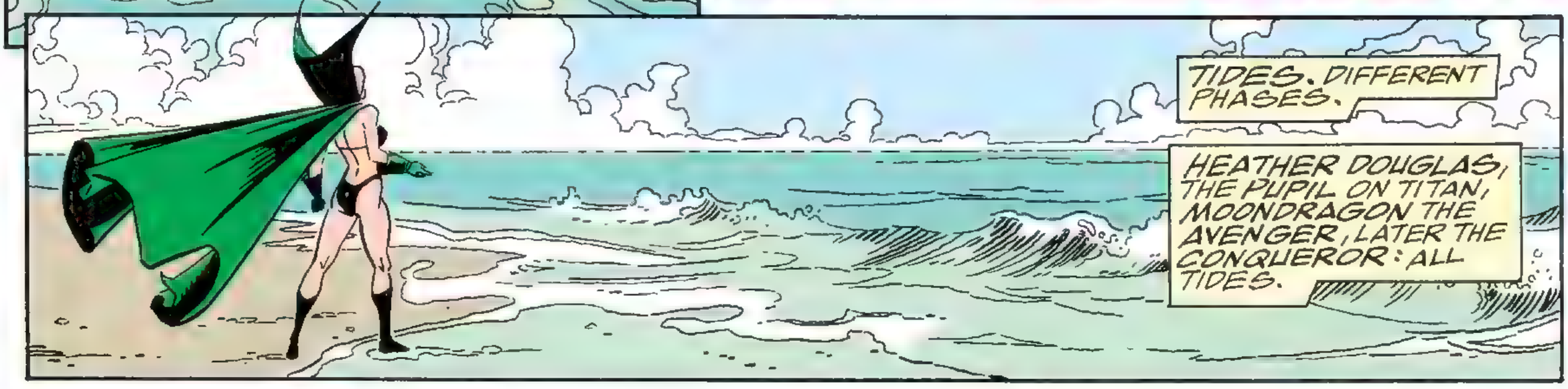
MAYBE MOONDRAGON MADE IT FOR YOU WITH HER PSYCHIC POWERS.

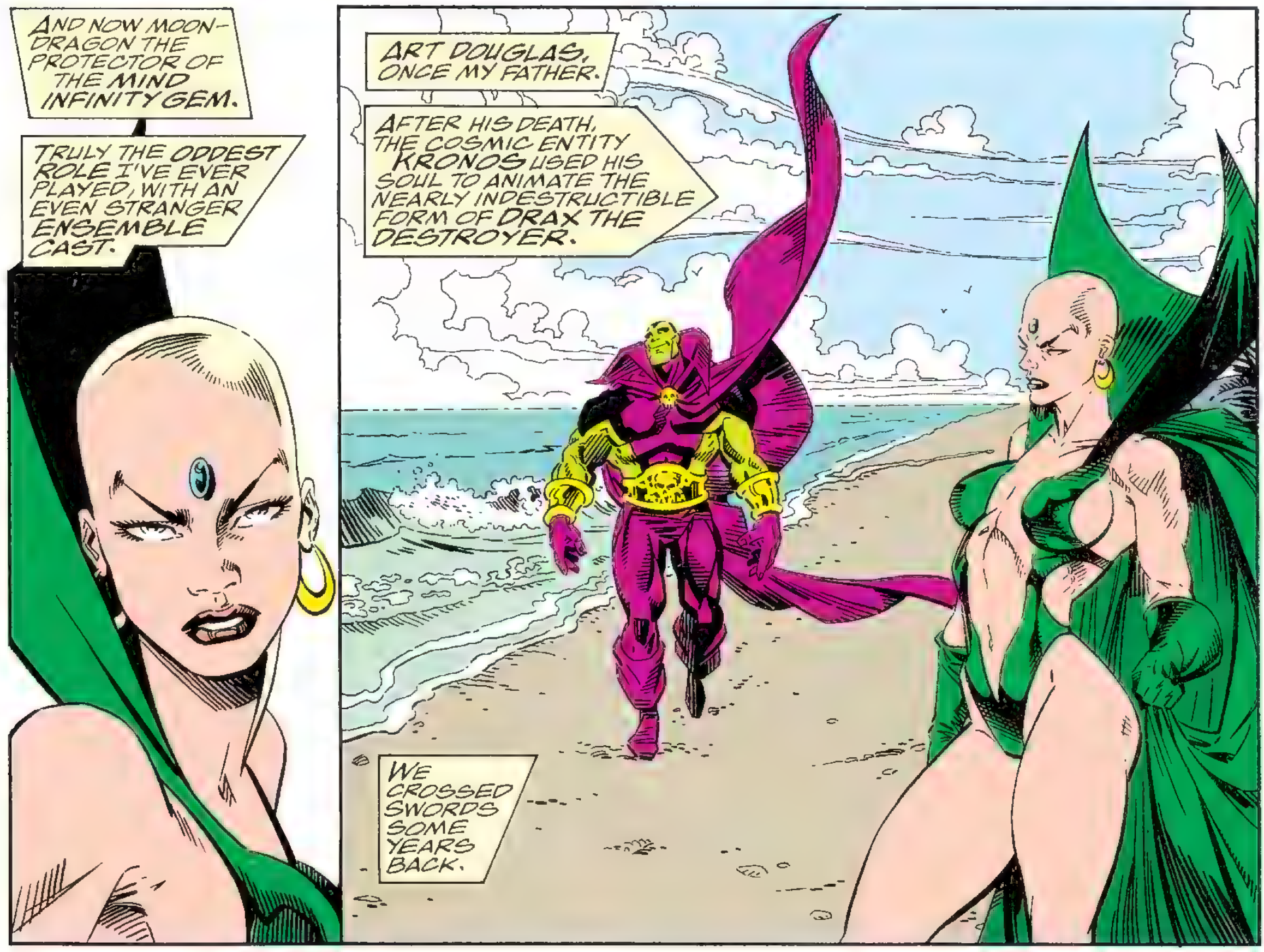
MOON-DRAGON?
KNITTING CAPES SEEMS KIND OF OUT OF CHARACTER FOR THE LADY.

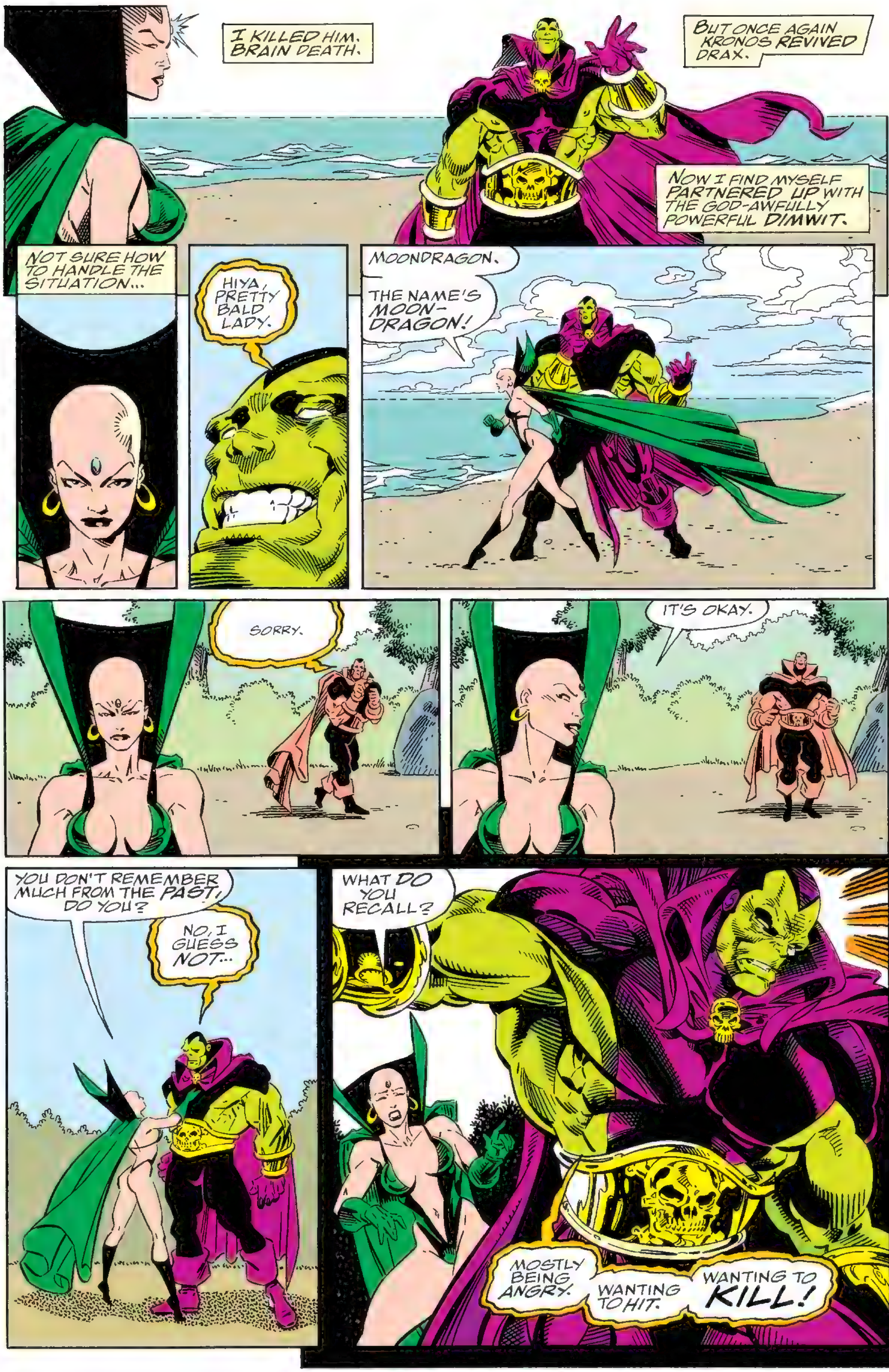
STRANGE...


WHERE HAS THE REST OF THE WATCH GOTTEN OFF TO?
JUST WANDERING AROUND THE ISLAND.
MADE THEM PROMISE TO STAY NEARBY.

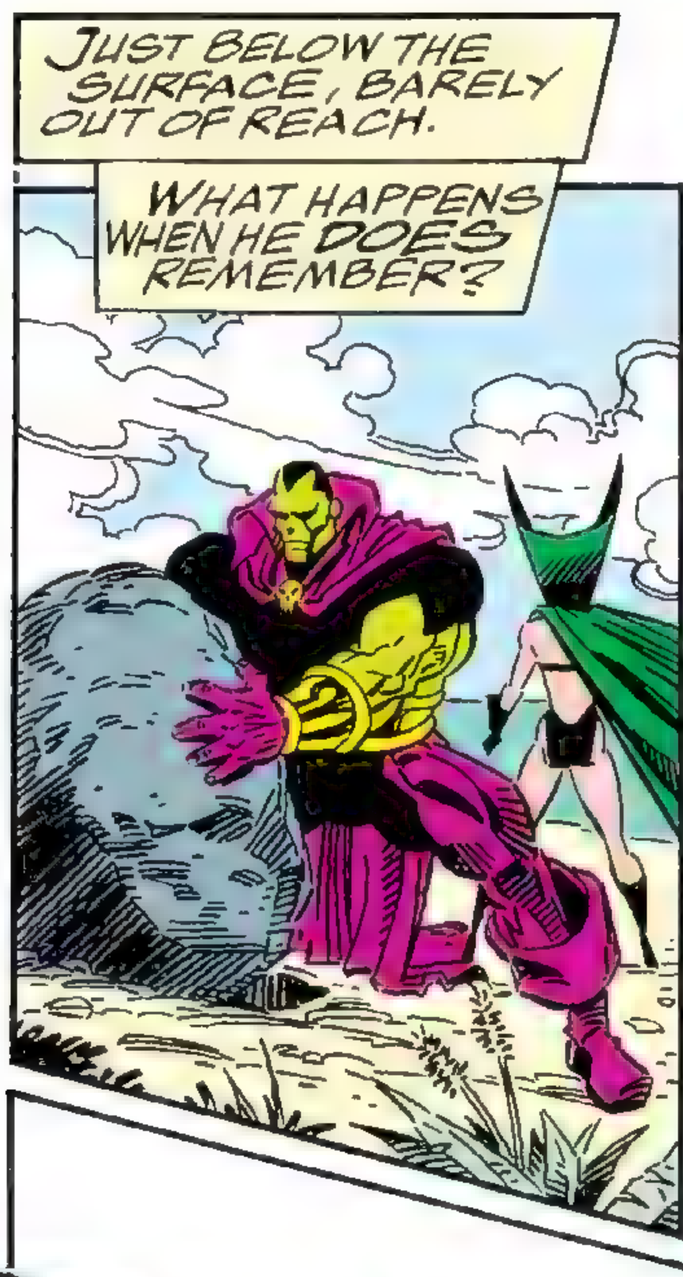

WANT I SHOULD FETCH THEM?
NOT JUST YET.
I'D LIKE A FEW MOMENTS TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER.

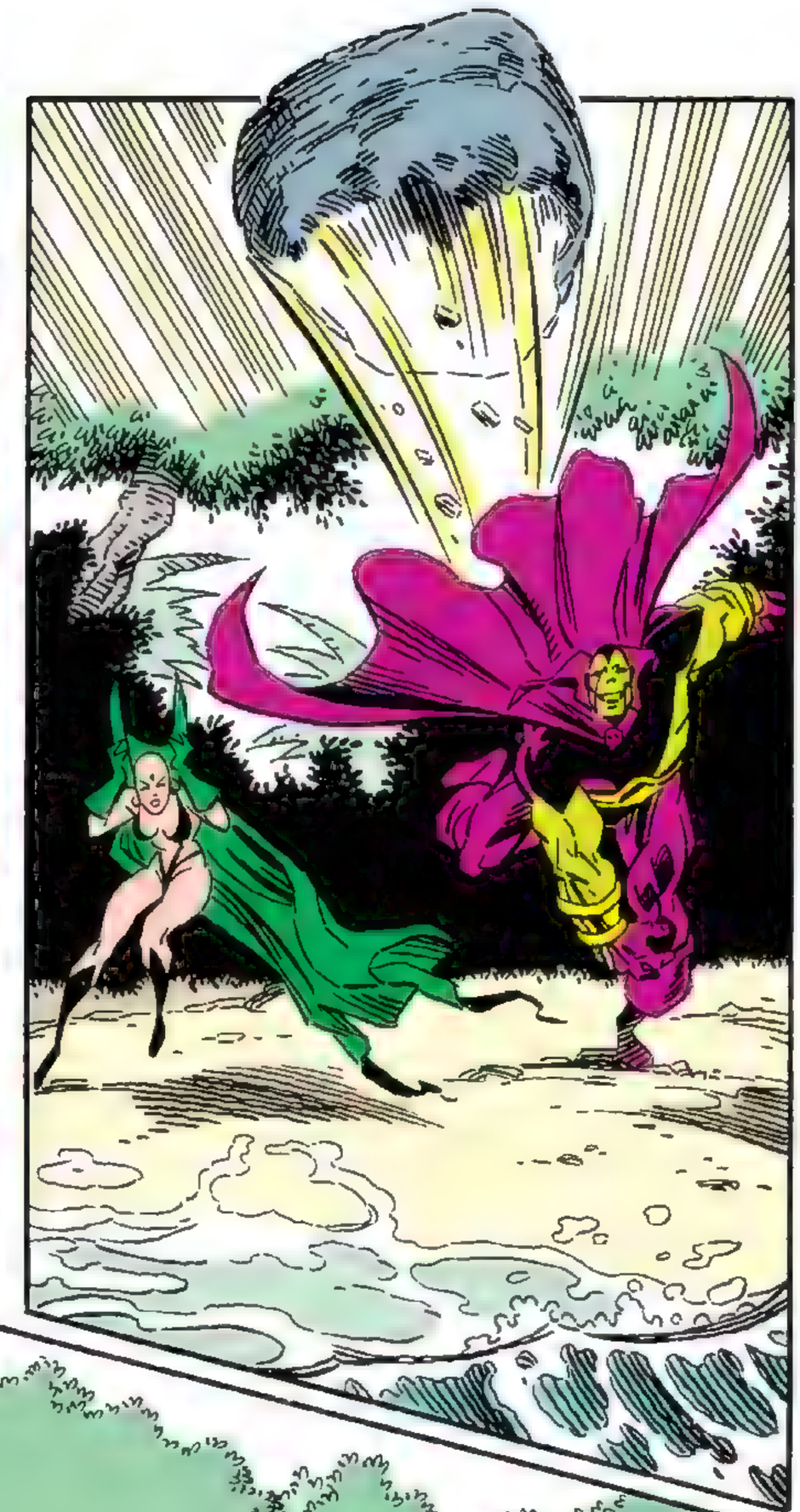

TIDES. DIFFERENT PHASES.
HEATHER DOUGLAS, THE PUPIL ON TITAN, MOONDRAGON THE AVENGER, LATER THE CONQUEROR: ALL TIDES.

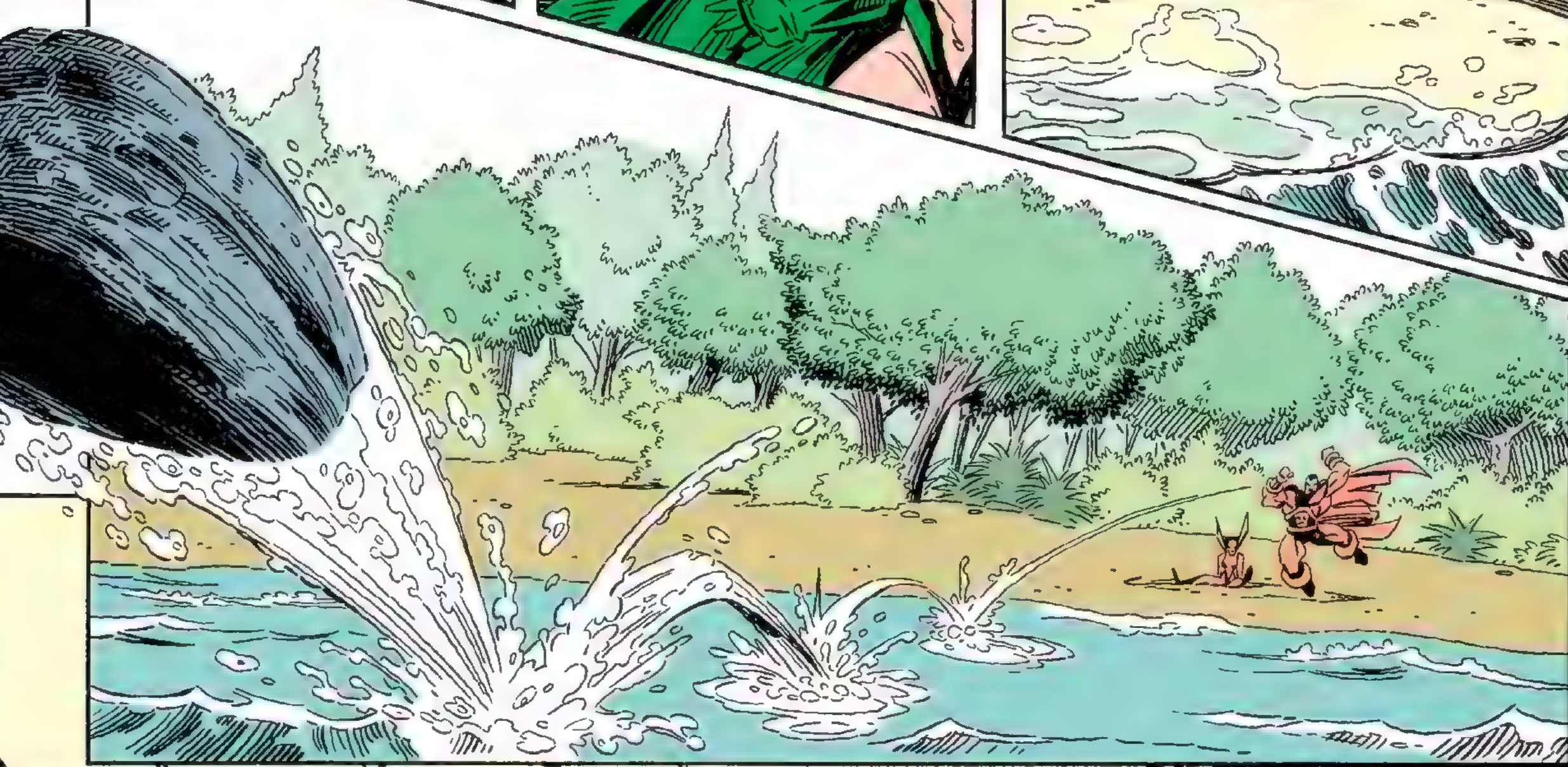

AND NOW MOON-DRAGON THE PROTECTOR OF THE MIND INFINITY GEM.
TRULY THE ODDEST ROLE I'VE EVER PLAYED, WITH AN EVEN STRANGER ENSEMBLE CAST.
ART DOUGLAS, ONCE MY FATHER.
AFTER HIS DEATH, THE COSMIC ENTITY KRONOS USED HIS SOUL TO ANIMATE THE NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE FORM OF DRAX THE DESTROYER.
WE CROSSED SWORDS SOME YEARS BACK.

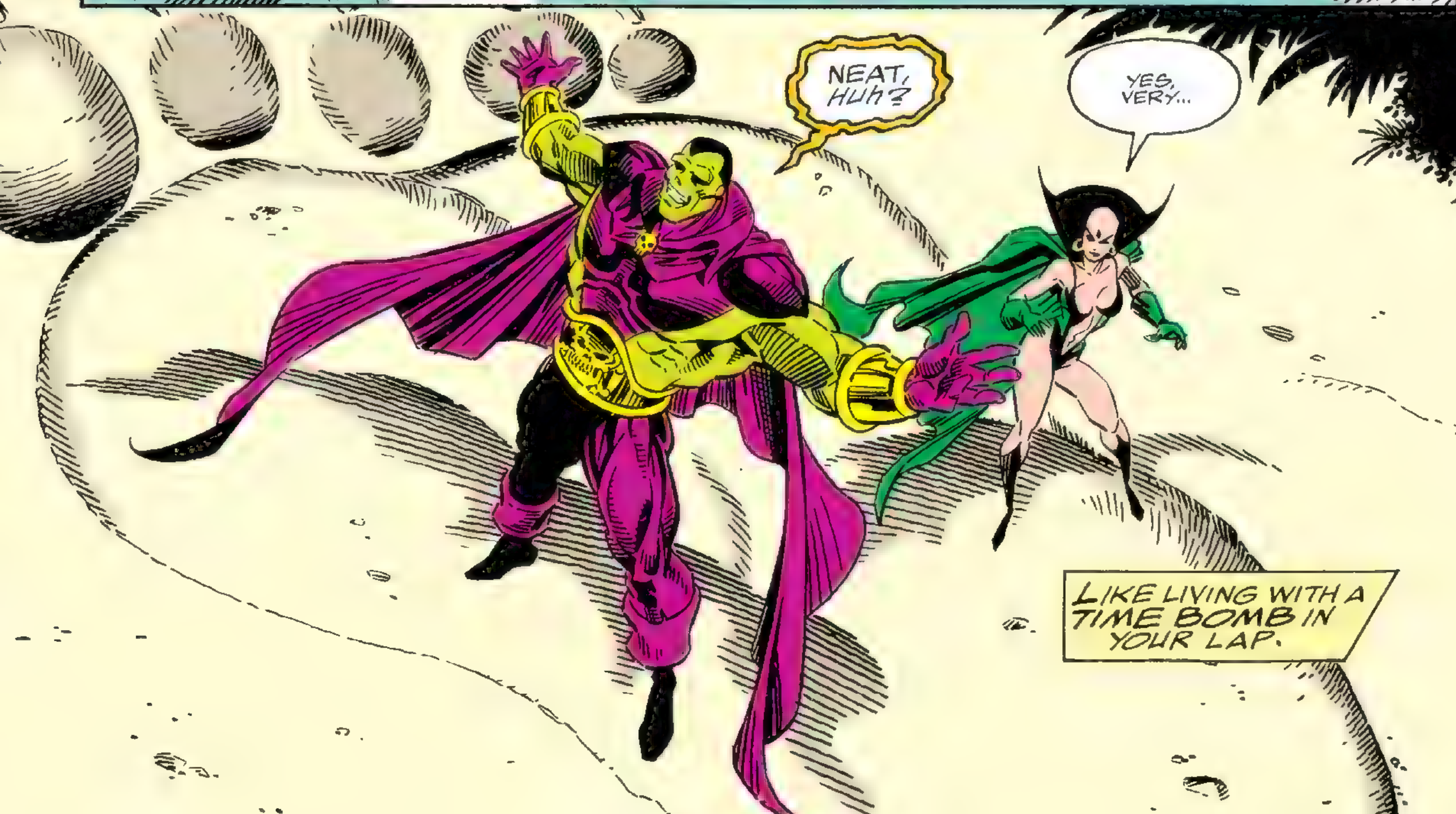

I KILLED HIM. BRAIN DEATH.
BUT ONCE AGAIN KRONOS REVIVED DRAX.
NOW I FIND MYSELF PARTNERED UP WITH THE GOD-AWFULLY POWERFUL DIMWIT.
NOT SURE HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION...
HIYA, PRETTY BALD LADY.
MOONDRAGON.
THE NAME'S MOON-DRAGON!
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FROM THE PAST, DO YOU?
NO, I GUESS NOT...
WHAT DO YOU RECALL?
MOSTLY BEING ANGRY.
WANTING TO HIT.
WANTING TO KILL!

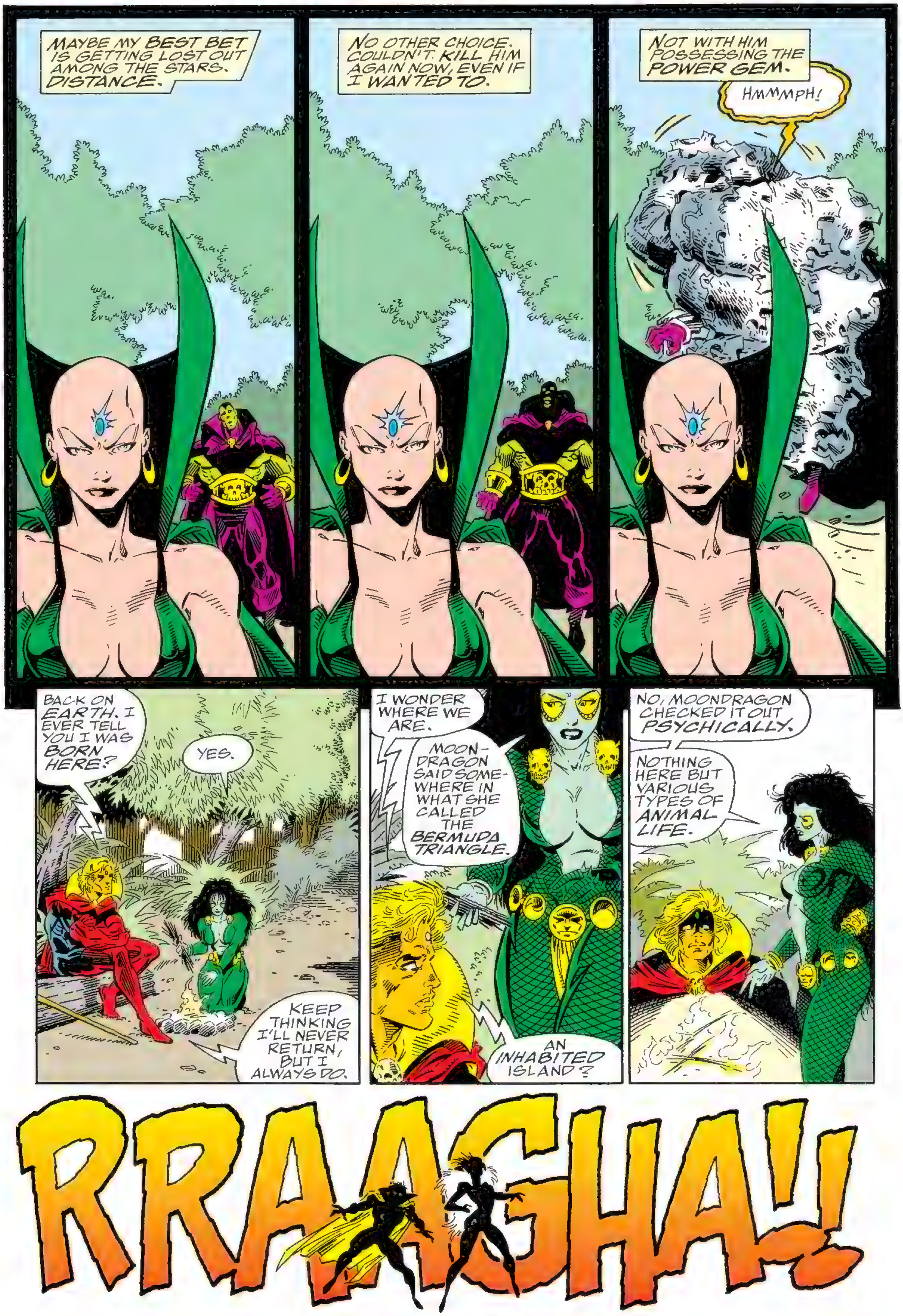
WANTED TO KILL THANOS!
MADE TO DESTROY THANOS!
YES, ALWAYS ANGRY...
AND NOW?
THANOS DEAD NOW.
NOT ANGRY ANY-MORE.
JUST KINDA...
CONFUSED?
I GUESS.
SKRITCH SKRATCH
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT DEATH?
YES.
SOME-TIMES SHE'S A VERY PRETTY WOMAN, MOON-LADY.
MISTRESS DEATH.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN DEATH?
MY DEATH?
DEATH...
HEAD...
DRAX!
NEVER MIND!
FORGET I ASKED THE QUESTION.
OKAY?
OKAY.


JUST BELOW THE SURFACE, BARELY OUT OF REACH.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE DOES REMEMBER?



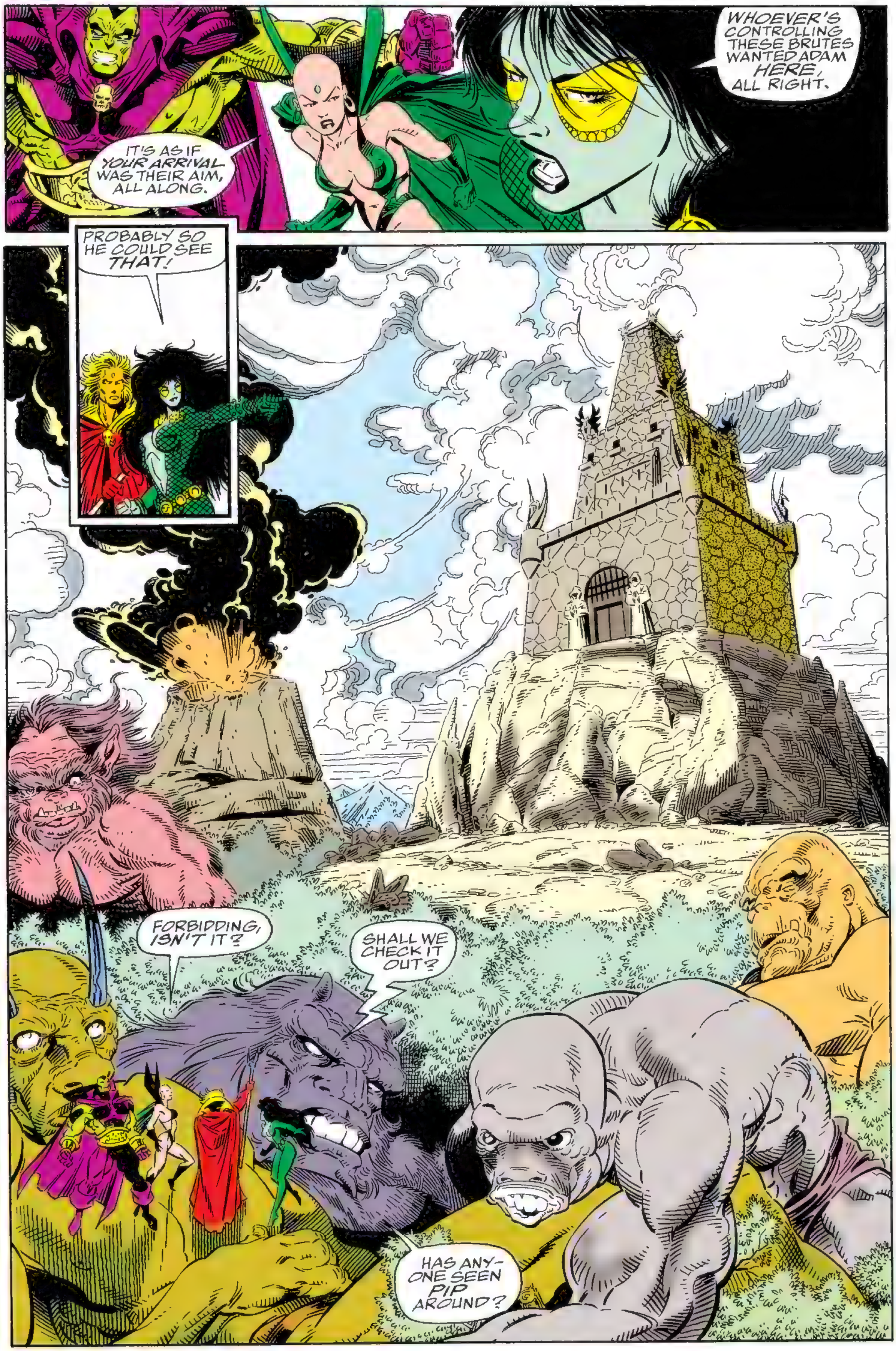


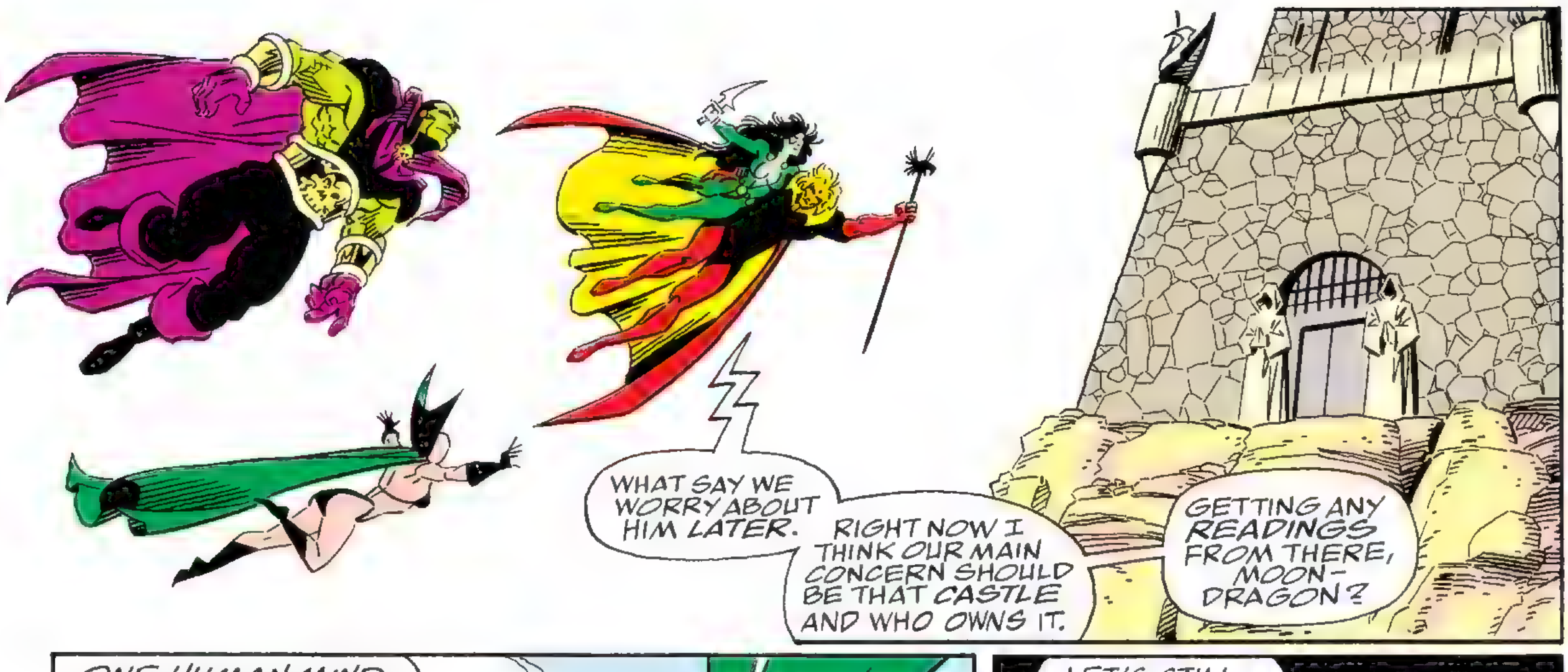

NEAT, HUH?
YES, VERY...
LIKE LIVING WITH A TIME BOMB IN YOUR LAP.


MAYBE MY BEST BET IS GETTING LOST OUT AMONG THE STARS. DISTANCE.
NO OTHER CHOICE. COULDN'T KILL HIM AGAIN NOW, EVEN IF I WANTED TO.
NOT WITH HIM POSSESSING THE POWER GEM.
HMMMPH!
BACK ON EARTH. I EVER TELL YOU I WAS BORN HERE?
YES.
KEEP THINKING I'LL NEVER RETURN, BUT I ALWAYS DO.
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
MOON-DRAGON SAID SOMEWHERE IN WHAT SHE CALLED THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
AN INHABITED ISLAND?
NO, MOONDRAGON CHECKED IT OUT PSYCHICALLY.
NOTHING HERE BUT VARIOUS TYPES OF ANIMAL LIFE.
RRAAGHA!

SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS A MISTAKE LETTING THEM GO OFF ON THEIR OWN.
MY MONEY'S ON PIP BEING IN THE SOUP.
SHALL WE SEE WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE THEY'VE GOTTEN THEM-SELVES INTO THIS TIME?
I'LL TAKE DRAX.
YOU'RE ON.
BY THE STARS!!
YOU WIN!

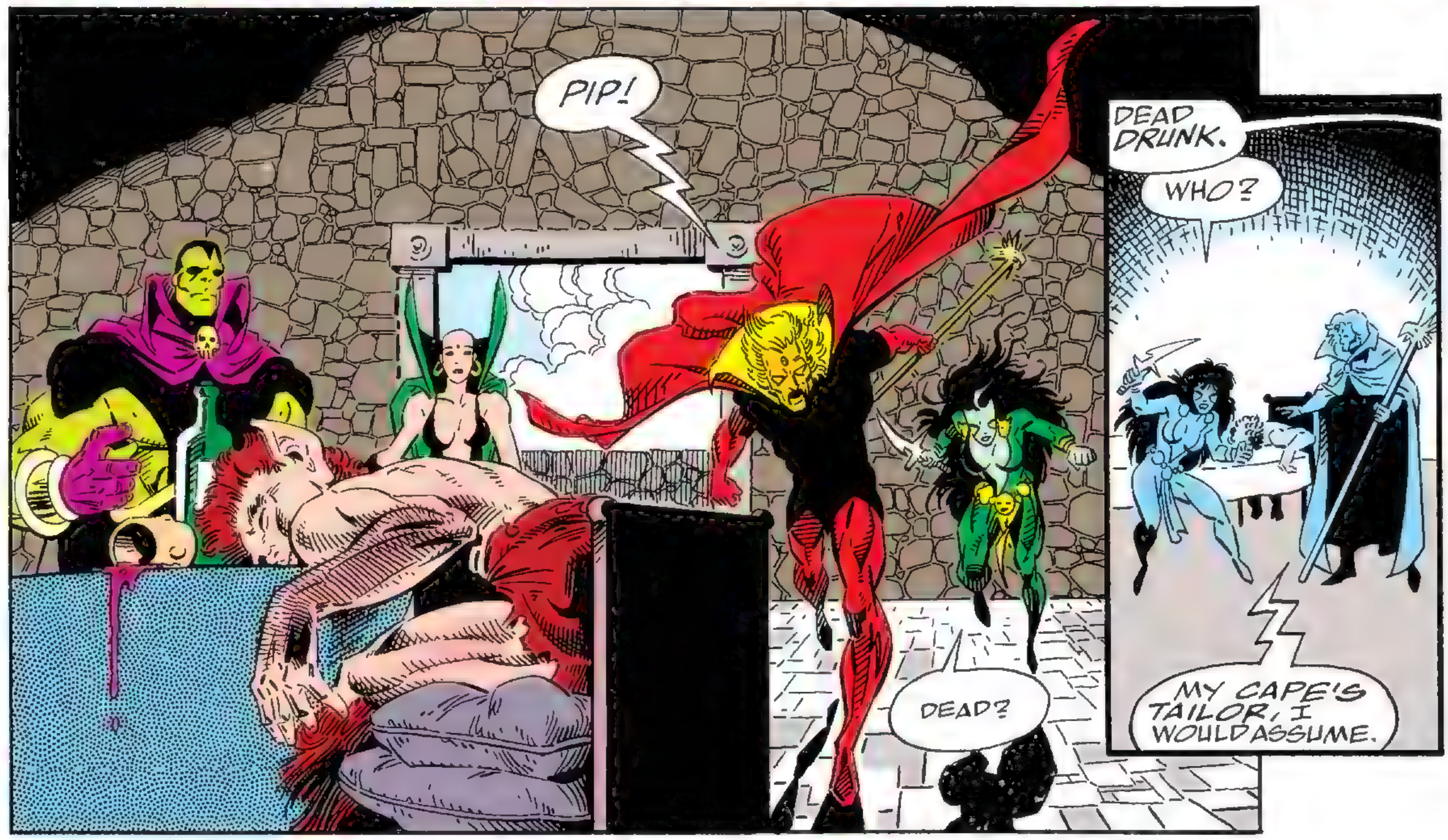
MOONDRAGON, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
DON'T KNOW, BOSS.
THEY JUST STARTED POURING OUT OF THE FOREST.
BUT THEY SEEM TO BE BACKING OFF NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE.


IT'S AS IF YOUR ARRIVAL WAS THEIR AIM, ALL ALONG.
WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING THESE BRUTES WANTED ADAM HERE, ALL RIGHT.
PROBABLY SO HE COULD SEE THAT!
FORBIDDING, ISN'T IT?
SHALL WE CHECK IT OUT?
HAS ANY-ONE SEEN PIP AROUND?


WHAT SAY WE WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER.
RIGHT NOW I THINK OUR MAIN CONCERN SHOULD BE THAT CASTLE AND WHO OWNS IT.
GETTING ANY READINGS FROM THERE, MOON-DRAGON?

ONE HUMAN MIND MINGLED AND GARBLED BY A MULTITUDE OF INHUMAN THOUGHT PATTERNS.
THE MAN-BEAST?
NEGATIVE.
-OOPS!

LET'S STILL TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY.
LOOK!


PIP!
DEAD?
DEAD DRUNK.
WHO?
MY CAPE'S TAILOR, I WOULD ASSUME.

PRECISELY.

IT'S THE MOLE MAN!

THAT MEANS WE'RE ON MONSTER ISLAND!

WELL, WHO-EVER TUBBY AND HIS LITTLE FRIENDS ARE, THEY'VE JUST...

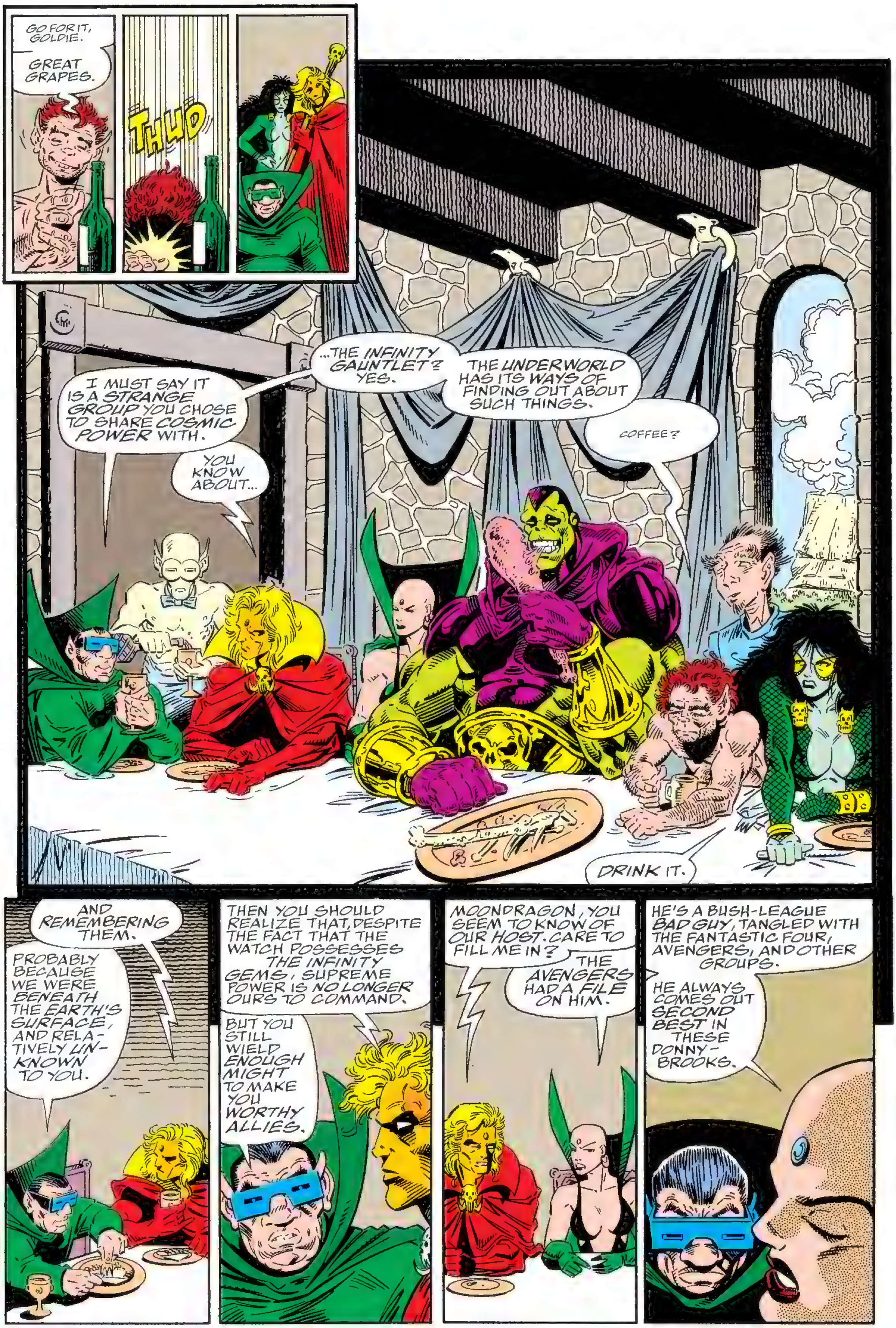
...BITTEN OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW!

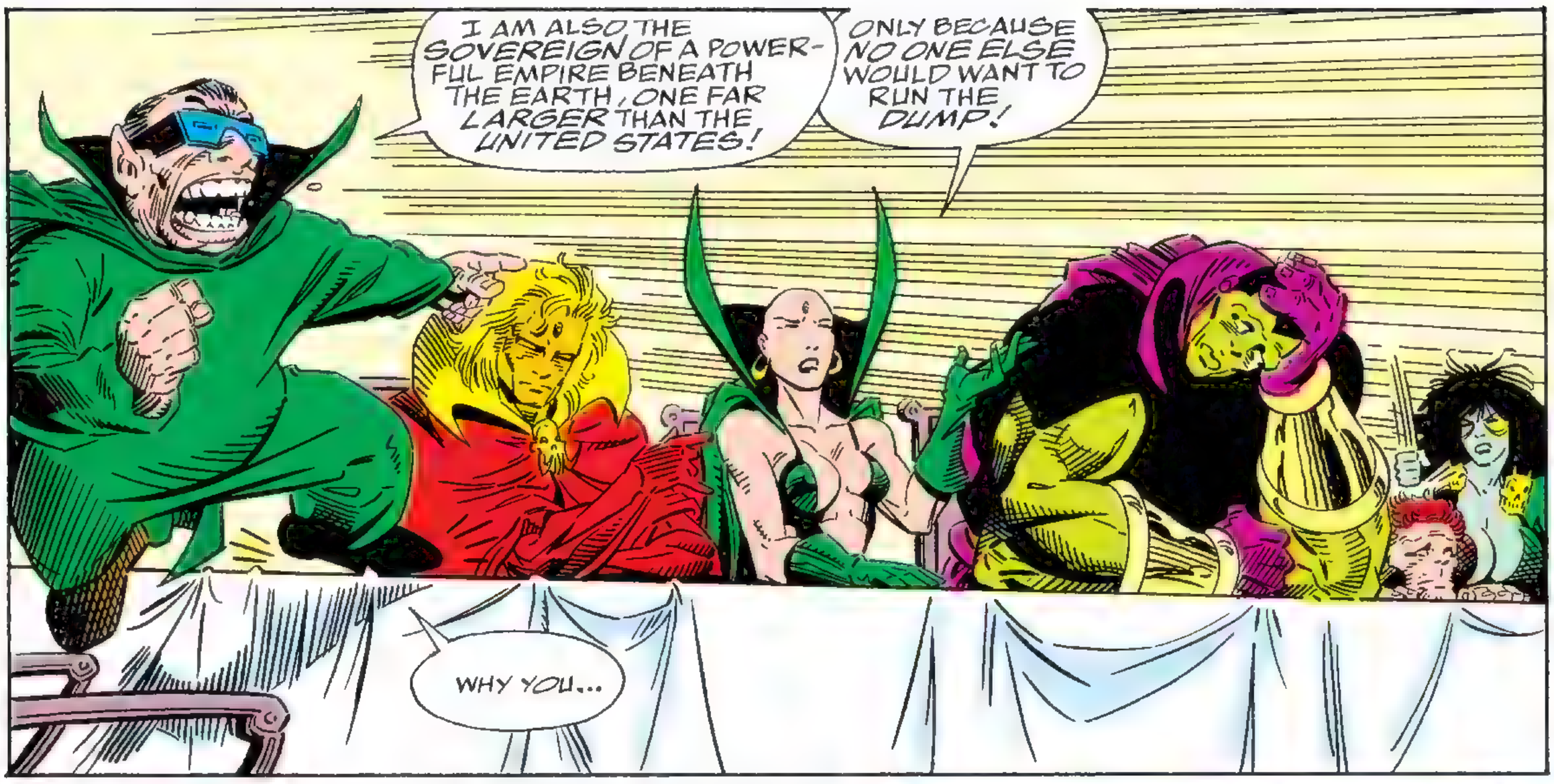
NO!

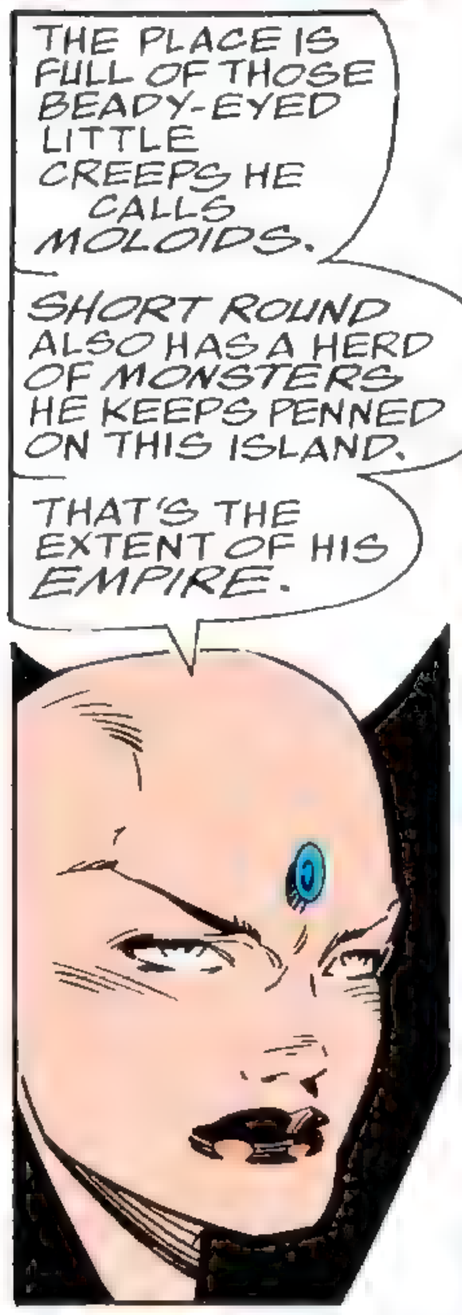
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

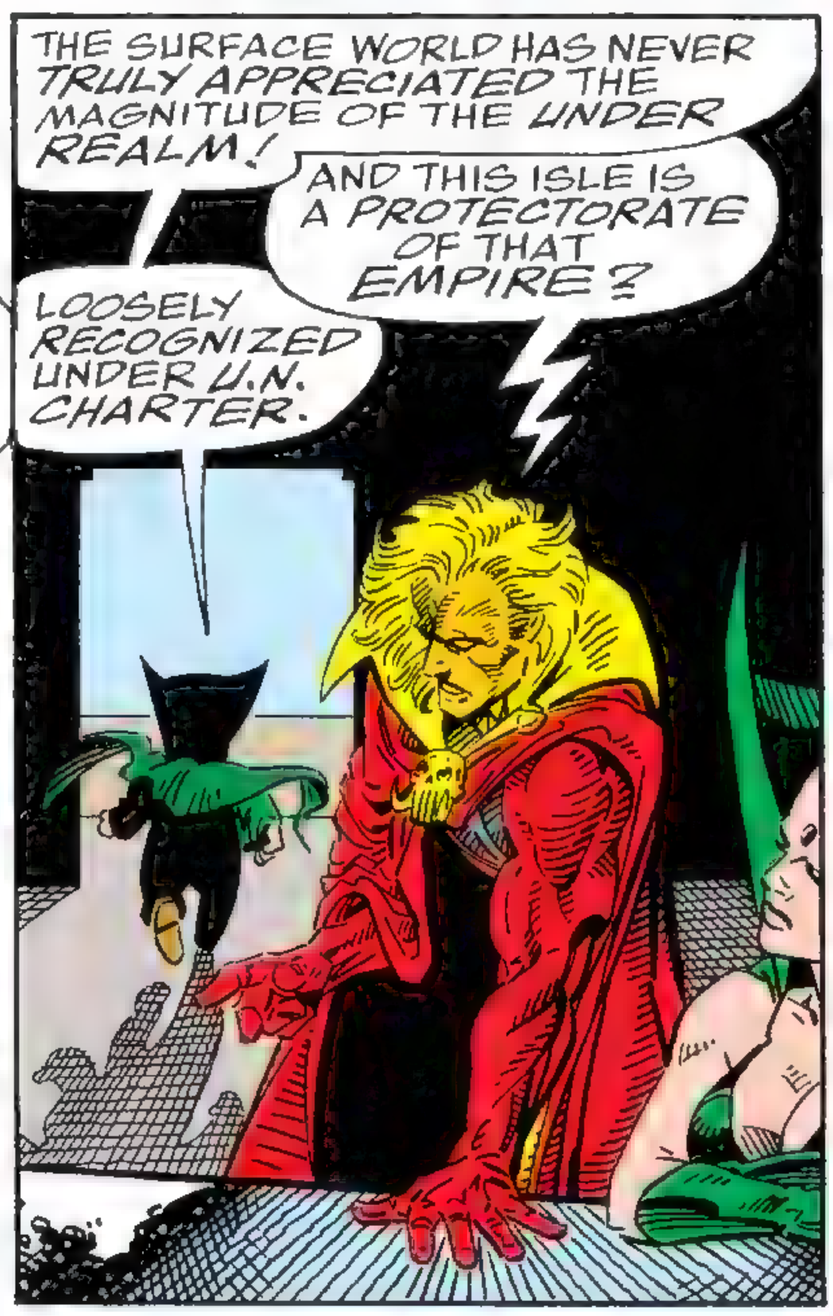
STOP!

THESE GUYS ARE NO THREAT.
THEY'RE A JOKE.
PLEASE!
DON'T HURT US!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD YOUR CREA-TURES ATTACK MY FRIENDS.
AND IF ANY HARM HAS COME TO PIP...
I JUST OFFERED HIM A LIBATION!
NEVER DREAMT HE'D DOWN FOUR BOTTLES SO QUICKLY!
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, NO HARM WAS INTENDED!
BUT YOU DID LURE US HERE.
NOT TO HURT YOU! I KNEW THE BEHEMOTHS WERE NO MATCH FOR YOUR LARGE FRIEND!
THEN WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE FOR ALL THESE MACHINATIONS?
TO BEFRIEND YOU!
I WISH TO BECOME YOUR ALLY!


GO FOR IT, GOLDIE.
GREAT GRAPES.
THUD
...THE INFINITY GAUNTLET? YES.
THE UNDERWORLD HAS ITS WAYS OF FINDING OUT ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
I MUST SAY IT IS A STRANGE GROUP YOU CHOSE TO SHARE COSMIC POWER WITH.
YOU KNOW ABOUT...
COFFEE?
DRINK IT.
AND REMEMBERING THEM.
PROBABLY BECAUSE WE WERE BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE, AND RELATIVELY UNKNOWN TO YOU.
THEN YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE WATCH POSSESSES THE INFINITY GEMS, SUPREME POWER IS NO LONGER OURS TO COMMAND.
BUT YOU STILL WIELD ENOUGH MIGHT TO MAKE YOU WORTHY ALLIES.
MOONDRAGON, YOU SEEM TO KNOW OF OUR HOST. CARE TO FILL ME IN?
THE AVENGERS HAD A FILE ON HIM.
HE'S A BUSH-LEAGUE BAD GUY, TANGLED WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AVENGERS, AND OTHER GROUPS.
HE ALWAYS COMES OUT SECOND BEST IN THESE DONNY-BROOKS.


I AM ALSO THE SOVEREIGN OF A POWERFUL EMPIRE BENEATH THE EARTH, ONE FAR LARGER THAN THE UNITED STATES!
ONLY BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WOULD WANT TO RUN THE DUMP!
WHY YOU...

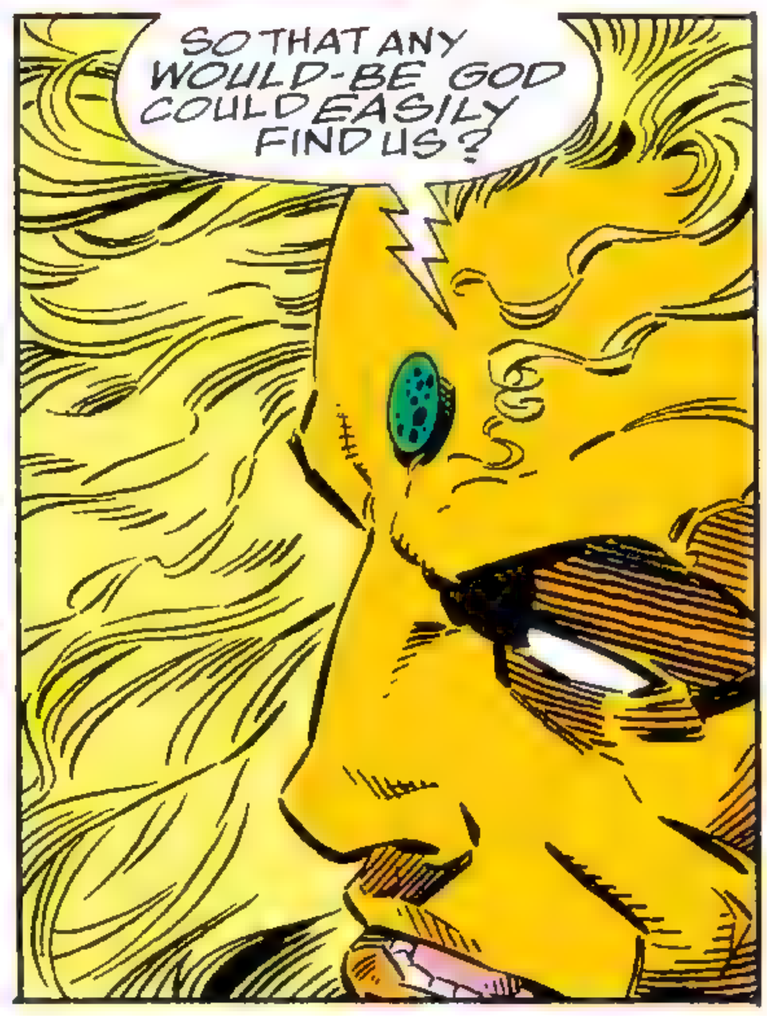

THE PLACE IS FULL OF THOSE BEADY-EYED LITTLE CREEPS HE CALLS MOLOIDS.
SHORT ROUND ALSO HAS A HERD OF MONSTERS HE KEEPS PENNED ON THIS ISLAND.
THAT'S THE EXTENT OF HIS EMPIRE.

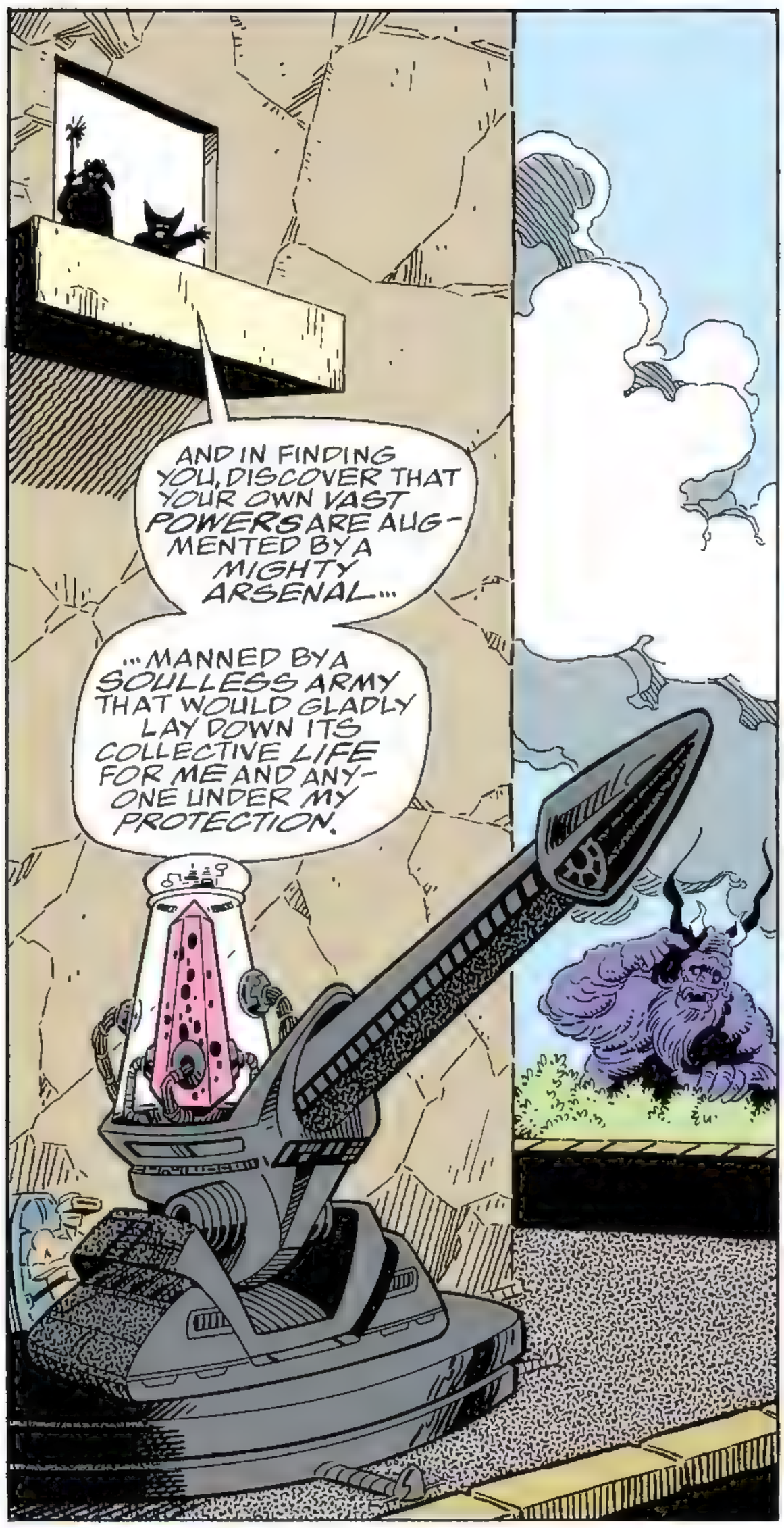

THE SURFACE WORLD HAS NEVER TRULY APPRECIATED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE UNDER REALM!
AND THIS ISLE IS A PROTECTORATE OF THAT EMPIRE?
LOOSELY RECOGNIZED UNDER U.N. CHARTER.

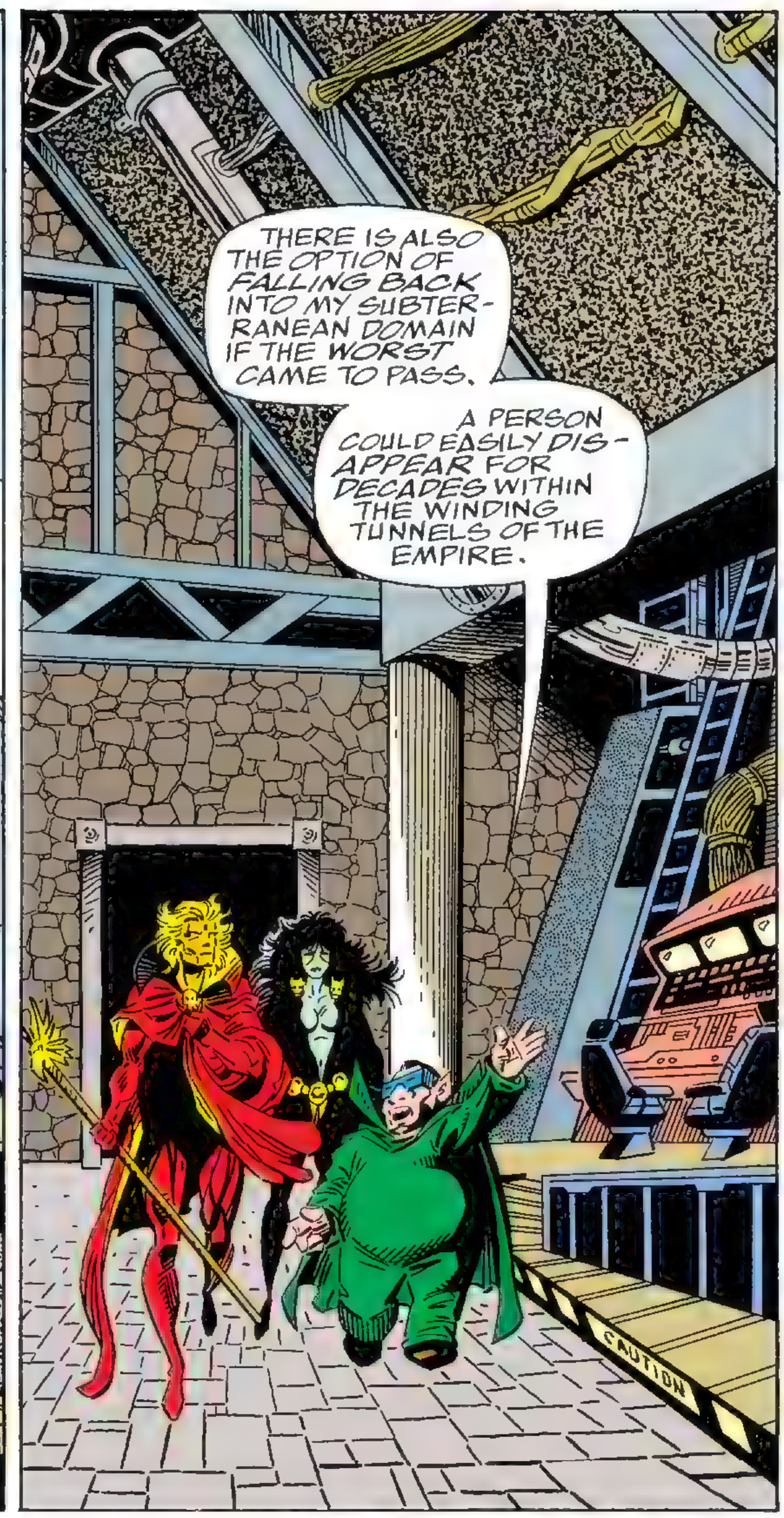
AN ISLAND FULL OF MONSTERS.
INTRIGUING, ISN'T IT?

I CAN SEE BY YOUR EXPRESSION THAT THE MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES ARE CLEAR TO YOU.
I'M LISTENING.

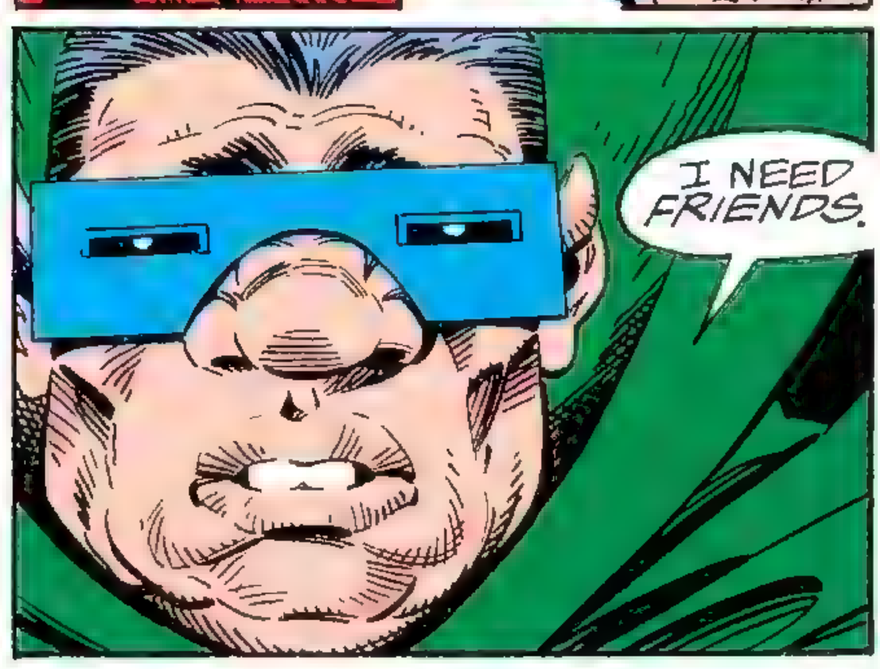
YOU HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS INFINITY GEMS TO PROTECT.
WOULDN'T THAT TASK GO FAR MORE SMOOTHLY IF YOU HAD A HOME BASE TO OPERATE OUT OF?

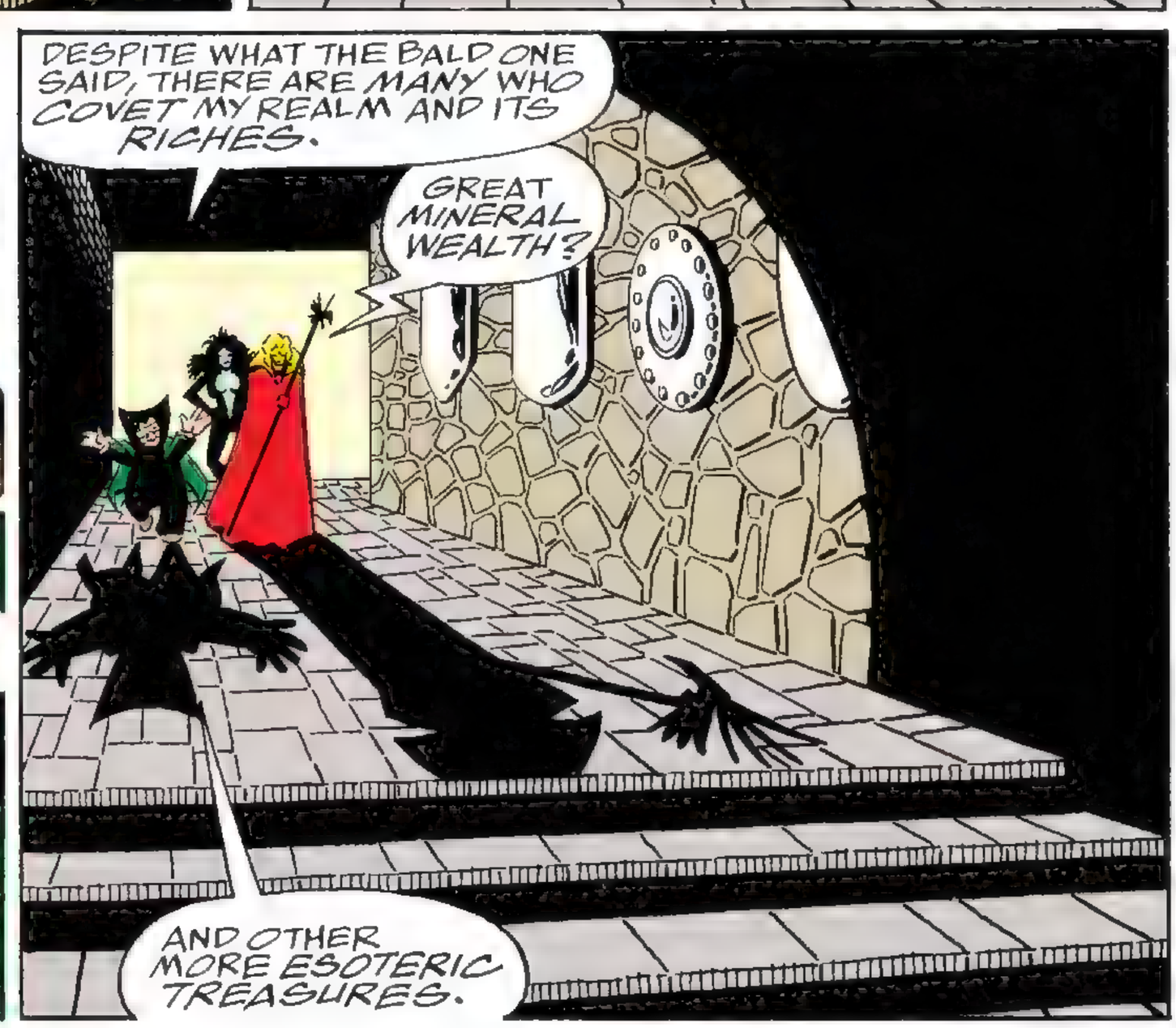

SO THAT ANY WOULD-BE GOD COULD EASILY FIND US?


AND IN FINDING YOU, DISCOVER THAT YOUR OWN VAST POWERS ARE AUGMENTED BY A MIGHTY ARSENAL...
...MANNED BY A SOULLESS ARMY THAT WOULD GLADLY LAY DOWN ITS COLLECTIVE LIFE FOR ME AND ANYONE UNDER MY PROTECTION.


THERE IS ALSO THE OPTION OF FALLING BACK INTO MY SUBTERRANEAN DOMAIN IF THE WORST CAME TO PASS.
A PERSON COULD EASILY DISAPPEAR FOR DECADES WITHIN THE WINDING TUNNELS OF THE EMPIRE.
CAUTION

AND IN RETURN FOR THIS KINDNESS, WHAT WOULD THE MOLE MAN EXPECT?


I NEED FRIENDS.


DESPITE WHAT THE BALD ONE SAID, THERE ARE MANY WHO COVET MY REALM AND ITS RICHES.
GREAT MINERAL WEALTH?
AND OTHER MORE ESOTERIC TREASURES.

IN RECENT YEARS, MINE IS A WAR-TORN LAND.

THE EMPIRE CANNOT CONTINUE ON ALONE.

I MUST ALIGN WITH FORCES THAT I CAN TRUST AND DEPEND ON.

YOU SEEK MERCENARIES!

I...I...I...

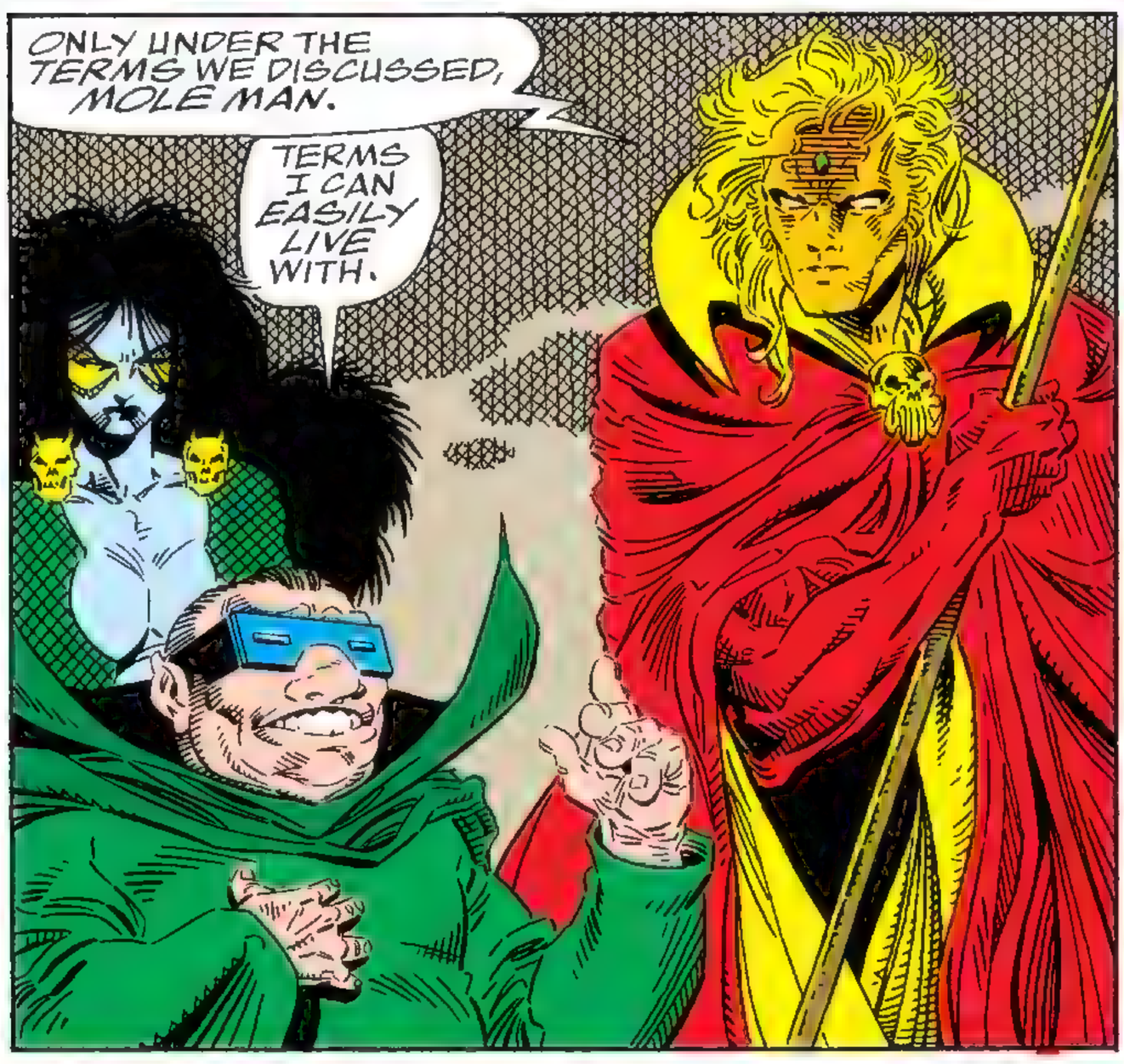
PLANET EARTH HAS BECOME TOO SMALL AND DANGEROUS A MUDBALL FOR SUCH ADVENTURISM.
SUICIDE IS NOT SOMETHING ONE SHOULD EXPECT OTHERS TO JOIN IN ON.
YOU WOULD NOT BE ALLYING YOURSELF WITH A CONQUEROR.
WHAT SAY YOU TO MY OFFER?
IT IS NOT A CHOICE I CAN MAKE ALONE.
WHAT THINK YOU, MY INFINITY WATCH?
LONG AS THE WINE KEEPS FLOWING, WHY NOT?
I DON'T CARE.
YOU DECIDE.
NO WAY.
THINK ABOUT WHAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO YOU AFTER ALL, WARLOCK.

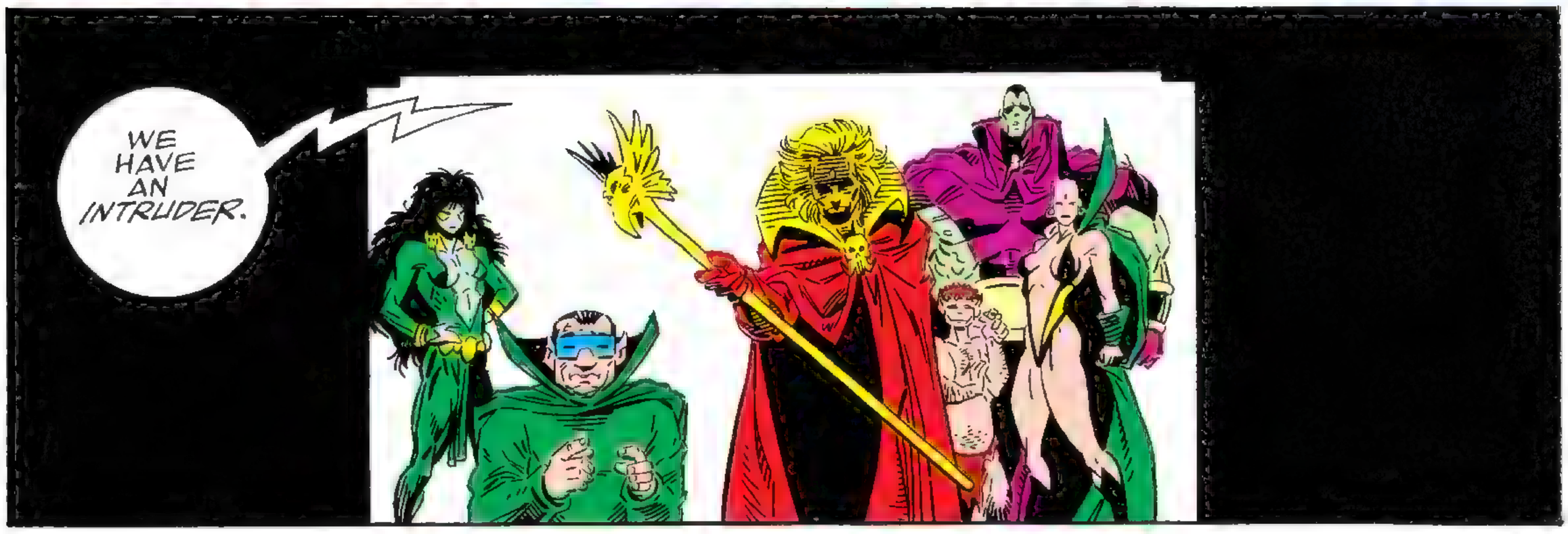
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE CASTLE WILL PROVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR YOUR GROUP'S NEEDS.

SETTING UP THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT OF YOUR PLAN WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT FACET TO IMPLEMENT.

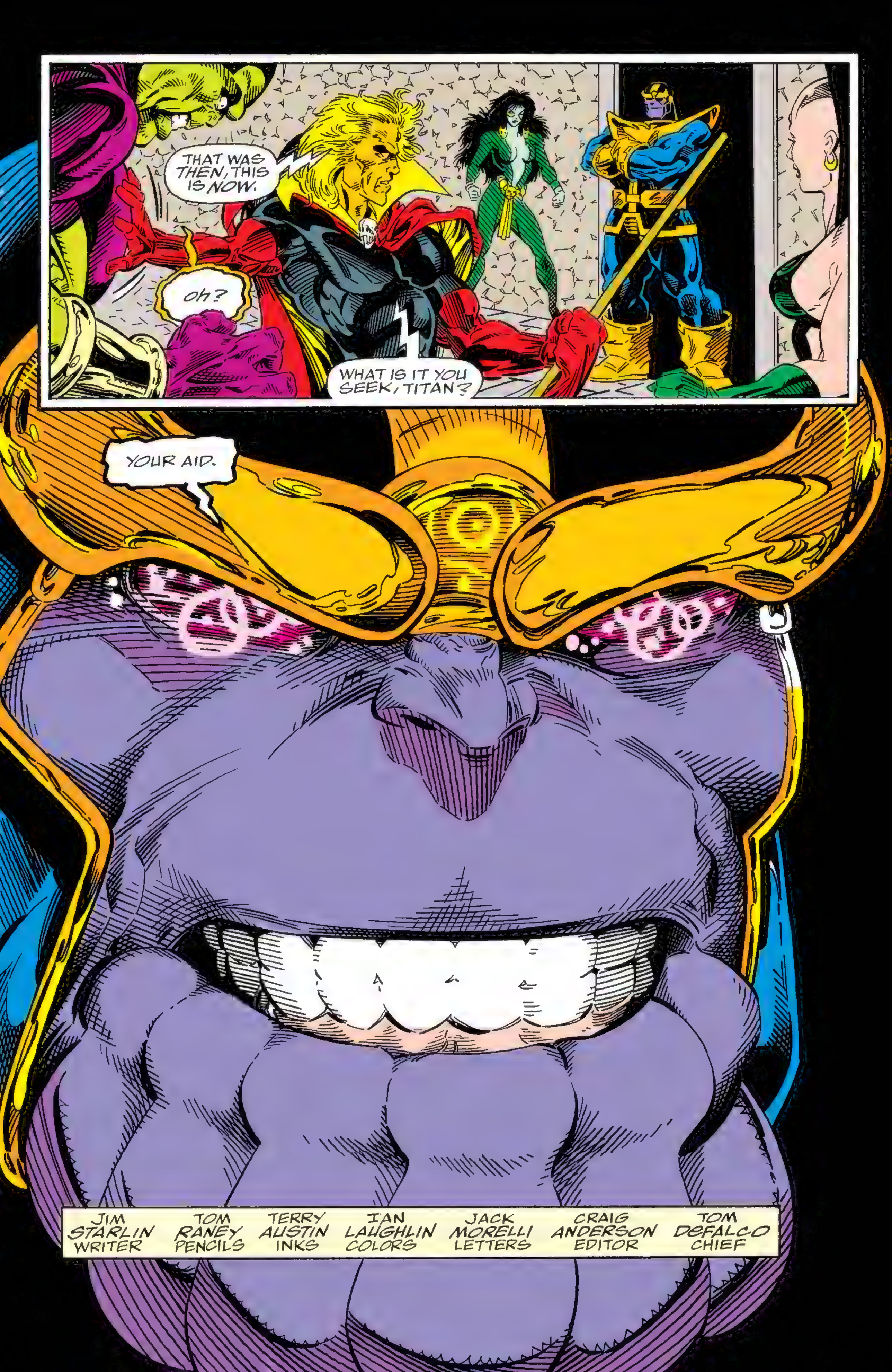
HELLO? ANYONE HOME?

THEN IT'S AGREED: WE ARE NOW ALLIES.





THANOS!
GREETINGS, WARLOCK.
UH-OH.
HOLY CRUD!
DRAX REMEMBERS THANOS...
DRAX'S JOB TO KILL PURPLE MAN!


THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW.
oh?
WHAT IS IT YOU SEEK, TITAN?
YOUR AID.
JIM STARLIN WRITER
TOM RANEY PENCILS
TERRY AUSTIN INKS
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

MARVEL COMICS
DR. STRANGE
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
SORCERER SUPREME
ENTER GALACTUS!
42 JUNE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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ISHERWOOD '92

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, **STEPHEN STRANGE** DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

ROY THOMAS
WRITER

GEOF ISHERWOOD
ARTIST

PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER

GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST

MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

AT LEAST THE ORB IS STILL SAFELY LEVITATING.

GOOD! AGAMOTTO THE ALL-SEEING MIGHT TAKE RATHER UNKINDLY TO ITS BEING DAMAGED, SINCE IT'S MORE OR LESS A LOANER.

MASTER-- ARE YOU UNHURT?

YES, RINTRAH. SO YOU SAW THAT BLAST, TOO?

"SAW IT?" ITS DAZZLING LUMINESCENCE FILLED THE ENTIRE MANSION!

IT FELT AS IF SOME VIOLENT MAGICAL FORCE HAD COLLIDED WITH THE PROTECTIVE SPELLS THAT SURROUND THE HOUSE.

DID YOU SEE CLEA ON YOUR WAY UP HERE?

WHY, NO. PERHAPS SHE WENT OUT FOR THE EVENING, AS WONG AND IMEI HAVE.

WELL, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH, EXCEPT VISUALLY...

...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ITS WIELDER WON'T TRY AGAIN, SO--

MASTER-- WAIT FOR ME--!

THE SKY ABOVE GREENWICH VILLAGE IS AS DARK AS IT SHOULD BE, THIS TIME OF NIGHT.

HOPEFULLY, NO ONE BUT US MYSTIC TYPES SAW THAT OCCULT FLARING.

EVEN AN INVISIBLE SORCERER SUPREME DOESN'T EXACTLY THRIVE ON DRAWING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO HIS HOME.

BUT IF NEW YORKERS DON'T SEE THE SHIMMERING BRILLANCE I CATCH OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE--

WH--?!

--THEN WHOEVER'S CAUSING IT ISN'T REALLY TRYING.

ORDINARILY, I DON'T LIKE TO SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS AFTERWARD.

I PREFER TO LEAVE THAT KIND OF IMPATIENCE TO **SPIDER-MAN** AND THE EVER-INCREDIBLE **HULK**.

STILL, AFTER GETTING ZAPPED RECENTLY BY THAT ERSATZ "**SILVER SURFER**"--

--I'LL ADMIT THAT THEY MAY HAVE A **POINT**.

MY **BOLT OF BEDEVILMENT** IS CAST UPWARD MORE OR LESS AS A KNEE-JERK REACTION, WITH BENEFIT OF A SPOKEN INCANTATION.

IT FLIES **WIDE** OF THE MARK.

BUT IT WAS REALLY JUST A **WARNING SHOT**--OVER THE **BOW**, SO TO SPEAK.

NOW, I THINK I'VE GOT THE **RANGE** --

SO I HURL MY NEXT BOLT JUST **AHEAD** OF THAT SWOOPING, SWIRLING **STREAK OF LIGHT**.

AS MY MOTHER BACK IN NEBRASKA USED TO SAY--

"**BINGO!**"

AND AS I BLINK MY WAY BACK TO SIGHT, I SEE A **HUMAN FIGURE** PLUMMETING DOWNWARD TOWARD ME...

MOMENTARILY **BLINDED** AGAIN, I CAN'T SEE WHAT IT WAS I **HIT**.

...QUITE AN ATTRACTIVE FIGURE, AS IT TURNS OUT.

ALSO, ONE I RECOGNIZE.

NOVA--!?

LATELY, IT SEEMS THAT THE HERALDS OF GALACTUS KEEP "DROPPING IN" ON ME OUT OF THE BLUE.

FIRST, IT WAS THE SILVER SURFER CRASHING THROUGH MY SKYLIGHT...

...AND NOW IT'S HIS LATEST SUCCESSOR.

NORRIN RADD'S ARRIVAL FORE-SHADOWED THE START OF THAT BUSINESS WITH THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

I HOPE THIS TIME IT'S JUST SOME SOCIAL CALL THAT WENT AWRY.

NOW THIS IS ODD...

BUT SOMEHOW... I DOUBT IT.

ABRUPTLY, I SEE WHAT NO ONE BELOW COULD--

--MY ALIEN DISCIPLE, LEVITATING TOWARD US.

RINTRAH--I THOUGHT WE AGREED THAT YOU WERE TO CONSULT ME EACH TIME BEFORE YOU USED MY ORIGINAL CLOAK AND AMULET.

F-FORGIVE ME, MASTER! IN MY ANXIETY CONCERNING YOUR SAFETY, I FORGOT.

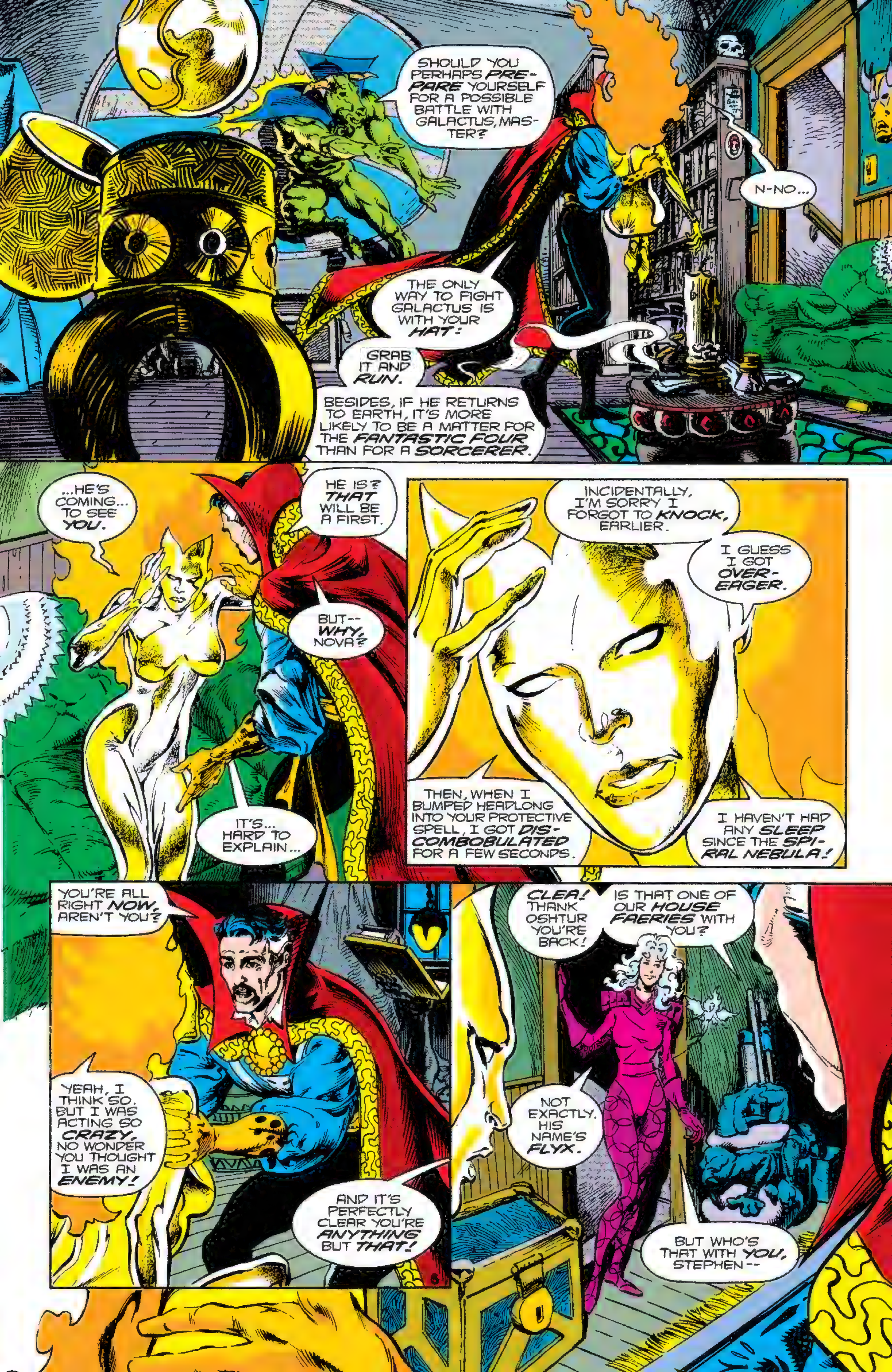
OH, WELL ...NO HARM DONE.

THAT LOVELY GOLDEN LADY--IS THAT PERCHANCE NOVA, THE CURRENT HARBINGER OF A CERTAIN WOE-BEGOTTEN WORLD-DEVOURER?

I'M AFRAID SO.

AND WHERE HIS HERALD IS--

--CAN GALACTUS BE FAR BEHIND?


SHOULD YOU PERHAPS PRE-PARE YOURSELF FOR A POSSIBLE BATTLE WITH GALACTUS, MASTER?
N-NO...
THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT GALACTUS IS WITH YOUR HAT:
GRAB IT AND RUN.
BESIDES, IF HE RETURNS TO EARTH, IT'S MORE LIKELY TO BE A MATTER FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR THAN FOR A SORCERER.
...HE'S COMING... TO SEE YOU.
HE IS? THAT WILL BE A FIRST.
BUT-- WHY, NOVA?
IT'S... HARD TO EXPLAIN...
INCIDENTALLY, I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO KNOCK, EARLIER.
I GUESS I GOT OVER-EAGER.
THEN, WHEN I BUMPED HEADLONG INTO YOUR PROTECTIVE SPELL, I GOT DIS-COMBOBULATED FOR A FEW SECONDS.
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY SLEEP SINCE THE SPIRAL NEBULA!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, I THINK SO. BUT I WAS ACTING SO CRAZY. NO WONDER YOU THOUGHT I WAS AN ENEMY!
AND IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR YOU'RE ANYTHING BUT THAT!
CLEA! THANK OSHTUR YOU'RE BACK!
IS THAT ONE OF OUR HOUSE FAERIES WITH YOU?
NOT EXACTLY. HIS NAME'S FLYX.
BUT WHO'S THAT WITH YOU, STEPHEN--

--AND SHOULDN'T YOU GIVE HER YOUR *CLOAK*, BEFORE SHE CATCHES COLD?

WHAT? OH--THIS IS *NOVA*.

SHE USED TO BE *FRANKIE RAYE*, BUT NOW SHE'S THE *HERALD OF GALACTUS*.

AND SHE'S NOT REALLY *NUDE*, JUST--

WELL, *ACTUALLY*, MASTER--I RATHER THINK SHE *IS*.

A MOOT POINT--SINCE GALACTUS ALTERED MY BODY INTO THIS *SPACE-PROOF* FORM.

I'M SORRY IF I ACTED LIKE A JEALOUS WIFE, NOVA.

I JUST RETURNED FROM A SHORT *TRIP**... AND I GUESS I'M A BIT *PRE-OCCUPIED*.

NO PROBLEM.

* SEE CLEA'S JOURNEY TO THE PURPLE DIMENSION IN THE '92 *DOC ANNUAL*, NOW ON SALE.

NOW, IF WE COULD GET BACK TO *WHY* GALACTUS IS COMING TO SEE *ME*, AS OPPOSED TO *REED RICHARDS* AND COMPANY...?

IT'S BECAUSE WE FOUND *ETERNITY* FLOATING IN DEEP SPACE--MADE COMPLETELY *CATATONIC* BY SOME OUTSIDE *FORCE*!*

WHAT? WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING TO *ETERNITY*?

*SEE *INFINITY WAR #1*. --M.

THAT'S WHAT *GALACTUS* WANTS TO KNOW--BUT WHOEVER IT IS, THEY PUT UP *MYSTIC BARRIERS* TO STOP MY BOSS-MAN FROM *TRACKING* HIM/HER/IT.

HEY, I'M HIS *HERALD*, REMEMBER?

YOU'VE GOT A *BUTLER*. DO YOU OPEN YOUR OWN *DOORS*?

SO *THAT'S* WHY HE WANTS TO SEE ME!

BUT WHY SEND *YOU*, INSTEAD OF JUST COMING HIMSELF?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE TOLD ME *EVERYTHING*?

YOU MUST TELL ME *ALL YOU KNOW*--*BEFORE* GALACTUS GETS HERE!

DON'T USE THAT TONE WITH ME, DR. STRANGE!
GALACTUS MAY HAVE HIS FAULTS-- BUT HE'S OPENED ED UP THE UNI-VERSE TO ME--
--AND I WON'T TELL YOU ANY-THING MORE THAN HE WANTS ME TO!
SORRY, NOVA--NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO USE THE EYE OF AGAMOT-TO TO HYPNO-TIZE YOU, SO I CAN FIND OUT--
I'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS OF MY OWN, MAGICIAN...
WANT TO SEE ONE?
OHHHH--!
BY THE MOONS OF MUNNOPOR!

LIKE YOU YOURSELF SAID, STRANGE--I *USED* TO BE AN EARTH-GIRL NAMED FRANKIE RAYE.

NOWADAYS, I TAKE ORDERS FROM *GALACTUS*--ALL THE WHILE I'M TRYING TO STEER HIM AWAY FROM EATING WORLDS WITH *LIFE FORMS* THAT ARE TOO *HUMANOID*--

--SO I *DON'T* HAVE MUCH PATIENCE LEFT OVER FOR BEING ORDERED AROUND BY *YOU!*

WE GET THE POINT, NOVA.

YOU'VE GOT TO *UNDERSTAND*--FOR ALL *WE* KNOW, THE *EARTH* ITSELF IS AT STAKE--!

WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT *THAT* WAY--

--MAYBE I DID *OVERDO* IT A LITTLE.

SORRY.

THIS MANSION IS *MAGICALLY REINFORCED*, NOVA.

EVEN *YOUR* POWER DID IT NO MORE THAN *SUPERFICIAL* DAMAGE.

ALTHOUGH IT MOST ASSUREDLY DID A LOT OF *THAT...!*

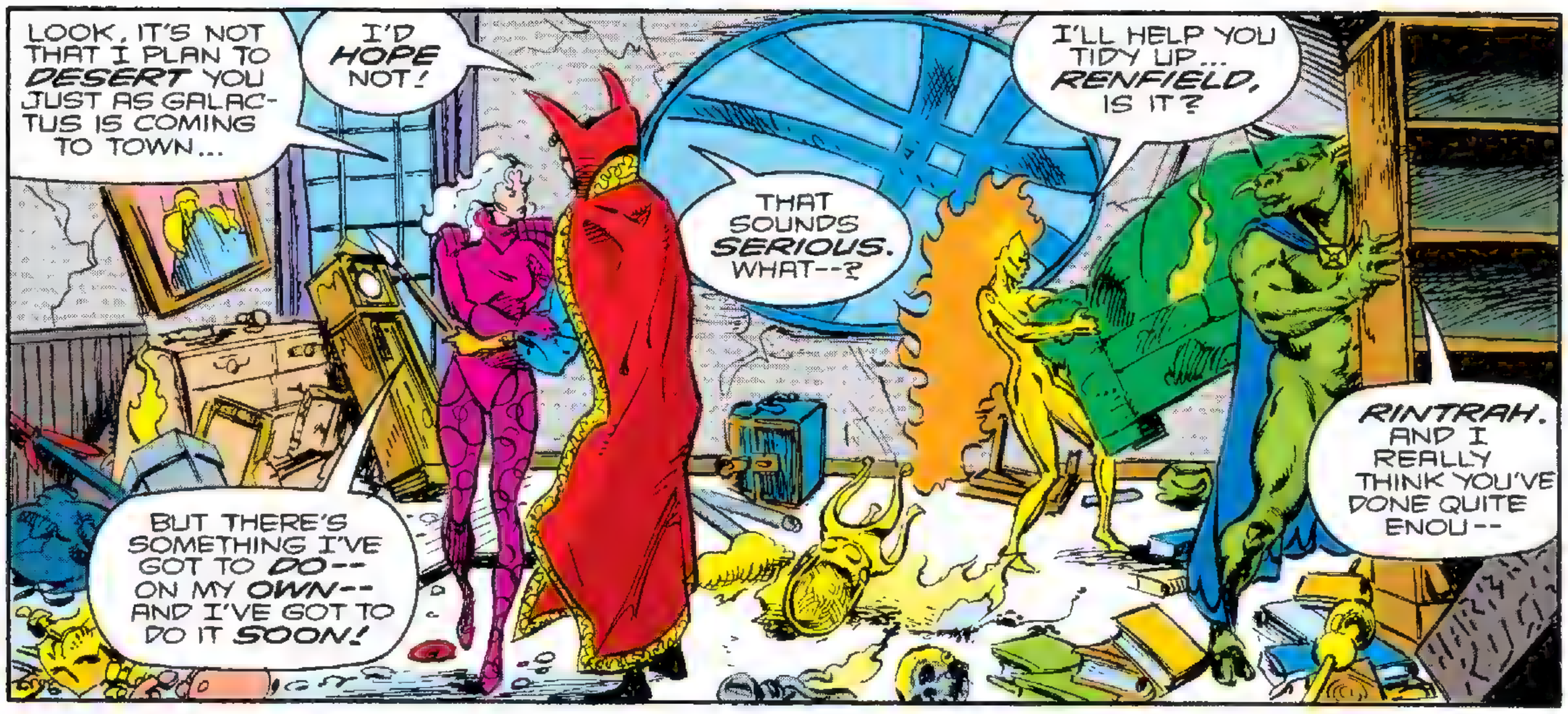
NOVA--COULD YOU *EXCUSE* US FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE?

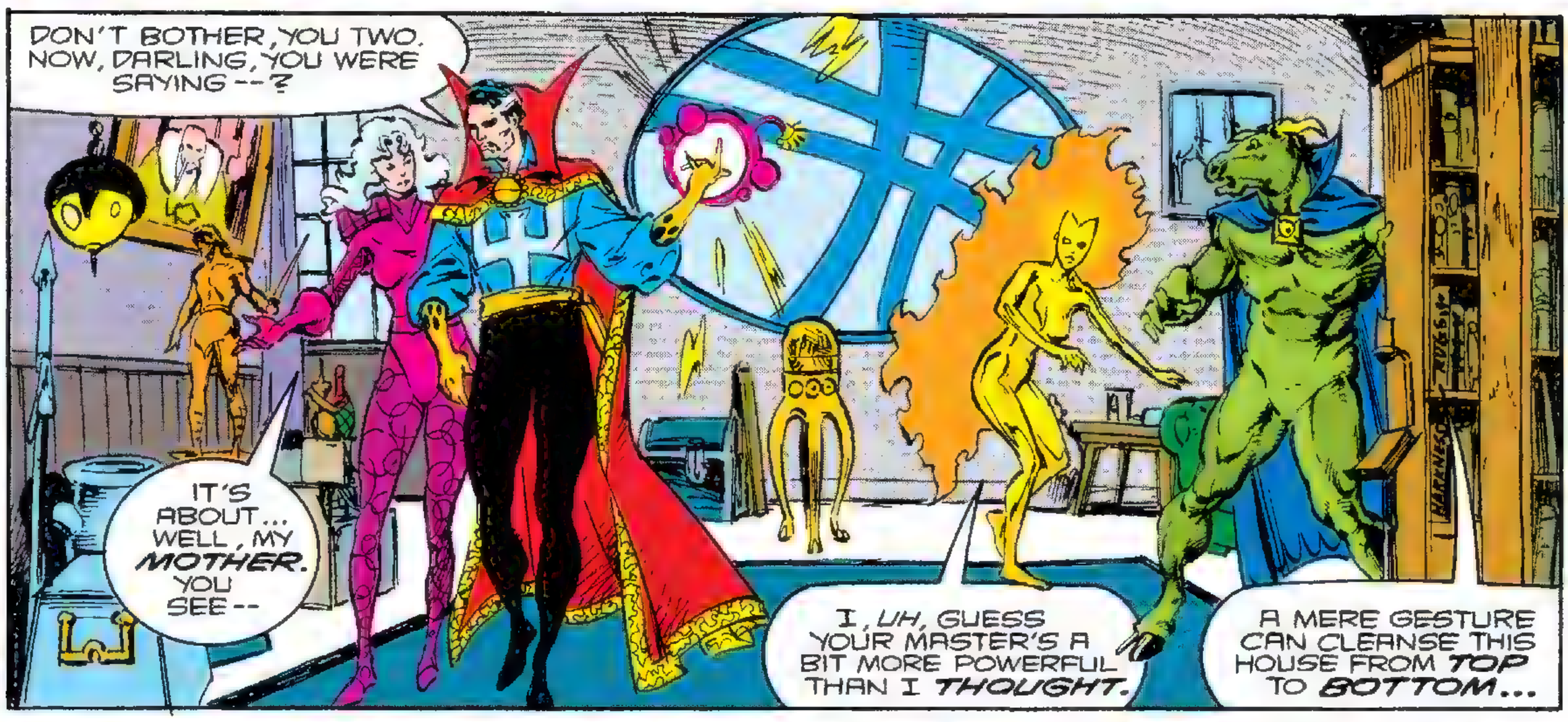
IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME, I CERTAINLY DO.

STEPHEN, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO *TALK* TO YOU ABOUT...

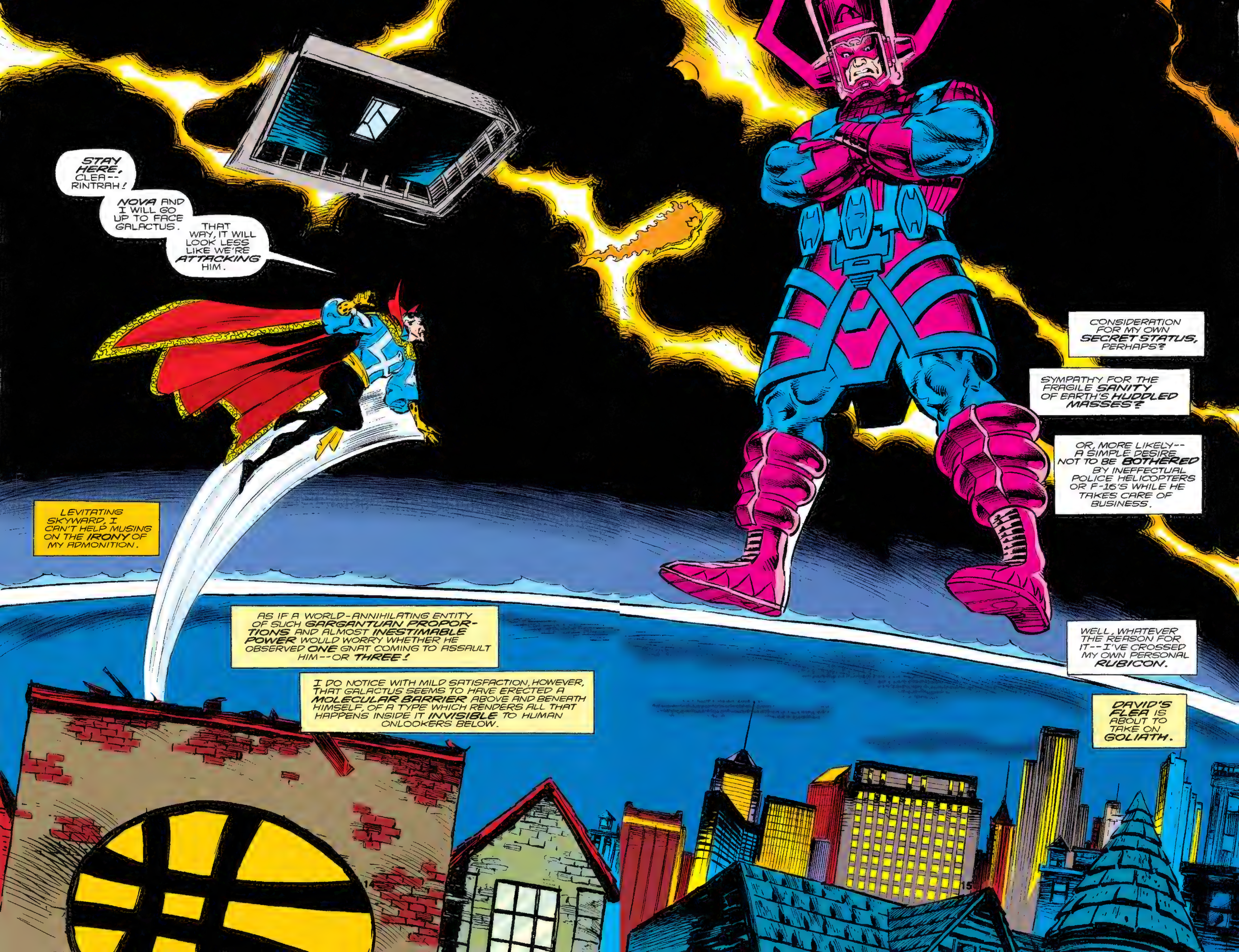
UNLESS IT HAS TO DO WITH *GALACTUS*, CLEA--CAN IT *WAIT?*

NOT REALLY.


LOOK, IT'S NOT THAT I PLAN TO DESERT YOU JUST AS GALACTUS IS COMING TO TOWN...
I'D HOPE NOT!
THAT SOUNDS SERIOUS. WHAT--?
I'LL HELP YOU TIDY UP... RENFIELD, IS IT?
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO-- ON MY OWN-- AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT SOON!
RINTRAH. AND I REALLY THINK YOU'VE DONE QUITE ENOU--


DON'T BOTHER, YOU TWO. NOW, DARLING, YOU WERE SAYING --?
IT'S ABOUT... WELL, MY MOTHER. YOU SEE --
I, UH, GUESS YOUR MASTER'S A BIT MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT.
A MERE GESTURE CAN CLEANSE THIS HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM...

...THOUGH I DON'T THINK HE INTENDED TO AFFECT THE ROOF IN QUITE THAT WAY!
THE VISHANTI PRESERVE US--!
HE'S HERE.


STAY HERE, CLEA-- RINTRAH!
NOVA AND I WILL GO UP TO FACE GALACTUS.
THAT WAY, IT WILL LOOK LESS LIKE WE'RE ATTACKING HIM.
LEVITATING SKYWARD, I CAN'T HELP MUSING ON THE IRONY OF MY ADMONITION.
AS IF A WORLD-ANNIHILATING ENTITY OF SUCH GARGANTUAN PROPORTIONS AND ALMOST INESTIMABLE POWER WOULD WORRY WHETHER HE OBSERVED ONE GNAT COMING TO ASSAULT HIM--OR THREE!
I DO NOTICE WITH MILD SATISFACTION, HOWEVER, THAT GALACTUS SEEMS TO HAVE ERECTED A MOLECULAR BARRIER ABOVE AND BENEATH HIMSELF, OF A TYPE WHICH RENDERS ALL THAT HAPPENS INSIDE IT INVISIBLE TO HUMAN ONLOOKERS BELOW.
CONSIDERATION FOR MY OWN SECRET STATUS, PERHAPS?
SYMPATHY FOR THE FRAGILE SANITY OF EARTH'S HUDDLED MASSES?
OR, MORE LIKELY-- A SIMPLE DESIRE NOT TO BE BOTHERED BY INEFFECTUAL POLICE HELICOPTERS OR F-16'S WHILE HE TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS.
WELL, WHATEVER THE REASON FOR IT--I'VE CROSSED MY OWN PERSONAL RUBICON.
DAVID'S FLEA IS ABOUT TO TAKE ON GOLIATH.

SO THAT IS THE FABLED *GALACTUS!*

BACK ON *R'VAAL*, MY HERD ALWAYS FEARED HE WOULD ONE DAY TURN HIS ATTENTION TO *OUR* WORLD...

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT LIVING IN THE *DARK DIMENSION* WAS THAT WE FIGURED HE *WOULDN'T!*

SPEAKING OF WHICH, CLEA --MAY WE DEPART NOW, TO TRY TO REGAIN THE *THRONE* YOU LOST THERE?

IF YOU *FALTINIANS* HAD CLOSE EMOTIONAL TIES TO EACH OTHER, FLYX, YOU'D KNOW I *CAN'T* LEAVE--NOT WHILE GALACTUS THREATENS MY *HUSBAND.*

PLEASE-- I MUST ASK YOU NOT TO USE SUCH *LANGUAGE* IN MY PRESENCE!*

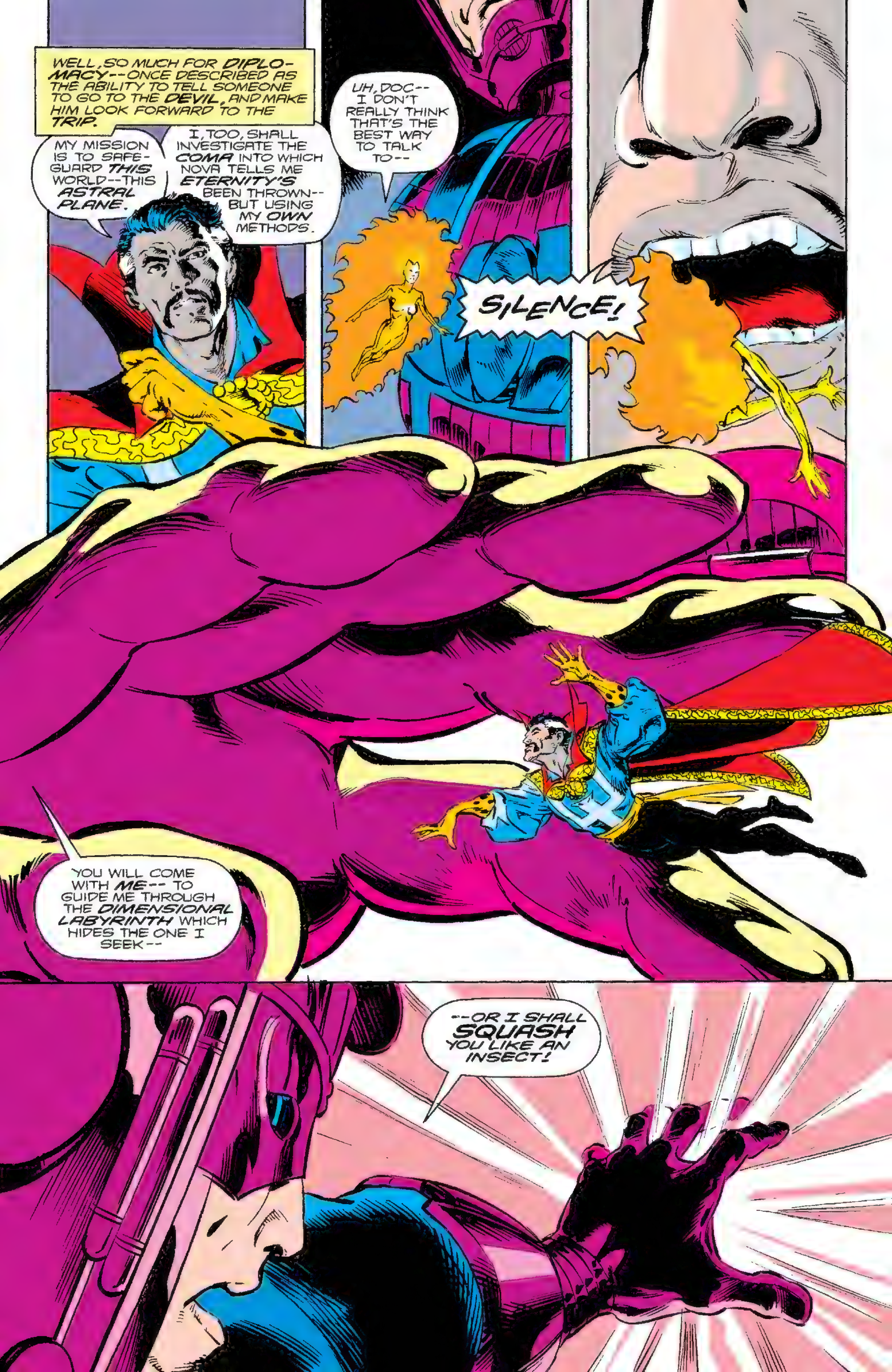
* FULL-BLOODED FALTINIANS TEND TO BE OFFENDED BY ANY MENTION OF FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS.--M.

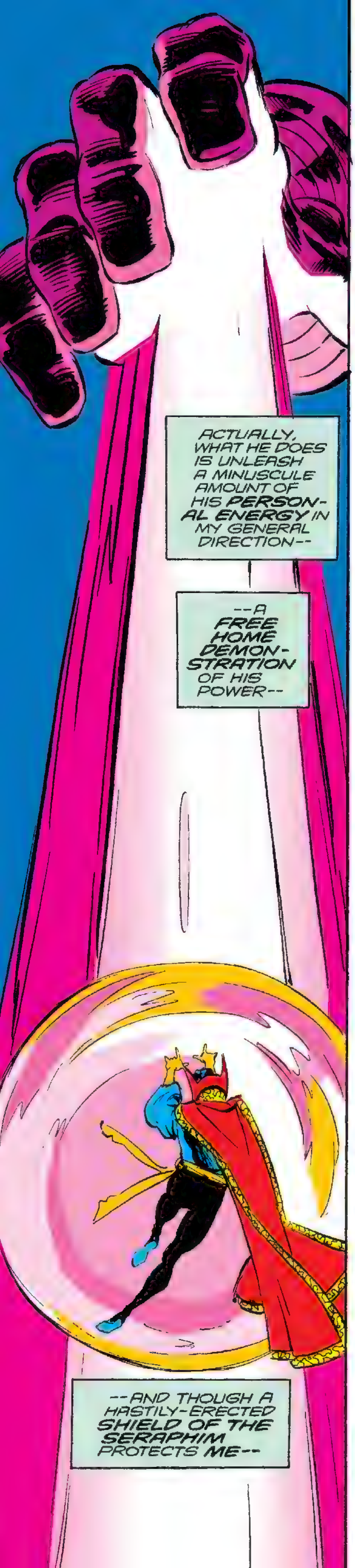
HAIL, GALACTUS! WELCOME, AND MY THANKS FOR NOT TREADING ON THE DWELLINGS OF THE LOCALS.

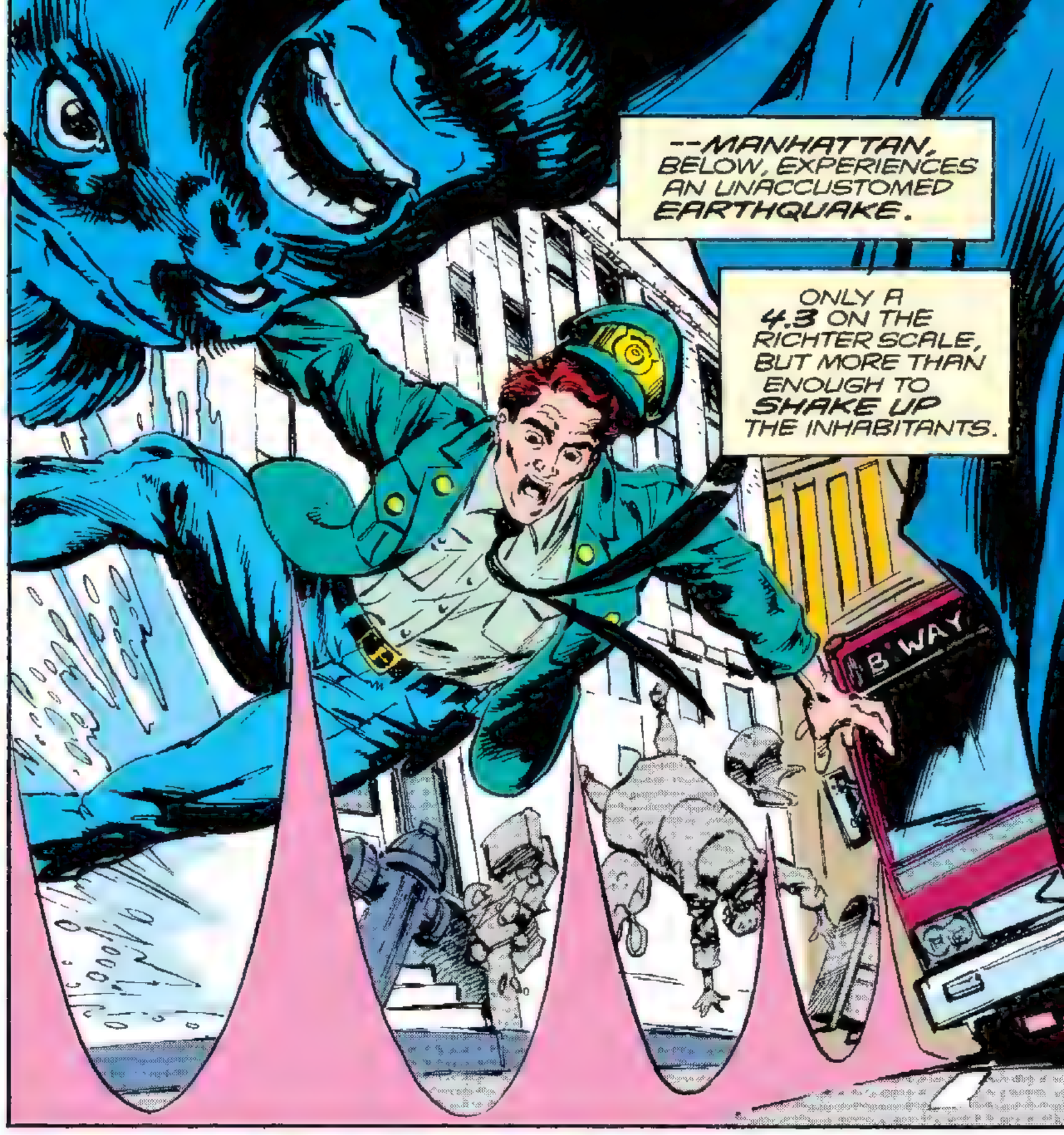
MAY EARTH'S *SORCERER SUPREME* ASK WHAT ONE WHO USES THE *STARS* FOR HIS STEPPING-STONES DESIRES UPON THIS INSIGNIFICANT PLANET?

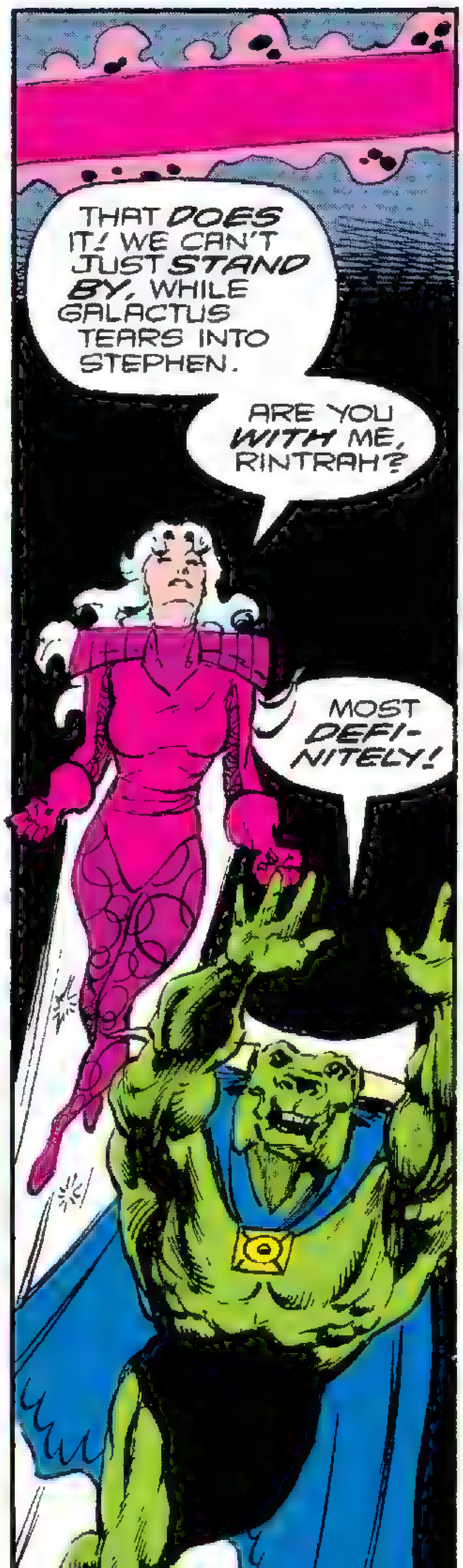
I SUSPECT MY HERALD HAS ALREADY *TOLD* YOU, MAGE...

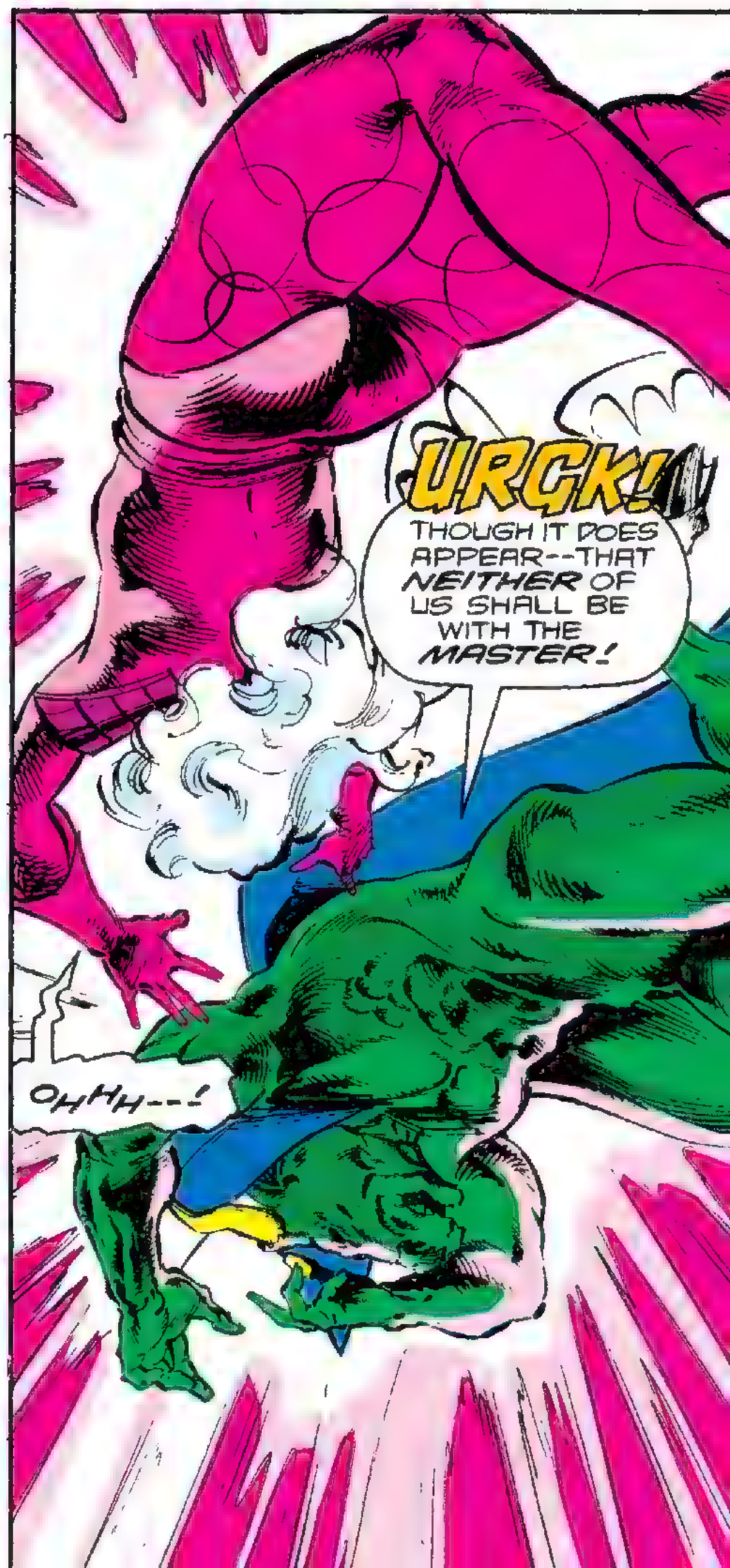
I WANT YOU!

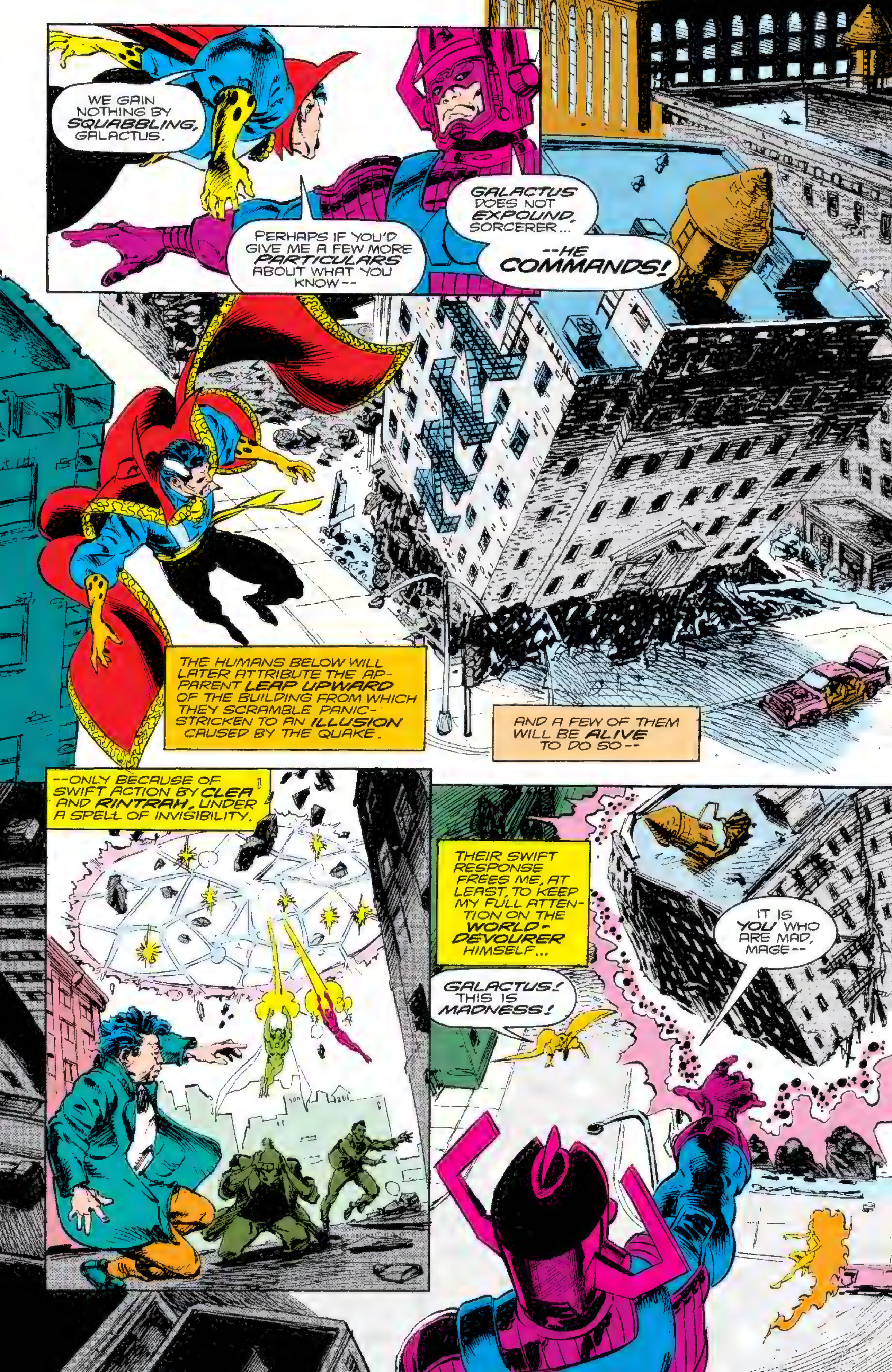

WELL, SO MUCH FOR DIPLOMACY--ONCE DESCRIBED AS THE ABILITY TO TELL SOMEONE TO GO TO THE DEVIL, AND MAKE HIM LOOK FORWARD TO THE TRIP.
MY MISSION IS TO SAFEGUARD THIS WORLD--THIS ASTRAL PLANE.
I, TOO, SHALL INVESTIGATE THE COMA INTO WHICH NOVA TELLS ME ETERNITY'S BEEN THROWN--BUT USING MY OWN METHODS.
UH, DOC--I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TALK TO--
SILENCE!
YOU WILL COME WITH ME-- TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL LABYRINTH WHICH HIDES THE ONE I SEEK--
--OR I SHALL SQUASH YOU LIKE AN INSECT!


ACTUALLY, WHAT HE DOES IS UNLEASH A MINUSCULE AMOUNT OF HIS PERSONAL ENERGY IN MY GENERAL DIRECTION--
--A FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION OF HIS POWER--
--AND THOUGH A HASTILY-ERECTED SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM PROTECTS ME--


--MANHATTAN, BELOW, EXPERIENCES AN UNACCUSTOMED EARTHQUAKE.
ONLY A 4.3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, BUT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SHAKE UP THE INHABITANTS.
B WAY


THAT DOES IT! WE CAN'T JUST STAND BY, WHILE GALACTUS TEARS INTO STEPHEN.
ARE YOU WITH ME, RINTRAH?
MOST DEFINITELY!


URGK!
THOUGH IT DOES APPEAR--THAT NEITHER OF US SHALL BE WITH THE MASTER!
OHHH--!


WE GAIN NOTHING BY SQUABBLING, GALACTUS.
PERHAPS IF YOU'D GIVE ME A FEW MORE PARTICULARS ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW--
GALACTUS DOES NOT EXPOUND, SORCERER...
--HE COMMANDS!
THE HUMANS BELOW WILL LATER ATTRIBUTE THE APPARENT LEAP UPWARD OF THE BUILDING FROM WHICH THEY SCRAMBLE PANIC-STRICKEN TO AN ILLUSION CAUSED BY THE QUAKE.
AND A FEW OF THEM WILL BE ALIVE TO DO SO--
--ONLY BECAUSE OF SWIFT ACTION BY CLEA AND RINTRAH, UNDER A SPELL OF INVISIBILITY.
THEIR SWIFT RESPONSE FREES ME, AT LEAST, TO KEEP MY FULL ATTENTION ON THE WORLD-DEVOURER HIMSELF...
GALACTUS! THIS IS MADNESS!
IT IS YOU WHO ARE MAD, MAGE--

THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL THE DISPARATE SECTIONS OF THE RUPTURED HIGH-RISE CONVERGE UPON ME--

--TO OPPOSE THE MIGHT AND MAJESTY OF GALACTUS!

ELEVATORS, DRAINPIPES, INCINERATORS, AIR-CONDITIONERS--LIKE AN EXPLOSION IN REVERSE.

MASTER! IS IT WISE TO RISK HARMING THE MAGICIAN, IF YOU TRULY NEED HIM?

I NEED NOTHING AND NO ONE SO BADLY, HERALD--

--THAT I WILL BROOK THE ARROGANCE OF A MERE MORTAL!

DON'T LET IT CLOSE, RINTRAH!

GALACTUS OPENED THAT RIFT IN HIS BARRIER BY PULLING UP THAT BUILDING.

IF WE CAN HOLD IT OPEN--WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH!

I SHALL WEAVE A STRUCTURE TO THE MAGICAL ENERGY YOU DISPENSE--AND PRAY THAT IT KEEPS THE HOLE FROM COLLAPSING UPON ITSELF.

MEANWHILE, I LIKE TO THINK I HAVEN'T BEEN ENTIRELY IDLE...

...AND MAY GREAT HOGGOTH'S HOARY HAND, AND ALL THE HORDES THAT WITH HIM STAND, NOW OPEN PATHS THROUGH STEEL AND DEBRIS--

--THAT DR. STRANGE SHALL BE SET FREE--
BUT I'M NOT FINISHED YET.
--TO TURN THAT POWER UPON HIS FOE--
--TO TOPPLE HIM AND LAY HIM LOW!
IT WORKS! I CAN SEE GALACTUS LOSE HIS BALANCE--
--AND FALL.
BUT EVEN AS HE DOES, I QUIVER WITH HORROR AT THE SUDDEN REALIZATION--
--THAT HE'S GOT NOWHERE TO FALL EXCEPT LOWER MANHATTAN!

NEXT MOMENT, I BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

THE WORLD-DESTROYER, STILL INVISIBLE TO HUMAN EYES, HAS **ARRESTED** HIS FALL BY SHEER EFFORT OF **WILL**--

--THOUGH NOT WITHOUT INFLICTING A BIT MORE **DAMAGE** TO THE ISLAND'S OVER-INFLATED **REAL ESTATE**.

SO! MY INITIAL ASSUMPTION THAT **YOU** WERE THE ONE TO SERVE AS MY MYSTIC GUIDE WAS **NOT** IN ERROR!

NOW, TRULY, I SHALL **SPARE NO EFFORT** TO BEND YOU TO MY **CAUSE!**

BEHIND THOSE FLOWERY PHRASES, I CAN SEE MORE **SKYSCRAPERS** CRUMBLING--

--MORE **MISERY** INFLICTED ON THE TERRIFIED MASSES I WAS CHOSEN TO **PROTECT**.

MY NEXT ACTION, THEN, IS ALL BUT **INEVITABLE...**

I'LL...GO WITH YOU, GALACTUS.

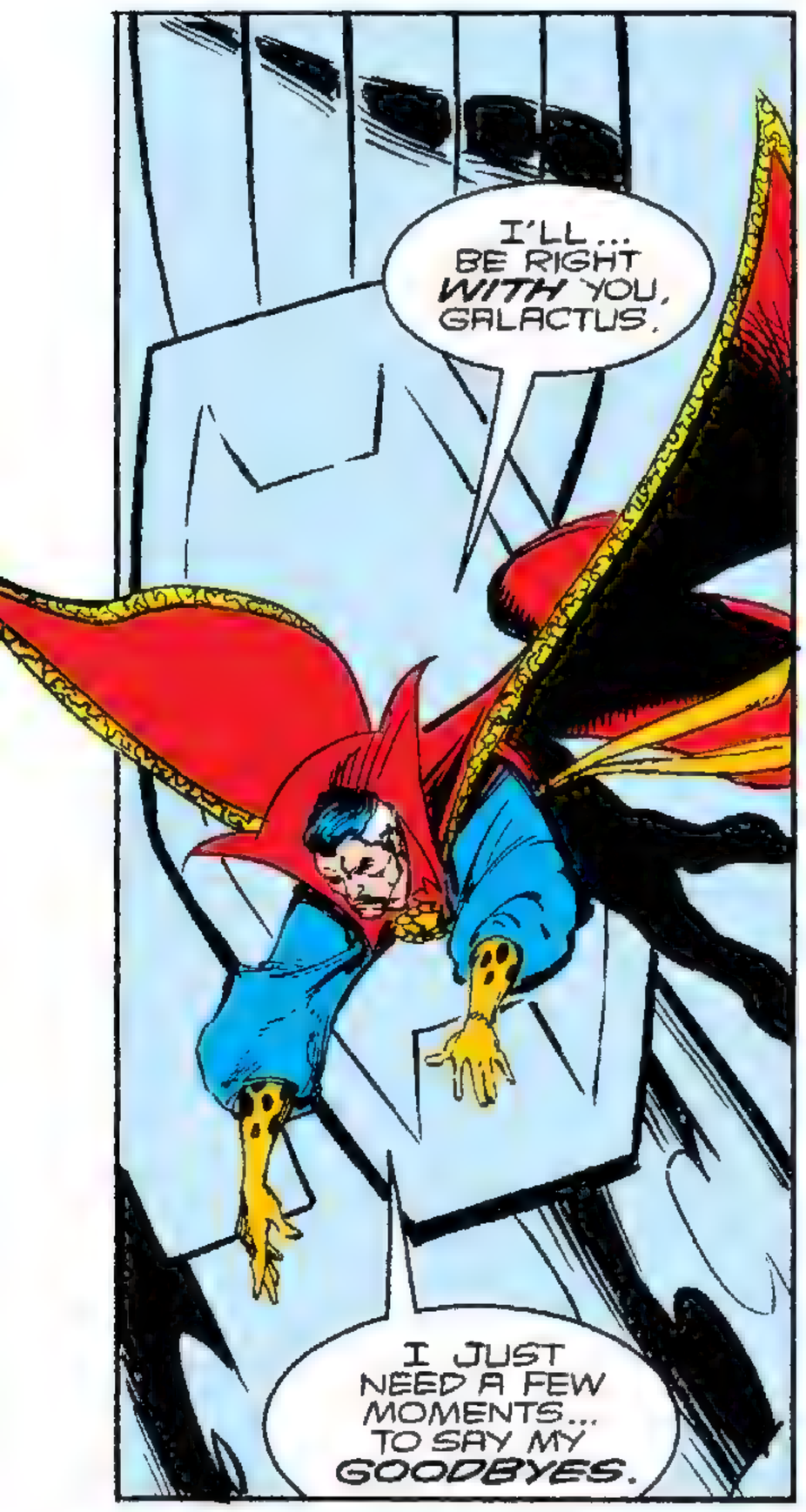
OF **COURSE** YOU WILL. NEVER DID I **DOUBT** IT.

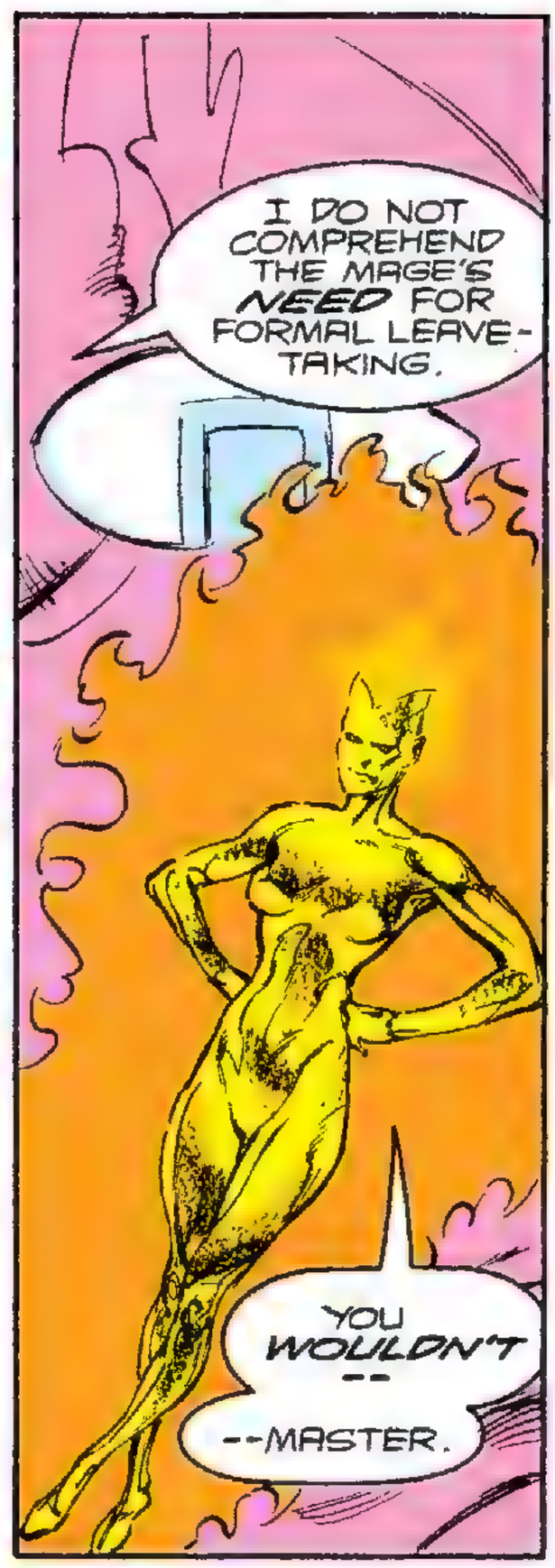
ALTHOUGH, WERE IT NOT FOR THE URGENCY OF MY MISSION, I WOULD ALMOST HAVE **ENJOYED** SEEING WHAT **LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE** IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TO **DEFEAT** YOU.

I SHUDDER AT THE THOUGHT.

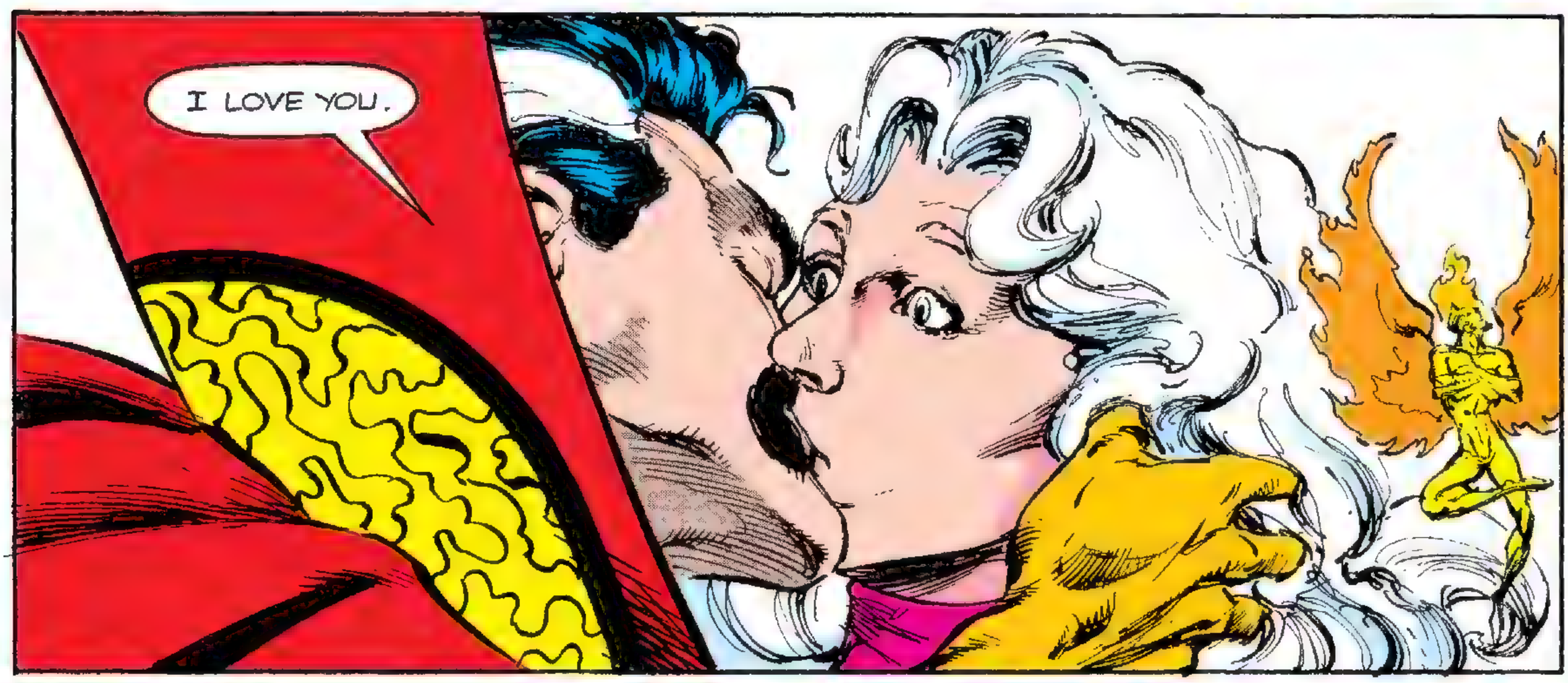
ARE WE **DONE** HERE, MASTER?

YES, HERALD.


I'LL... BE RIGHT WITH YOU, GALACTUS.
I JUST NEED A FEW MOMENTS... TO SAY MY GOODBYES.


I DO NOT COMPREHEND THE MAGE'S NEED FOR FORMAL LEAVE-TAKING.
YOU WOULDN'T --
--MASTER.

CLEA-- I MUST--
I KNOW, STEPHEN--
--AND I UNDER-STAND.


I LOVE YOU.

MISTRESS CLEA--YOU DID NOT EVEN INQUIRE WHETHER WE COULD ACCOMPANY HIM.
BECAUSE I KNEW, INSTINCTIVELY, THAT NEITHER OF US COULD, RINTRAH.
BUT-- WHAT FRIGHTENS ME IS--
--HE KISSED ME AS IF HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT NEVER SEE ME AGAIN!

NO! I DON'T DARE THINK LIKE THAT!
IT WILL WEAKEN ME -- FOR WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
AND WHAT IS THAT, PRAY?
SURELY, YOU'LL AWAIT THE MASTER'S RETURN HERE...
IF I DID -- I MIGHT JUST GO STARK, RAVING MAD.
I'VE GOT TO GET ON WITH MY MISSION!
MY ECTO-PLASM LEAPS UP TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
MISSION?

RATHER-- I SHALL SHOW YOU!

WHAT--?

IS THIS HOW MY PERSONAL WORLD ENDS?

WITH THE SOUND OF TWO GARGANTUAN HANDS CLAPPING?

BUT THEY DON'T COME TOGETHER-- NOT ALL THE WAY.

INSTEAD, ENERGY FLOWS FROM THEM, IN OVERWHELMING WAVES--

AND BY THE TIME I GAIN THE INFORMATION I WANTED--

--I'M IN NO CONDITION TO CONSIDER IT.

HE'S PASSED OUT--

--OR MAYBE WORSE!

GALACTUS!

YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE!
RELEASE THE SORCERER--
--OR I WILL COMPEL HIS FREEDOM FROM YOU!
TO BE CONTINUED (FROM PRECISELY THIS POINT) IN SILVER SURFER #67!
THEN, IN DR. STRANGE #43--
AGAMOTTO!

MARVEL COMICS
THE SILVER SURFER
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
STOP, GALACTUS! RELEASE DR. STRANGE!
© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC
$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN
67
EARLY JULY
UK 85p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE. A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**

WHAT WILL BECOME OF HER, EROS, NOW THAT TITAN HAS TAKEN HER IN?*
*SEE SURFER ANNUAL #5. --CRAIG
WILL NEBULA EVER BE SANE AGAIN?
WHO CAN SAY?
SHE WAS TRIED AND IMPRISONED FOR HER CRIMES... BUT THEN SHE HAD SOME KIND OF PSYCHOTIC EPISODE.
SHE'S BEEN NEARLY CATATONIC EVER SINCE.
HER MIND IS SEVERELY DAMAGED. MAYBE PERMANENTLY.
NONE OF OUR TELEPATHS HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET PAST HER FIXATION ON MY ELDER BROTHER.

"SHE INSISTS SHE'S THANOS'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, BUT WE'VE TESTED HER. THERE'S NO GENETIC EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HER CLAIM."

"THEN IT'S SIMPLY A DELUSION?"

"SO IT WOULD SEEM. THE NOTION OF MY DEATH-OBSESSED BROTHER ACTUALLY CREATING LIFE IS ABSURD."

BUT I LEARNED LONG AGO THAT TRYING TO PREDICT THANOS'S ACTIONS IS FUTILE.

HE'S FULL OF SURPRISES.

YOU MEAN HE WAS. HIS SUICIDE* FINALLY RELIEVED THE UNIVERSE OF HIS DARK SCOURGE.

* INFINITY GAUNTLET #6. --CRAIG

DID IT?

THANOS CIRCUMVENTED HIS DEMISE IN THE PAST. IT'S NOT UNTHINKABLE HE DID SO AGAIN.

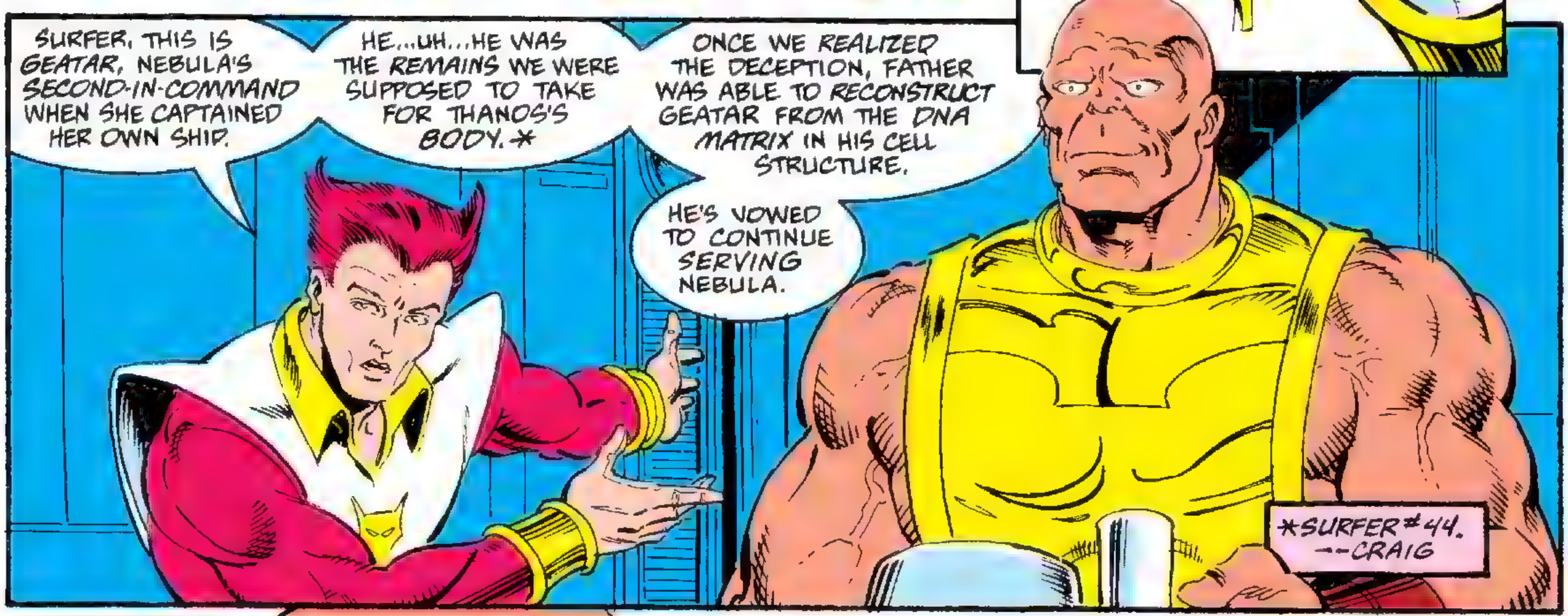
A SUDDEN REAPPEARANCE WOULDN'T SHOCK ME.

EXCUSE ME.

YAAAAH!

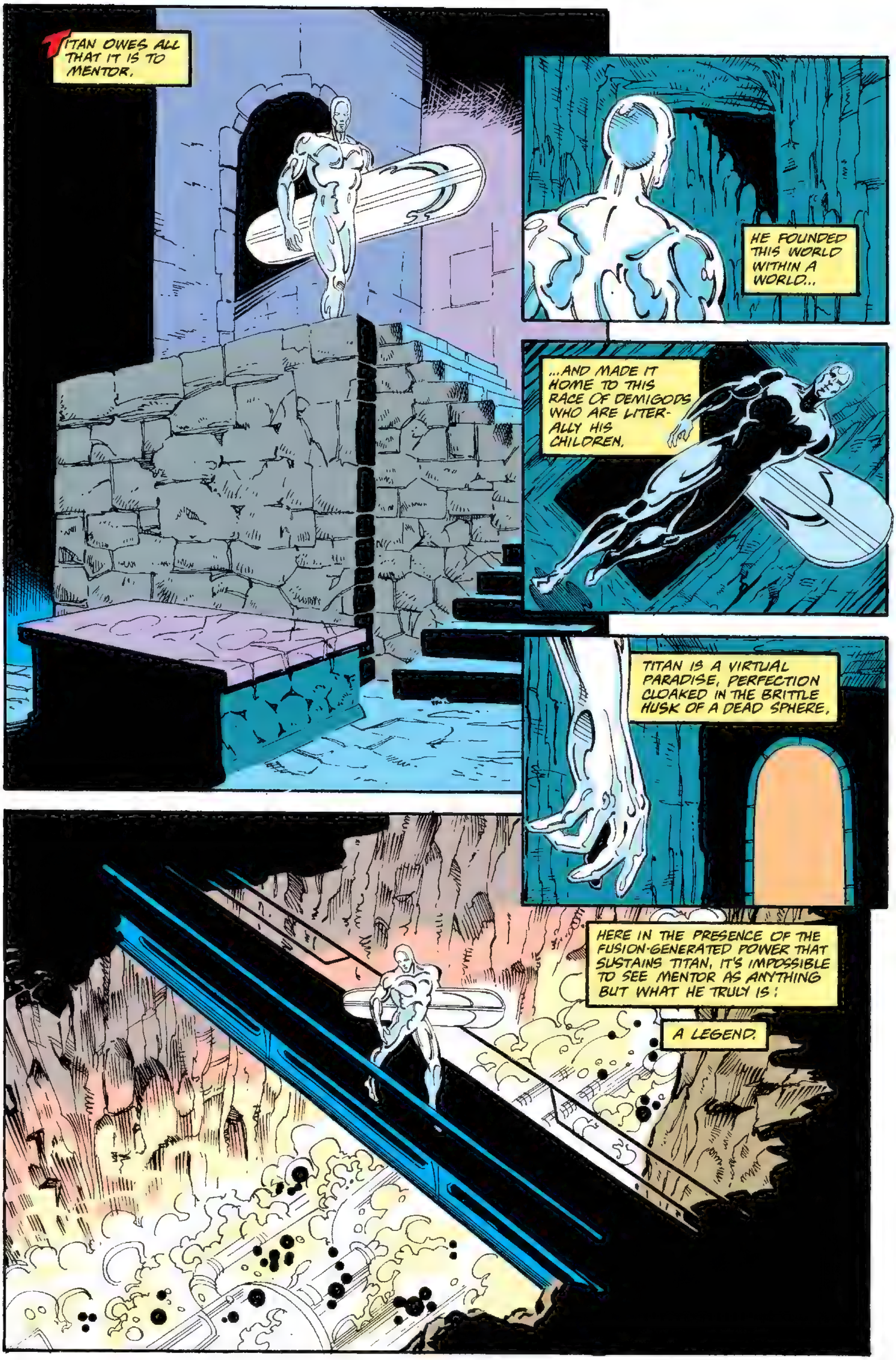
WHO--
WHO ARE YOU!?
FORGIVE ME. I DID NOT MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.

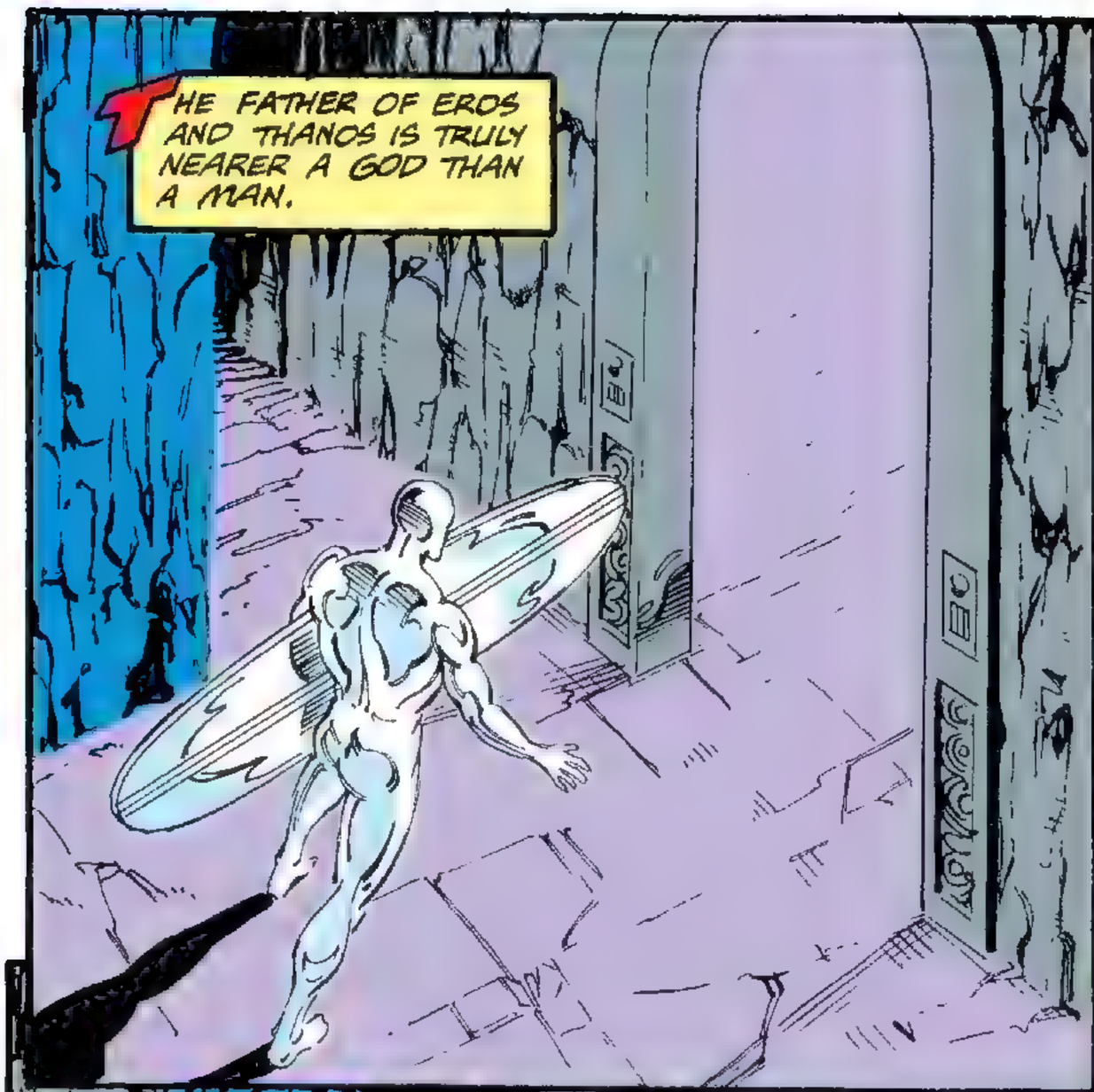
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED YOU TWO HAVEN'T MET.

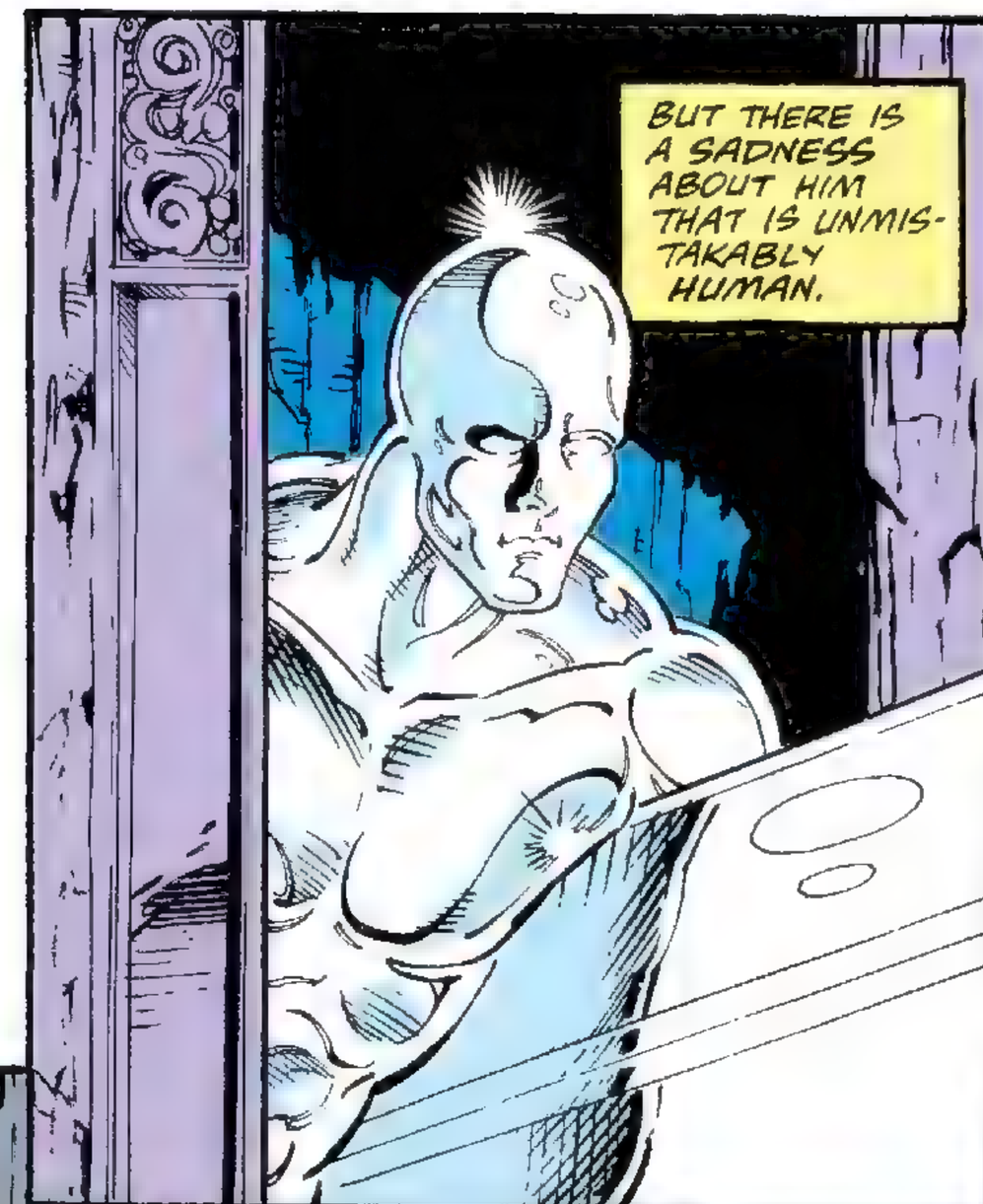

SURFER, THIS IS GEATAR, NEBULA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND WHEN SHE CAPTAINED HER OWN SHIP.
HE...UH...HE WAS THE REMAINS WE WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE FOR THANOS'S BODY.*
ONCE WE REALIZED THE DECEPTION, FATHER WAS ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT GEATAR FROM THE DNA MATRIX IN HIS CELL STRUCTURE.
HE'S VOWED TO CONTINUE SERVING NEBULA.
*SURFER #44. --CRAIG

I BROUGHT HER DINNER.

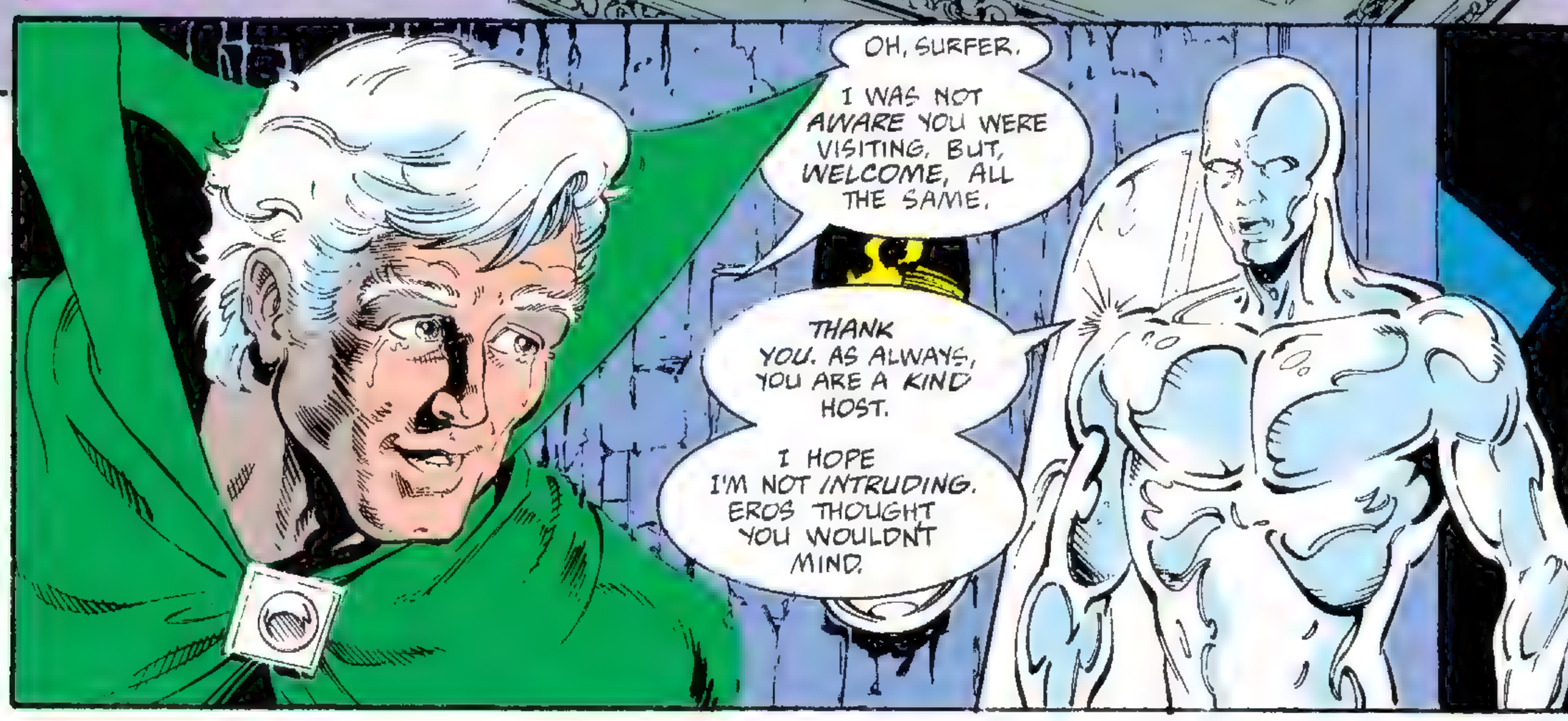
YOU MENTIONED YOUR FATHER, EROS. HE'S WELL, I TRUST?
I'D LIKE TO PAY MENTOR A VISIT, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I ARRIVED.
YOU MUST EAT, MY CAPTAIN.
HE'S IN THE CATACOMBS, VISITING MY MOTHER'S TOMB.
TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH... AT THANOS'S HANDS.
I'VE ALREADY PAID MY RESPECTS, BUT FATHER...
...FATHER WILL STAY WITH HER ALL DAY.
SEEK HIM OUT, SURFER.
I'M SURE HE'D BE GLAD FOR THE COMPANY.

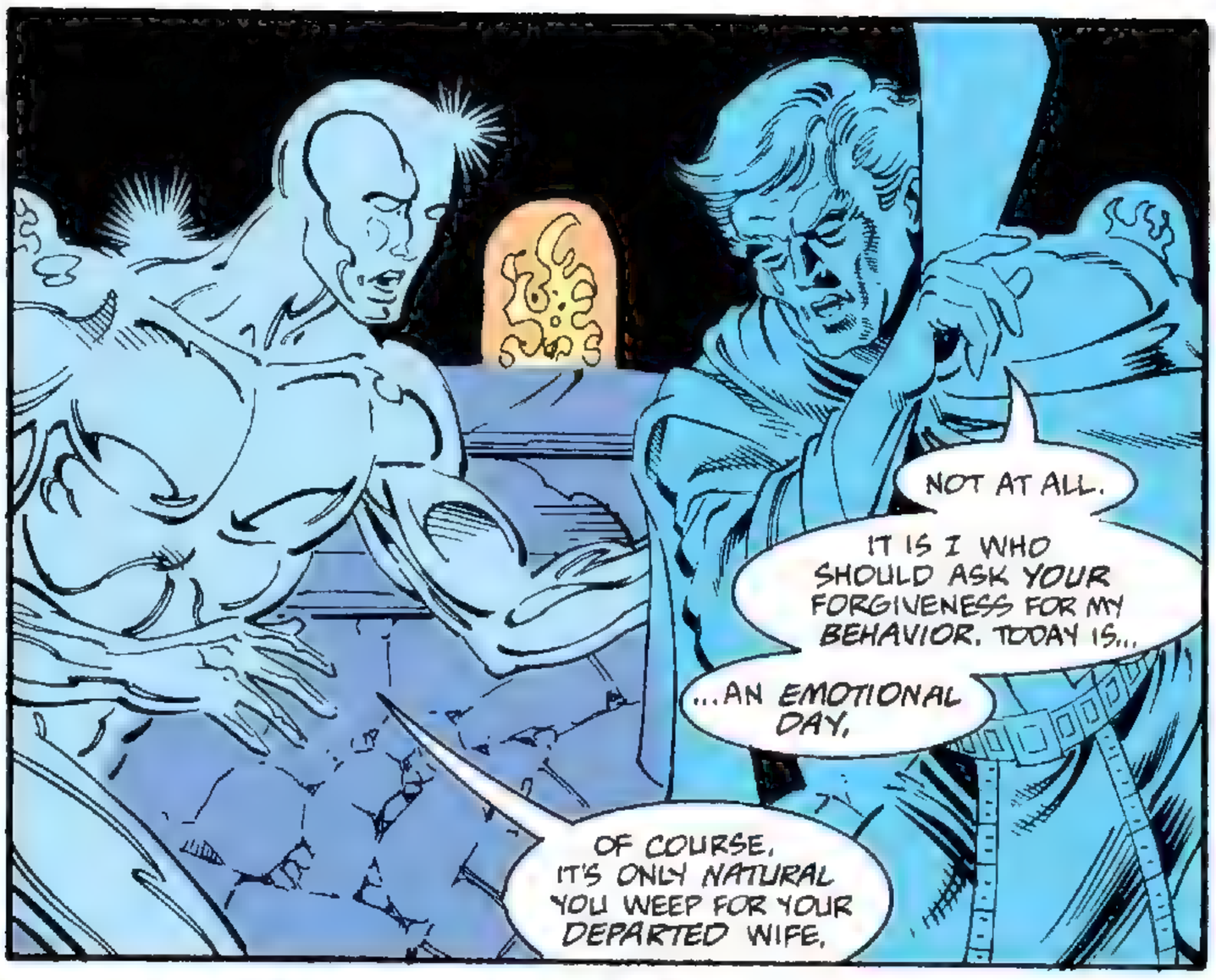

TITAN OWES ALL THAT IT IS TO MENTOR.
HE FOUNDED THIS WORLD WITHIN A WORLD...
...AND MADE IT HOME TO THIS RACE OF DEMIGODS WHO ARE LITERALLY HIS CHILDREN.
TITAN IS A VIRTUAL PARADISE, PERFECTION CLOAKED IN THE BRITTLE HUSK OF A DEAD SPHERE.
HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FUSION-GENERATED POWER THAT SUSTAINS TITAN, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE MENTOR AS ANYTHING BUT WHAT HE TRULY IS:
A LEGEND.


THE FATHER OF EROS AND THANOS IS TRULY NEARER A GOD THAN A MAN.

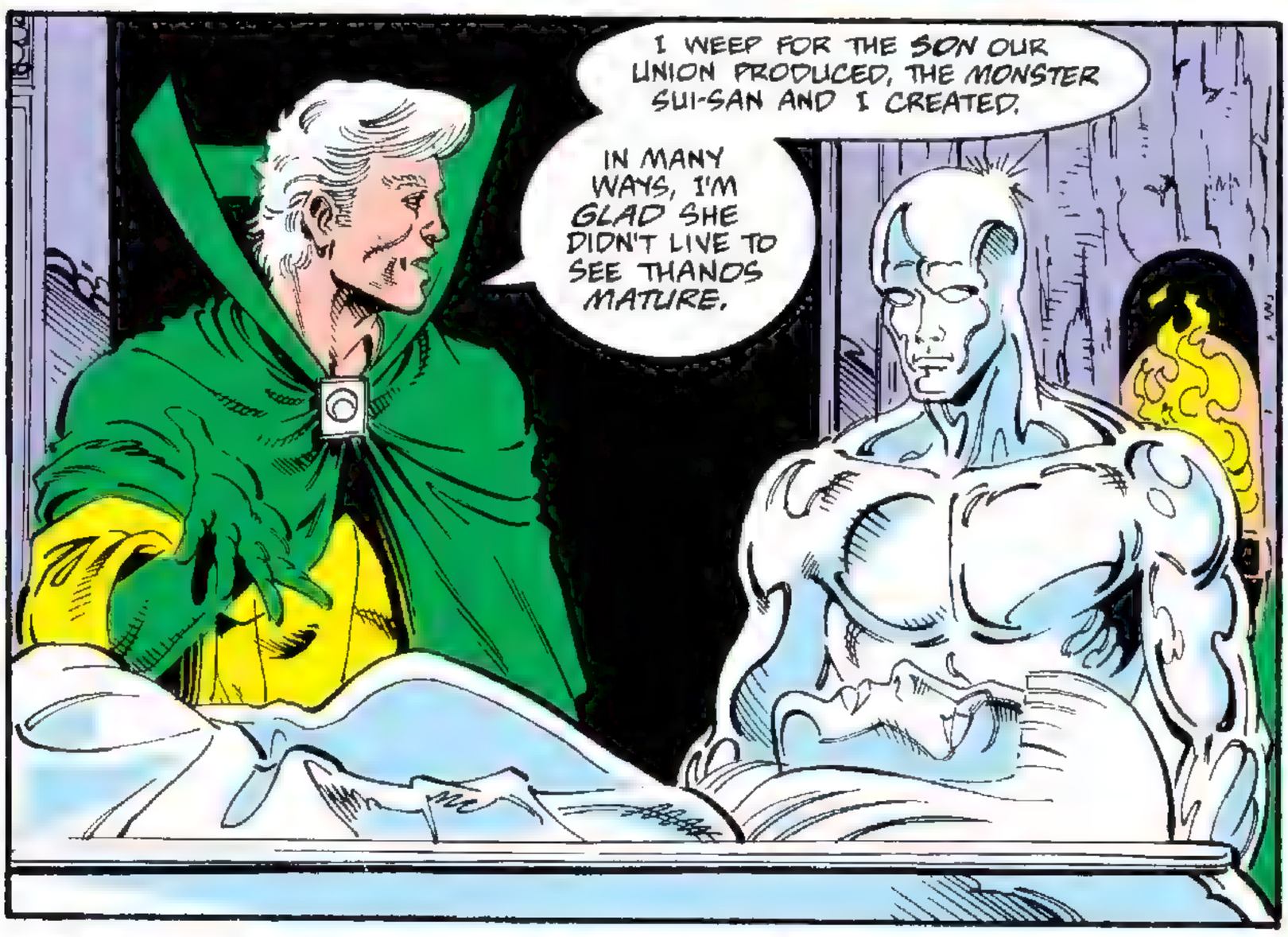

BUT THERE IS A SADNESS ABOUT HIM THAT IS UNMISTAKABLY HUMAN.

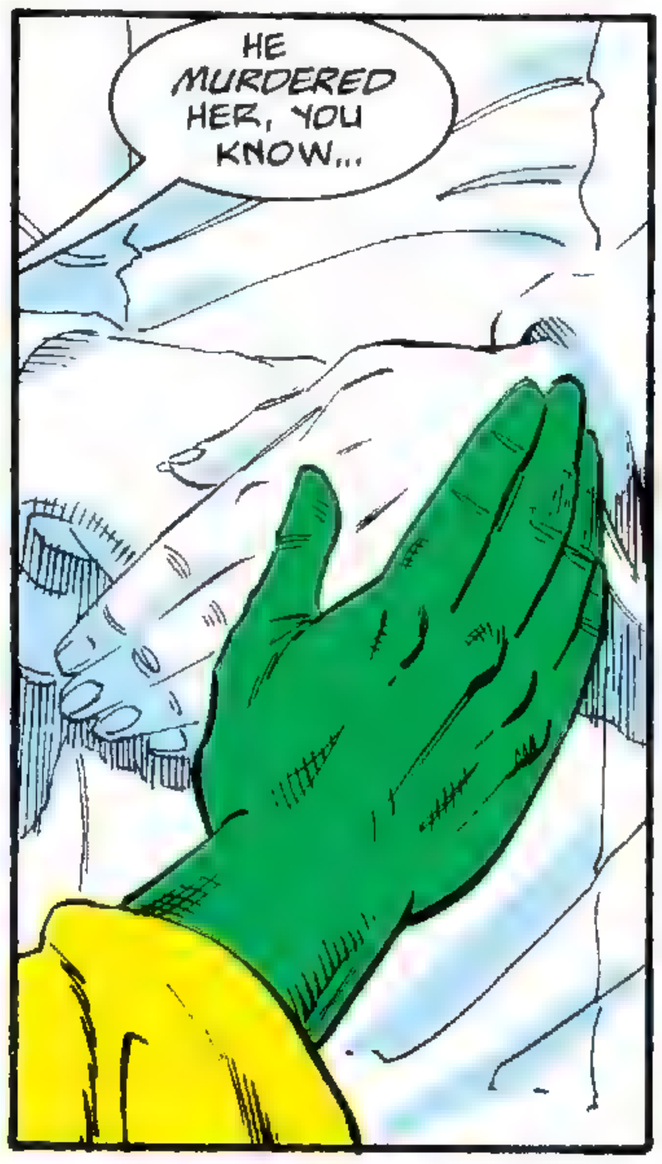
AMEN.


OH, SURFER.
I WAS NOT AWARE YOU WERE VISITING, BUT, WELCOME, ALL THE SAME.
THANK YOU. AS ALWAYS, YOU ARE A KIND HOST.
I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING. EROS THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T MIND.


NOT AT ALL.
IT IS I WHO SHOULD ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR MY BEHAVIOR. TODAY IS...
...AN EMOTIONAL DAY.
OF COURSE, IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU WEEP FOR YOUR DEPARTED WIFE.

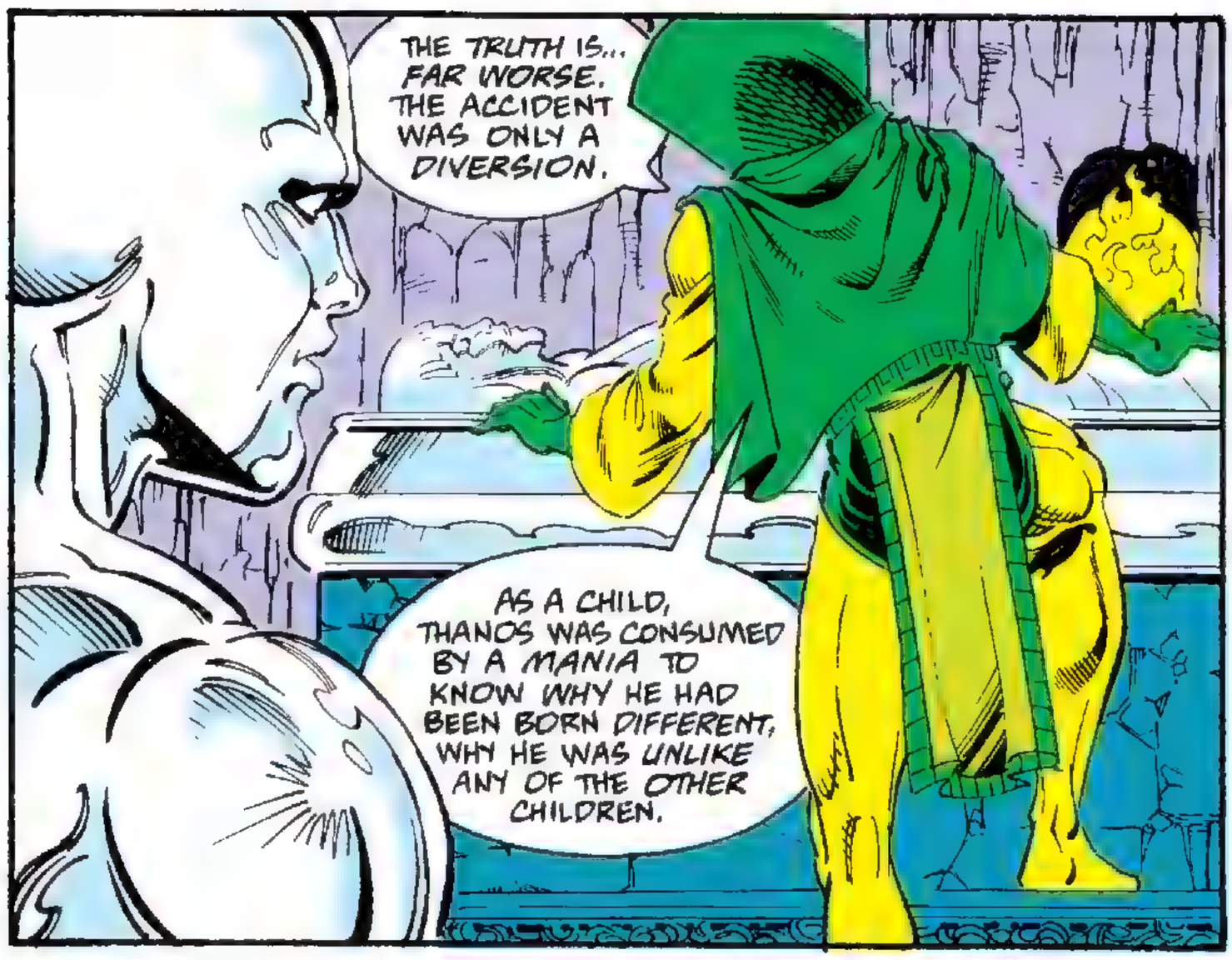
NO.
SHE WOULD NOT WISH ME TO GRIEVE AFTER SO LONG. SO I SHED NO TEARS FOR SUI-SAN, THOUGH HARDLY A DAY PASSES THAT MY HEART'S EMPTINESS DOES NOT PAIN ME.

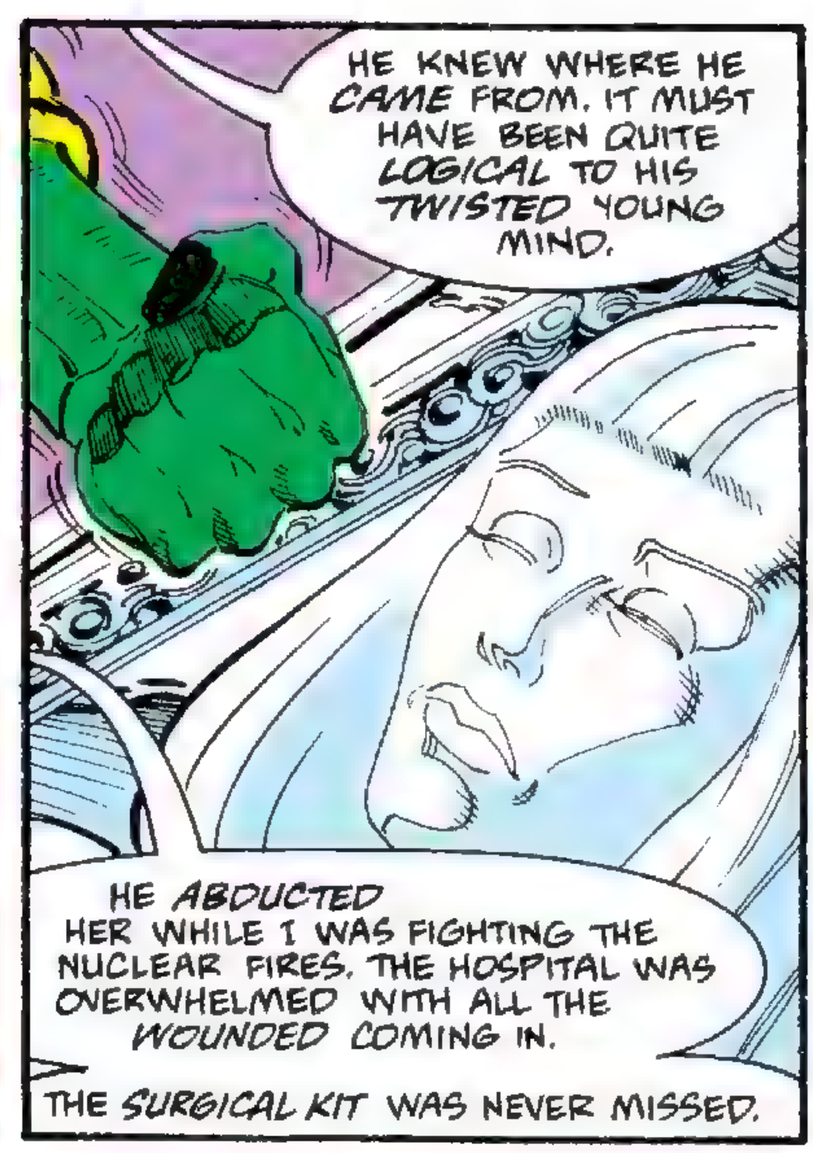

I WEEP FOR THE SON OUR UNION PRODUCED, THE MONSTER SUI-SAN AND I CREATED.
IN MANY WAYS, I'M GLAD SHE DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE THANOS MATURE.

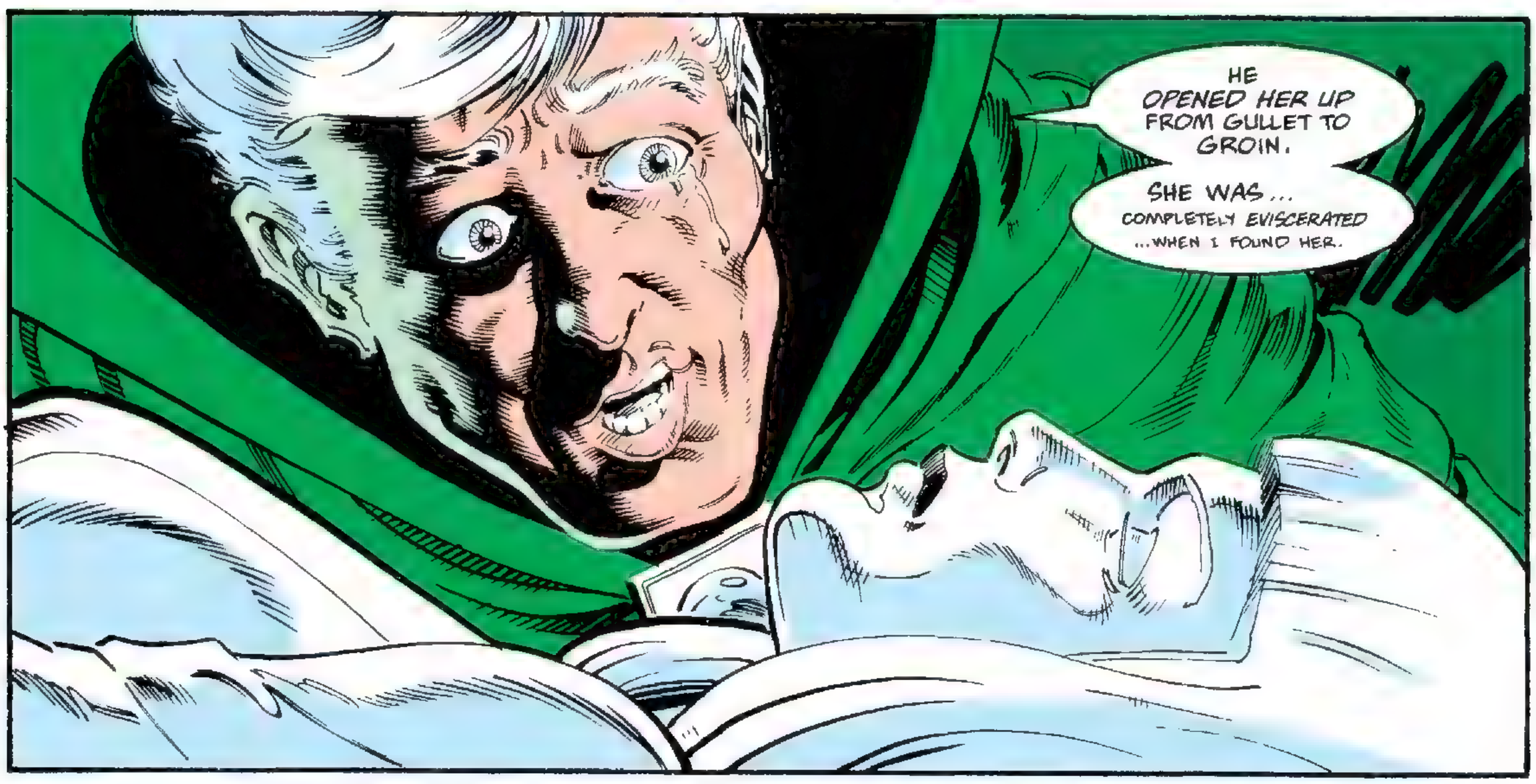

HE MURDERED HER, YOU KNOW...

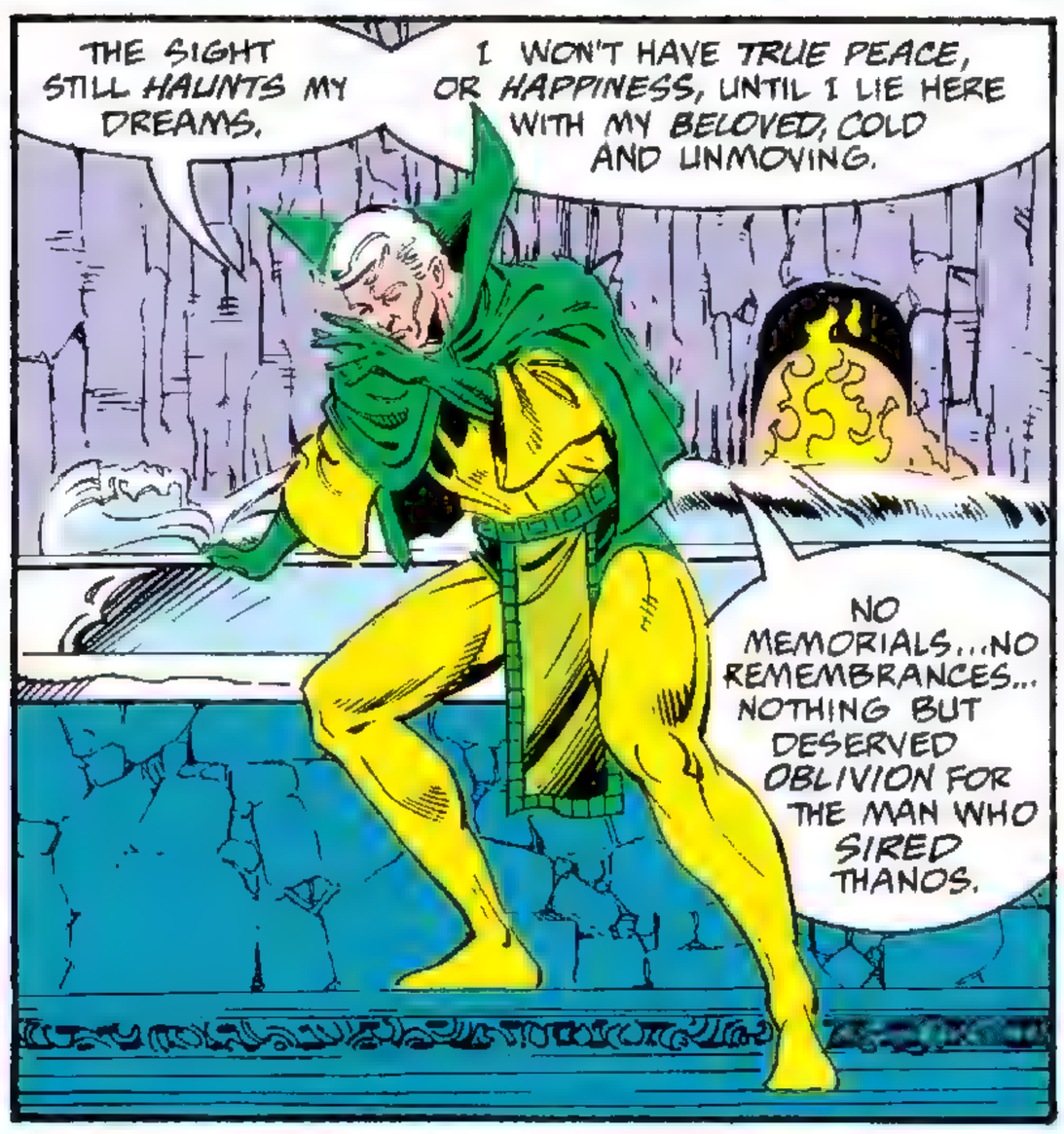
...HIS OWN MOTHER.

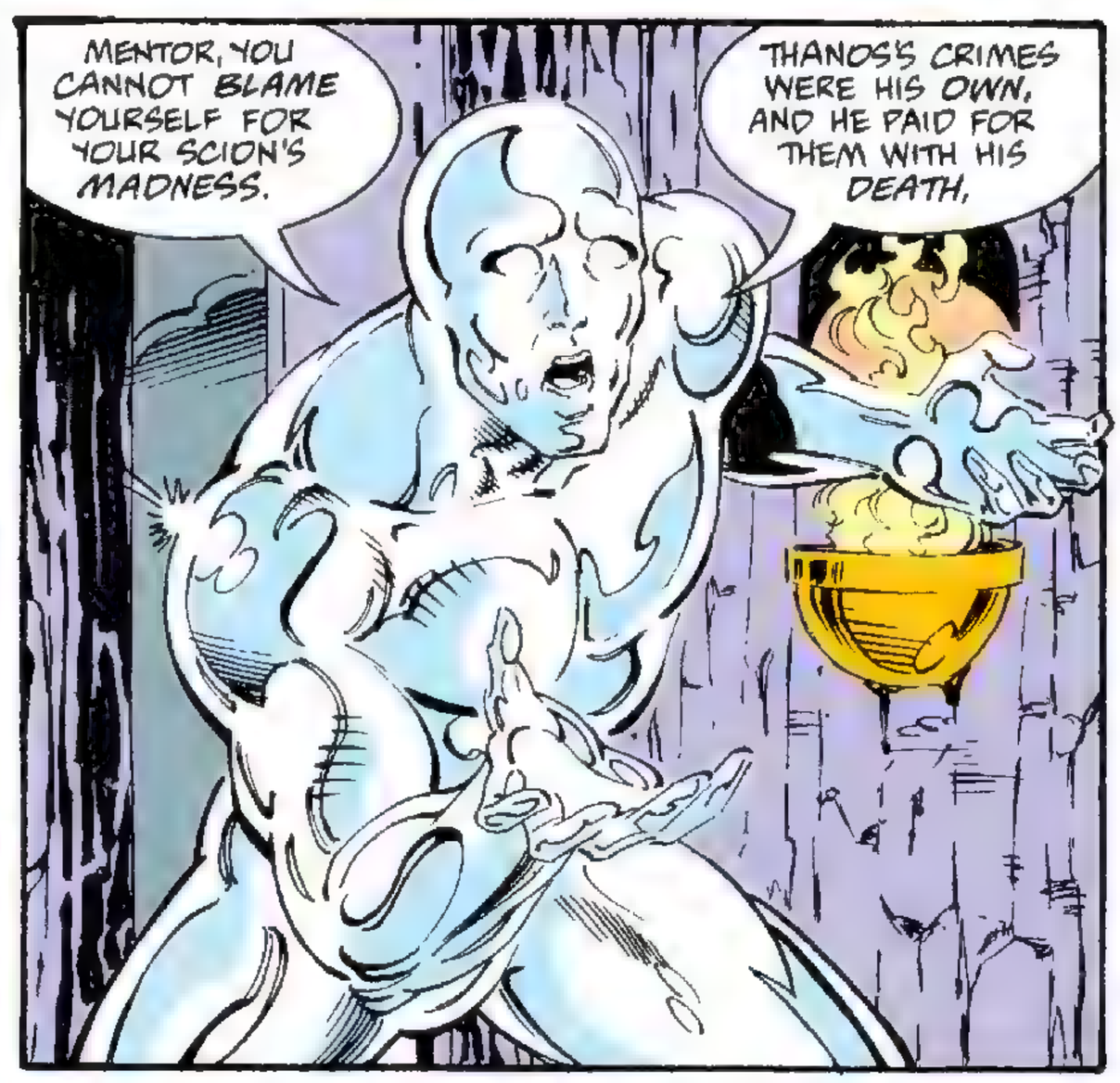
NOT EVEN EROS KNOWS THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED.
WHAT THANOS DID TO HER.
THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IS THAT SHE DIED IN A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, AN "ACCIDENT" WE EVENTUALLY TRACED TO THANOS, THOUGH HE WAS ONLY A BOY AT THE TIME.

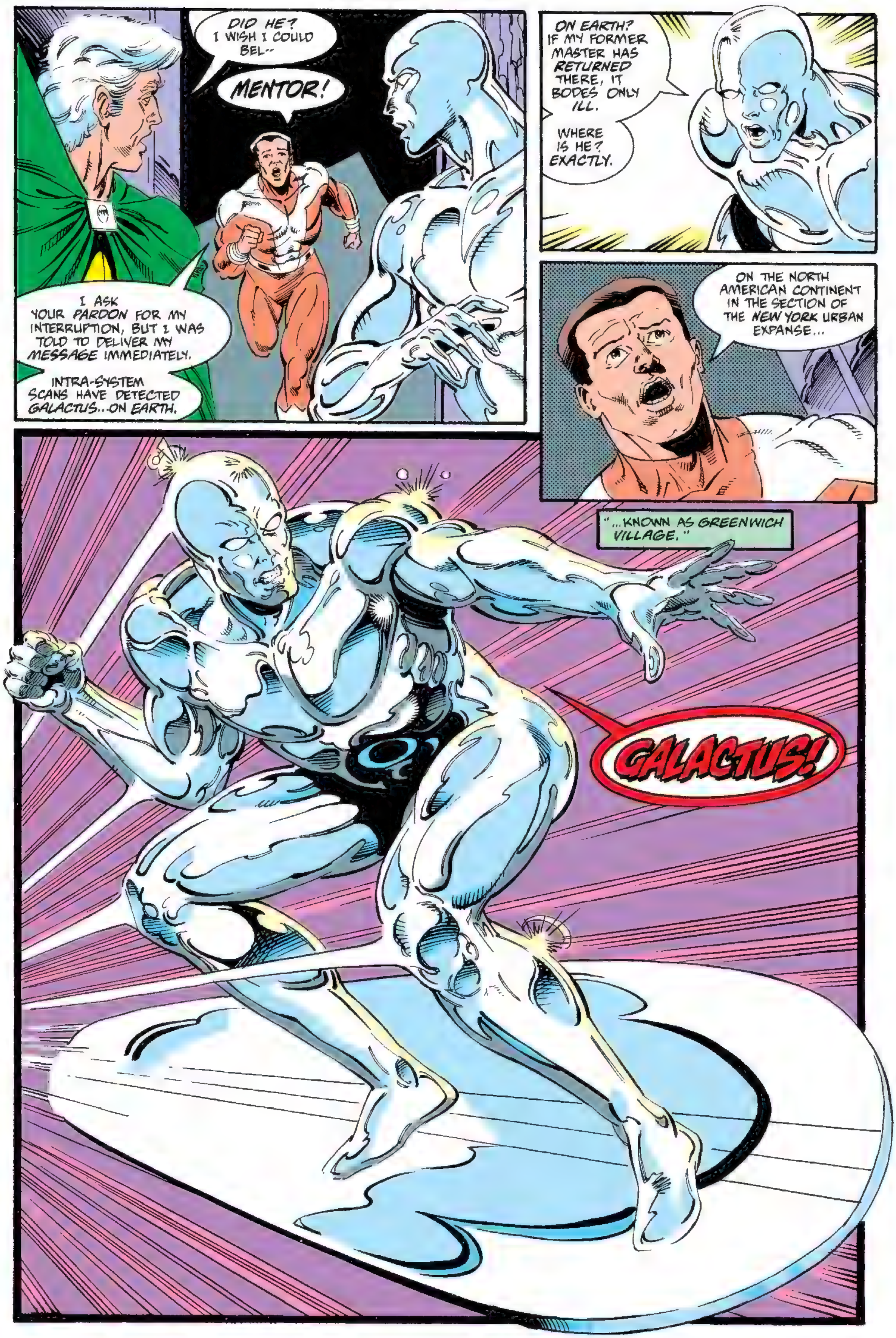

THE TRUTH IS... FAR WORSE. THE ACCIDENT WAS ONLY A DIVERSION.
AS A CHILD, THANOS WAS CONSUMED BY A MANIA TO KNOW WHY HE HAD BEEN BORN DIFFERENT, WHY HE WAS UNLIKE ANY OF THE OTHER CHILDREN.


HE KNEW WHERE HE CAME FROM. IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE LOGICAL TO HIS TWISTED YOUNG MIND.
HE ABDUCTED HER WHILE I WAS FIGHTING THE NUCLEAR FIRES. THE HOSPITAL WAS OVERWHELMED WITH ALL THE WOUNDED COMING IN.
THE SURGICAL KIT WAS NEVER MISSED.


HE OPENED HER UP FROM GULLET TO GROIN.
SHE WAS... COMPLETELY EVISCERATED ...WHEN I FOUND HER.


THE SIGHT STILL HAUNTS MY DREAMS.
I WON'T HAVE TRUE PEACE, OR HAPPINESS, UNTIL I LIE HERE WITH MY BELOVED, COLD AND UNMOVING.
NO MEMORIALS...NO REMEMBRANCES... NOTHING BUT DESERVED OBLIVION FOR THE MAN WHO SIRED THANOS.

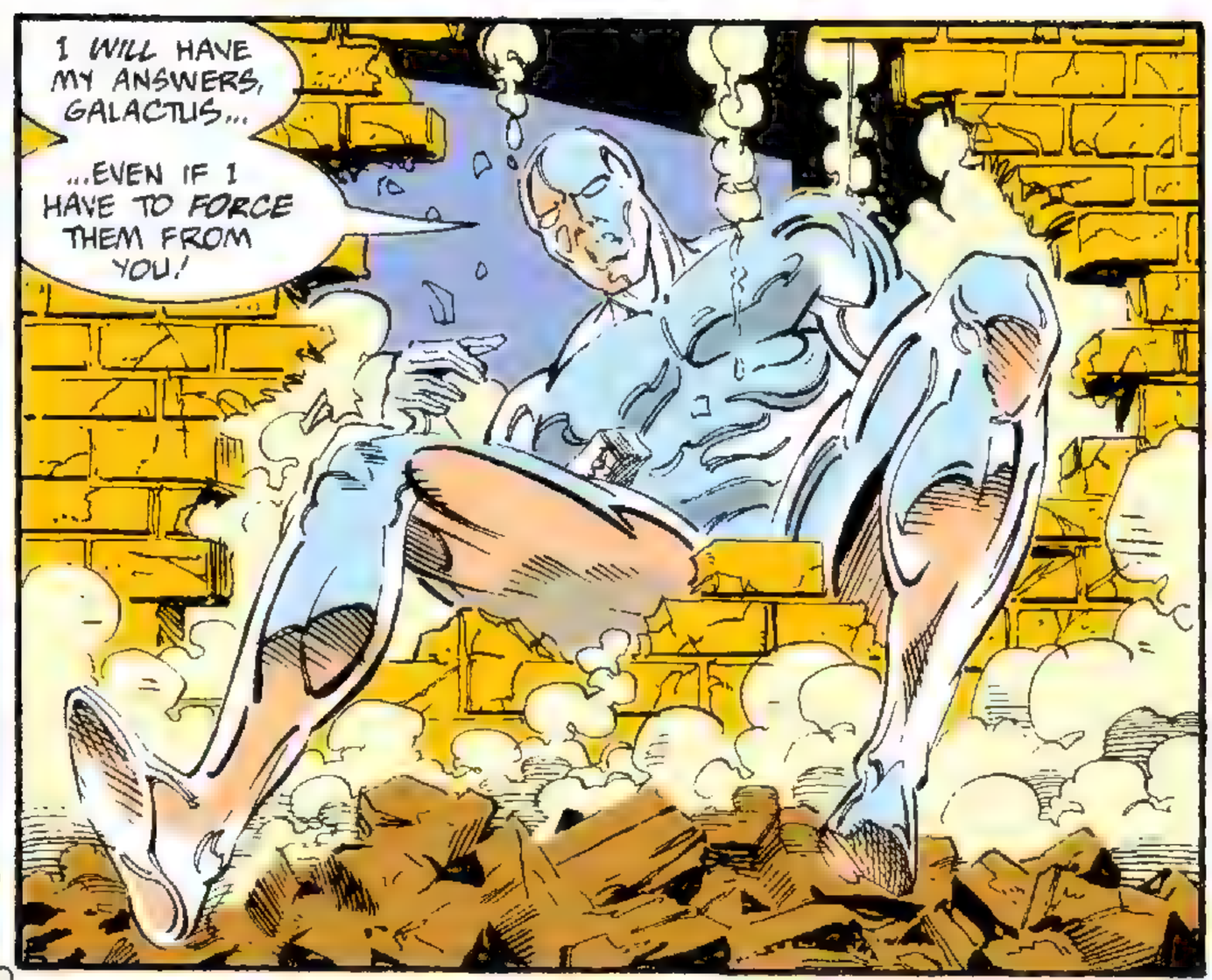

MENTOR, YOU CANNOT BLAME YOURSELF FOR YOUR SCION'S MADNESS.
THANOS'S CRIMES WERE HIS OWN, AND HE PAID FOR THEM WITH HIS DEATH.

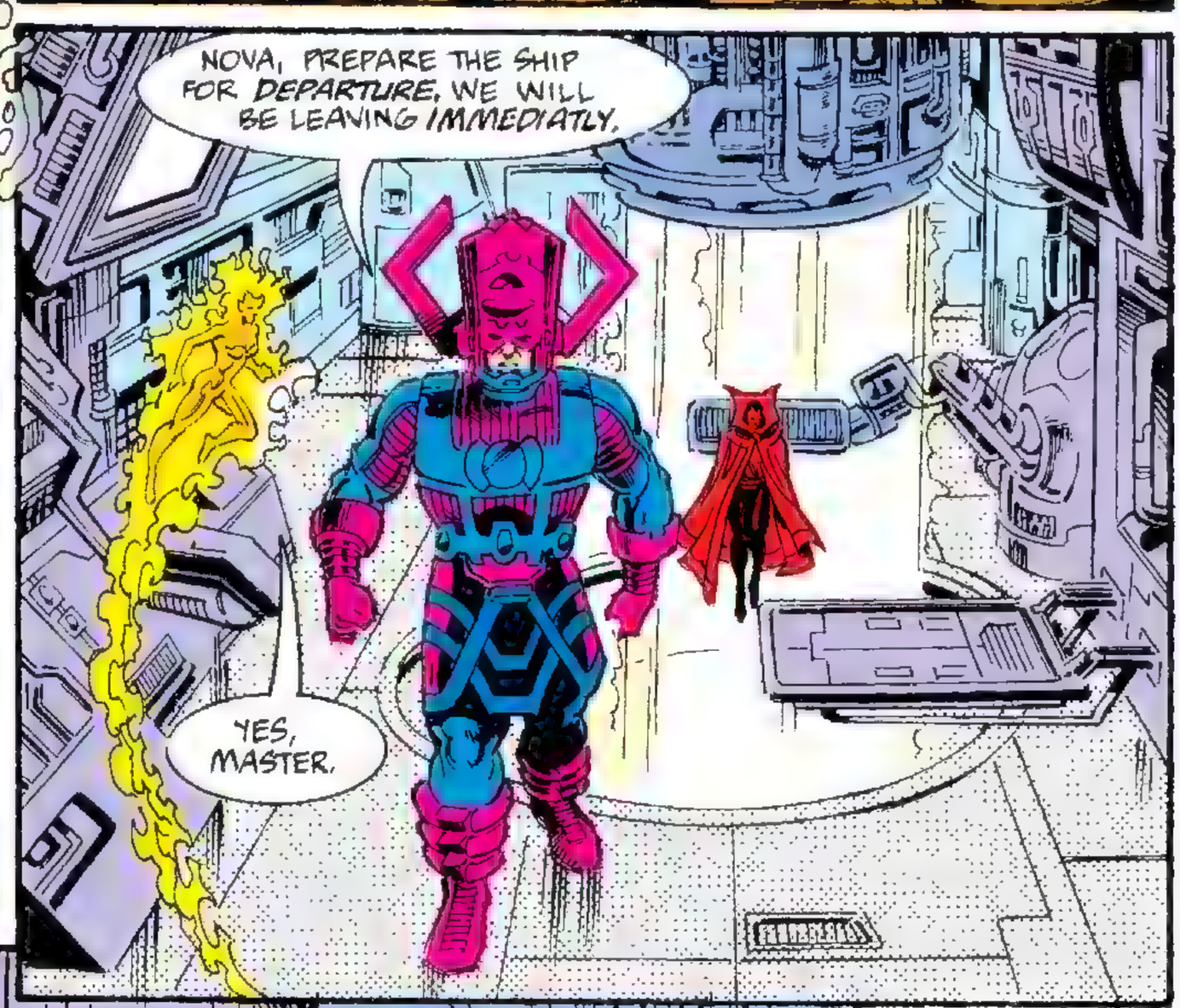

DID HE? I WISH I COULD BEL--
MENTOR!
I ASK YOUR PARDON FOR MY INTERRUPTION, BUT I WAS TOLD TO DELIVER MY MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY.
INTRA-SYSTEM SCANS HAVE DETECTED GALACTUS...ON EARTH.
ON EARTH? IF MY FORMER MASTER HAS RETURNED THERE, IT BODES ONLY ILL.
WHERE IS HE? EXACTLY.
ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT IN THE SECTION OF THE NEW YORK URBAN EXPANSE...
"...KNOWN AS GREENWICH VILLAGE."
GALACTUS!

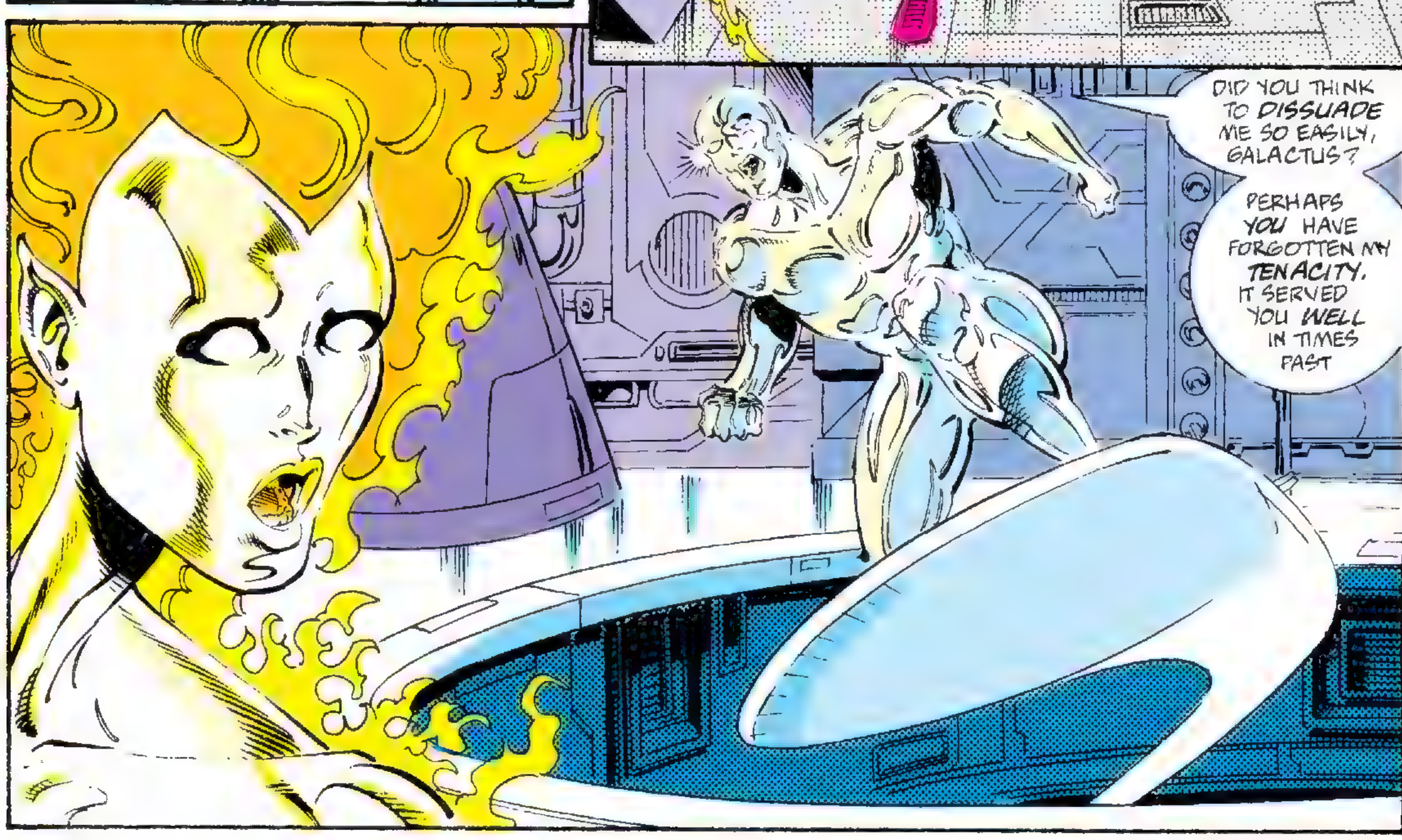
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE!
RELEASE THE SORCERER, OR I WILL COMPEL HIS FREEDOM FROM YOU.
THIS IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS, FORMER HERALD.
BEGONE!

DO NOT TREAT ME AS A LACKEY, GALACTUS. THAT PART OF OUR RELATIONSHIP ENDED LONG AGO.
I DEMAND YOU FREE DOCTOR STRANGE AND EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE. WHY HAVE YOU AGAIN BROKEN YOUR VOW AND COME HERE?
GALACTUS DOES NOT EXPLAIN HIMSELF TO ANY BEING.
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE, SURFER.
I WILL NOT BE HARASSED BY A SERVANT...
...ESPECIALLY ONE WHO BETRAYED ME!
UNNNGH!

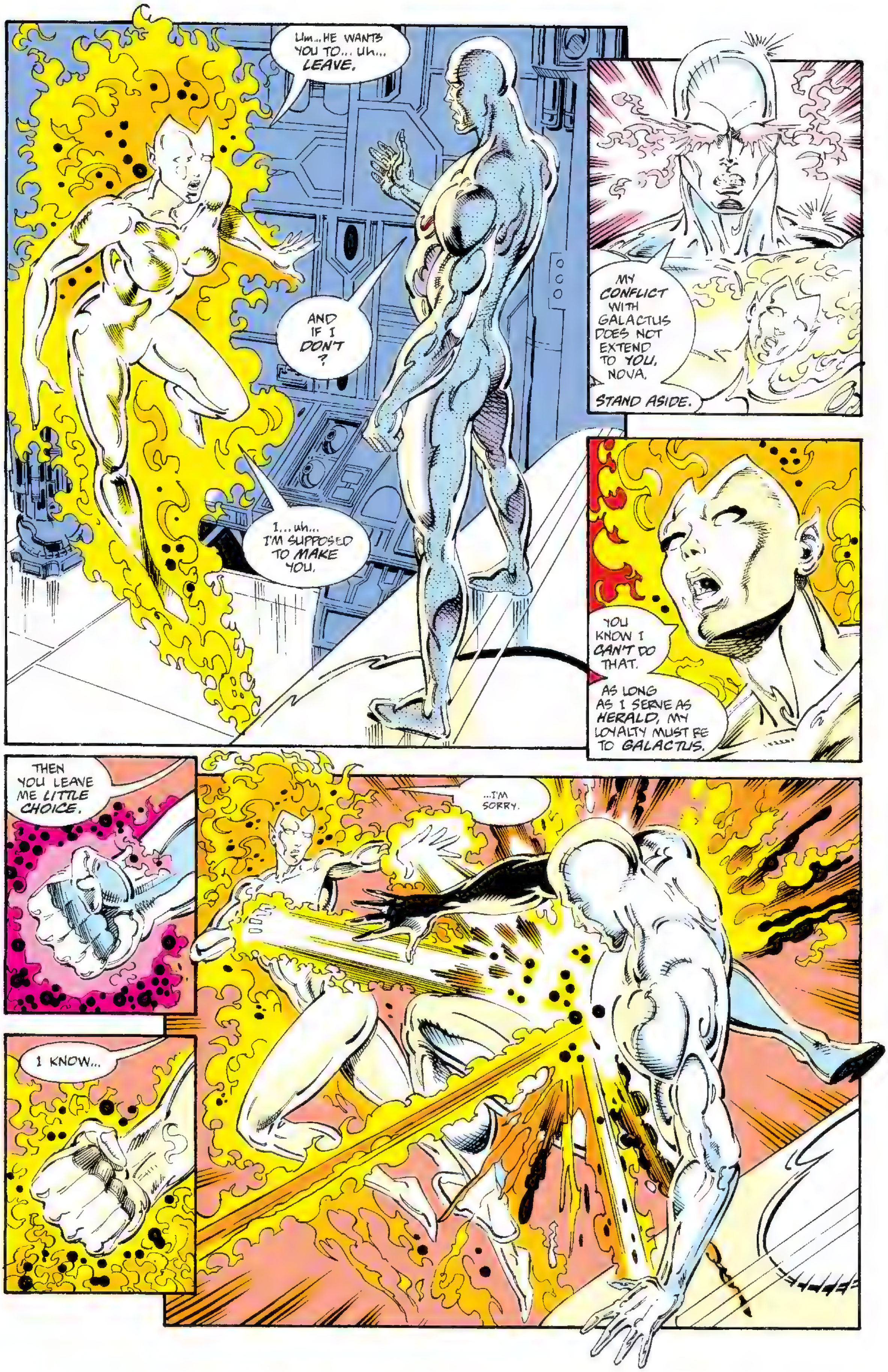
TROUBLE ME NO MORE, NORRIN RADD.
I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS, AND I WILL NOT BE DELAYED BY YOUR INTERFERENCE.


I WILL HAVE MY ANSWERS, GALACTUS...
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO FORCE THEM FROM YOU!

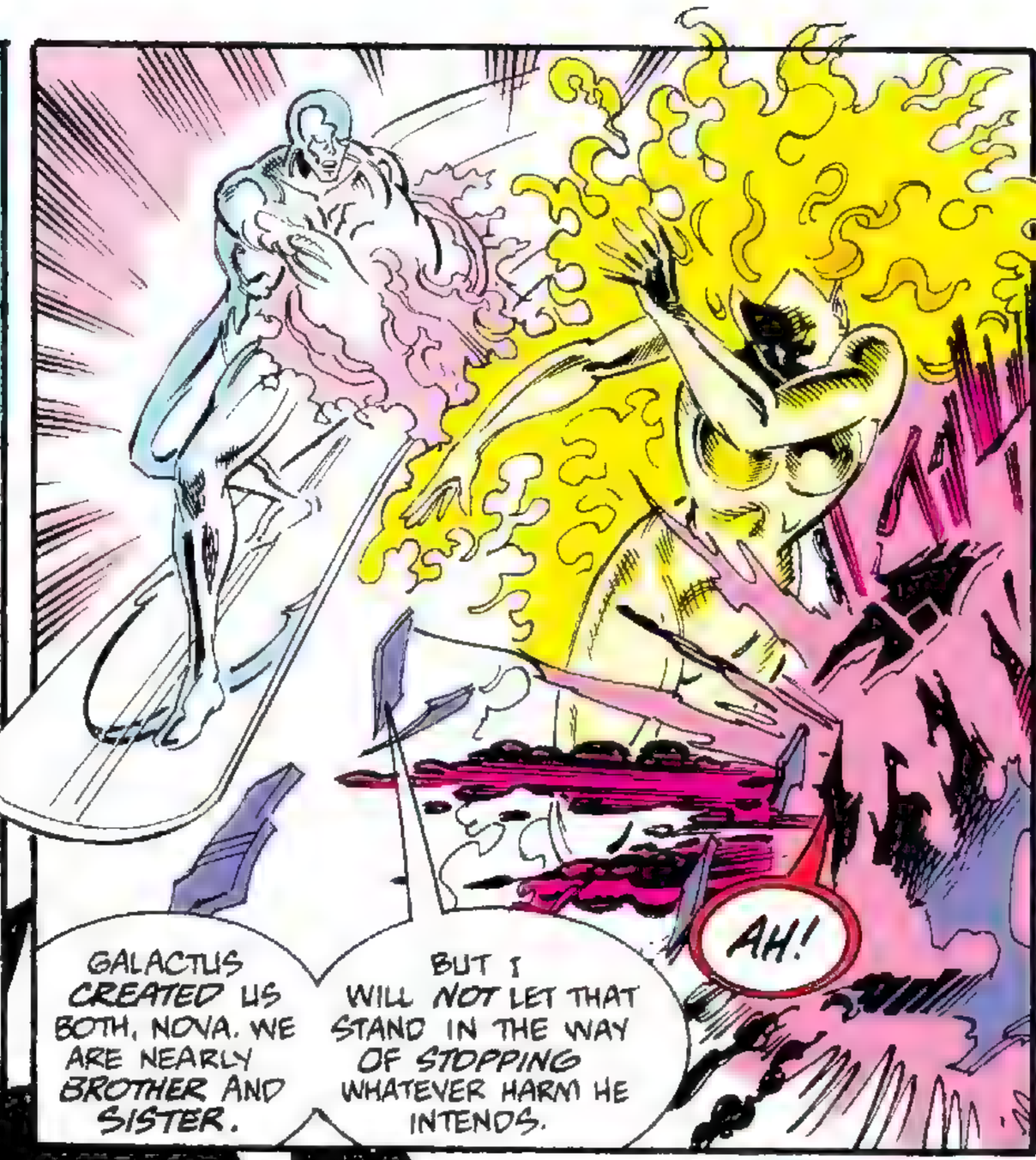

NOVA, PREPARE THE SHIP FOR DEPARTURE. WE WILL BE LEAVING IMMEDIATLY.
YES, MASTER.


DID YOU THINK TO DISSUADE ME SO EASILY, GALACTUS?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN MY TENACITY. IT SERVED YOU WELL IN TIMES PAST

YOU WERE WARNED, SURFER, NOT TO MEDDLE IN AFFAIRS OF WHICH YOU KNOW NOTHING.
NOW SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
DISPATCH HIM, NOVA.
IMMEDIATELY, SO THAT WE MAY LEAVE.
ME?
WELL, MAYBE...UH...YOU TWO SHOULD JUST TALK THIS OVER.
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO--
I EXPECT YOU TO OBEY!
DO AS I HAVE COMMANDED, NOVA, OR INCUR MY WRATH!
YES, MASTER OF COURSE.

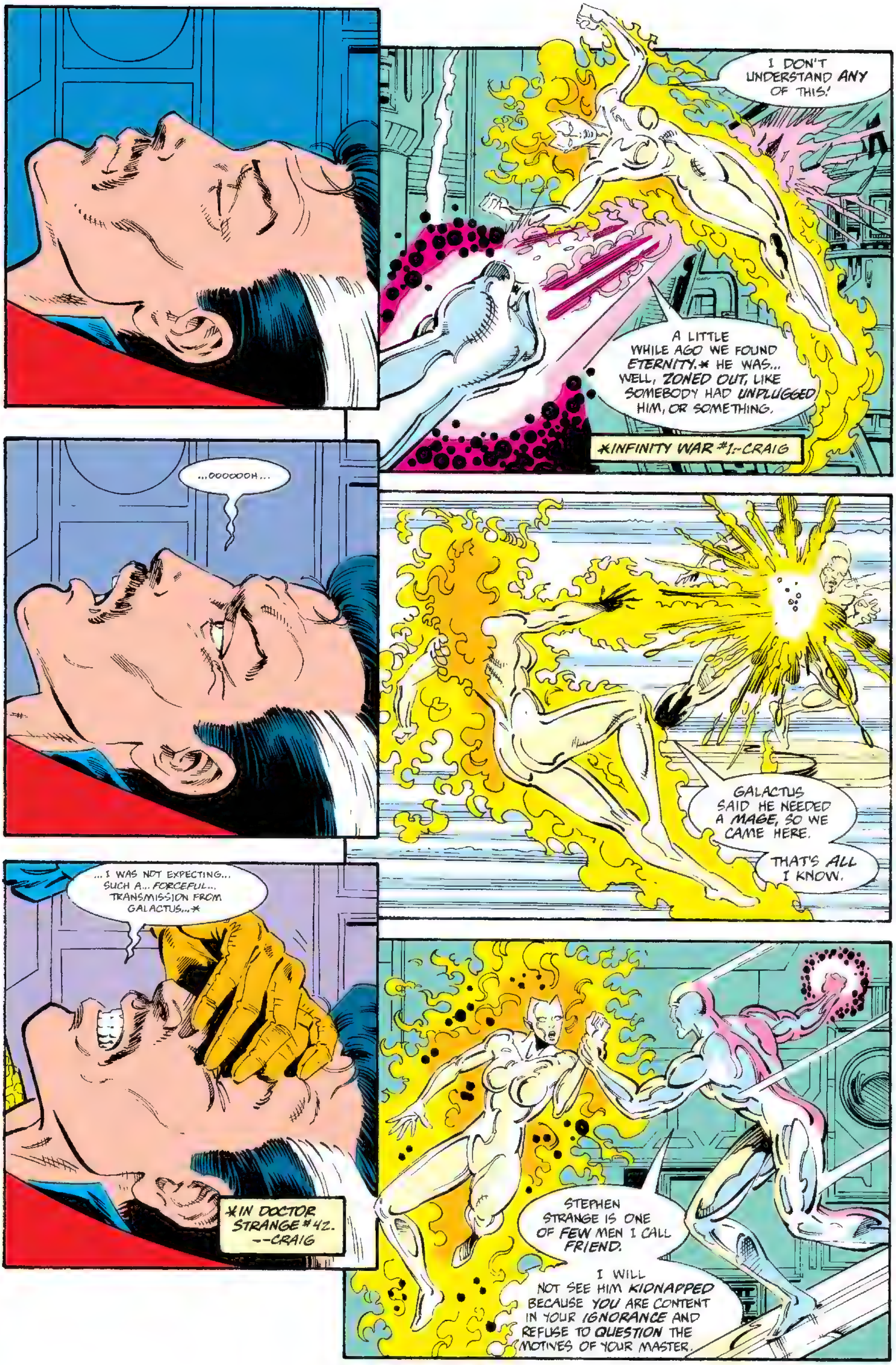

UM... HE WANTS YOU TO... UH... LEAVE.
AND IF I DON'T ?
I... UH... I'M SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU.
MY CONFLICT WITH GALACTUS DOES NOT EXTEND TO YOU, NOVA.
STAND ASIDE.
YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.
AS LONG AS I SERVE AS HERALD, MY LOYALTY MUST BE TO GALACTUS.
THEN YOU LEAVE ME LITTLE CHOICE.
...I'M SORRY.
I KNOW...

IF YOU WOULD HAVE IT BE THIS WAY, THEN IT SHALL!


GALACTUS CREATED US BOTH, NOVA. WE ARE NEARLY BROTHER AND SISTER.
BUT I WILL NOT LET THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF STOPPING WHATEVER HARM HE INTENDS.
AH!

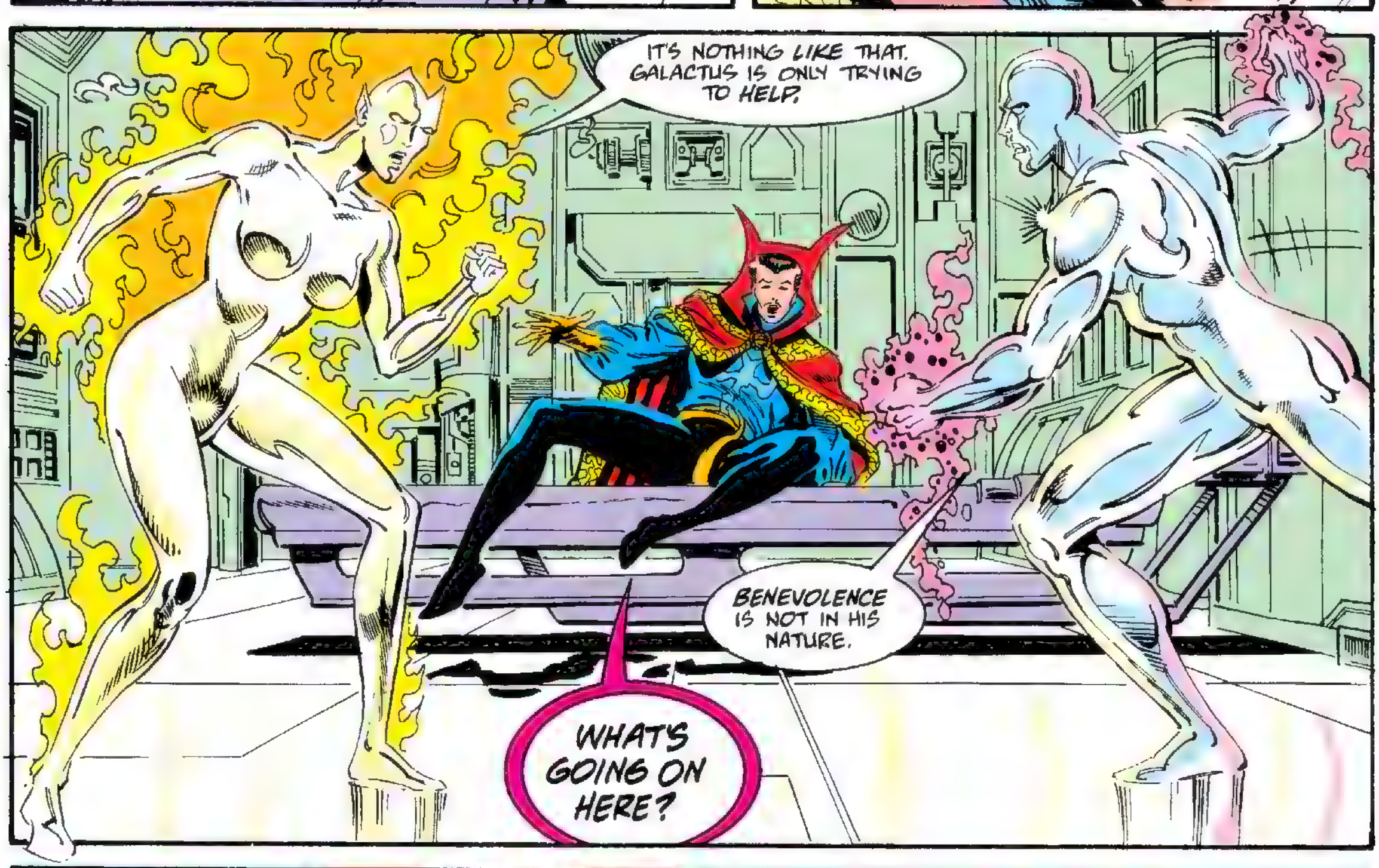
HE'S SETTING YOU AGAINST ME TO TEST YOUR LOYALTY. DON'T BE HIS PUPPET.
HELP ME.

TELL ME WHAT YOUR MASTER'S PURPOSE IS HERE.
WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH DOCTOR STRANGE?
GALACTUS NEEDS HIS HELP BREAKING... UM... MYSTICAL BARRIERS.
THAT'S ALL HE SAID.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS!
A LITTLE WHILE AGO WE FOUND ETERNITY.* HE WAS... WELL, ZONED OUT, LIKE SOMEBODY HAD UNPLUGGED HIM, OR SOMETHING.
*INFINITY WAR #1:-CRAIG
...OOOOOOH...
GALACTUS SAID HE NEEDED A MAGE, SO WE CAME HERE.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
...I WAS NOT EXPECTING... SUCH A... FORCEFUL... TRANSMISSION FROM GALACTUS...*
*IN DOCTOR STRANGE #42. --CRAIG
STEPHEN STRANGE IS ONE OF FEW MEN I CALL FRIEND.
I WILL NOT SEE HIM KIDNAPPED BECAUSE YOU ARE CONTENT IN YOUR IGNORANCE AND REFUSE TO QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF YOUR MASTER.

...BUT NOW I AT LEAST COMPREHEND THE SERIOUSNESS OF--

BY HOGGOTH!

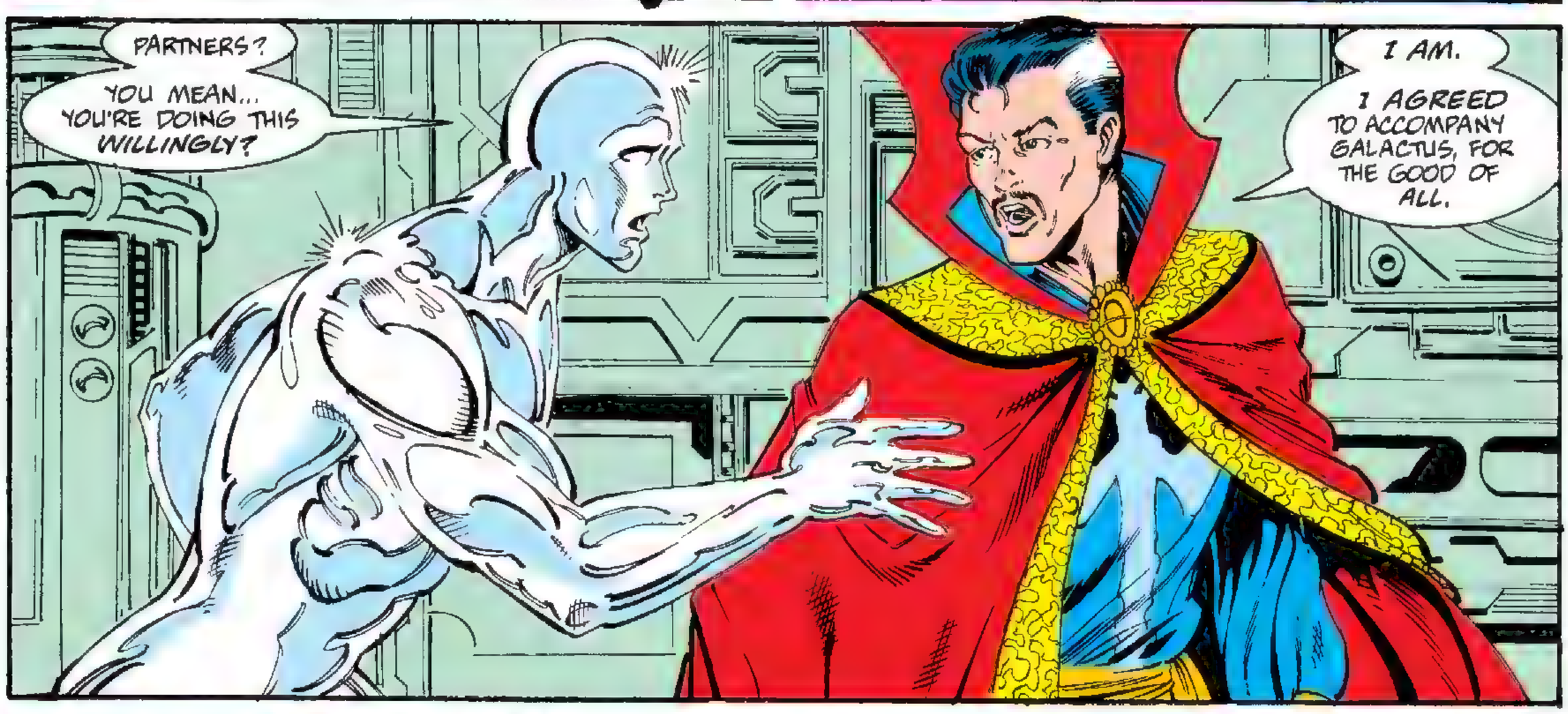

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. GALACTUS IS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.
BENEVOLENCE IS NOT IN HIS NATURE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

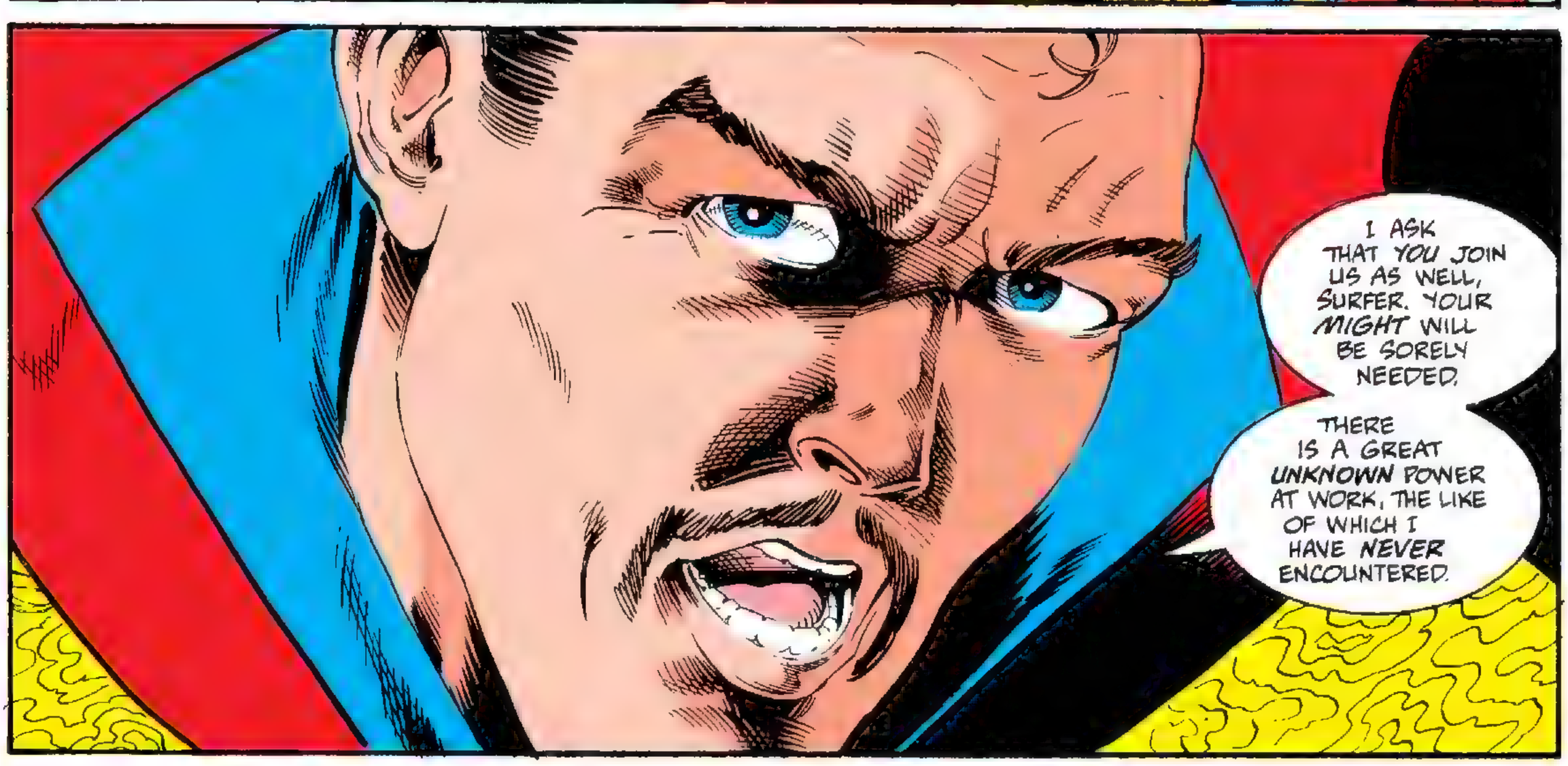
HAVE YOU FOOLS LOST YOUR MINDS?

WE HAVEN'T THE TIME TO WASTE SQUABBLING AMONG OURSELVES.
IT ENDS NOW!

YOU COULD HAVE EASILY STOPPED THIS POINTLESS CONFLICT, GALACTUS.
WHY DID YOU ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE?
IT PLEASED ME TO DO SO.

DO NOT QUESTION ME, SORCERER.
FOR THE NONCE, WE ARE PARTNERS, BUT ONLY BY NECESSITY. I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY IMPERTINENCE ON YOUR PART.


PARTNERS?
YOU MEAN... YOU'RE DOING THIS WILLINGLY?
I AM.
I AGREED TO ACCOMPANY GALACTUS, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.


I ASK THAT YOU JOIN US AS WELL, SURFER. YOUR MIGHT WILL BE SORELY NEEDED.
THERE IS A GREAT UNKNOWN POWER AT WORK, THE LIKE OF WHICH I HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED.

"WE KNOW DANGEROUSLY LITTLE OF OUR OPPONENT,
"...AS WELL AS THAT OF EVERYTHING WE KNOW."
"ALL THAT SEEMS CERTAIN IS THAT WE ARE EMBARKING ON A PATH THAT COULD LEAD TO OUR OWN DESTRUCTION...
THE COSMIC CONFLICT CONTINUES IN INFINITY WAR #2, THEN BE BACK HERE IN TWO WEEKS FOR:
LOST

MARVEL COMICS
DR. STRANGE
SORCERER SUPREME
INFINITY WAR COVER
43 JULY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CAUGHT in the EYE of the STORM!
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
ISHERWOOD '92

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

AN EYE FOR AN EYE...

A HUGE, HIGH-TECH METAL BUBBLE, ORBITING THE EARTH AMID OBSOLETE SPUTNIKS AND DEFUNCT TEL-STARS:

...BECAUSE THAT BUBBLE IS THE STARSHIP COMMANDED BY GALACTUS!

...AND THIS IMAGE SHOWS HOW YOU AND NOVA FOUND ETERNITY JUST FLOATING CATATONIC, LITERALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE?

YES, MAGE. I FOLLOWED THE EMANATIONS WHICH CAUSED HIS CONDITION ACROSS VARIOUS DIMENSIONS--BUT MY PORTE IS TRAVEL THROUGH PHYSICAL SPACE.

NOT EXACTLY THE FIRST PLACE YOU'D LOOK FOR EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME!

WHEN MYSTICAL BARRIERS WERE SET IN MY PATH--I DECIDED TO ENLIST YOUR PARTICIPATION.*

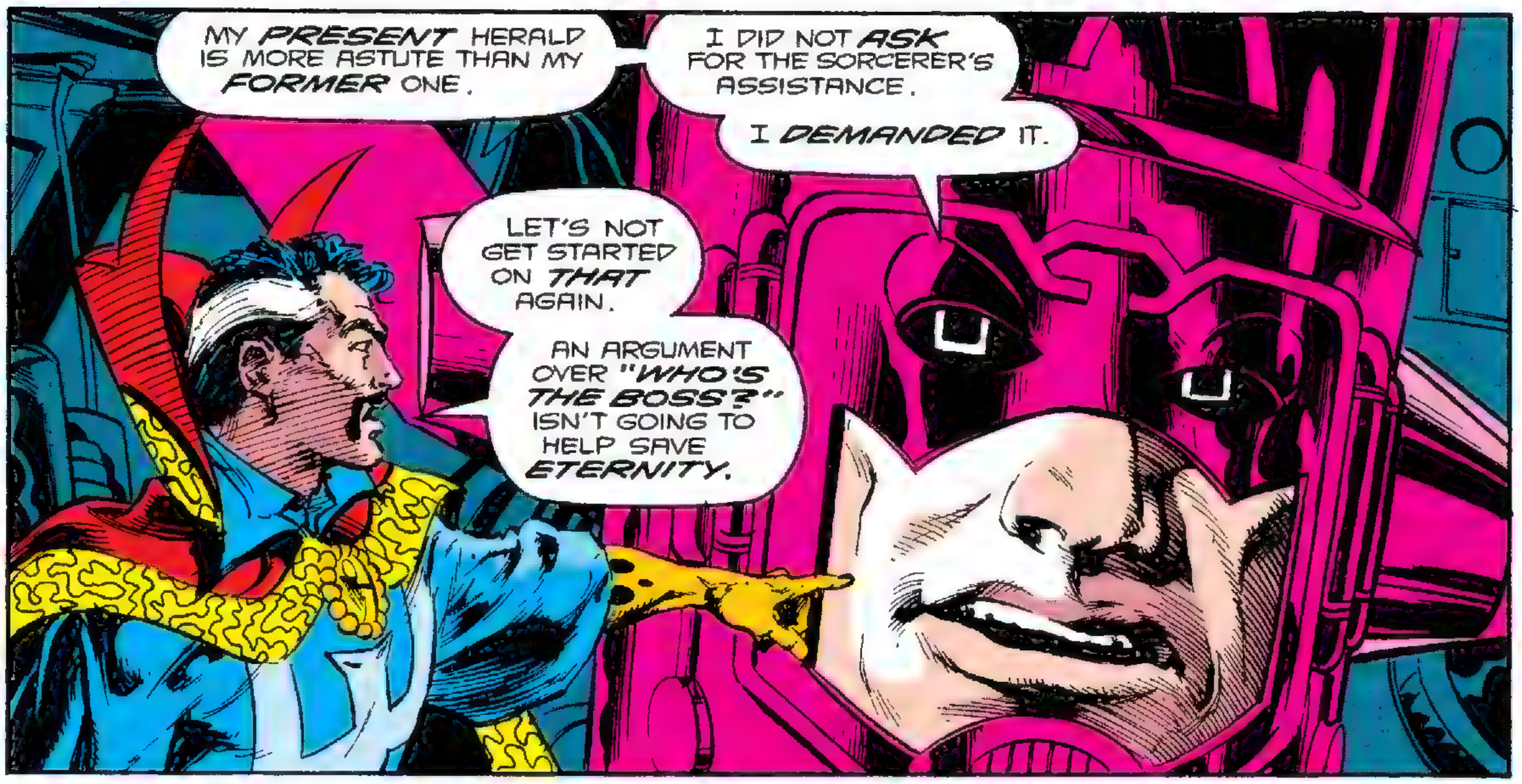
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, THAT'S JUST WHERE YOU'D FIND ME...

* THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE IN BETWEEN SILVER SURFER #67 AND INFINITY WAR #2.--MIKE

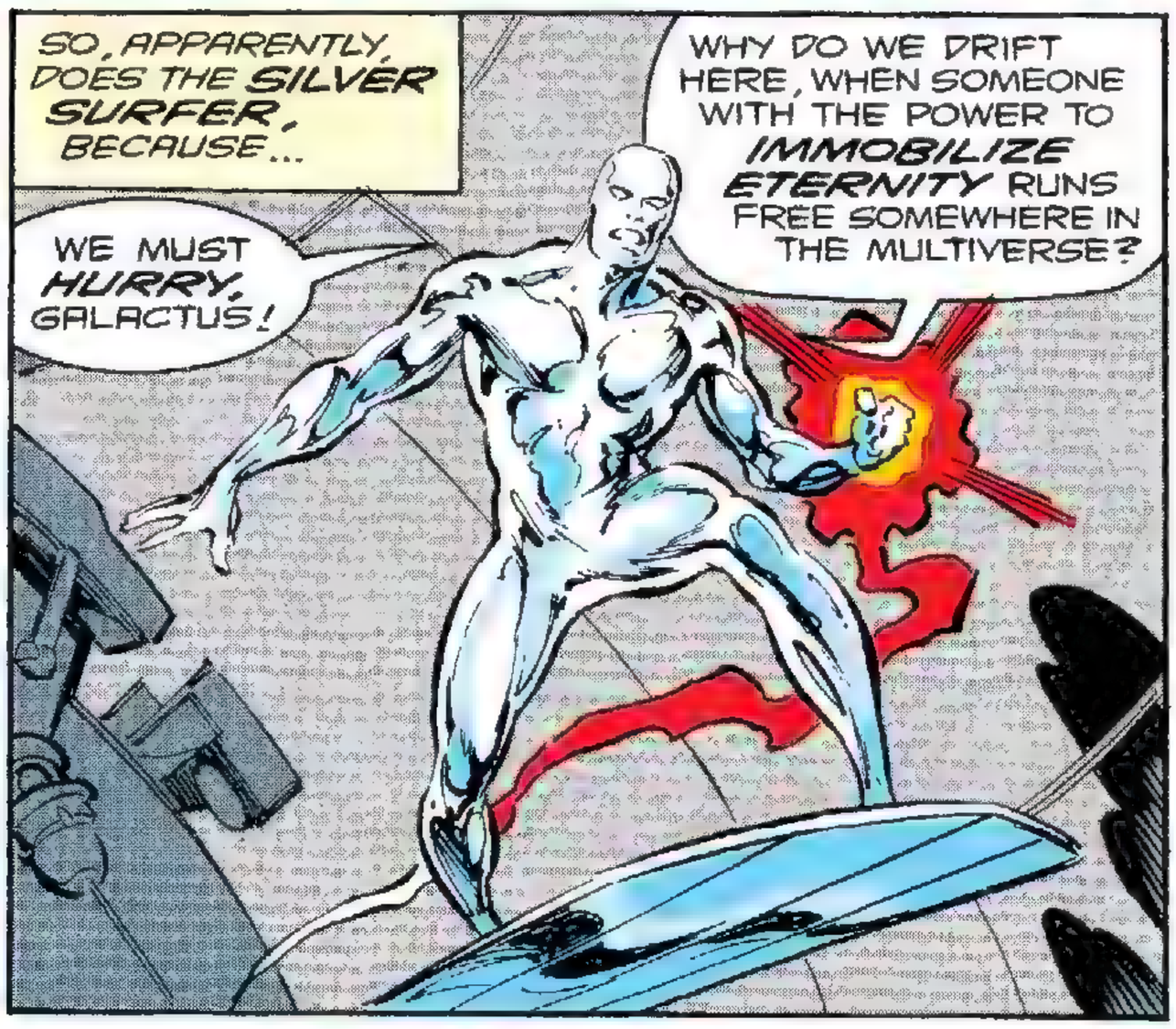
YOUR STORY MUST BE TRUE--OR ELSE YOU'D NEVER HAVE DEIGNED TO ASK A HUMAN MAGICIAN FOR HELP.

UH... SURFER, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD POSSIBLY RE-PHRASE THAT...!?

ROY THOMAS
WRITER
GEOF ISHERWOOD
ARTIST
PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF


MY PRESENT HERALD IS MORE ASTUTE THAN MY FORMER ONE.
I DID NOT ASK FOR THE SORCERER'S ASSISTANCE.
I DEMANDED IT.
LET'S NOT GET STARTED ON THAT AGAIN.
AN ARGUMENT OVER "WHO'S THE BOSS?" ISN'T GOING TO HELP SAVE ETERNITY.

MORE THAN THAT. STRANGE...
GALACTUS HASN'T DEVOURED ANY ENERGY WHILE WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TRACK THOSE EMANATIONS TO THEIR SOURCE.
IF WE DON'T GET MOVING, GALACTUS'S COSMIC HUNGER MAY COME OVER HIM AGAIN--
--AND THE EARTH MIGHT START LOOKING TO HIM LIKE A BETWEEN-MEAL SNACK!
I...SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, NOVA.


SO, APPARENTLY, DOES THE SILVER SURFER, BECAUSE...
WHY DO WE DRIFT HERE, WHEN SOMEONE WITH THE POWER TO IMMOBILIZE ETERNITY RUNS FREE SOMEWHERE IN THE MULTIVERSE?
WE MUST HURRY, GALACTUS!

WE SHALL PROCEED, NORRIN RADD--
--THE MOMENT THE MAGE GIVES ME HIS EYE OF AGAMOTTO!

WHAT?

I KNOW FULL WELL THAT THAT FAR-SEEING TALISMAN RESIDES WITHIN YOUR *AMULET*-- AND WILL COME FORTH AT YOUR MENTAL SUGGESTION.

DO SO-- NOW!

ALL RIGHT...

I'VE CALLED IT OUT--AND IT WILL REST UPON MY BROW AS MY *THIRD EYE*.

BUT I WON'T *"GIVE"* IT TO YOU--BECAUSE IT'S NOT *MINE* TO GIVE.

IT MAY HELP YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR-- BUT IT STAYS WITH *ME!*

FAIR ENOUGH!

THE STARCRAFT OF GALACTUS IS PREPARED FOR *ANY* EVENTUALITY...

YOU WILL SIT *HERE*--

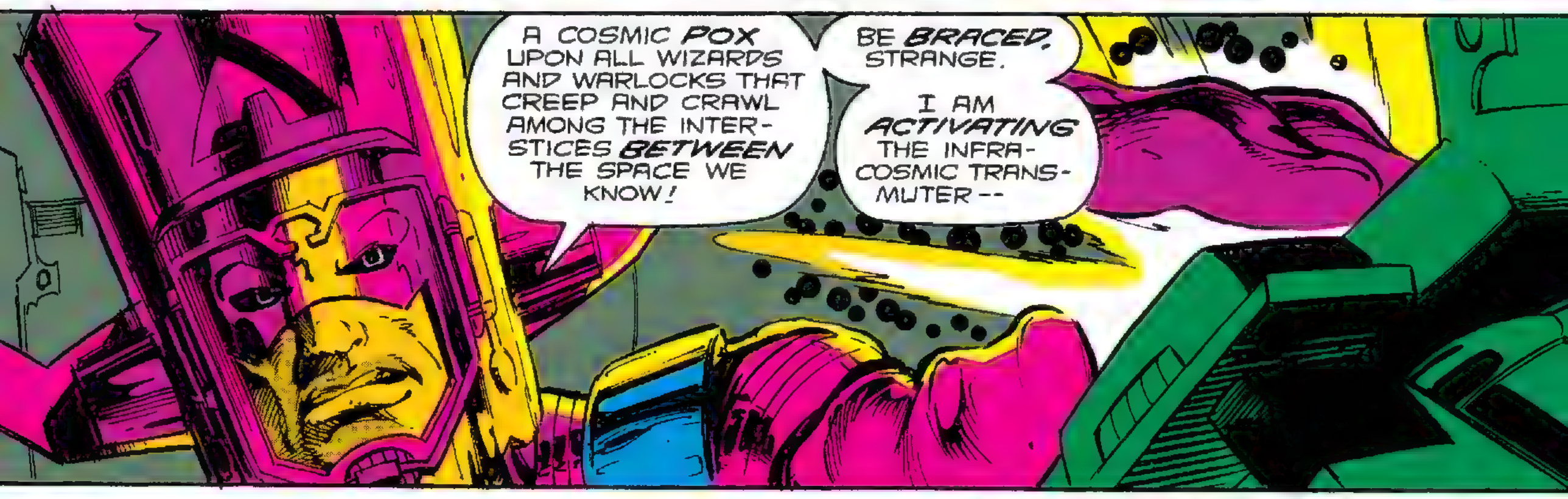
--AND YOU SHALL *WILL* THE EYE TO CAST ITS DIMENSION-SCANNING BEAMS INTO THE *RECEIVER* JUST ABOVE.

--WHICH YOUR SHIP CAN *UTILIZE*. I UNDERSTAND.

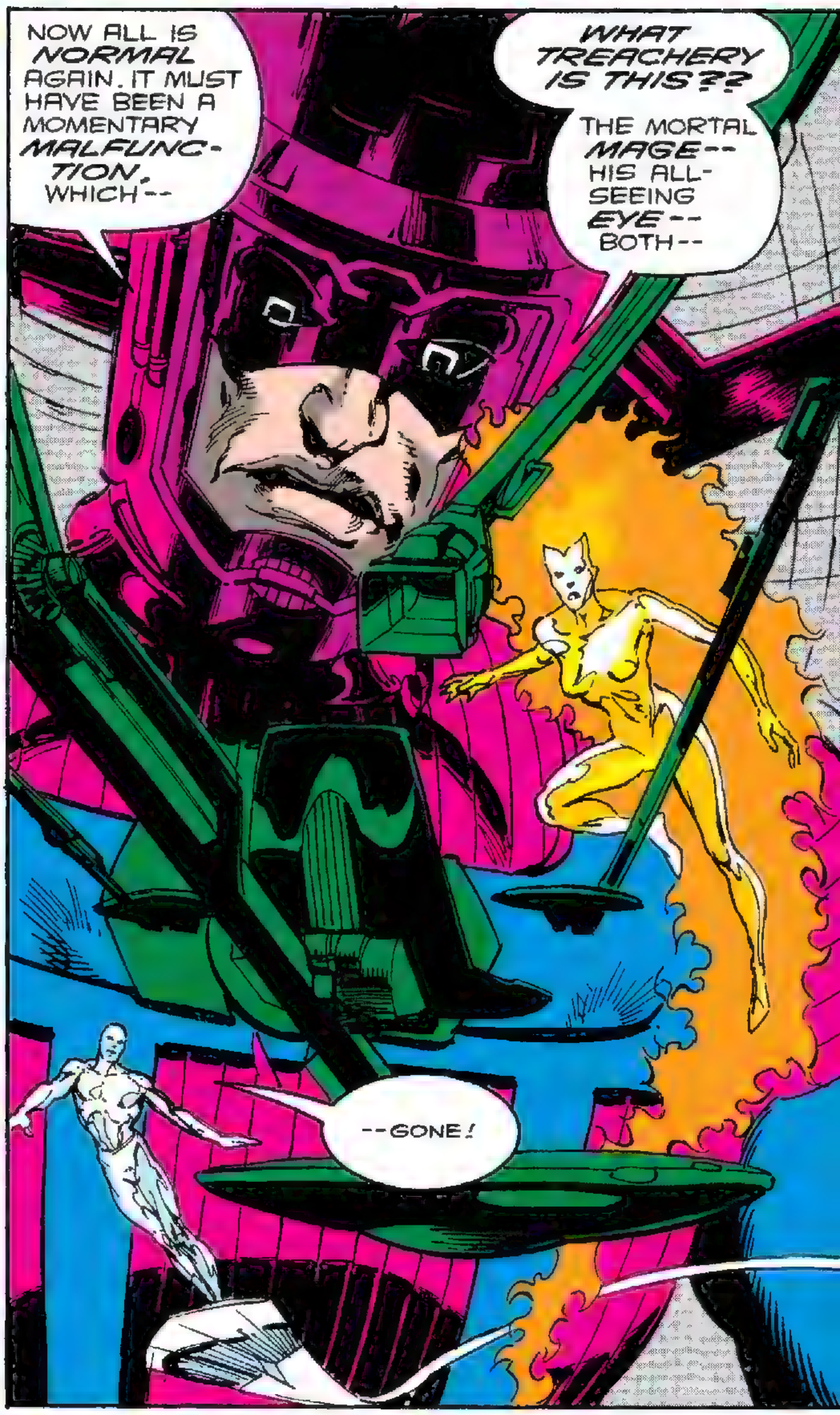
I'LL GIVE IT A *TRY*...

IT WILL TRANSLATE THE EYE'S *MYSTIC* ENERGY INTO A MORE *TECHNOLOGICALLY ACCESSIBLE* FORM--

...BUT I WARN YOU, IF I START TO SUSPECT THAT THE EYE IS BEING EN-DANGERED-- I'M GOING TO PULL THE PLUG!
ALL RIGHT. I'M IN PLACE.


A COSMIC POX UPON ALL WIZARDS AND WARLOCKS THAT CREEP AND CRAWL AMONG THE INTER-STICES BETWEEN THE SPACE WE KNOW!
BE BRACED, STRANGE.
I AM ACTIVATING THE INFRA-COSMIC TRANS-MUTER--

--NOW!
GALACTUS! THAT LIGHT--!
IT'S FILLING THE SHIP-- BLINDING --!


NOW ALL IS NORMAL AGAIN. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MOMENTARY MALFUNC-TION, WHICH--
WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS??
THE MORTAL MAGE-- HIS ALL-SEEING EYE-- BOTH--
--GONE!

"...MANTIBUS IOLAE VELIBRIUS RIBUNTUR...

"...OMNISIA ORBUS AGAMOTTO...

"...QUARIUS OCUMA YOGSOTHIA DENIQUAE..."

DOC...?

PLEASE, DO NOT DISTURB ME NOW, SARA WOLFE.

"...ULTIMARIUM TONUNTUR TALLICAM..."

SORRY, RINTRAH. I WAS JUST CHECKING ON *CLEA*, SINCE SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP AT THE *INSTITUTE*...

...AND I HEARD SOMETHING THAT VAGUELY RESEMBLED *LATIN*.

OH, BY THE WAY, YOUR SPELL *MAY* BE HAVING SOME SORT OF DISPLACED EFFECT *DOWNSTAIRS*...

I AM TRYING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE MASTER, VIA HIS *EYE* AND *AMULET*, THROUGH THE *ORB OF AGAMOTTO*.

"...'CAUSE I HEARD A CREEPY *HUMMING* FROM ONE OF THE ROOMS AS I WALKED PAST!"

IMPOSSIBLE! MY FULL ENERGIES ARE FOCUSED UPON THE *ORB* HERE.

"TSATHAGUUM SIQUORAM SUTIRRANEIS TERRIBA...

"...LOCULIN NIBRI VIJINCTIS..."

UH, RINTRAH, DID YOU *MEAN* TO CAUSE THOSE FUNNY *BULGES* IN THE ORB...?

WHAT BUL--

HNNGNNN

RINTRAH--!?

IT'S CLEA!

MAY THE FLAMES OF THE FALTINE, BE A FETTERING FORCE--

BACK, YOU FAR-SEEING FINGERS--RETURN TO THY SOURCE!

YOU DID IT!

THOSE SPELLS SURE GET THE JOB DONE!

DO THEY?

THEN WHY, WHEN I MERELY MEANT TO REPEL THOSE TENTACLED HANDS, IS THE WHOLE ORB SHRINKING?

NOT JUST SHRINKING--VANISHING!

BY OSHTUR, FLYX--YOU'RE RIGHT!

MY THANKS, CLEA--BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD LEFT THIS ASTRAL PLANE.*

I'LL SHOW YOU I CAME BACK.

EARLIER, I'D LOOKED IN ON THE DARK DIMENSION, TO SEE HOW UMAR WAS RULING IN MY STEAD...

* LAST ISSUE.--MIKE.

--AND THIS IS WHAT I SAW IN MY EVER-WONDERFUL WATCHFIRE.

WHAT?

BUT, CLEA--THAT'S--

--NOTHING!

PRECISELY! EVEN MY POWER COULDN'T SHED LIGHT ON ANYTHING IN THE *TOTAL BLACKNESS* I BEHELD THERE!

WHAT DOES THIS *MEAN*?

IT MEANS SOMETHING'S GONE *AWRY* ON MY BIRTHPLANE.

EITHER THIS IS SOME *TRICK* OF MY MOTHER TO KEEP ME AT *BAY*--

--OR ELSE A *COSMIC NIGHT* HAS DESCENDED THERE, THAT MAY HERALD A NEW AND SINISTER *AGE OF DARKNESS!*

I'VE GOT TO GO FIND OUT *WHICH*.

WE MUST *HURRY, CLEA*...

YES. I'VE BEEN SEEKING *ALLIES*, RINTRAH, SUCH AS *AGGAMON* IN THE PURPLE DIMENSION.

I CAME BACK BECAUSE I'D BE HONORED TO HAVE *YOUR* HELP.

AND I SHOULD BE HONORED TO *GIVE* IT--

--BUT NOT WHILE THE *MASTER* MAY BE IN PERIL OFFWORLD WITH *GALACTUS!*

HOW CAN YOU EVEN *ASK* HIM, WHEN *DOC'S*--

STEPHEN MEANS MORE TO *ME* THAN HE DOES TO *EITHER* OF YOU!

BUT I WAS *BORN* IN THE *DARK DIMENSION*.

EVEN A *DEPOSED* RULER CAN FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO HER *HOMELAND*.

COME, FLYX! PERHAPS WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH *TIBORO*, IN THE *SIXTH DIMENSION!*

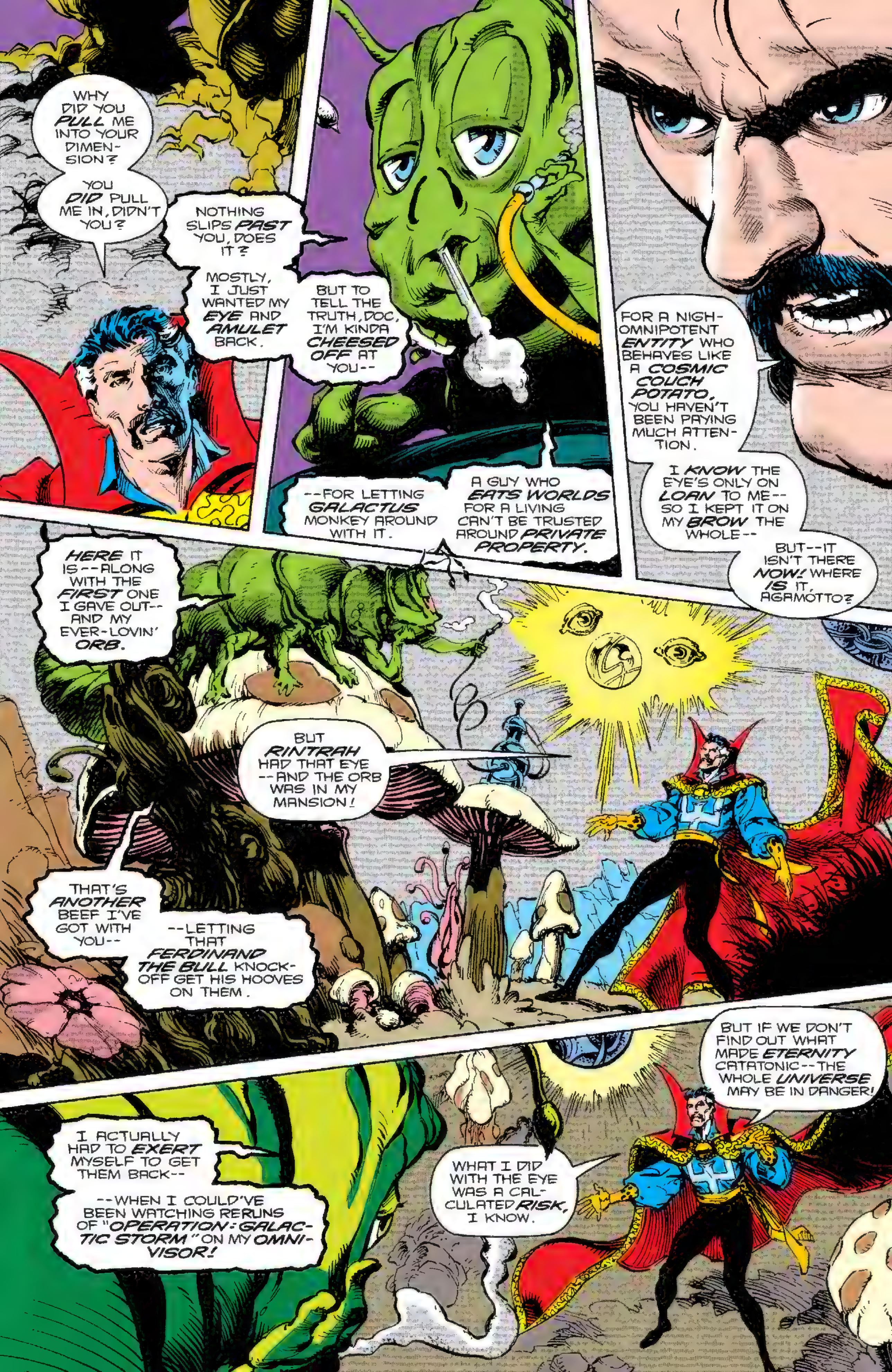
I HAVE FAILED THEM *BOTH*, SARA.

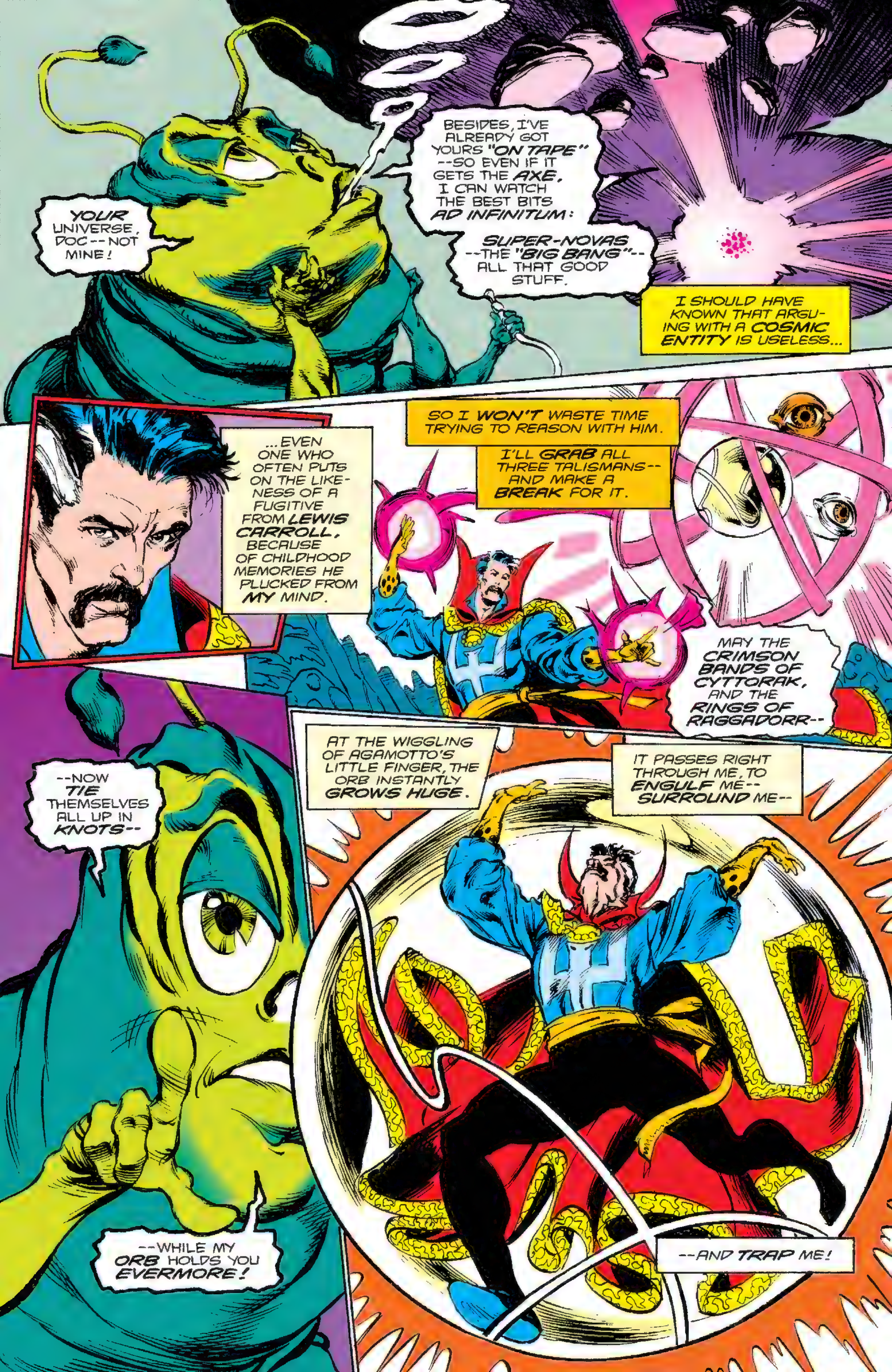
DON'T BLAME *YOURSELF* FOR--

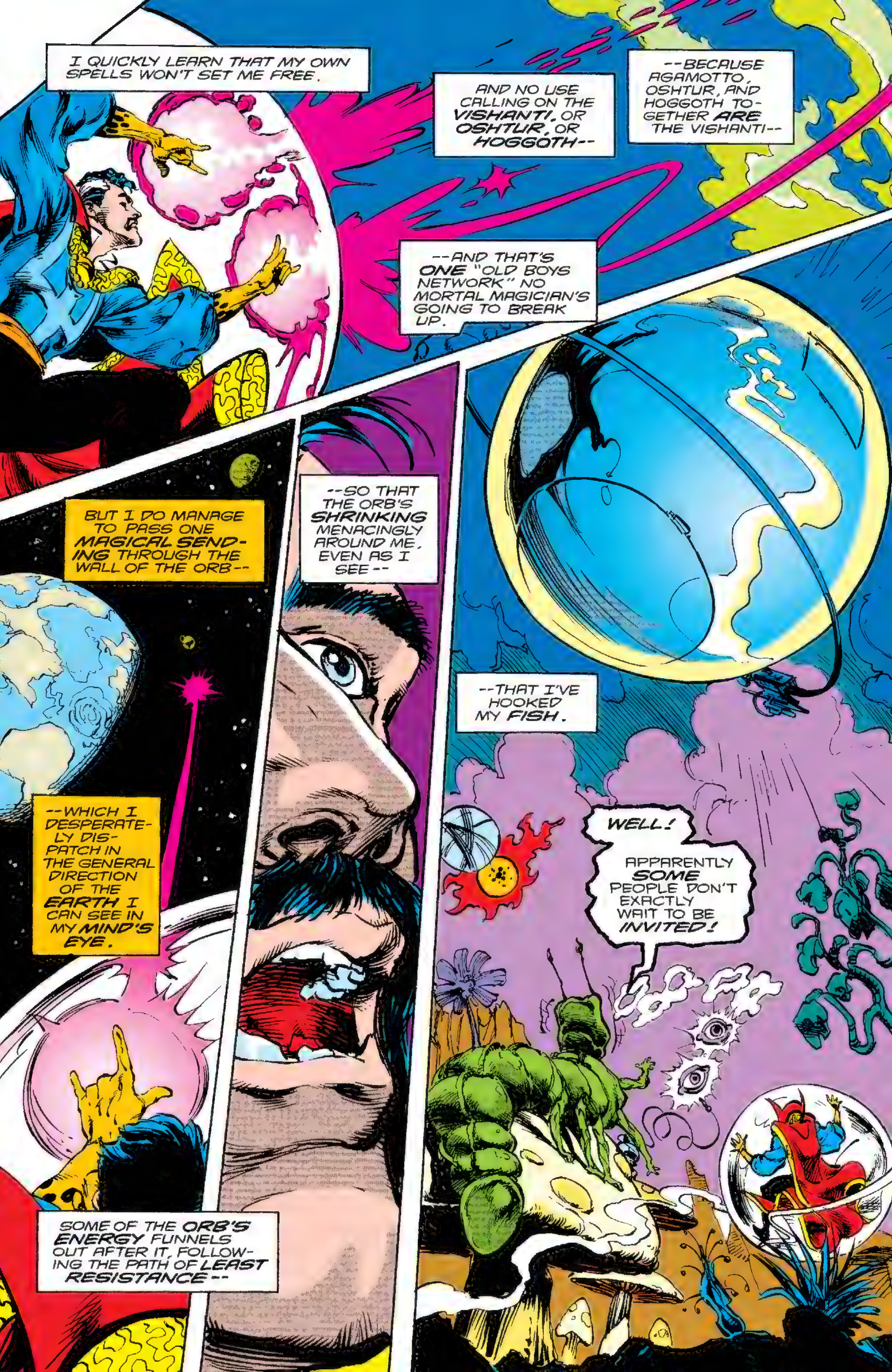
WHO *ELSE*? THE MASTER LEFT HIS ALL-SEEING *ORB* IN MY KEEPING, AND I HAVE *DESTROYED* IT--

--OR *SOMETHING*.

I REMEMBER THE LIGHT.
THEN THE DARKNESS.
AND THEN THE...
...MUSH-ROOMS?
I'M STILL ADJUSTING TO THE FACT THAT I'M CLEARLY NOT ON GALACTUS'S SHIP ANY LONGER--
--WHEN THE MUSH-ROOMS--AND THEN THE WAFTING SCENT OF A HOOKAH PIPE--MAKE ME REALIZE WHERE I AM.
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.*
WHAT'S UP, DOC?
AGAMOTTO THE ALL-SEEING!
* DR. STRANGE (2ND SERIES) #1-5, AND DOC (THIS SERIES) #6-7.--METICULOUS MIKE.


WHY DID YOU PULL ME INTO YOUR DIMEN-SION?
YOU DID PULL ME IN, DIDN'T YOU?
NOTHING SLIPS PAST YOU, DOES IT?
MOSTLY, I JUST WANTED MY EYE AND AMULET BACK.
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, DOC, I'M KINDA CHEESED OFF AT YOU--
--FOR LETTING GALACTUS MONKEY AROUND WITH IT.
A GUY WHO EATS WORLDS FOR A LIVING CAN'T BE TRUSTED AROUND PRIVATE PROPERTY.
FOR A NIGH-OMNIPOTENT ENTITY WHO BEHAVES LIKE A COSMIC COUCH POTATO, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING MUCH ATTEN-TION.
I KNOW THE EYE'S ONLY ON LOAN TO ME-- SO I KEPT IT ON MY BROW THE WHOLE--
BUT--IT ISN'T THERE NOW! WHERE IS IT, AGAMOTTO?
HERE IT IS--ALONG WITH THE FIRST ONE I GAVE OUT-- AND MY EVER-LOVIN' ORB.
BUT RINTRAH HAD THAT EYE --AND THE ORB WAS IN MY MANSION!
THAT'S ANOTHER BEEF I'VE GOT WITH YOU--
--LETTING THAT FERDINAND THE BULL KNOCK-OFF GET HIS HOOVES ON THEM.
BUT IF WE DON'T FIND OUT WHAT MADE ETERNITY CATATONIC--THE WHOLE UNIVERSE MAY BE IN DANGER!
I ACTUALLY HAD TO EXERT MYSELF TO GET THEM BACK--
--WHEN I COULD'VE BEEN WATCHING RERUNS OF "OPERATION: GALAC-TIC STORM" ON MY OMNI-VISOR!
WHAT I DID WITH THE EYE WAS A CAL-CULATED RISK, I KNOW.


YOUR UNIVERSE, DOC -- NOT MINE!
BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY GOT YOURS "ON TAPE" --SO EVEN IF IT GETS THE AXE, I CAN WATCH THE BEST BITS AD INFINITUM:
SUPER-NOVAS --THE "BIG BANG"-- ALL THAT GOOD STUFF.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ARGUING WITH A COSMIC ENTITY IS USELESS...
...EVEN ONE WHO OFTEN PUTS ON THE LIKENESS OF A FUGITIVE FROM LEWIS CARROLL, BECAUSE OF CHILDHOOD MEMORIES HE PLUCKED FROM MY MIND.
SO I WON'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM.
I'LL GRAB ALL THREE TALISMANS-- AND MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.
MAY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK, AND THE RINGS OF RAGGADORR--
--NOW TIE THEMSELVES ALL UP IN KNOTS--
AT THE WIGGLING OF AGAMOTTO'S LITTLE FINGER, THE ORB INSTANTLY GROWS HUGE.
IT PASSES RIGHT THROUGH ME, TO ENGULF ME-- SURROUND ME--
--WHILE MY ORB HOLDS YOU EVERMORE!
--AND TRAP ME!


I QUICKLY LEARN THAT MY OWN SPELLS WON'T SET ME FREE.
AND NO USE CALLING ON THE VISHANTI, OR OSHTUR, OR HOGGOTH--
--BECAUSE AGAMOTTO, OSHTUR, AND HOGGOTH TOGETHER ARE THE VISHANTI--
--AND THAT'S ONE "OLD BOYS NETWORK" NO MORTAL MAGICIAN'S GOING TO BREAK UP.
BUT I DO MANAGE TO PASS ONE MAGICAL SENDING THROUGH THE WALL OF THE ORB--
--SO THAT THE ORB'S SHRINKING MENACINGLY AROUND ME, EVEN AS I SEE--
--THAT I'VE HOOKED MY FISH.
--WHICH I DESPERATELY DISPATCH IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE EARTH I CAN SEE IN MY MIND'S EYE.
WELL!
APPARENTLY SOME PEOPLE DON'T EXACTLY WAIT TO BE INVITED!
SOME OF THE ORB'S ENERGY FUNNELS OUT AFTER IT, FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE--

WHO DARED WRENCH GALACTUS FROM HIS OWN COSMOS--

--INTO THIS WORLD OF MUSH-ROOMS AND MADNESS?

AH! DR. STRANGE! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU AND THE EYE WERE UNTIMELY WHISKED!

I HAVE NOVA AND THE SILVER SURFER SCOURING THE SPACEWAYS FOR YOU!

AND THIS EGREGIOUS INSECT, I PRESUME, IS--

--AGAMOTTO THE ALL-SEEING.

CLEVER OF YOU, WIZARD, TO USE THE ORB'S OWN POWER TO PULL THE WORLD-DEVOURER HERE, SHIP AND ALL.

AS FOR YOU, YOU TACHYON-NIBBLING TAPE-WORM--

--WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG HOME AND CHEW ON YOUR FURNITURE, BEFORE I PAINFULLY REMIND YOU THAT YOU WERE ONCE JUST A PLAIN LITTLE MAN NAMED GALAN!

THE EYE, OF COURSE, STAYS HERE-- AND SO DOES DOC.

I GET SO LONELY...

THE MAGE-- AND THE ORB-- GO WITH GALACTUS!

I SHALL TAKE THEM BOTH WITH ME WHEN I DEPART--

--NO MATTER WHO DESIRES TO KEEP THEM FROM ME!

WHY DO I GET THE IDEA THAT GALACTUS AND AGAMOTTO ARE EACH ABOUT TO MAKE A WISH--

--AND THAT I'M THE WISH-BONE!?

I AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO BEING INSULTED BY INSECTOIDS SQUATTING ATOP TOADSTOOLS.
GOODBYE.
GALACTUS DRAWS FIRST BLOOD.
OR RATHER, FIRST FUNGUS.
AGAMOTTO...?
WHY DO YOU EMPLOY THAT TONE OF VOICE TO MOURN THE PASSING OF A WORM, SORCERER?
A PARTICULARLY REPULSIVE-LOOKING WORM, AT THAT.
IS THIS ANY BETTER?
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN YOUR OWN UNIVERSE, GALACTUS.
THIS ONE BELONGS TO AGAMOTTO!
I DO NOT WANT YOUR WORLD, WORM--BUT I SHALL HAVE YOUR OCCULT EYE--
--IF I MUST RIP OUT THE ONE IN YOUR GROTESQUE HEAD!
CHARMING COUPLE OF FELLOWS.
BUT I'M NOT WAITING AROUND TO SEE TO WHICH VICTOR GO THE SPOILS.
WHILE AGAMOTTO'S PREOCCUPIED, I SET TO WORK ON THE SWOLLEN ORB FROM THE INSIDE--
--AND I JUST PRAY TO HOGGOTH THAT IT CAME WITH A DEALER WARRANTY.
WAIT! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...

...PROVIDING I SURVIVE ALL THE RICOCHETING ENERGY-BOLTS LONG ENOUGH TO TRY IT OUT.
EVEN GALACTUS CAN UNDER-ESTIMATE A FOE.
BECAUSE AGAMOTTO'S CHOSEN, JUST NOW, TO RESEMBLE VARIOUS FORMS OF CATERPILLAR, HE DISMISSED HIM AS UNWORTHY.
YET, THE WORLD-DEVOURER IS OUT OF HIS ELEMENT HERE--AND IN AGAMOTTO'S--
--AND THAT MIGHT JUST MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!
BUT IF GALACTUS SHOULD SOMEHOW PERISH HERE--
--OR EVEN BE IN-JURED ENOUGH THAT HE CAN'T TRACK DOWN THE POWER SOURCE THAT HAS RENDERED ETERNITY COMATOSE--
--THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE EARTH--THE WHOLE COSMOS I WAS SELECTED TO PROTECT--MIGHT BE CATASTROPHIC!
STILL, IF AGAMOTTO OR GALACTUS SHOULD GLANCE AWAY FROM THEIR DEATH DANCE LONG ENOUGH TO SPOT ME HURLING MYSTIC ENERGY IN EVERY DI-RECTION--
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
--THEY'D PROBABLY THINK I'D GONE INSANE!
AND MAYBE I HAVE.

GALACTUS, MEANWHILE, TRIES BLASTING HIS FOE TO SMITHEREENS-- BUT THE PHYSICAL APPROACH WILL NEVER WORK.

HE'LL SOON REALIZE THAT AGAMOTTO ISN'T REALLY AN "INSECTOID"-- OR EVEN A CORPOREAL BEING THAT CAN BE HURT.

THOSE ARE SIMPLY GUISES HE PUTS ON WHEN HE'S IN THE MOOD--NOT UNLIKE HIS CURRENT SPEECH PATTERN.

GALACTUS IS CAUSING PLENTY OF DAMAGE, THOUGH.

AGAMOTTO'S PRECIOUS HOOKAH HASN'T REALLY BEEN DAMAGED--

--BUT SEVERAL OF HIS PRIZE MEMORY BUBBLES ARE BEING TOTALLY OBLITERATED--

--AND HE'S FAR FROM HAPPY ABOUT IT.

YOU DESTROYED THEM!

FOR THAT I SHALL--

HOLD, ALL-SEEING ONE!

EH? WHO DARES GIVE ME ORDERS IN MY OWN REALM?

WE SPOKE NOT A COMMAND, AGAMOTTO, BUT RATHER AN ENTREATY.

WE WOULD NOT SEE YOU LOWER YOURSELF TO THE ARROGANT VIOLENCE OF A GALACTUS.

WHO ARE THESE TWO, WHO LIKEWISE INSULT ME?

THEY ARE THE TWO ENTITIES, WHO, WITH MYSELF, COMPRISE THE ETERNAL VISHANTI. THEY ARE--OR RATHER, THESE VISAGES REPRESENT--GREAT HOGGOTH AND POTENT OSHTUR.

NOR DOES IT TAKE THE OMNISCIENCE OF OUR TRIPLE SELF TO KNOW WHO SUMMONED YOU...

AYE. IT WAS THE WIDESPREAD EMANATIONS JUST CAST BY DR. STRANGE-- AND WELL THAT HE DID!

ELSE, BY THE TIME WE HAD BECOME AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING HERE, IT MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN TOO LATE.

WE ONLY BECOME ALL-KNOWING, AFTER ALL, WHEN WE THREE ACT TOGETHER AS THE VISHANTI.

AND YOU ARE HERE TO HELP ME ANNIHILATE THIS INTRUDER INTO MY REALM?

NO. RATHER, WE HAVE COME TO ASK YOU TO BREAK OFF YOUR BATTLE, AND TO ALLOW THE WORLD-DEVOURER --AND THE SORCERER --TO DEPART.

ALREADY, THE MYSTIC VIBRATIONS FROM IT ARE WREAKING HAVOC WITH OTHER DIMENSIONS -- INCLUDING OUR OWN.

BUT-- I AM AGAMOTTO!

WHAT I DO WITHIN MY OWN DOMAIN, WITH MY OWN VAST POWER, IS MY CONCERN.

NOT YOURS ALONE, FELLOW ENTITY.

YOU, AS WELL AS ANY, KNOW THE FIRST LAW OF THE VISHANTI--

"WITH GREAT POWER, THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."

YOU--ARE RIGHT, OF COURSE, MY PEERS.

IN MY CONCERN OVER MY ORB AND AMULET EYES, I LOST SIGHT OF MY ULTIMATE DUTY TO THE MULTIVERSE.

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, OSHTUR AND HOGGOTH VANISH.

I KNOW THAT, NEXT TIME I SEE THEM, THEY MAY VERY WELL BE IN THE COMPANY OF A THIRD VISAGE--

--THE TIGER WHOSE ASPECT AGAMOTTO OFTEN TAKES WHEN IN HIS MODE OF ONE-THIRD OF THE VISHANTI.

JUST NOW, HOWEVER, OF ALL THE ENDLESS PERSONIFICATIONS HE COULD TAKE--

(AND I KNOW I REALLY SHOULDN'T SAY "HE" OR "SHE" WHEN TALKING ABOUT AGAMOTTO, HOGGOTH, AND/OR OSHTUR)

--HE'S GONE BACK TO THE LESS MENACING CATERPILLAR.

I'M HOPING THAT MEANS WHAT I *THINK* IT MEANS.

WELL, MAGE?

JUST A MOMENT, GALACTUS.

ALL-SEEING ONE--

YES, *YES*, OF COURSE-- YOU MAY TAKE MY THREE *TALISMANS* WITH YOU.

JUST GET *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE I CHANGE MY *MIND!*

TO FIGHT SO *LOWLY* A LIFE FORM-- AND YET TO BE CONTENT WITH A *STALE-MATE*?

I AM ALMOST *TEMPTED* TO--

DON'T BE!

REMEMBER THAT *ETERNITY*-- WHO'S ONE-THIRD OF YOUR *OWN* ESSENCE, ALONG WITH *DEATH*-- NEEDS YOU.

FOR ONCE IN ITS LONG LIFE, THE VERY *UNI-VERSE* NEEDS YOU!

YOU ARE UNFORTUNATE-LY CORRECT.

AT LEAST I CAN BASK IN THE KNOWL-EDGE THAT I DESTROYED SEVERAL OF HIS COVETED *MEMORY BUBBLES*--

--THUS DENYING TO HIM, FOREVER, THE JOY OF *RE-WITNESSING* THEM.

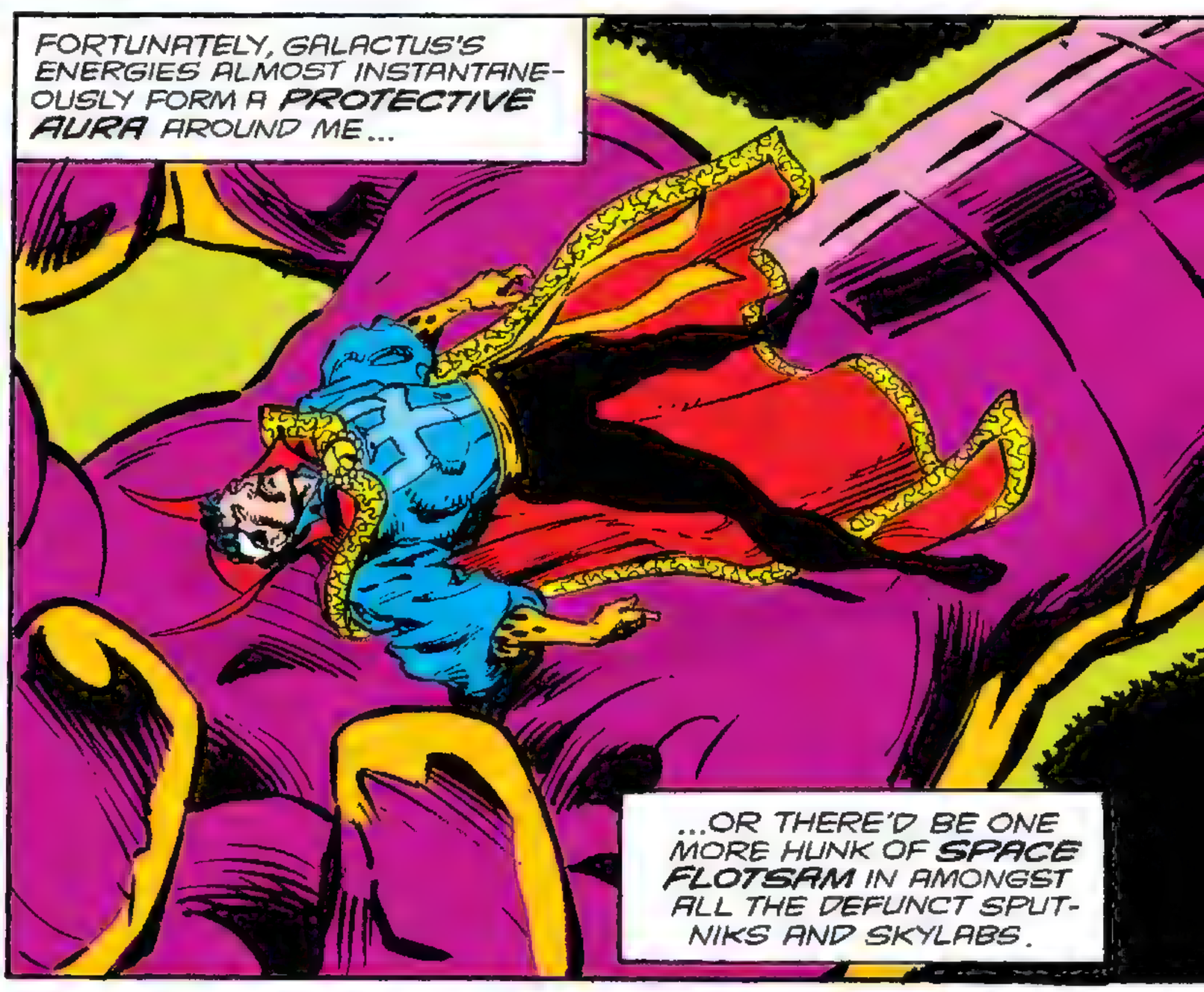
THAT YOU *DID*, NEBULA-NOSHER.

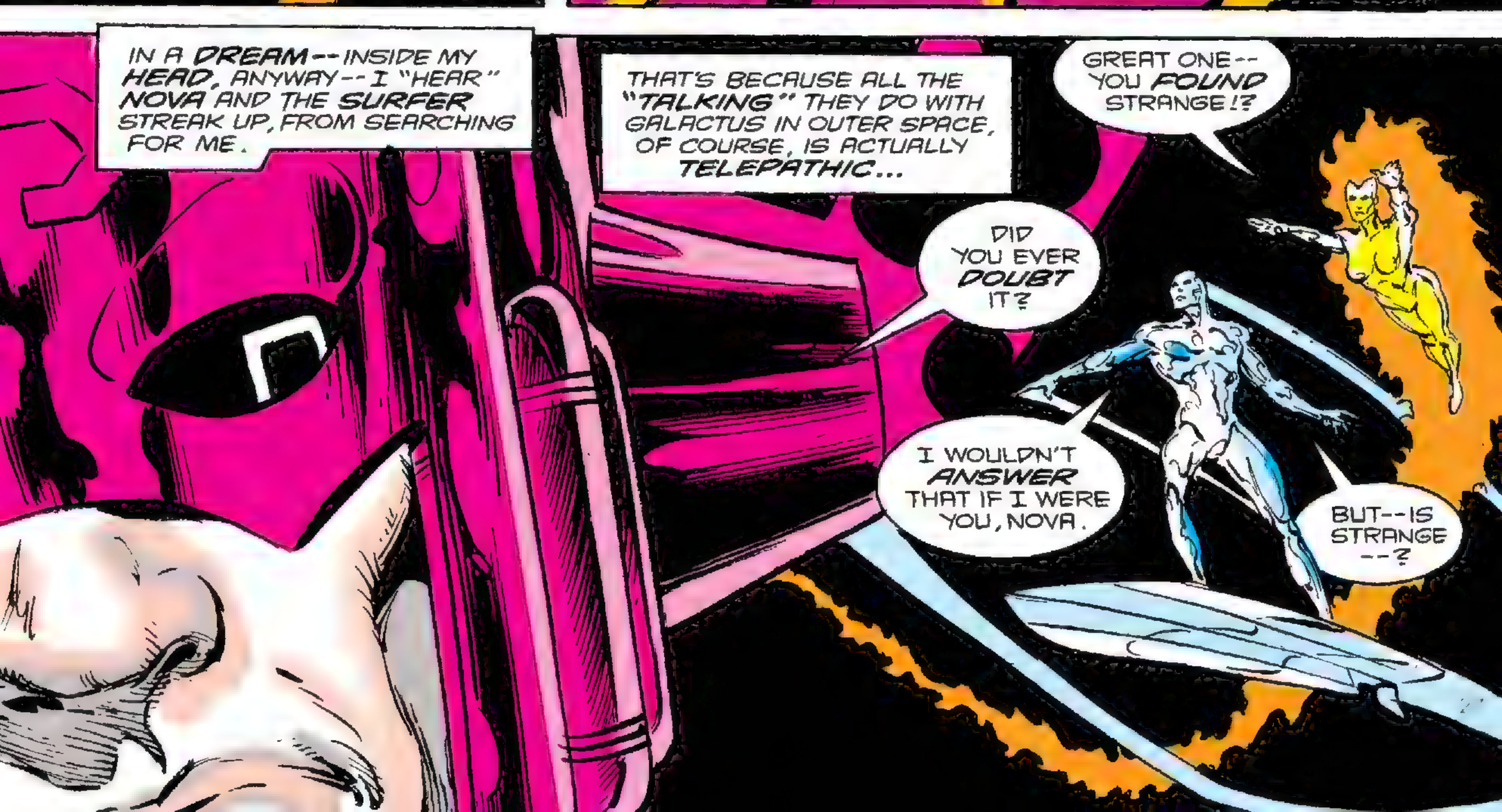
STILL, YOU KNOW WHAT *HOGGOTH* ALWAYS SAYS ABOUT HIS *HOARY HORDES*...

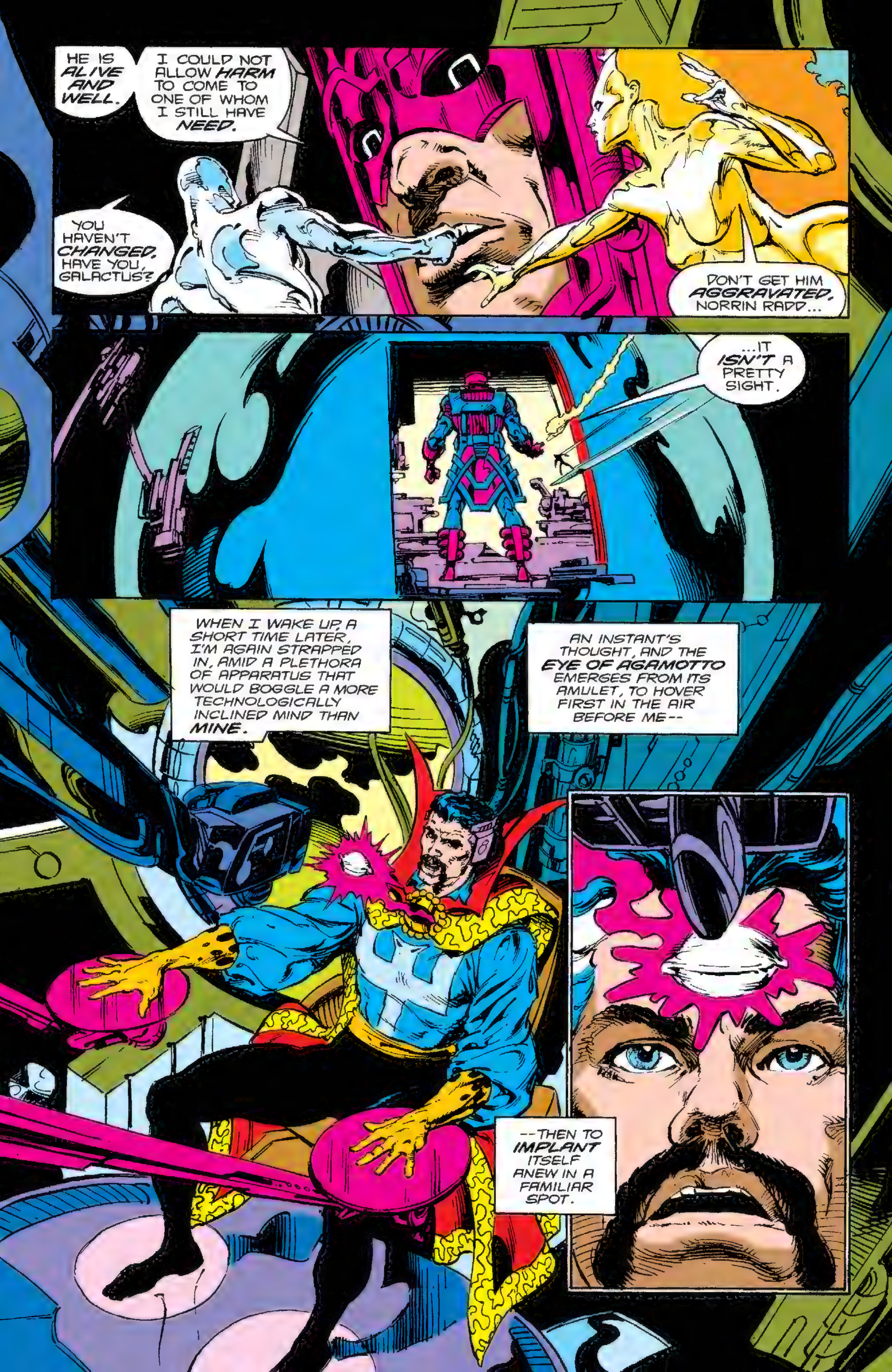
..."THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE *THAT* CAME FROM!"

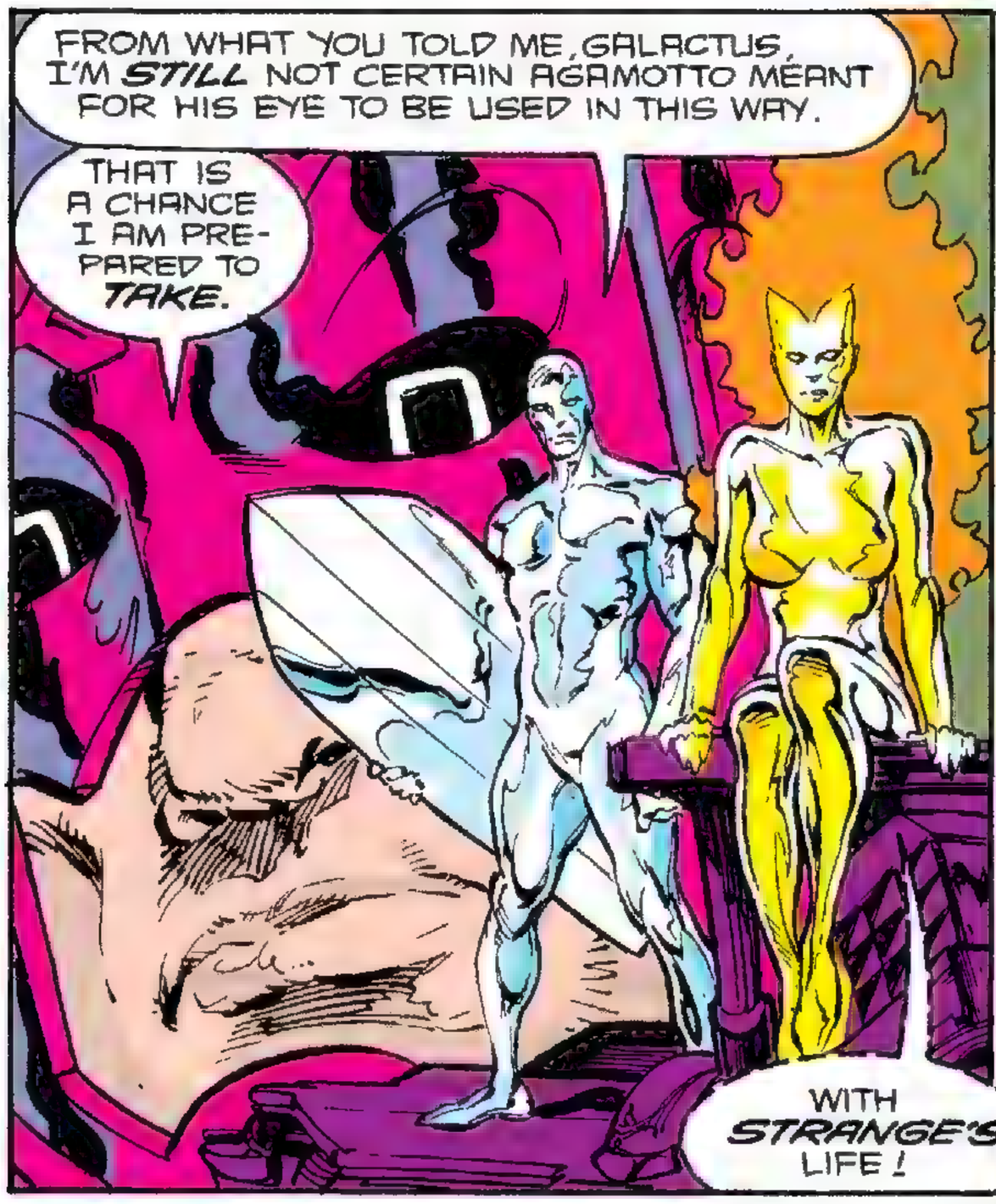
SEVERAL BILLION SOULS ON **EARTH**--AND A NIGH-INFINITE NUMBER MORE THROUGHOUT THE **COSMOS** I GUARD--ARE PROBABLY LUCKY THAT GALACTUS CHOOSES **NOT TO HEAR** AGAMOTTO'S PARTING SHOT.

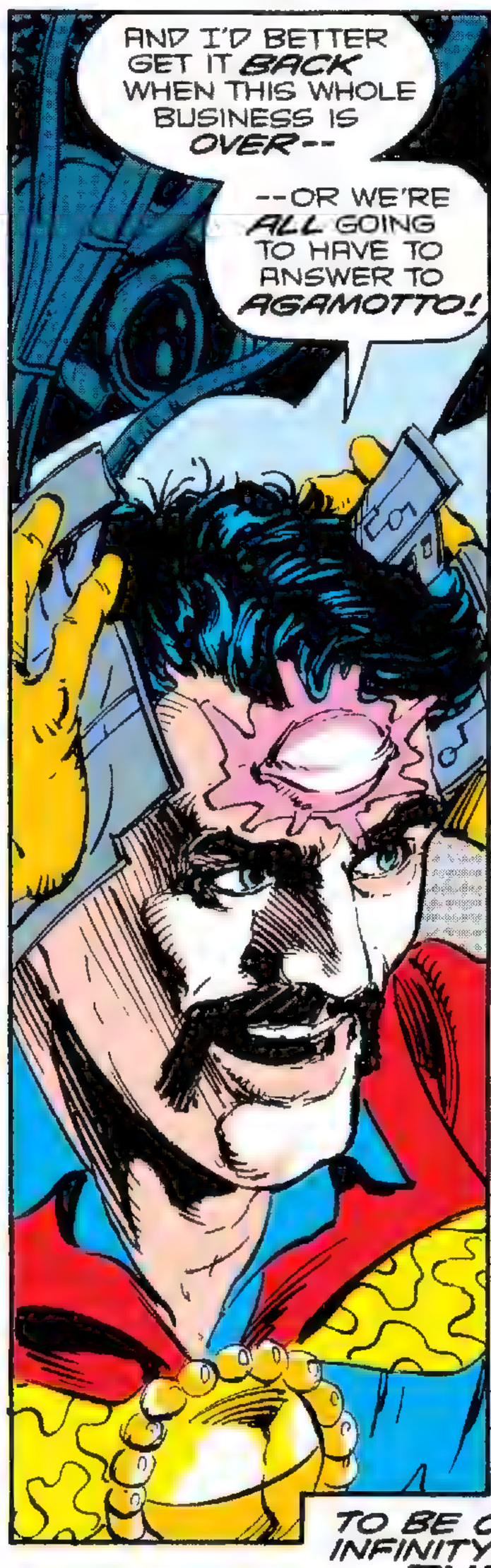
BUT THEN, AS WE REMATERIALIZE, SHIP AND ALL, IN **SPACE**, NONE OF US CAN HEAR MUCH OF **ANYTHING**...

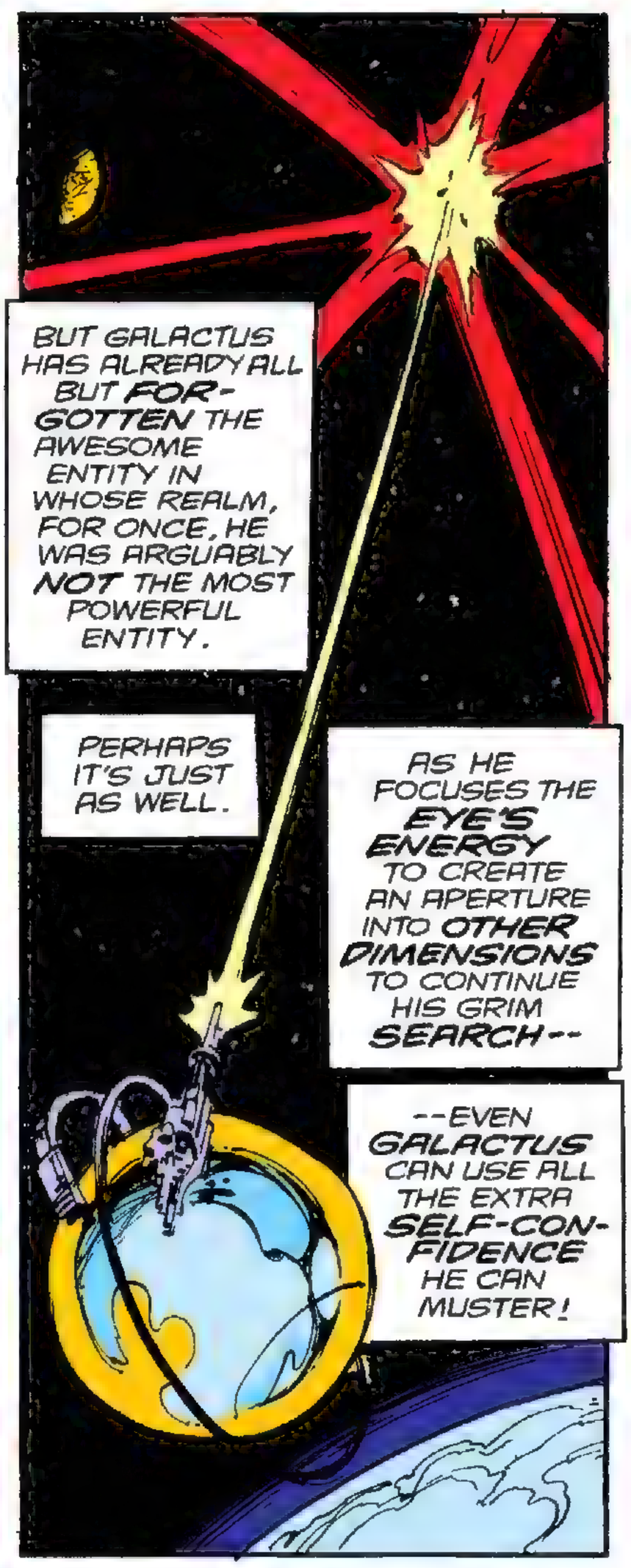





HE IS ALIVE AND WELL.
I COULD NOT ALLOW HARM TO COME TO ONE OF WHOM I STILL HAVE NEED.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, HAVE YOU, GALACTUS?
DON'T GET HIM AGGRAVATED, NORRIN RADD...
...IT ISN'T A PRETTY SIGHT.
WHEN I WAKE UP, A SHORT TIME LATER, I'M AGAIN STRAPPED IN, AMID A PLETHORA OF APPARATUS THAT WOULD BOGGLE A MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY INCLINED MIND THAN MINE.
AN INSTANT'S THOUGHT, AND THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO EMERGES FROM ITS AMULET, TO HOVER FIRST IN THE AIR BEFORE ME--
--THEN TO IMPLANT ITSELF ANEW IN A FAMILIAR SPOT.







TO BE CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF INFINITY WAR #2! AND, IN DOC #44--

THE JUGGERNAUT!

***SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #5* PINUP** BY JIM STARLIN & TERRY AUSTIN

MARVEL COMICS
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$1.25 US
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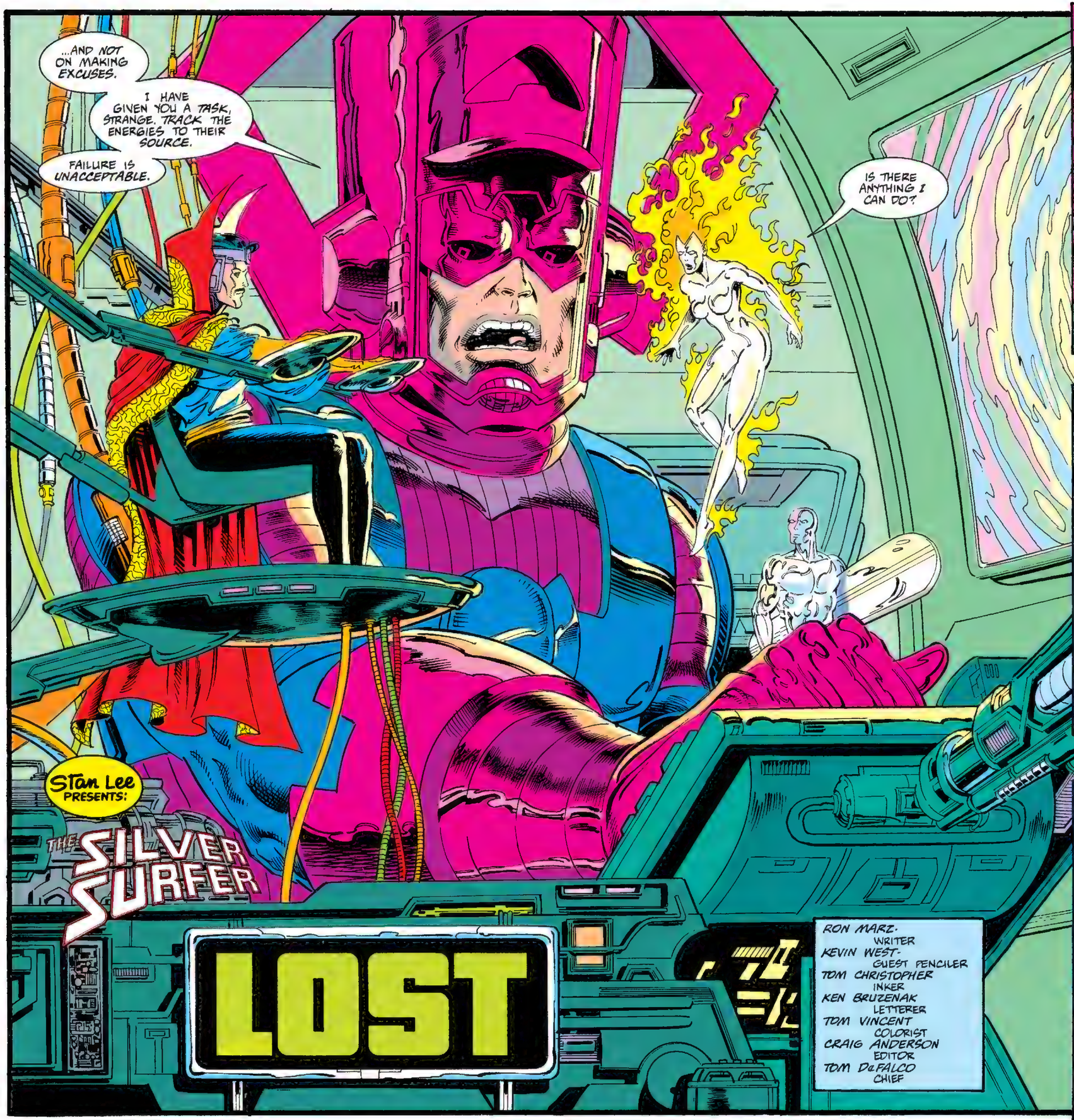
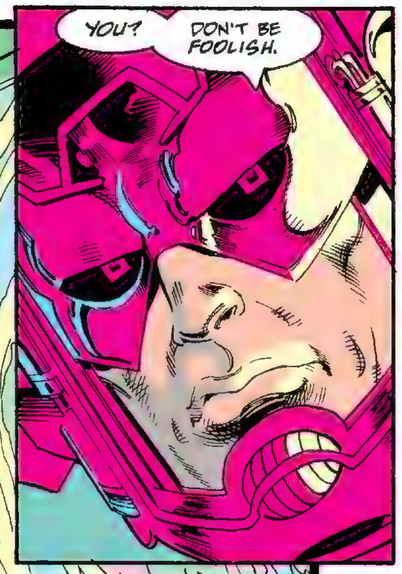
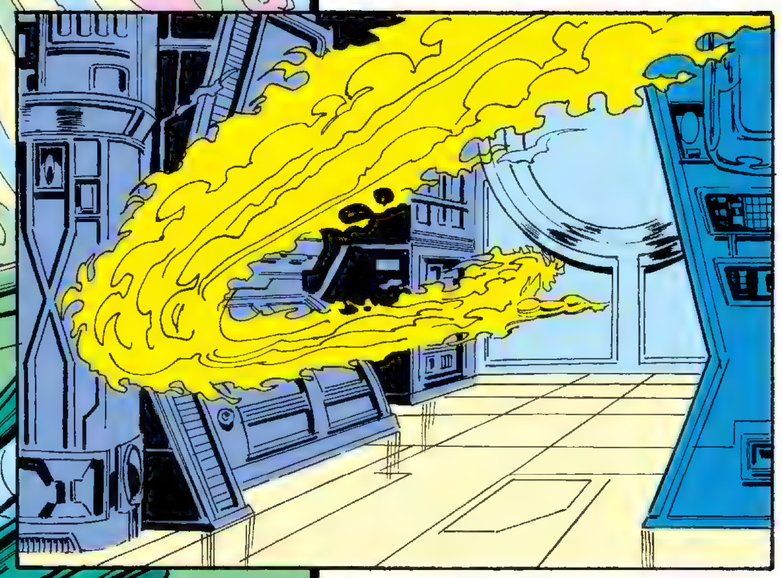
68
LATE JULY
UK 85p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE SILVER SURFER®
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
IF YOU THINK THIS WOLF PACK IS BAD...
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
...WAIT'LL YOU SEE...
KHOON!

"THIS NEXUS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS REDUCES EVEN YOUR INSTRUMENTATION TO NEAR USELESSNESS, GALACTUS.
"THE CONSTANT TURBULENCE HERE MAKES THE ENERGY TRAIL WE FOLLOW ELUSIVE AT BEST."
"THEN WE WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF YOU CONCENTRATED ON YOUR DUTIES,..
*REQUIRED READING: CHECK OUT INFINITY WAR #2, THEN COME STRAIGHT BACK HERE. --CRAIG

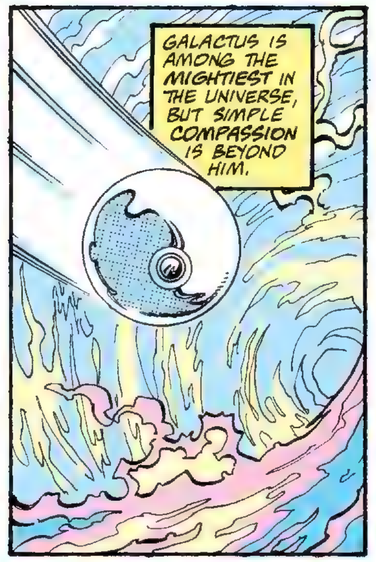

...AND NOT ON MAKING EXCUSES.
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A TASK, STRANGE. TRACK THE ENERGIES TO THEIR SOURCE.
FAILURE IS UNACCEPTABLE.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
THE SILVER SURFER
LOST
RON MARZ WRITER
KEVIN WEST GUEST PENCILER
TOM CHRISTOPHER INKER
KEN BRUZENAK LETTERER
TOM VINCENT COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

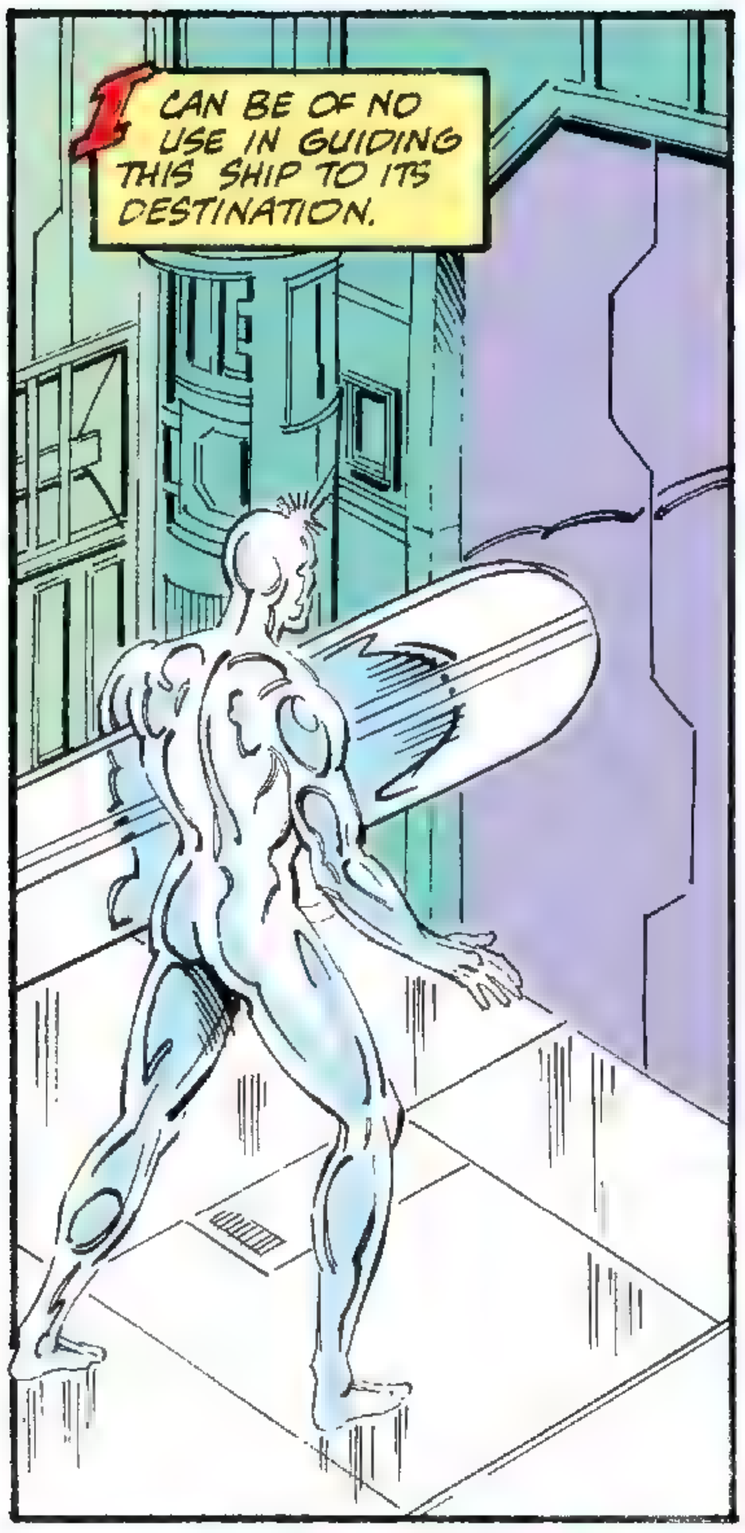

YOU?
DON'T BE FOOLISH.

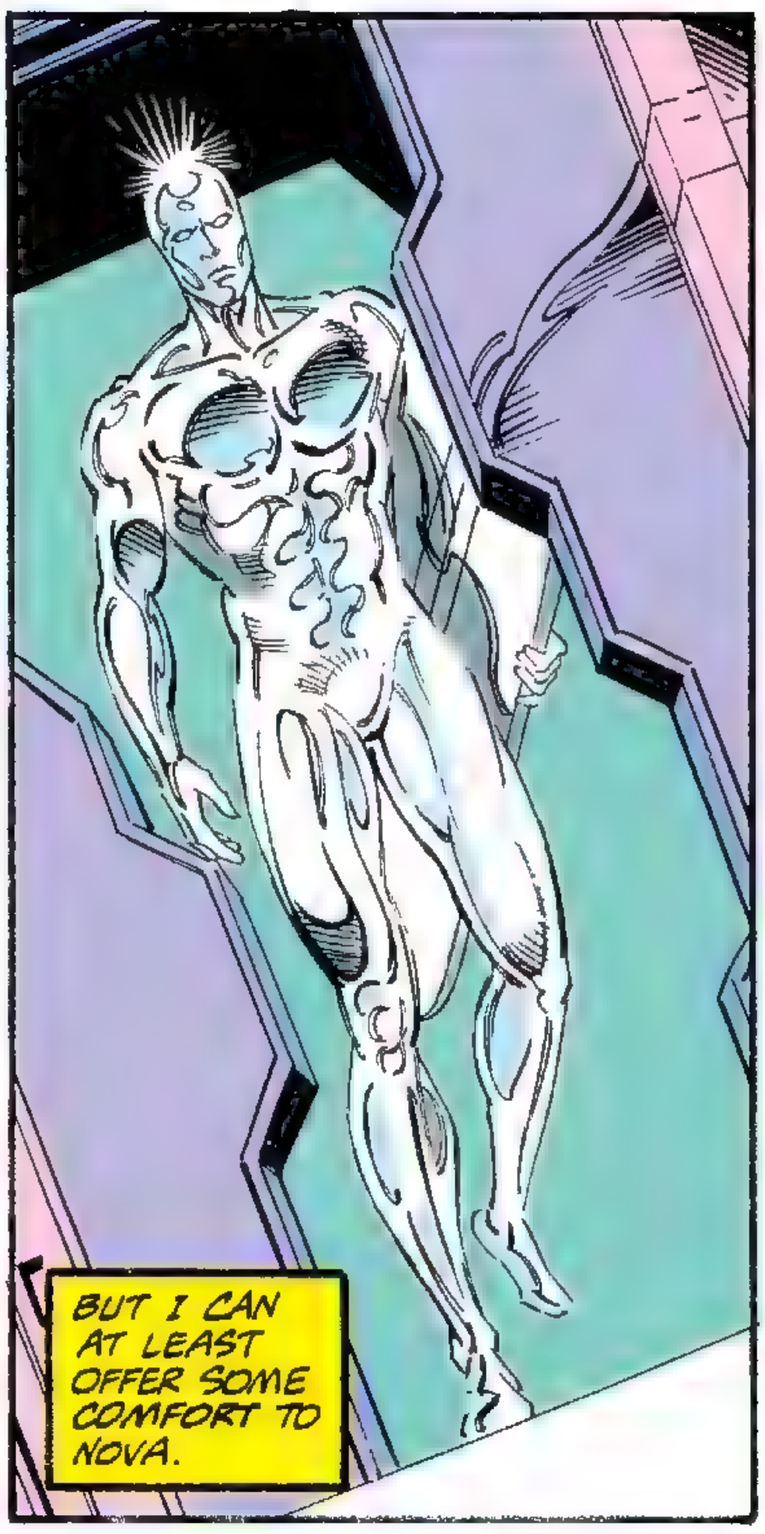
I WAS... ONLY...
...I JUST... WANTED...

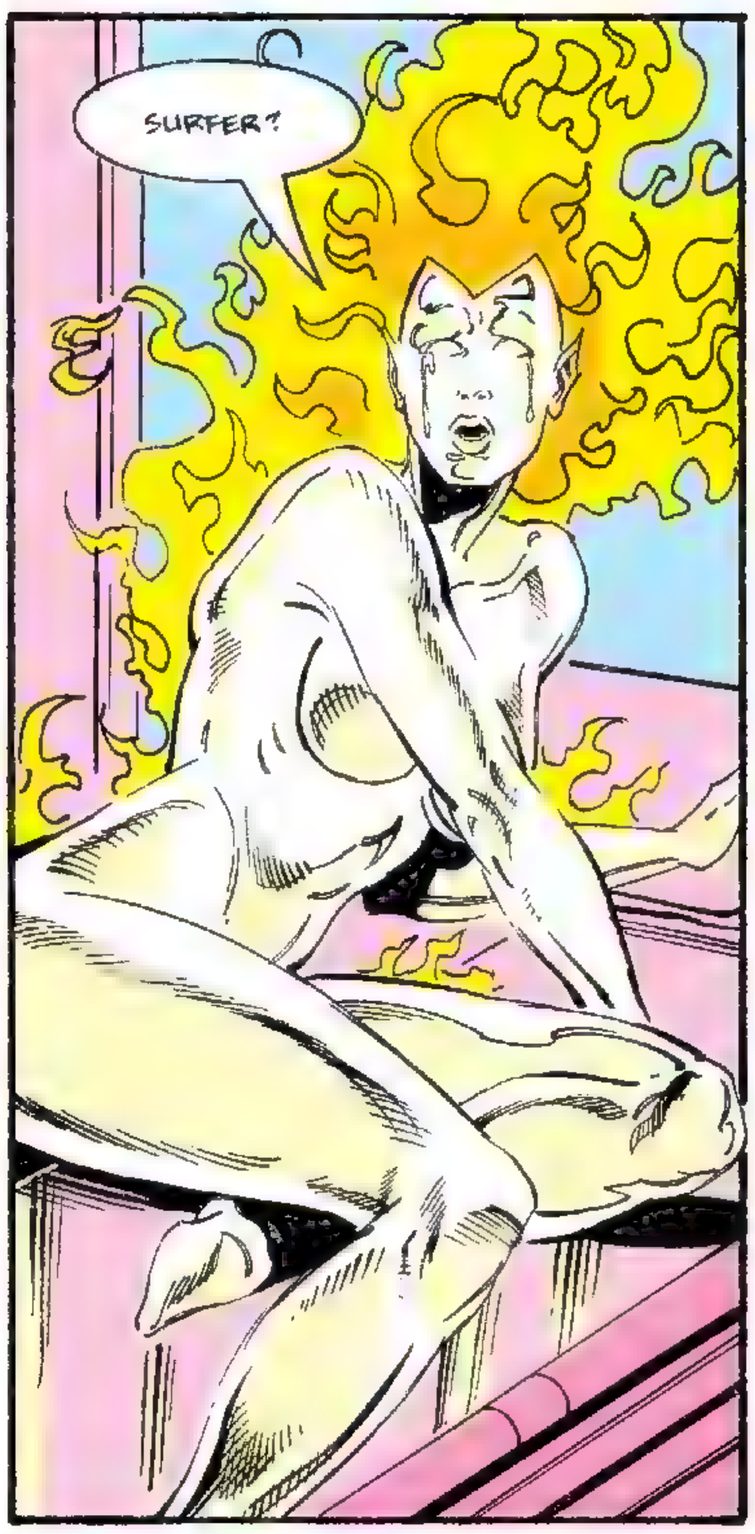


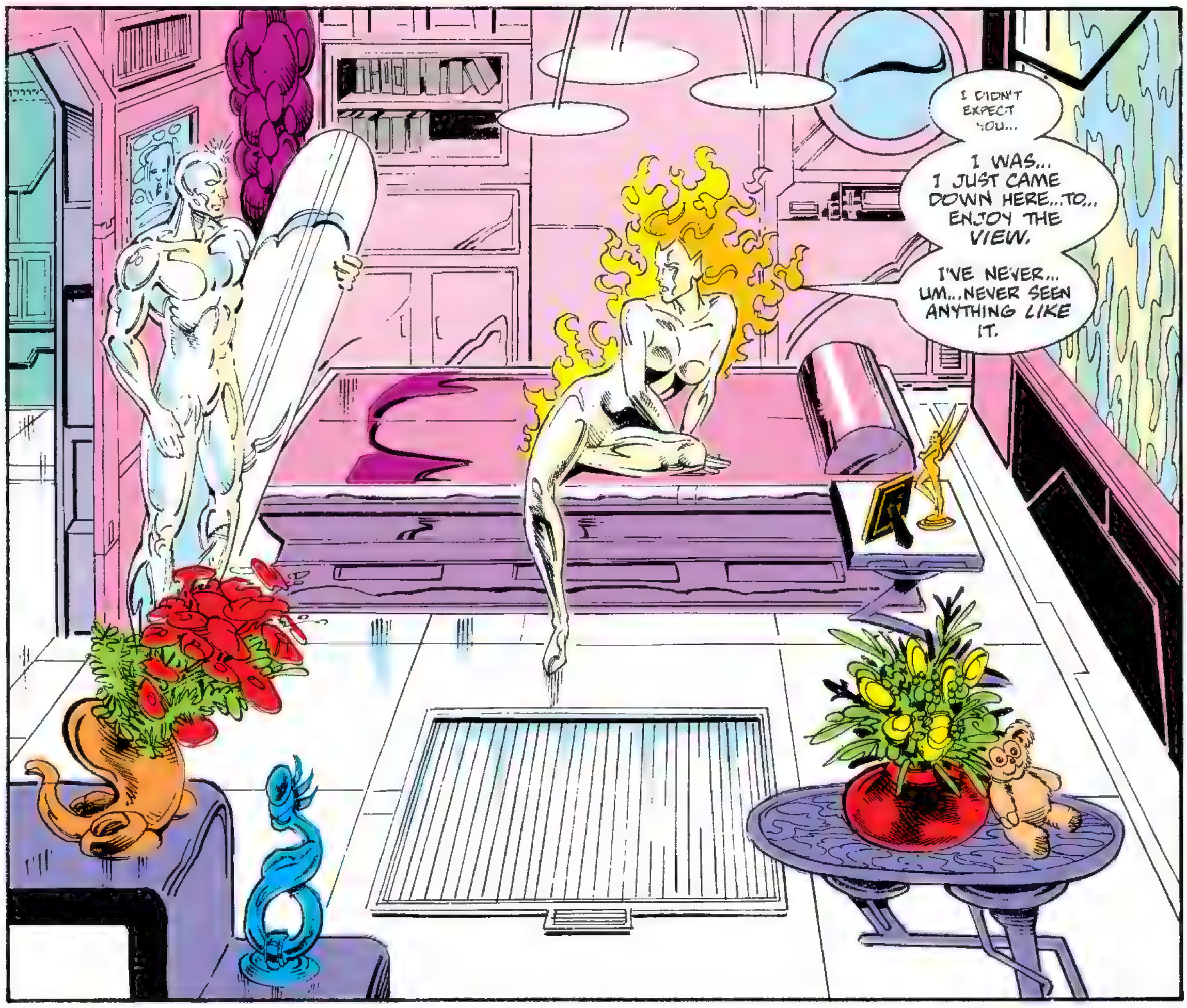
GALACTUS TREATS HIS HERALDS NO BETTER THAN WHEN I SERVED HIM.
HE CONSIDERS ALL OF US INSIGNIFICANT BEINGS, A REALITY NOVA HAS NEVER FULLY ACCEPTED.

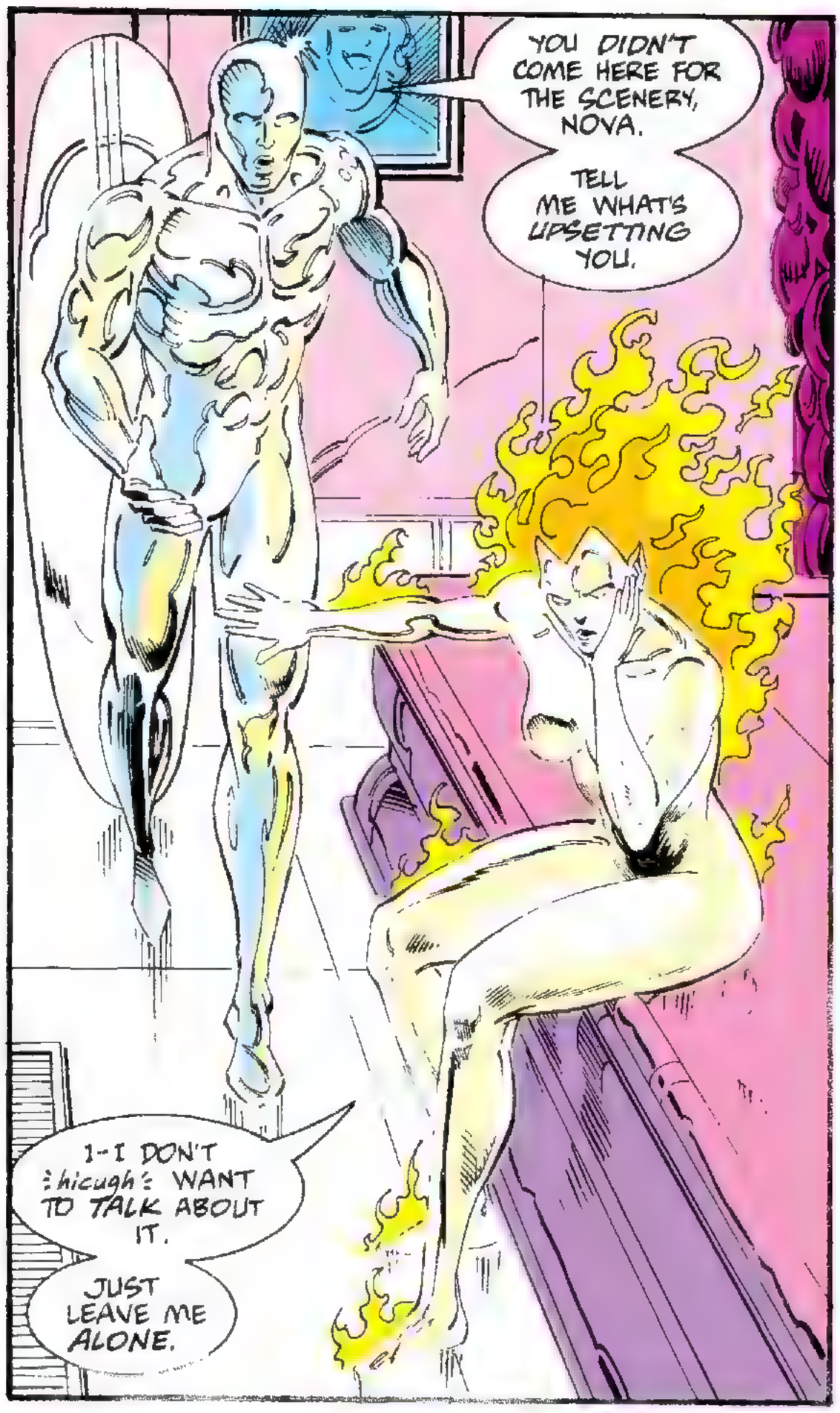

GALACTUS IS AMONG THE MIGHTIEST IN THE UNIVERSE, BUT SIMPLE COMPASSION IS BEYOND HIM.

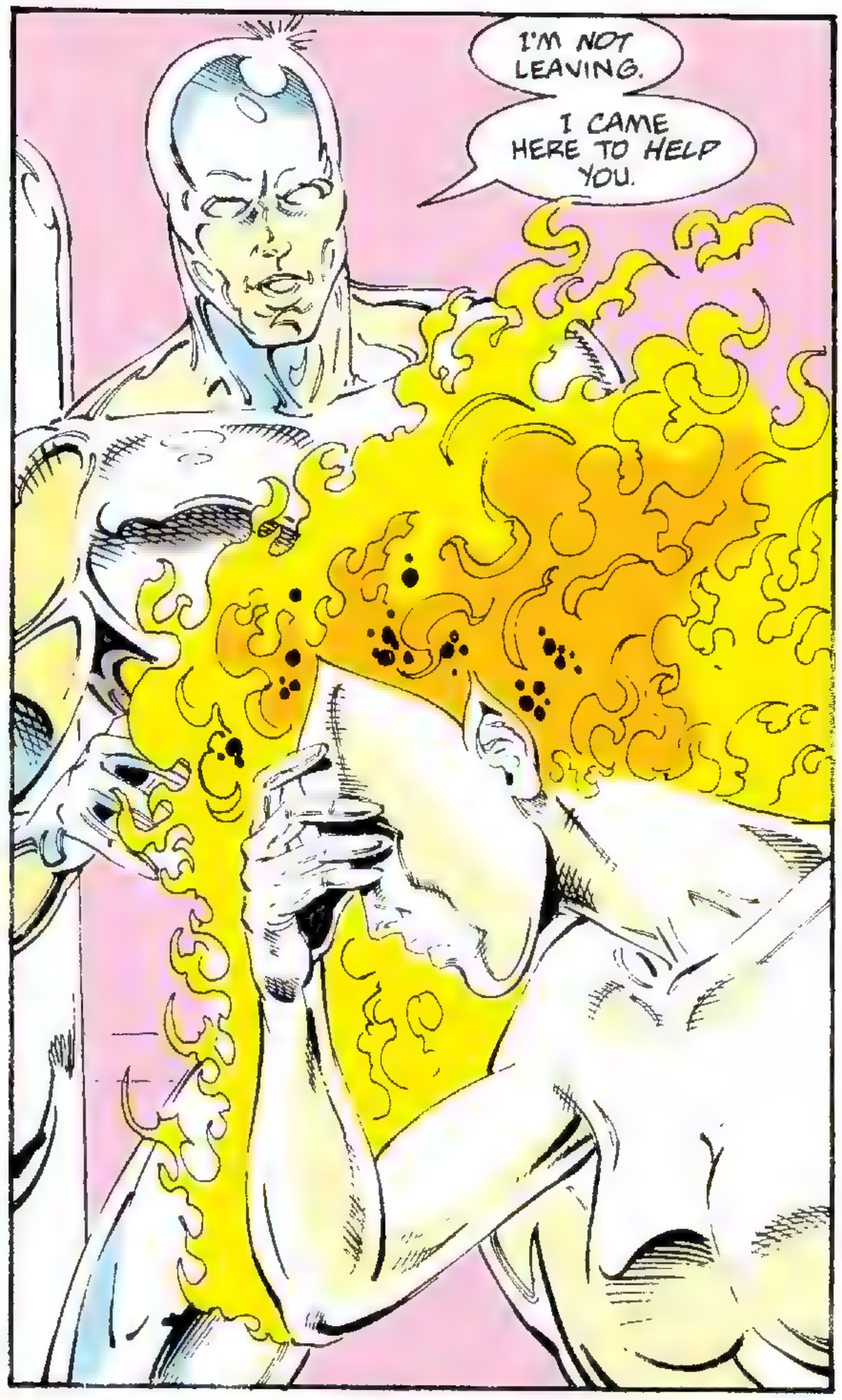

I CAN BE OF NO USE IN GUIDING THIS SHIP TO ITS DESTINATION.

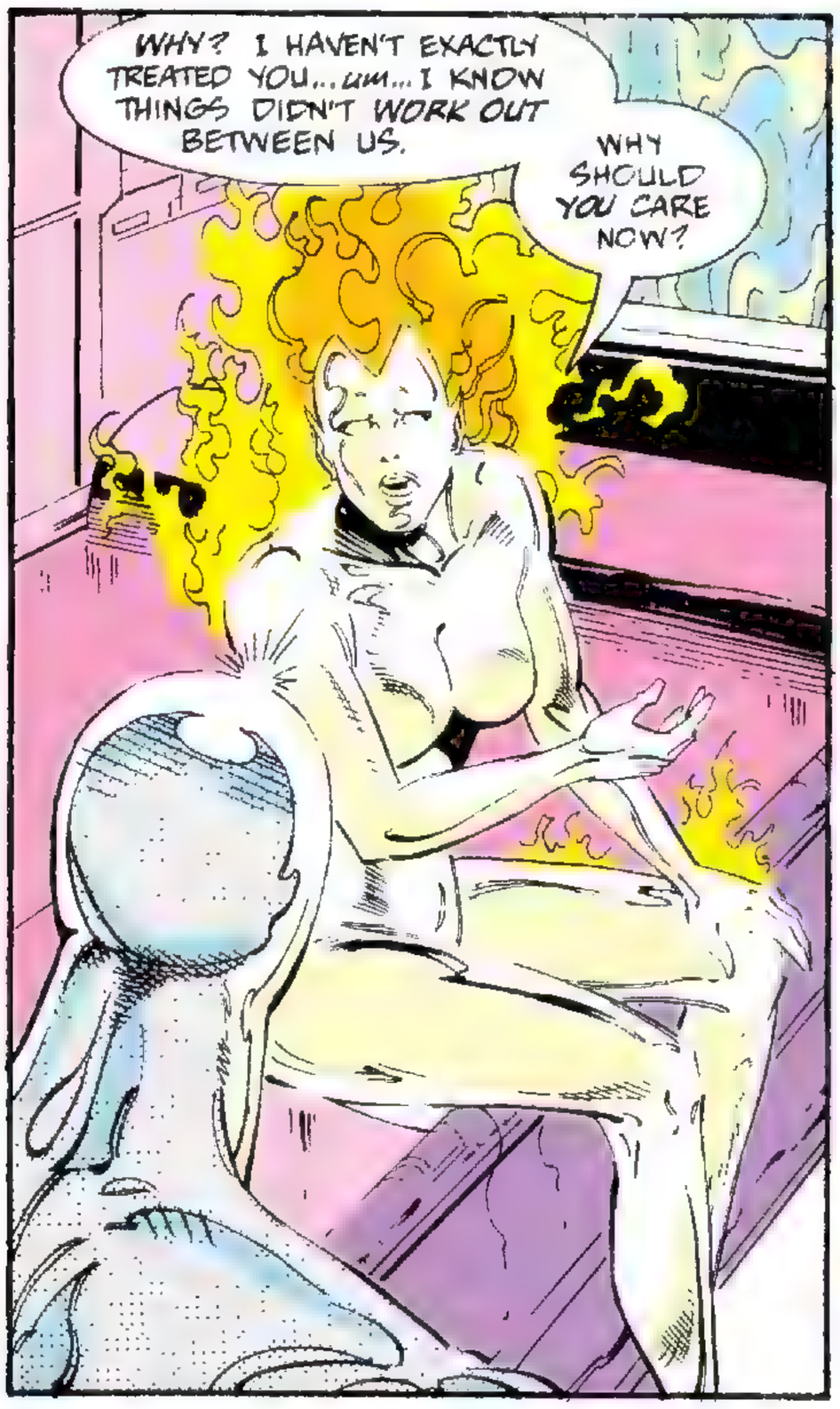

BUT I CAN AT LEAST OFFER SOME COMFORT TO NOVA.


SURFER?

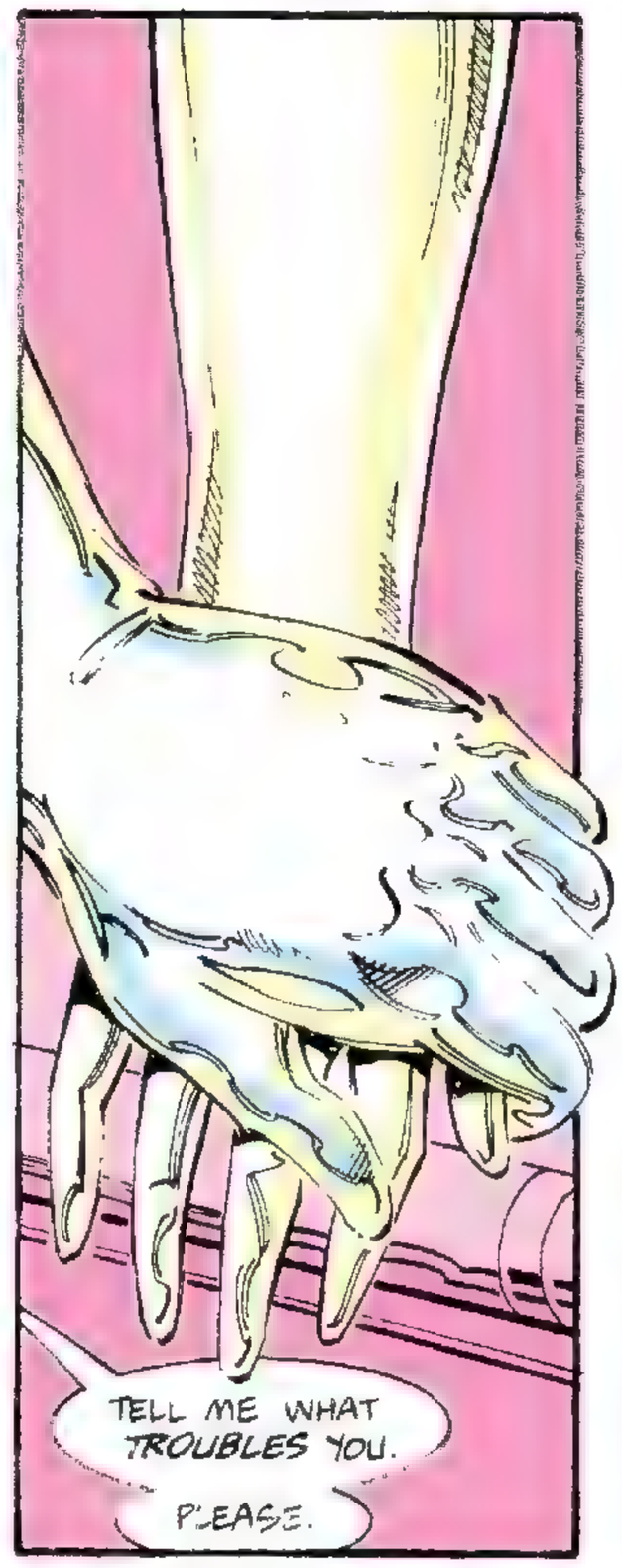

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU...
I WAS... I JUST CAME DOWN HERE...TO... ENJOY THE VIEW.
I'VE NEVER... UM...NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

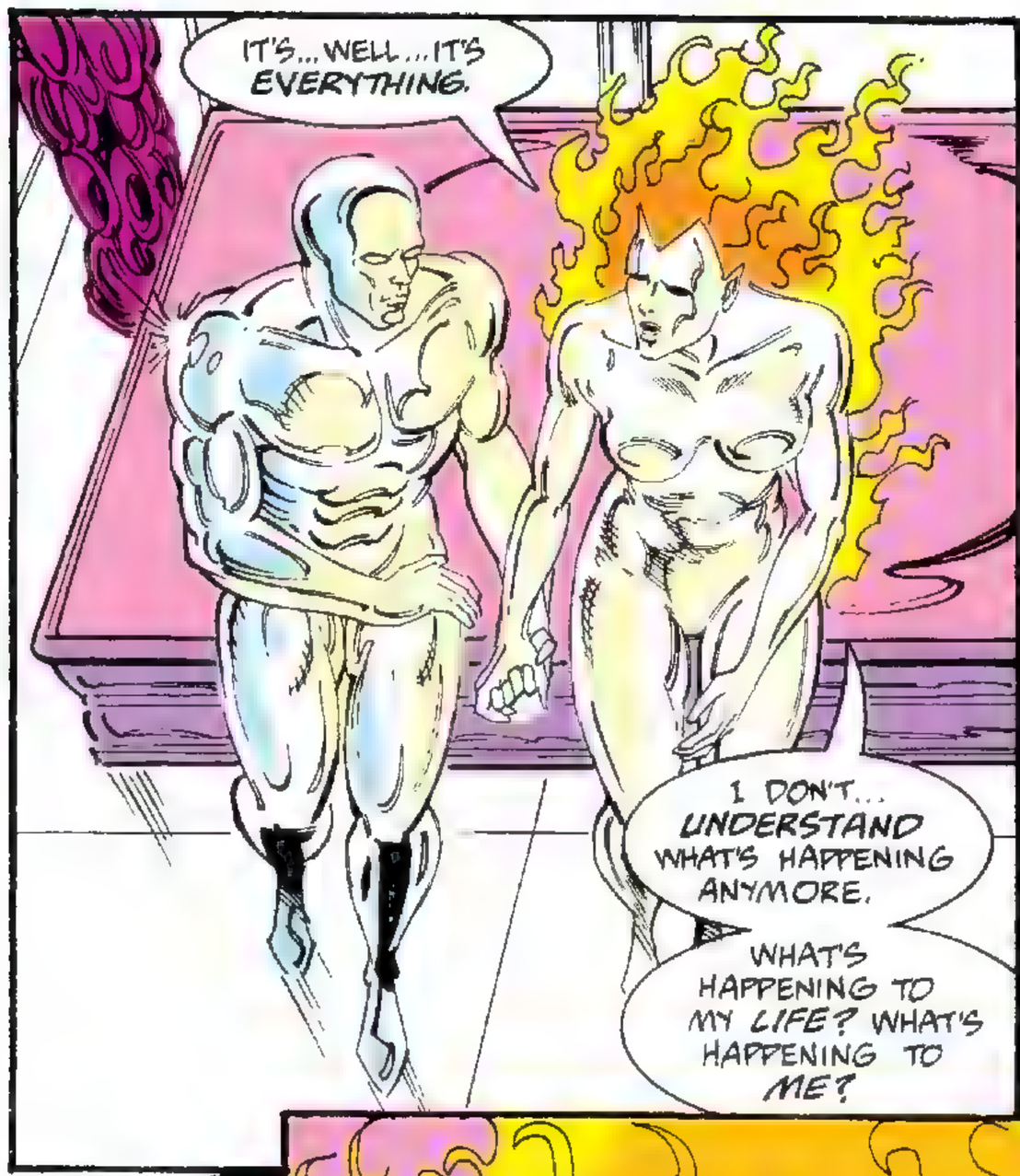

YOU DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THE SCENERY, NOVA.
TELL ME WHAT'S UPSETTING YOU.
I-I DON'T :hicugh: WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

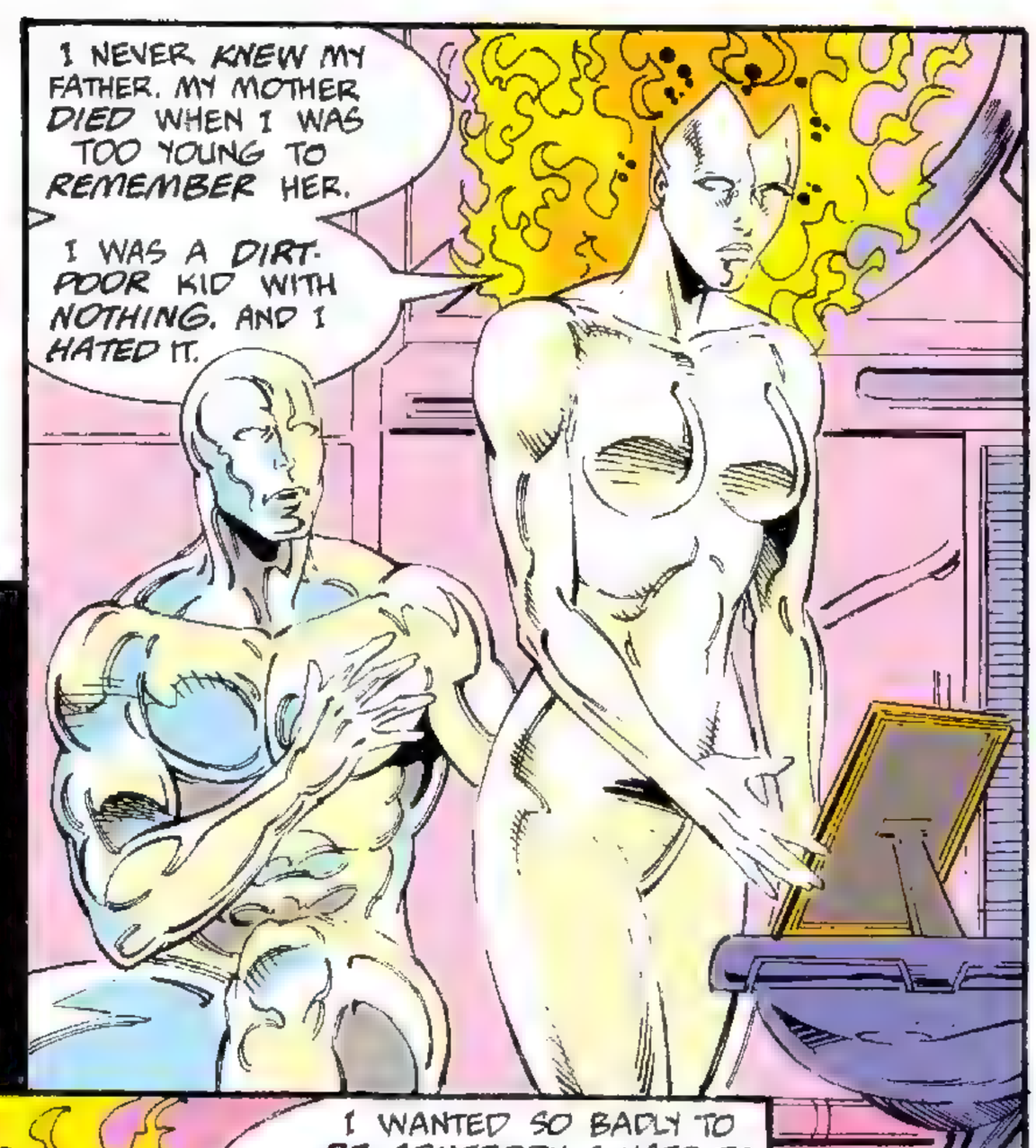

I'M NOT LEAVING.
I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU.

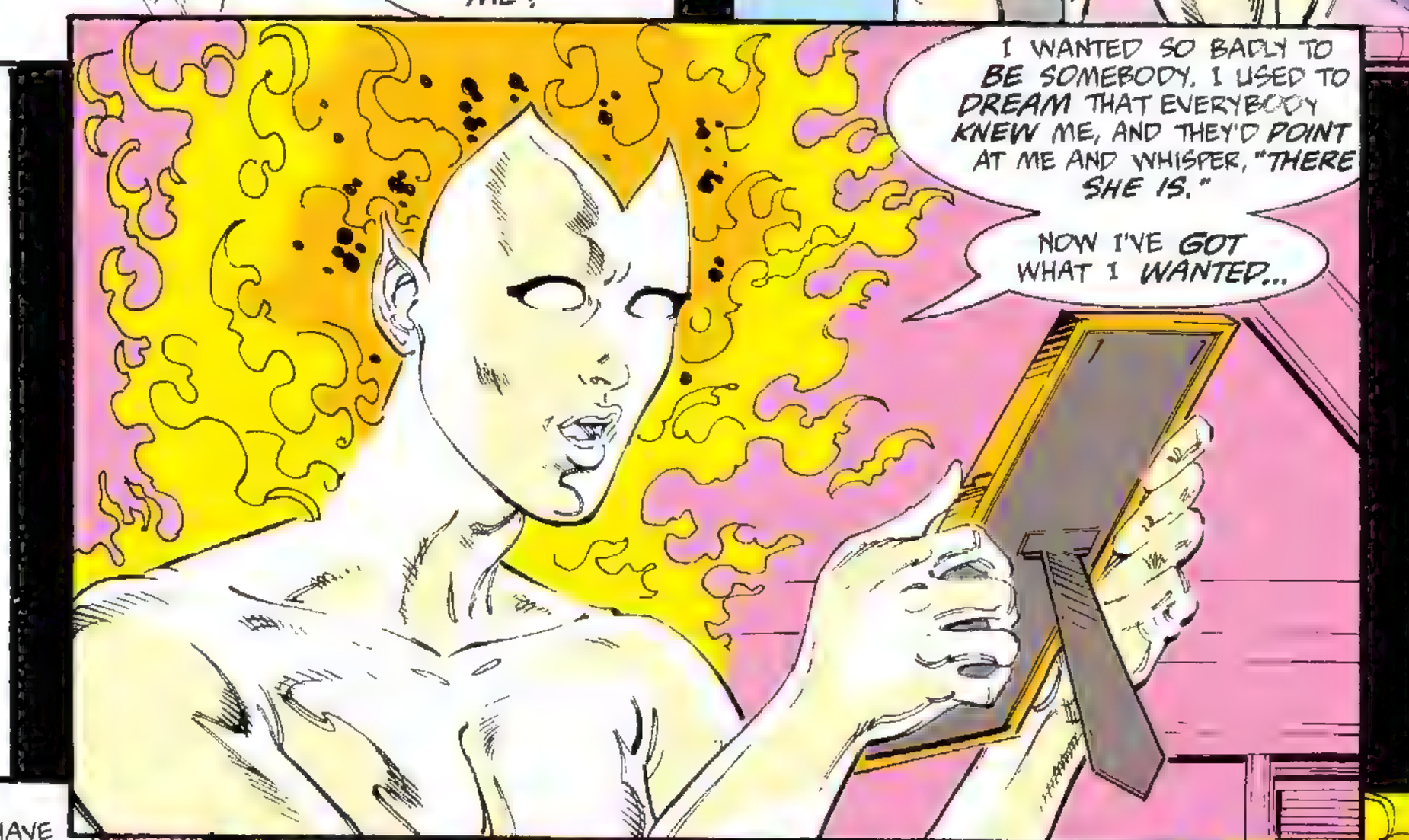

WHY? I HAVEN'T EXACTLY TREATED YOU...um... I KNOW THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT BETWEEN US.
WHY SHOULD YOU CARE NOW?

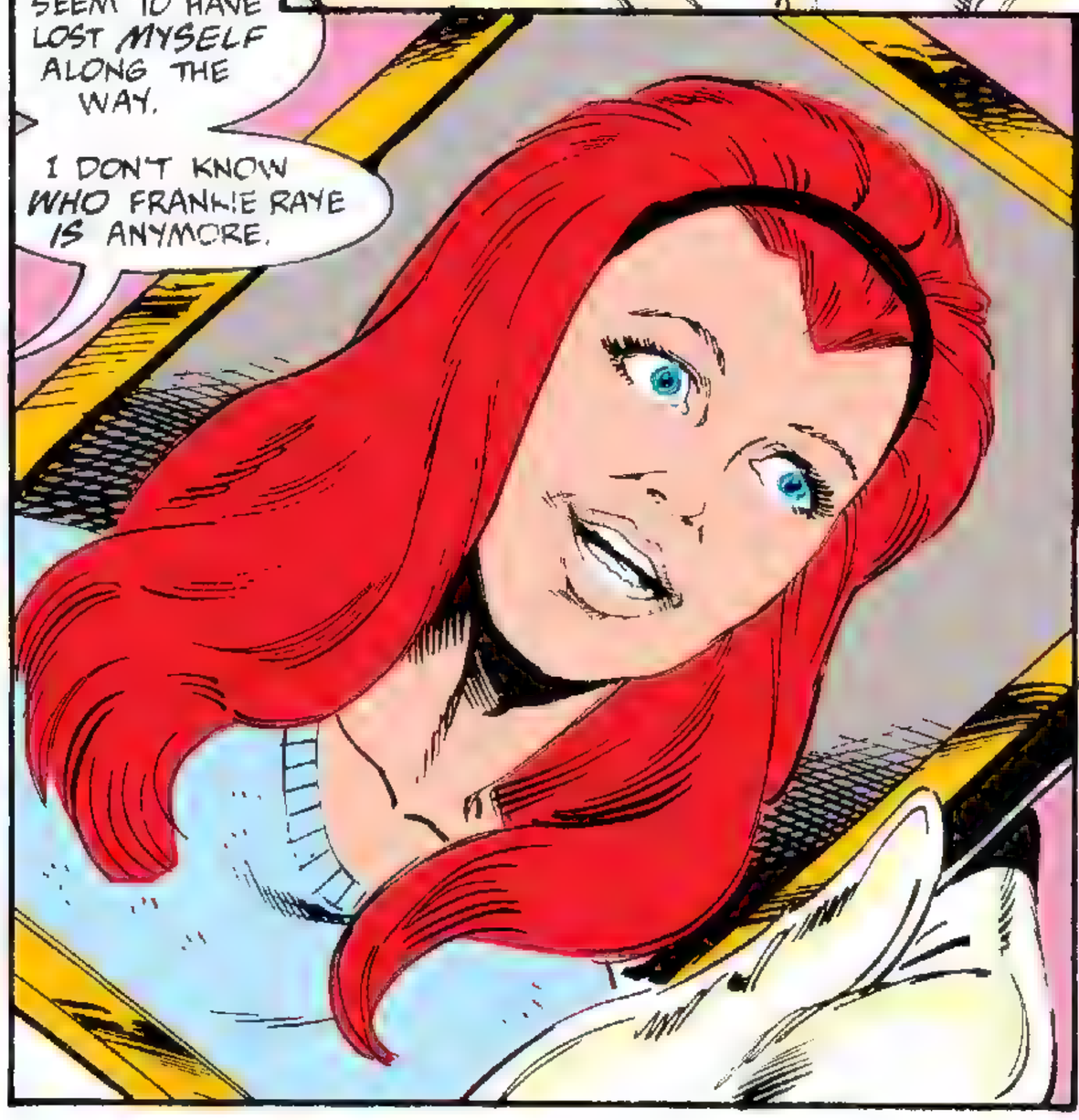
THE PAST IS PAST. WHATEVER WAS BETWEEN US...OR WASN'T... NO LONGER MATTERS.
I BEAR YOU NO MALICE, NOVA.


TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU.
PLEASE.

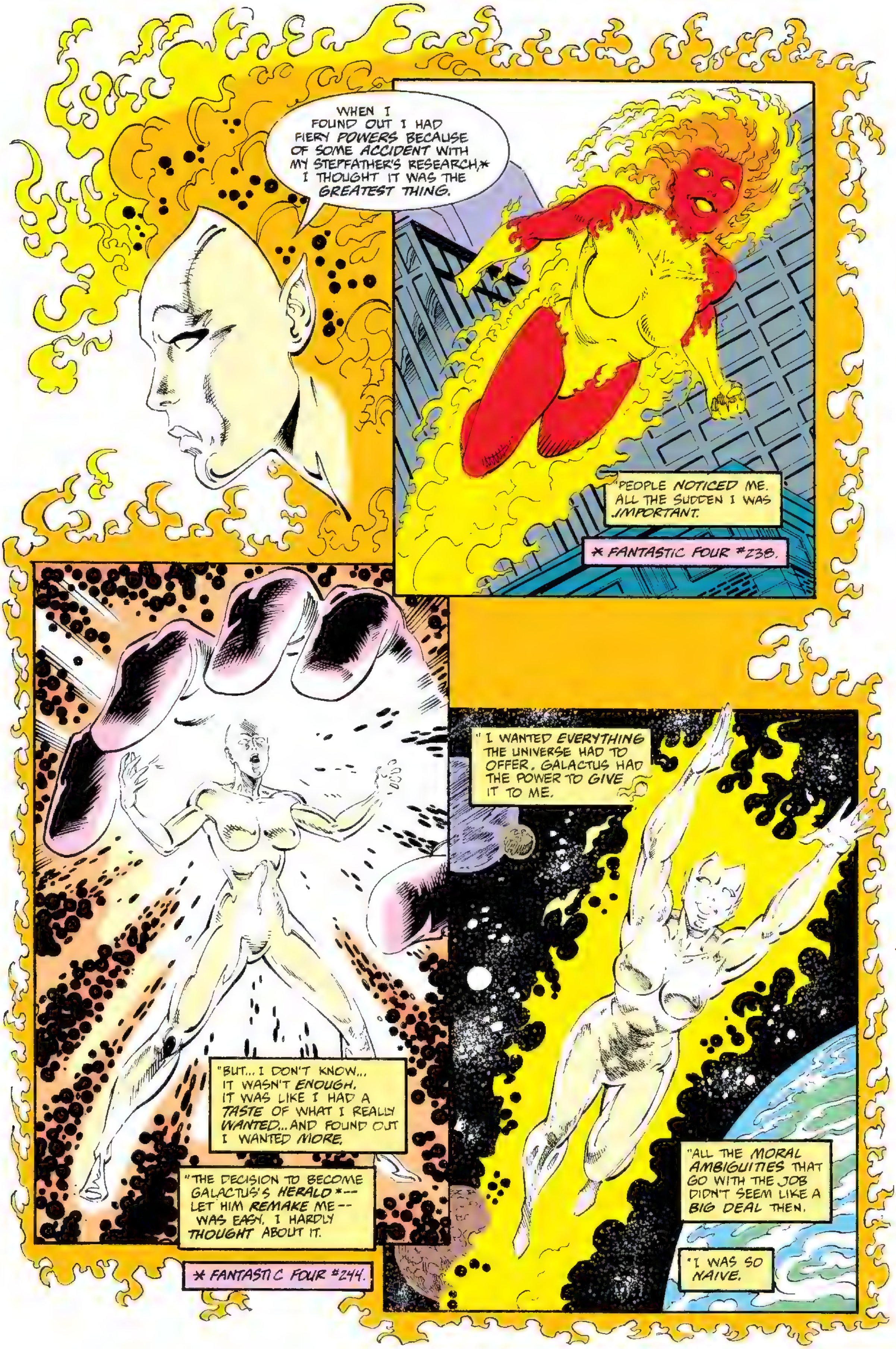

IT'S... WELL... IT'S EVERYTHING.
I DON'T... UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING ANYMORE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY LIFE? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

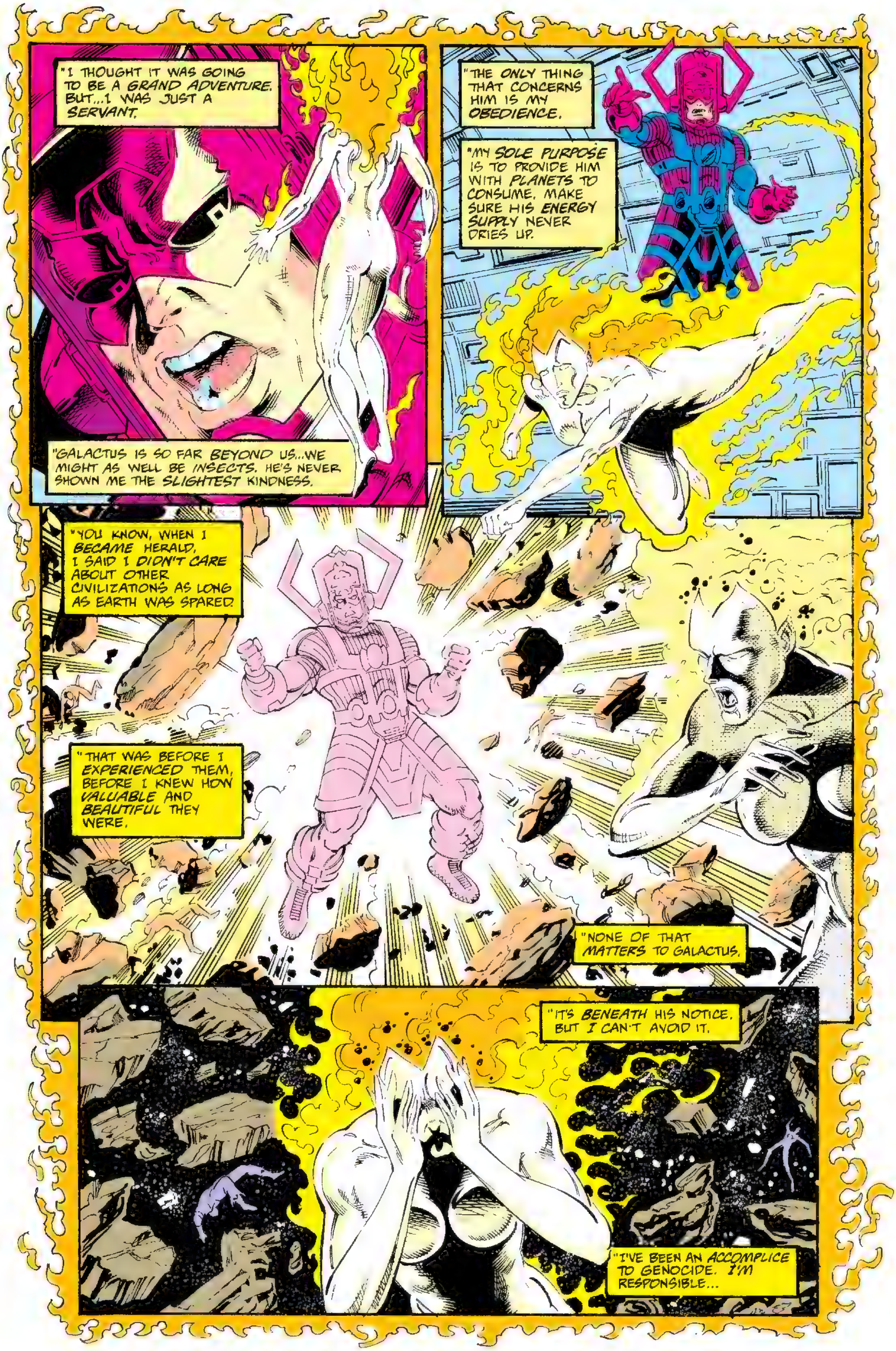

I NEVER KNEW MY FATHER. MY MOTHER DIED WHEN I WAS TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER HER.
I WAS A DIRT-POOR KID WITH NOTHING, AND I HATED IT.

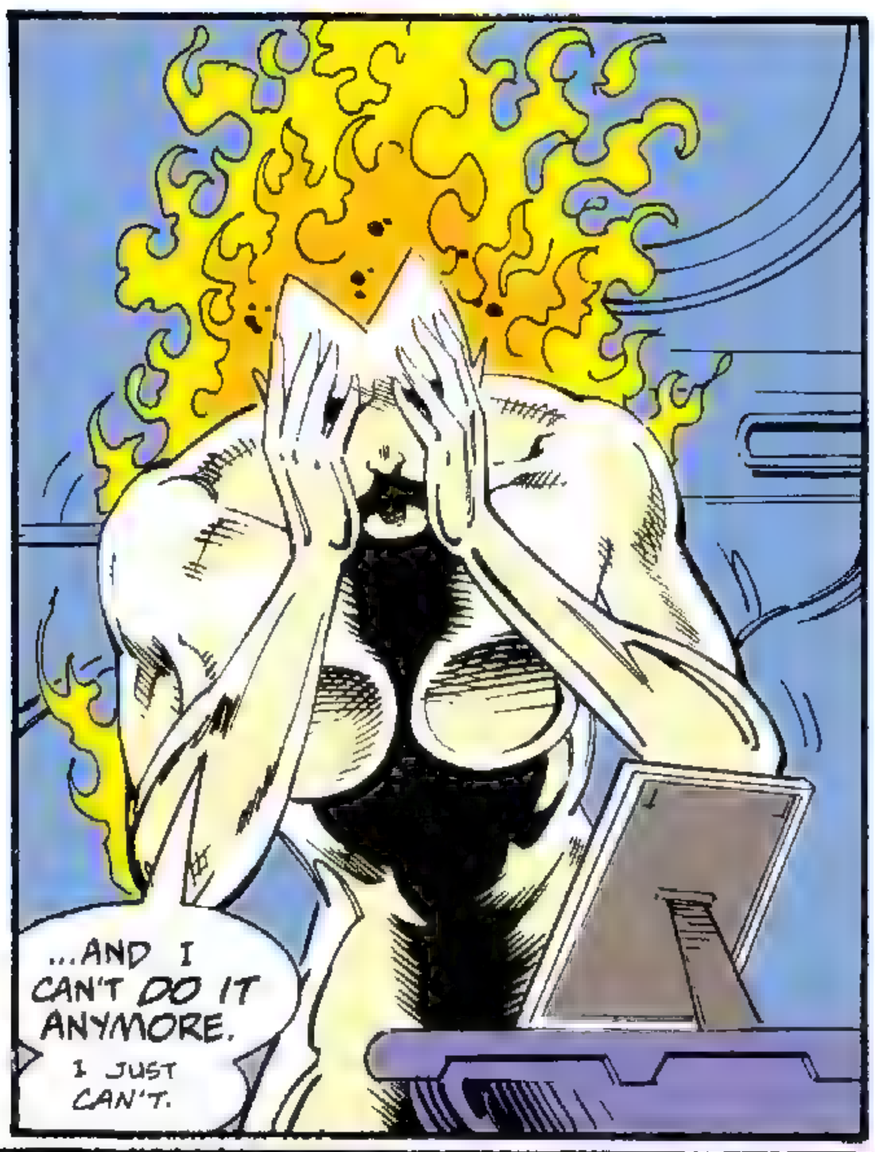

I WANTED SO BADLY TO BE SOMEBODY. I USED TO DREAM THAT EVERYBODY KNEW ME, AND THEY'D POINT AT ME AND WHISPER, "THERE SHE IS."
NOW I'VE GOT WHAT I WANTED...

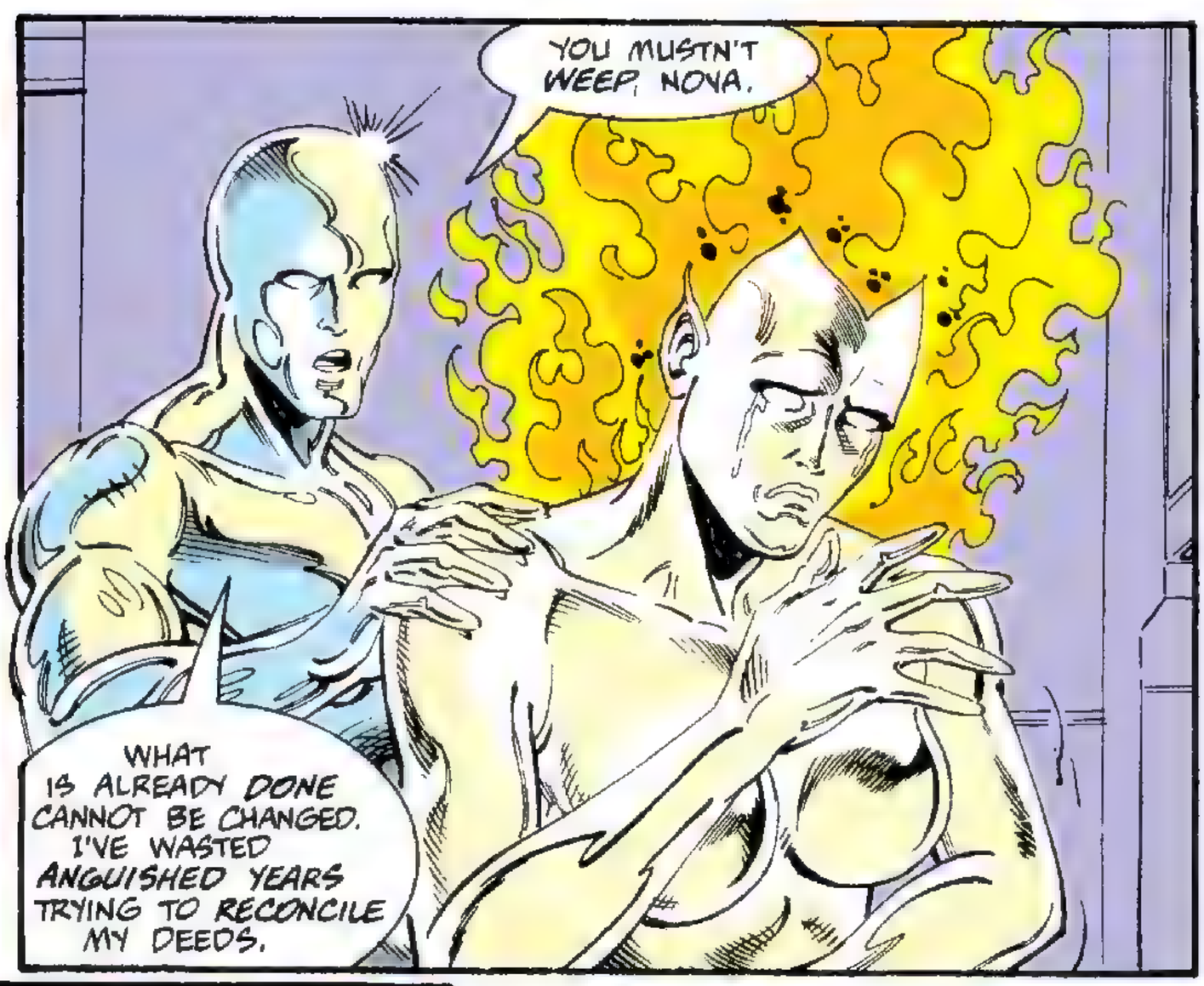

...AND I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MYSELF ALONG THE WAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHO FRANKIE RAYE IS ANYMORE.

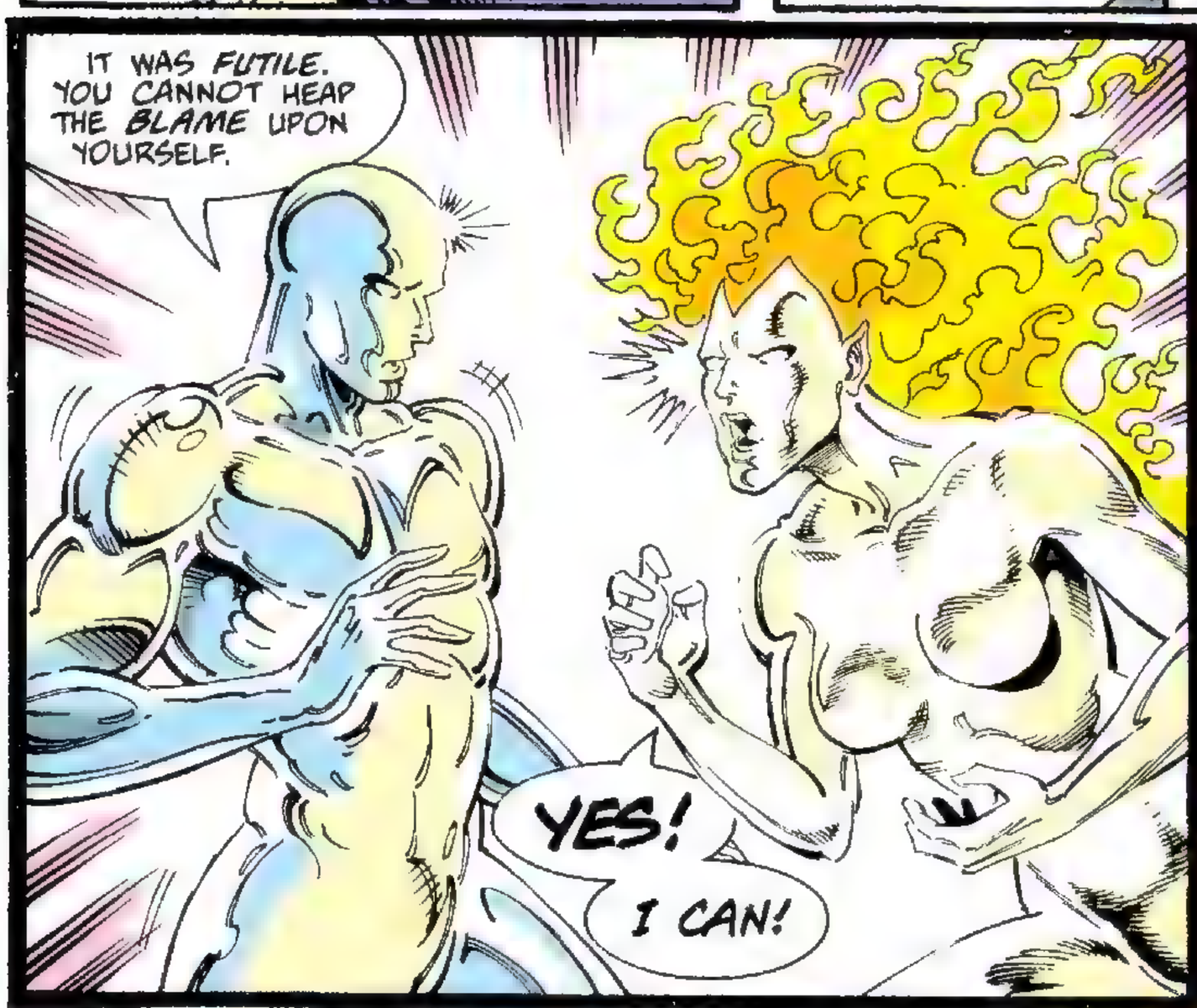
LOOK AT ME NOW. MOST OF THE UNIVERSE THINKS I'M SOME KIND OF MONSTER, SETTING GALACTUS'S TABLE.
SOMETIMES I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE HUMAN.


WHEN I FOUND OUT I HAD FIERY POWERS BECAUSE OF SOME ACCIDENT WITH MY STEPFATHER'S RESEARCH,* I THOUGHT IT WAS THE GREATEST THING.
"PEOPLE NOTICED ME. ALL THE SUDDEN I WAS IMPORTANT.
* FANTASTIC FOUR #238.
"I WANTED EVERYTHING THE UNIVERSE HAD TO OFFER. GALACTUS HAD THE POWER TO GIVE IT TO ME.
"BUT... I DON'T KNOW... IT WASN'T ENOUGH. IT WAS LIKE I HAD A TASTE OF WHAT I REALLY WANTED... AND FOUND OUT I WANTED MORE.
"THE DECISION TO BECOME GALACTUS'S HERALD*-- LET HIM REMAKE ME-- WAS EASY. I HARDLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
* FANTASTIC FOUR #244.
"ALL THE MORAL AMBIGUITIES THAT GO WITH THE JOB DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A BIG DEAL THEN.
"I WAS SO NAIVE.

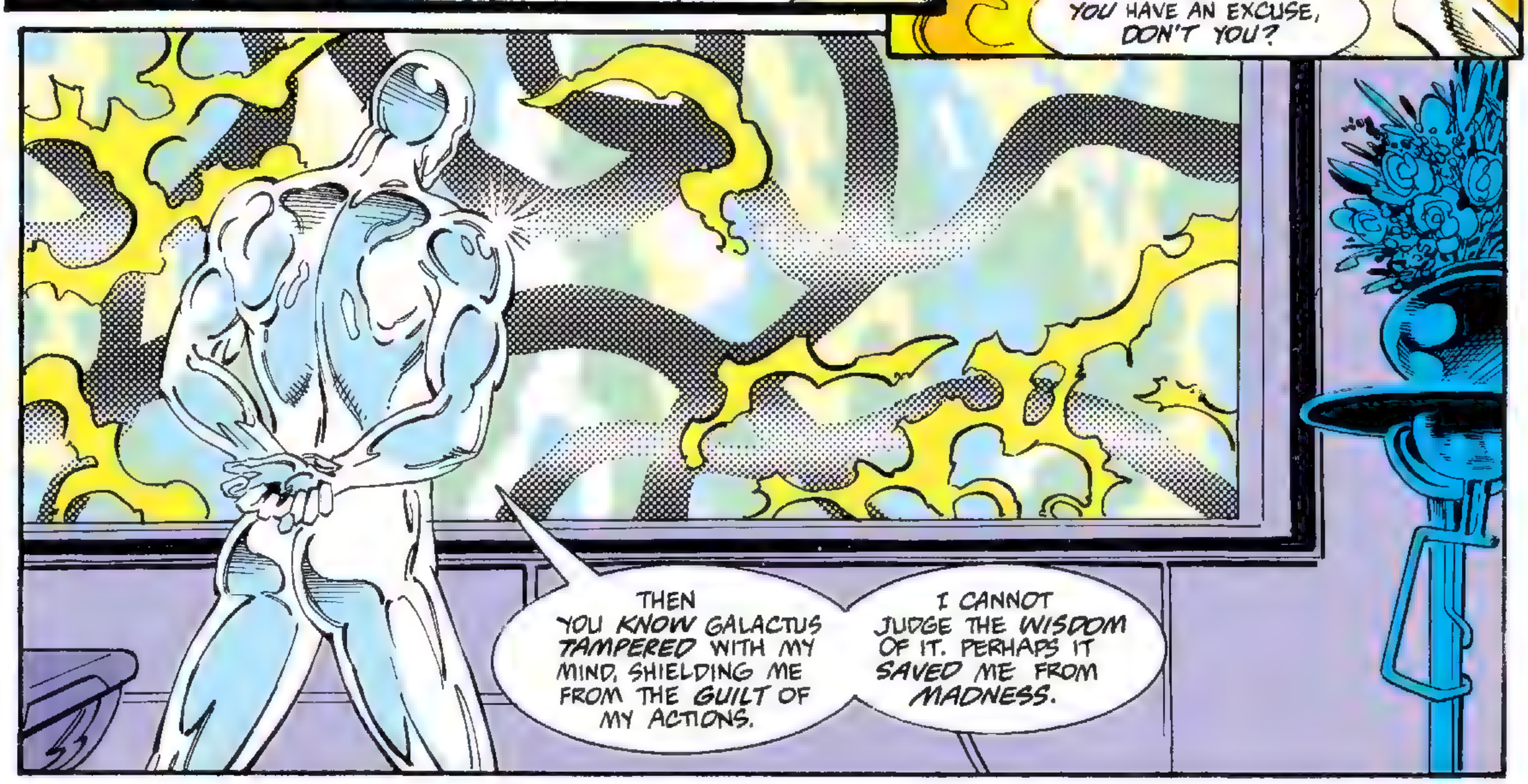

"I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE A GRAND ADVENTURE. BUT...I WAS JUST A SERVANT.
"GALACTUS IS SO FAR BEYOND US...WE MIGHT AS WELL BE INSECTS. HE'S NEVER SHOWN ME THE SLIGHTEST KINDNESS.
"THE ONLY THING THAT CONCERNS HIM IS MY OBEDIENCE.
"MY SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH PLANETS TO CONSUME. MAKE SURE HIS ENERGY SUPPLY NEVER DRIES UP.
"YOU KNOW, WHEN I BECAME HERALD, I SAID I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT OTHER CIVILIZATIONS AS LONG AS EARTH WAS SPARED.
"THAT WAS BEFORE I EXPERIENCED THEM, BEFORE I KNEW HOW VALUABLE AND BEAUTIFUL THEY WERE.
"NONE OF THAT MATTERS TO GALACTUS.
"IT'S BENEATH HIS NOTICE. BUT I CAN'T AVOID IT.
"I'VE BEEN AN ACCOMPLICE TO GENOCIDE. I'M RESPONSIBLE...


...AND I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE.
I JUST CAN'T.


YOU MUSTN'T WEEP, NOVA.
WHAT IS ALREADY DONE CANNOT BE CHANGED. I'VE WASTED ANGUISHED YEARS TRYING TO RECONCILE MY DEEDS.


IT WAS FUTILE. YOU CANNOT HEAP THE BLAME UPON YOURSELF.
YES!
I CAN!

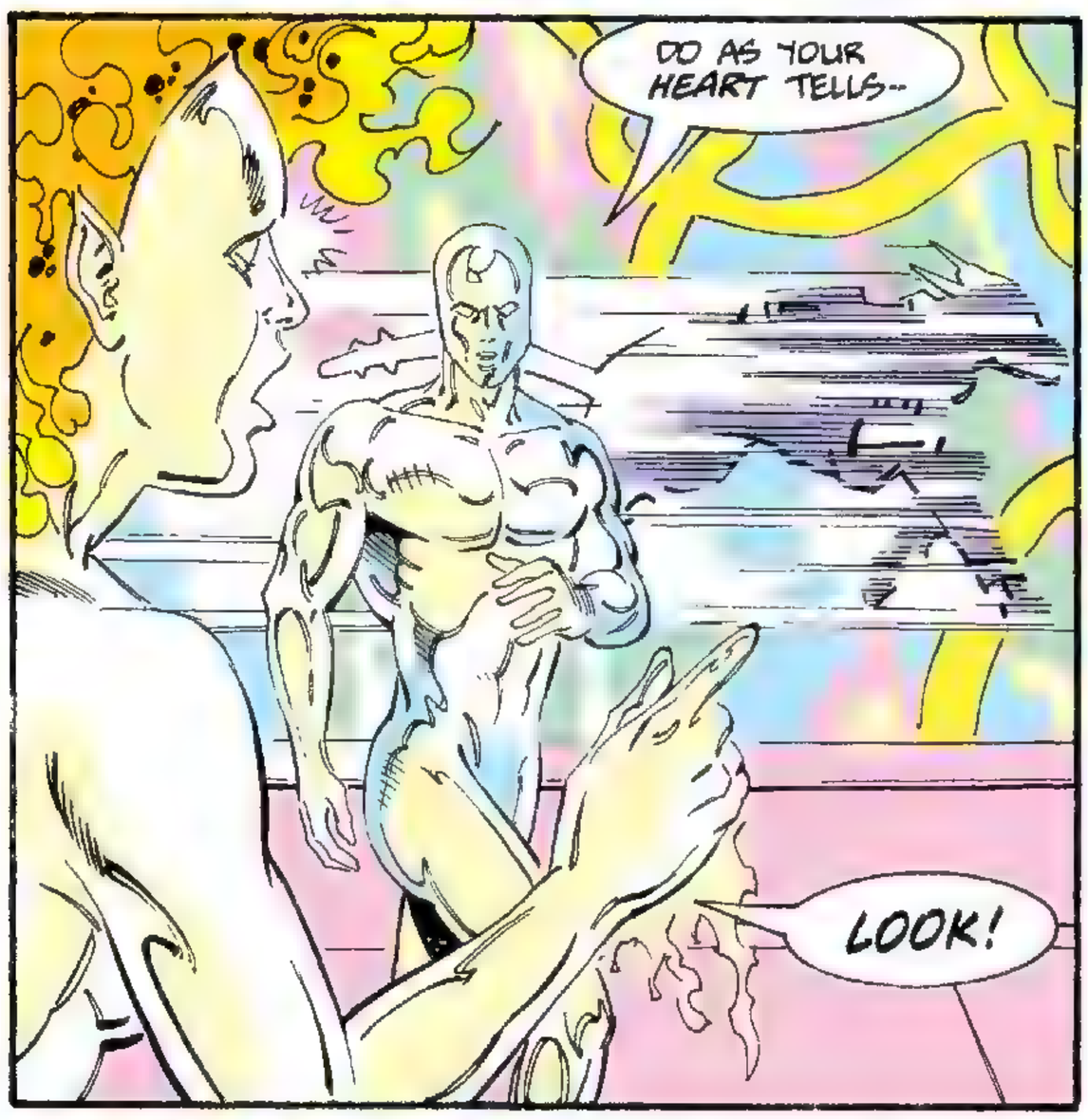
AND YOU KNOW IT.
AT LEAST YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE, DON'T YOU?


THEN YOU KNOW GALACTUS TAMPERED WITH MY MIND, SHIELDING ME FROM THE GUILT OF MY ACTIONS.
I CANNOT JUDGE THE WISDOM OF IT. PERHAPS IT SAVED ME FROM MADNESS.

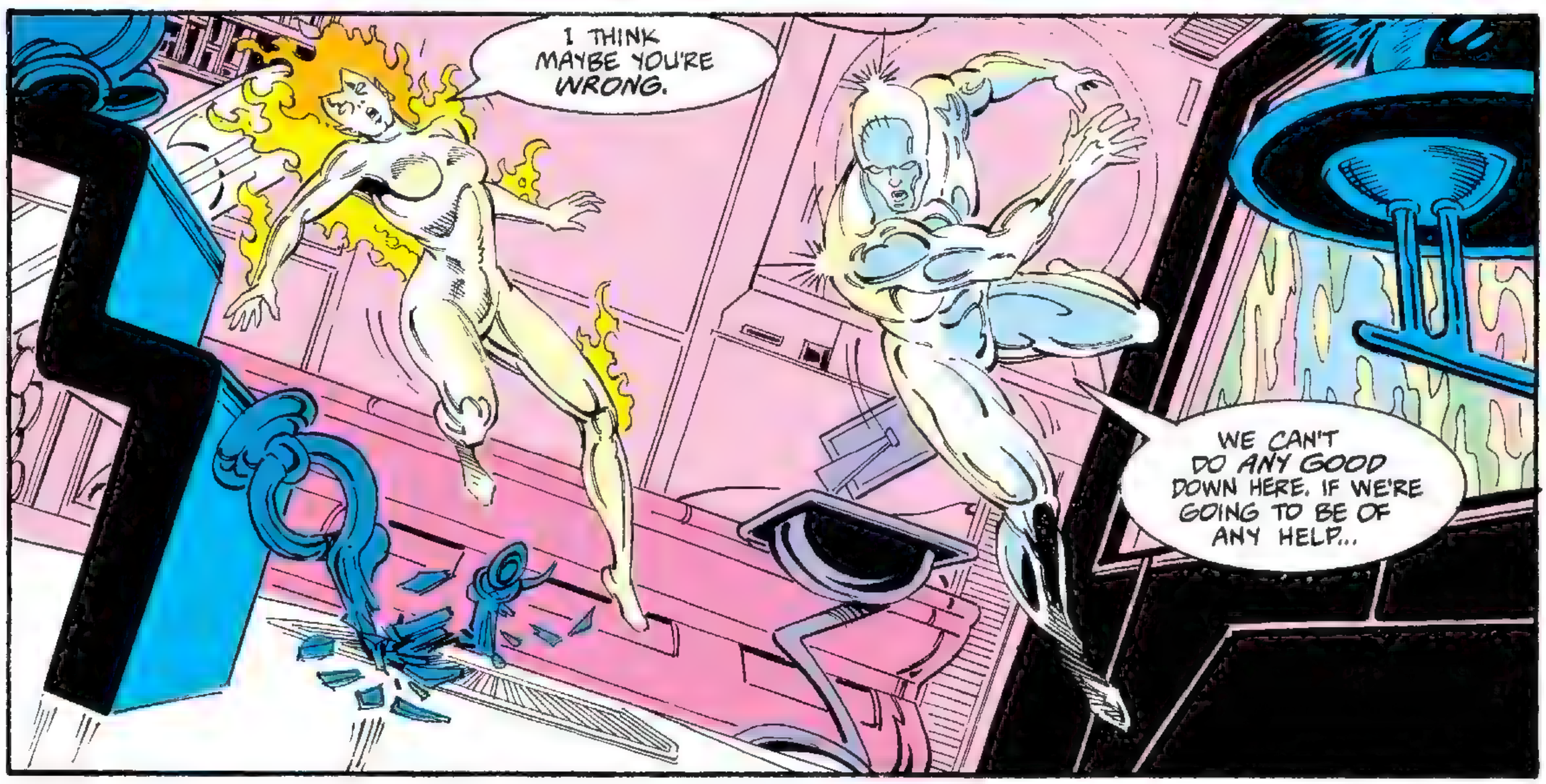
EVEN SO, THE REPERCUSSIONS WERE GREAT. I SUFFERED UNTIL I MADE MY PEACE.
YOU MUST DO THE SAME.

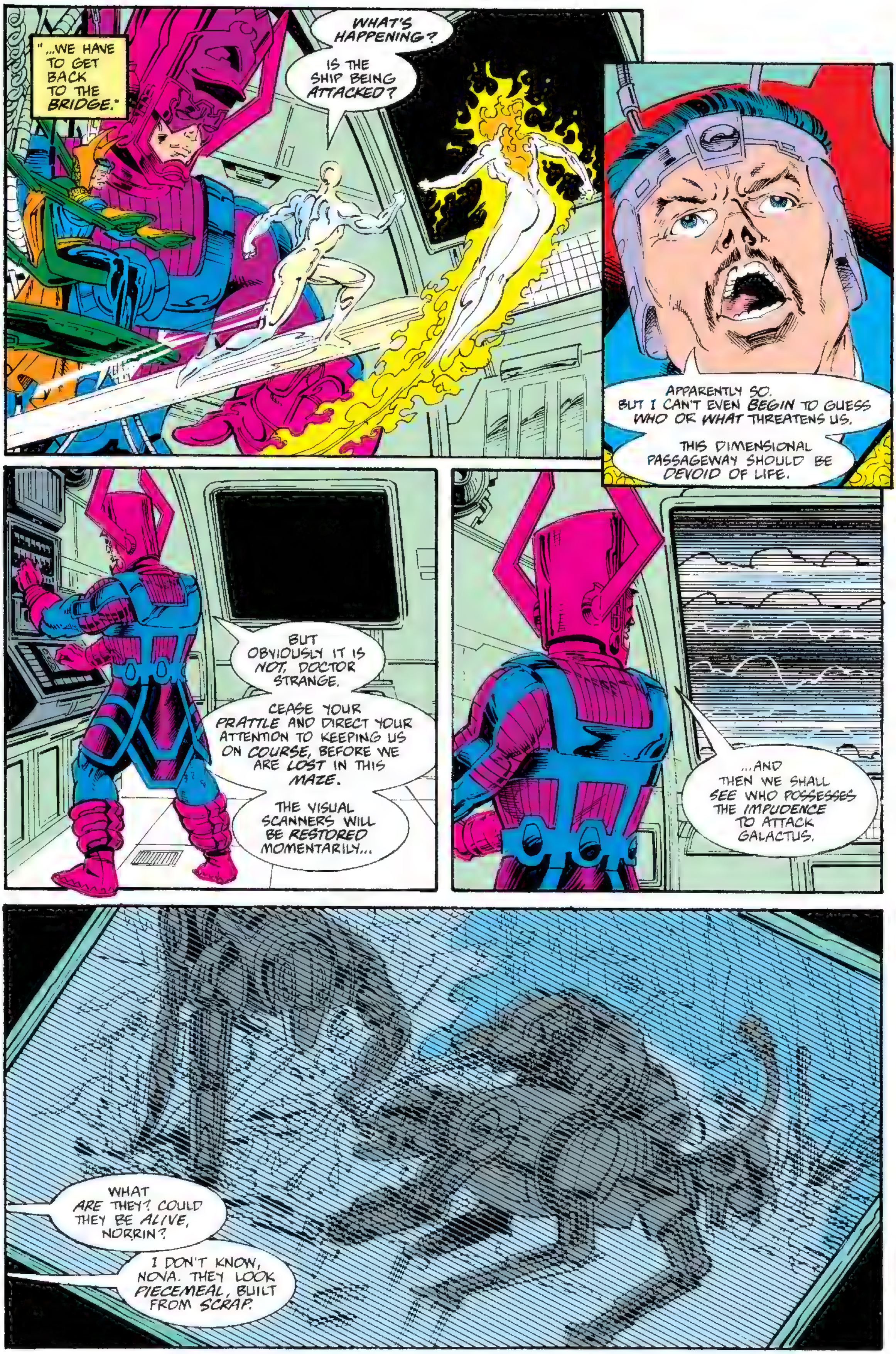
AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? HOW DO I RECONCILE MYSELF TO WHAT I'VE DONE?

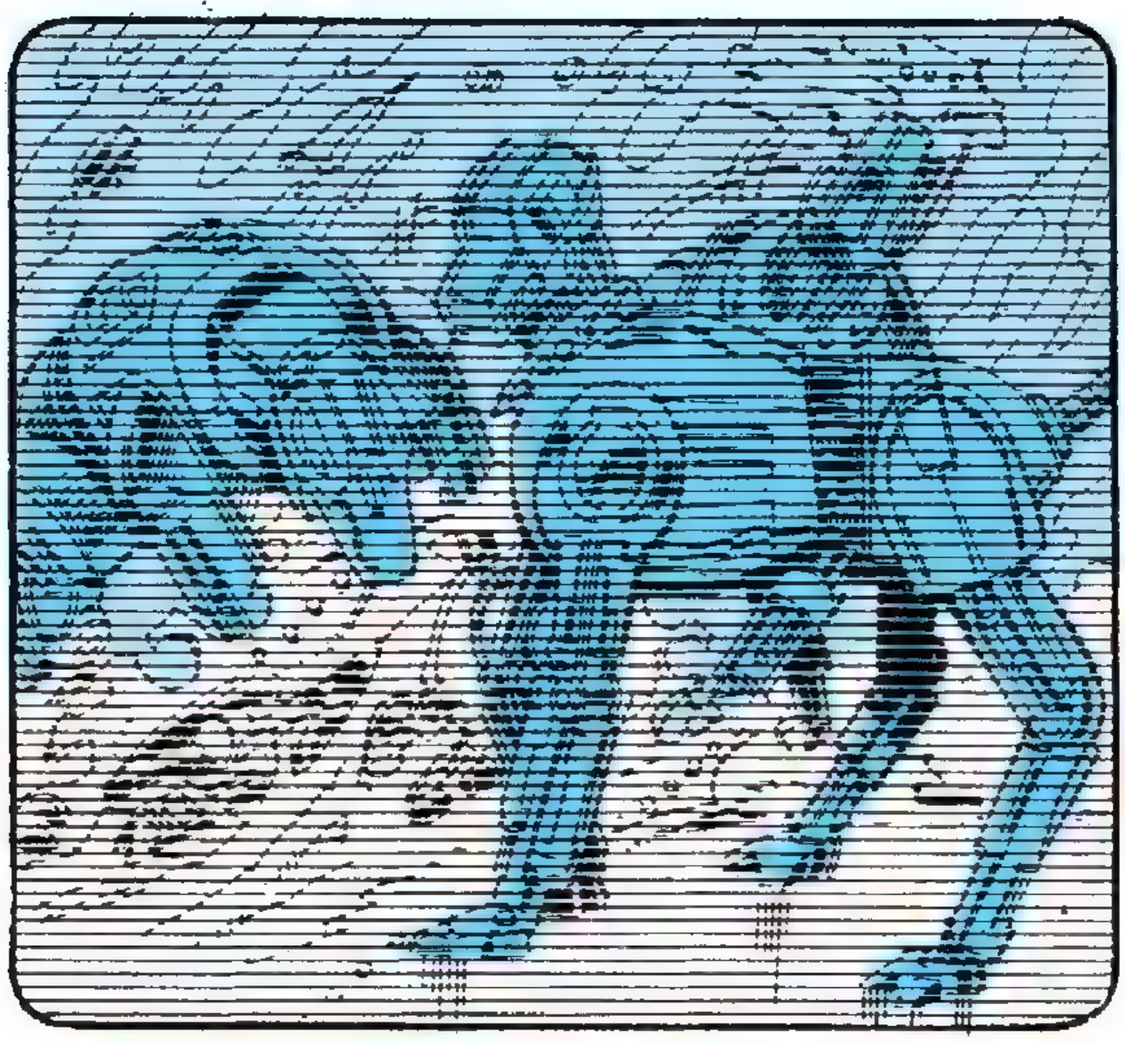
I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT TO DO. YOU MUST FOLLOW WHERE YOUR CONSCIENCE LEADS.

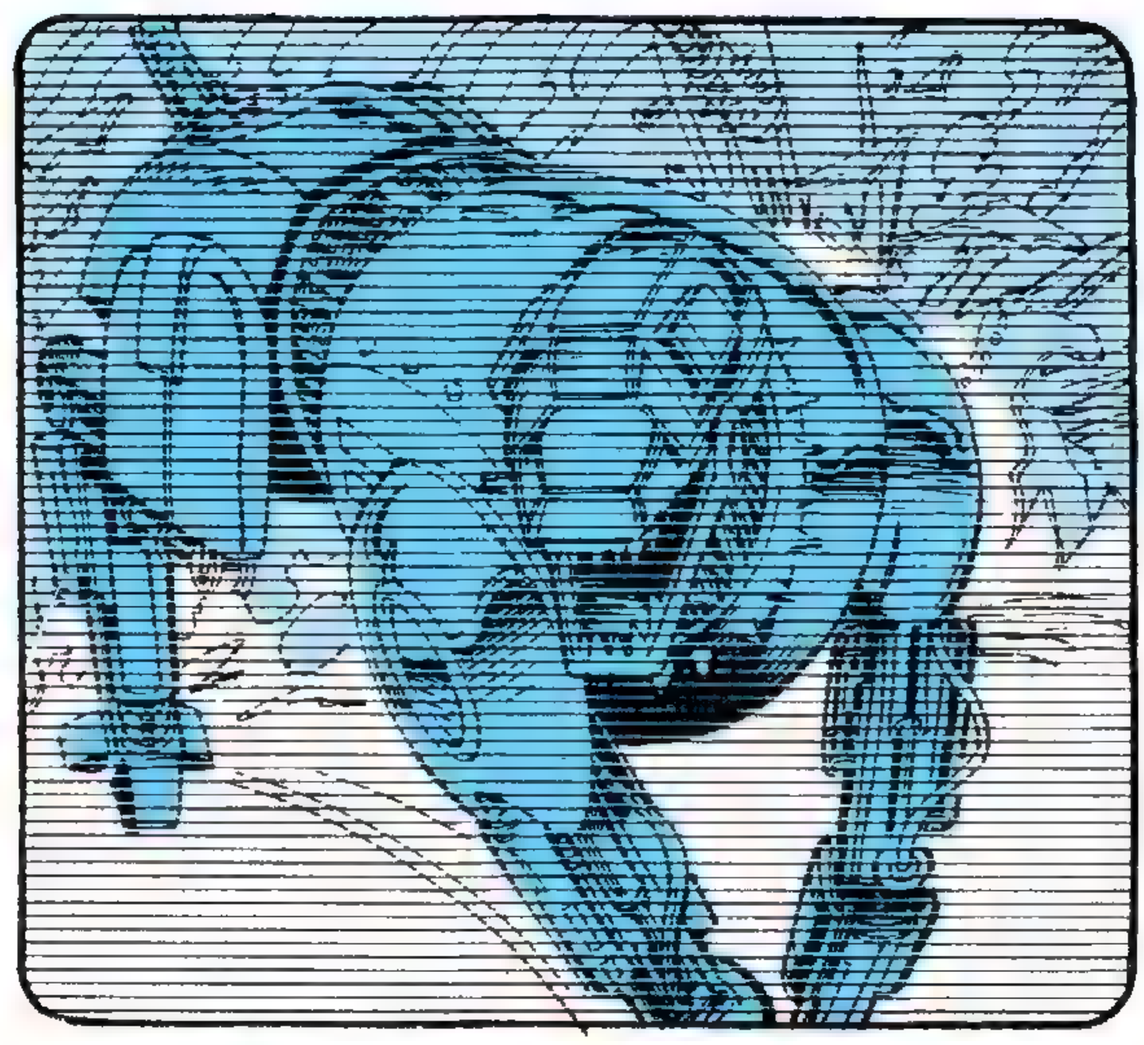

DO AS YOUR HEART TELLS--
LOOK!

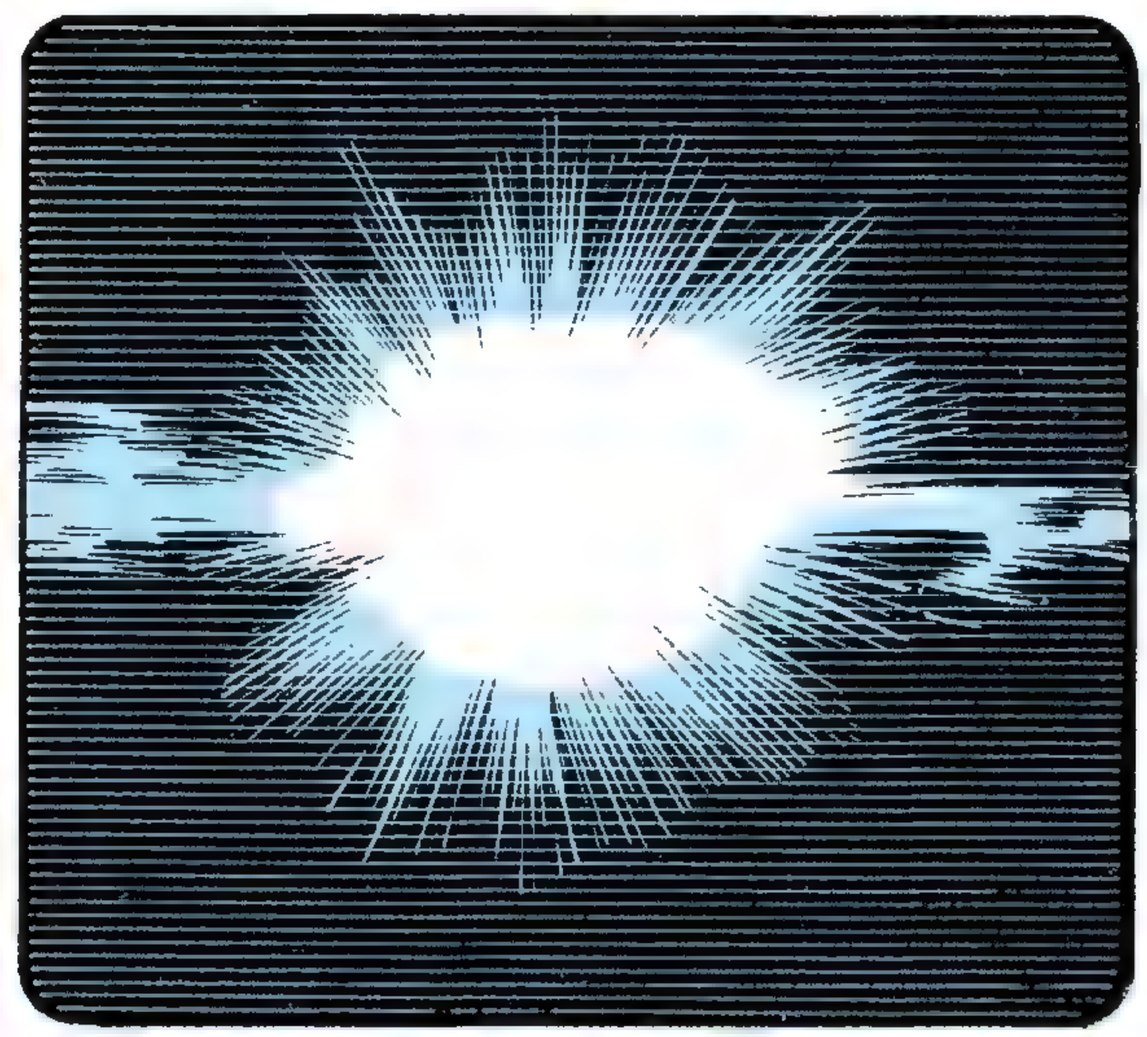
WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU SEE?
SOMETHING WENT BY THE WINDOW. I DON'T KNOW...IT WAS MOVING TOO FAST!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING IN HERE WITH US.

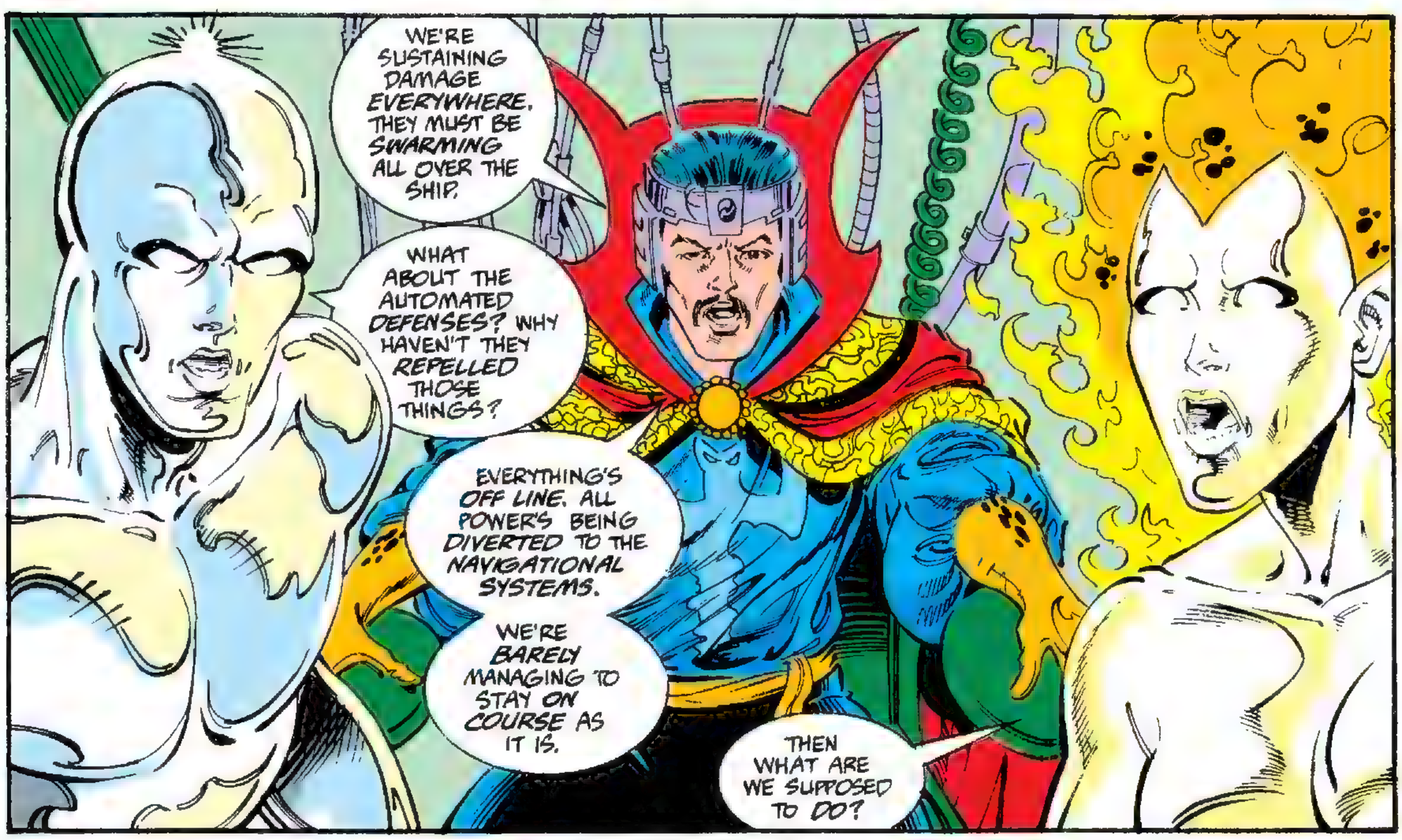

I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE WRONG.
WE CAN'T DO ANY GOOD DOWN HERE. IF WE'RE GOING TO BE OF ANY HELP...

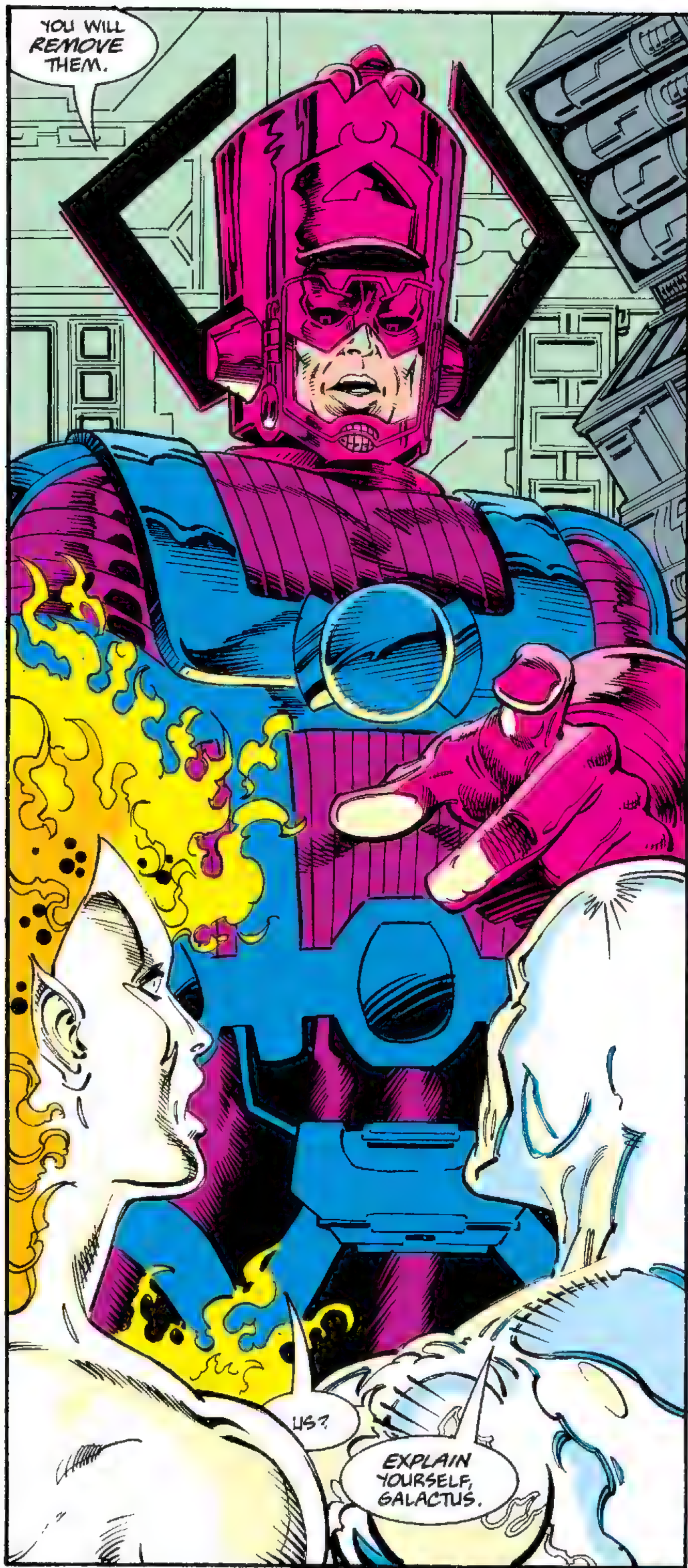

"...WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE BRIDGE."
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IS THE SHIP BEING ATTACKED?
APPARENTLY SO. BUT I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS WHO OR WHAT THREATENS US.
THIS DIMENSIONAL PASSAGEWAY SHOULD BE DEVOID OF LIFE.
BUT OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT, DOCTOR STRANGE.
CEASE YOUR PRATTLE AND DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO KEEPING US ON COURSE, BEFORE WE ARE LOST IN THIS MAZE.
THE VISUAL SCANNERS WILL BE RESTORED MOMENTARILY...
...AND THEN WE SHALL SEE WHO POSSESSES THE IMPUDENCE TO ATTACK GALACTUS.
WHAT ARE THEY? COULD THEY BE ALIVE, NORRIN?
I DON'T KNOW, NOVA. THEY LOOK PIECEMEAL, BUILT FROM SCRAP.



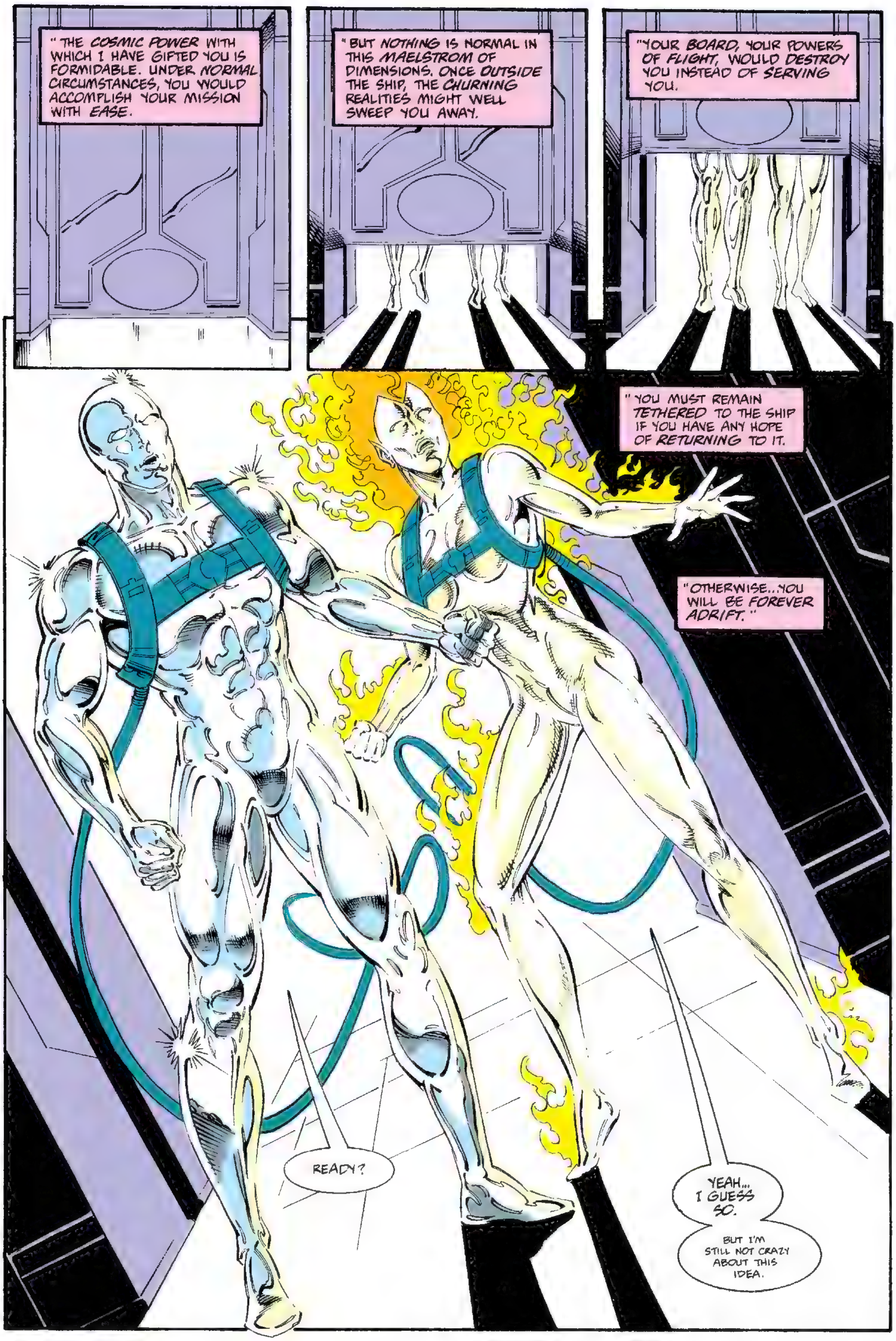


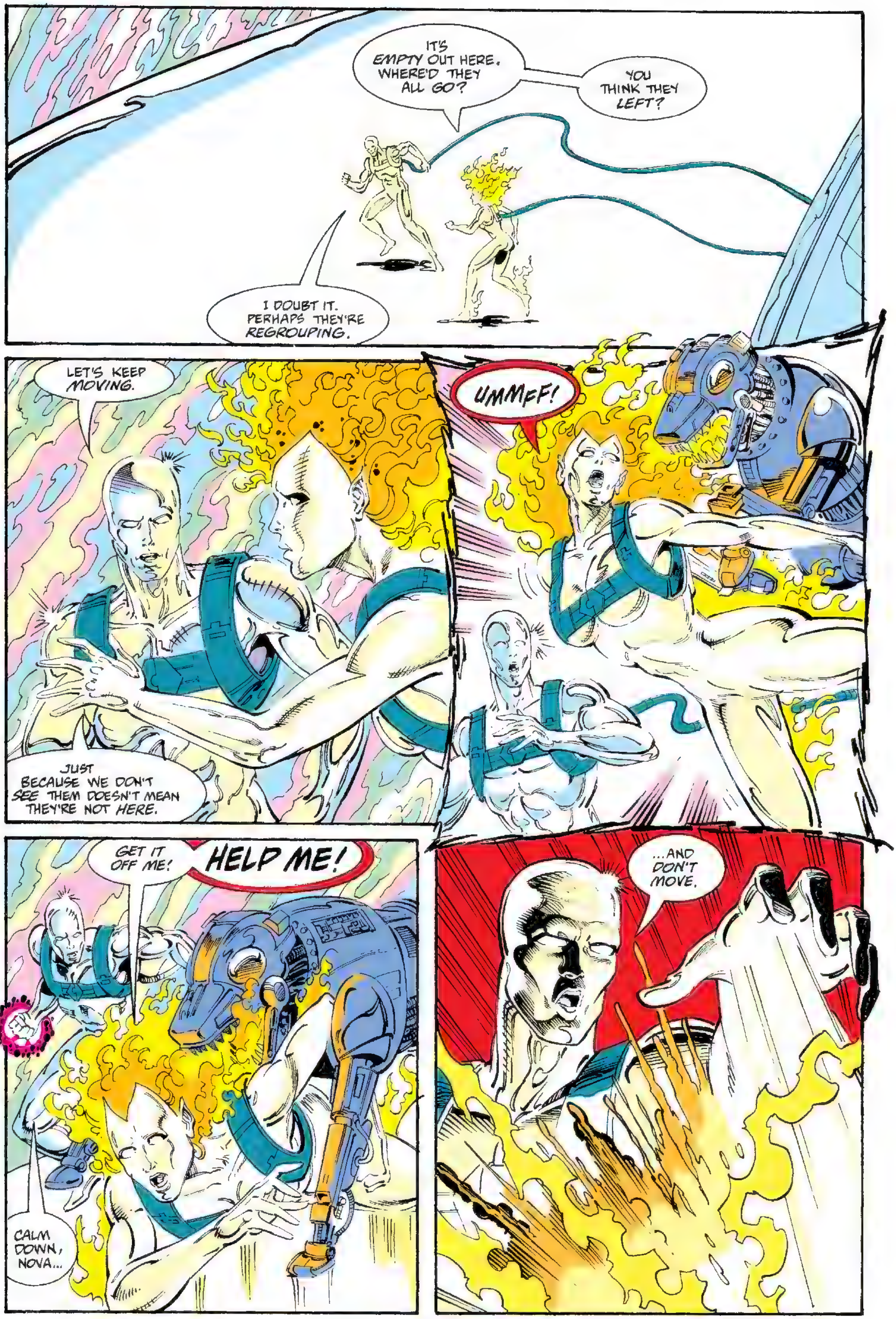



WE'RE SUSTAINING DAMAGE EVERYWHERE. THEY MUST BE SWARMING ALL OVER THE SHIP.
WHAT ABOUT THE AUTOMATED DEFENSES? WHY HAVEN'T THEY REPELLED THOSE THINGS?
EVERYTHING'S OFF LINE. ALL POWER'S BEING DIVERTED TO THE NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS.
WE'RE BARELY MANAGING TO STAY ON COURSE AS IT IS.
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?


YOU WILL REMOVE THEM.
US?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, GALACTUS.

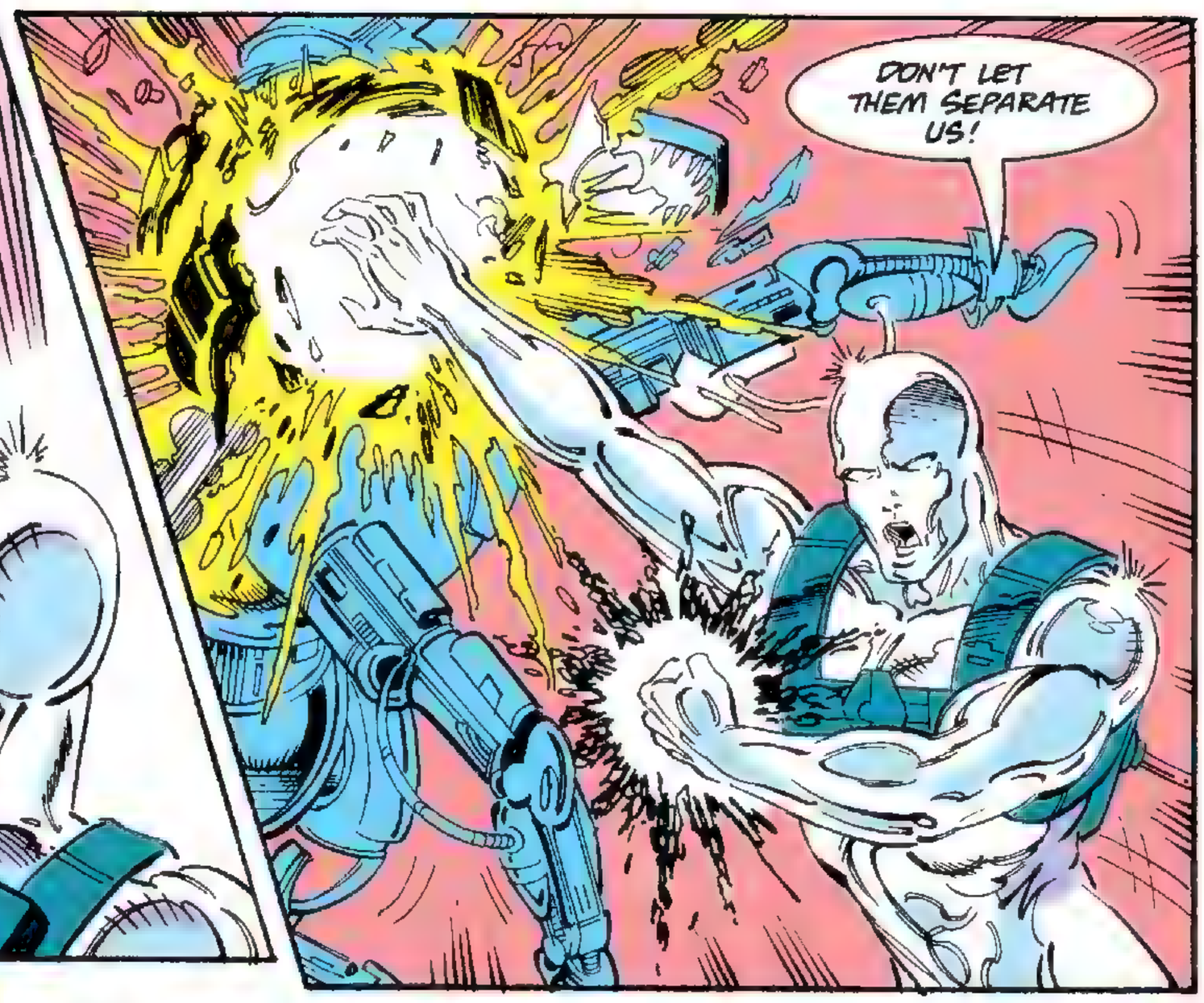
THE SHIP CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF BECAUSE ALL ITS ENERGY IS BEING UTILIZED TO OFFSET THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THOSE CONSTRUCTS.
IF THEY ARE NOT STOPPED, THE SHIP WILL BE CRIPPLED, AND THIS MAZE OF REALITIES WILL SWALLOW US.
STRANGE AND I MUST REMAIN HERE AND MAINTAIN OUR COURSE. SO THE TASK FALLS TO YOU.
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
HE'S RIGHT, ISN'T HE?
I'M AFRAID SO.
VERY WELL, GALACTUS. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?


"THE COSMIC POWER WITH WHICH I HAVE GIFTED YOU IS FORMIDABLE. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU WOULD ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION WITH EASE.
"BUT NOTHING IS NORMAL IN THIS MAELSTROM OF DIMENSIONS. ONCE OUTSIDE THE SHIP, THE CHURNING REALITIES MIGHT WELL SWEEP YOU AWAY.
"YOUR BOARD, YOUR POWERS OF FLIGHT, WOULD DESTROY YOU INSTEAD OF SERVING YOU.
"YOU MUST REMAIN TETHERED TO THE SHIP IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF RETURNING TO IT.
"OTHERWISE...YOU WILL BE FOREVER ADRIFT."
READY?
YEAH... I GUESS SO.
BUT I'M STILL NOT CRAZY ABOUT THIS IDEA.

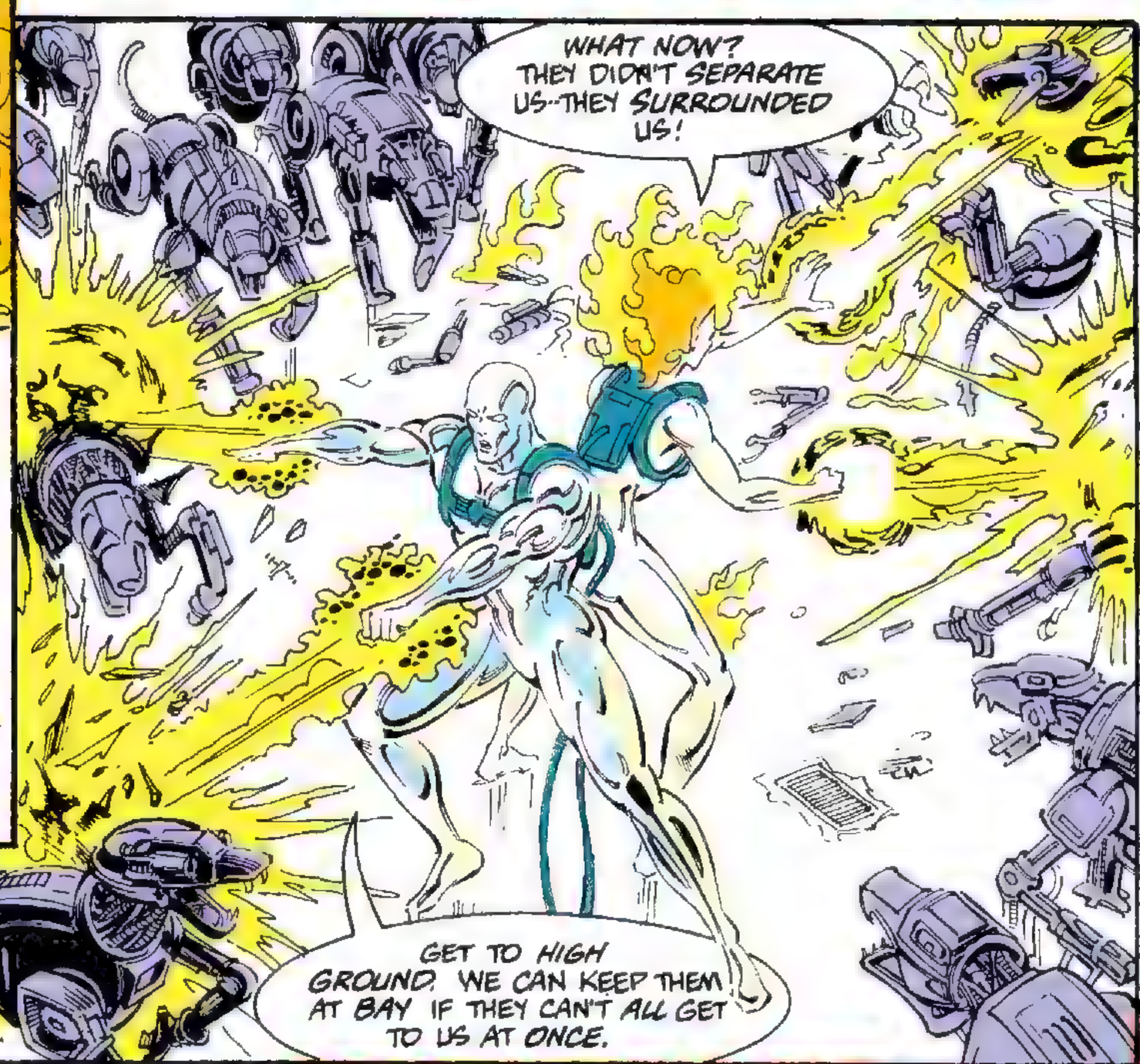

IT'S EMPTY OUT HERE. WHERE'D THEY ALL GO?
YOU THINK THEY LEFT?
I DOUBT IT. PERHAPS THEY'RE REGROUPING.
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T SEE THEM DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT HERE.
UMMFF!
GET IT OFF ME!
HELP ME!
CALM DOWN, NOVA...
...AND DON'T MOVE.

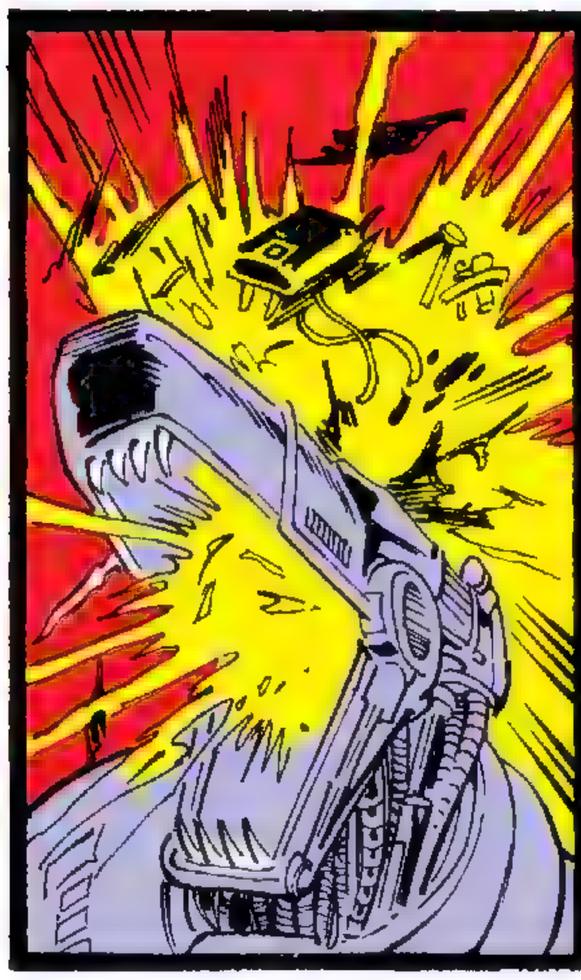
WHAT DO YOU MEAN STAY CALM?
STOP STRUGGLING! GIVE ME A CLEAR SHOT!
I GUESS I WASN'T EXPECTING...WELL, IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE, THAT'S ALL.
THANKS FOR BAILING ME OUT.
YOUR GRATITUDE MIGHT BE PREMATURE.
"I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY."

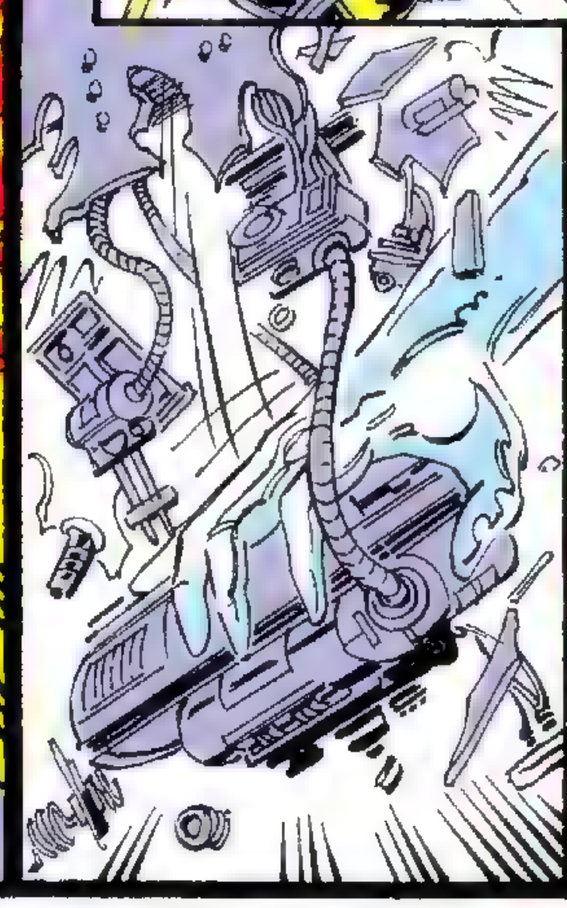
THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST! COMING IN FROM ALL SIDES!

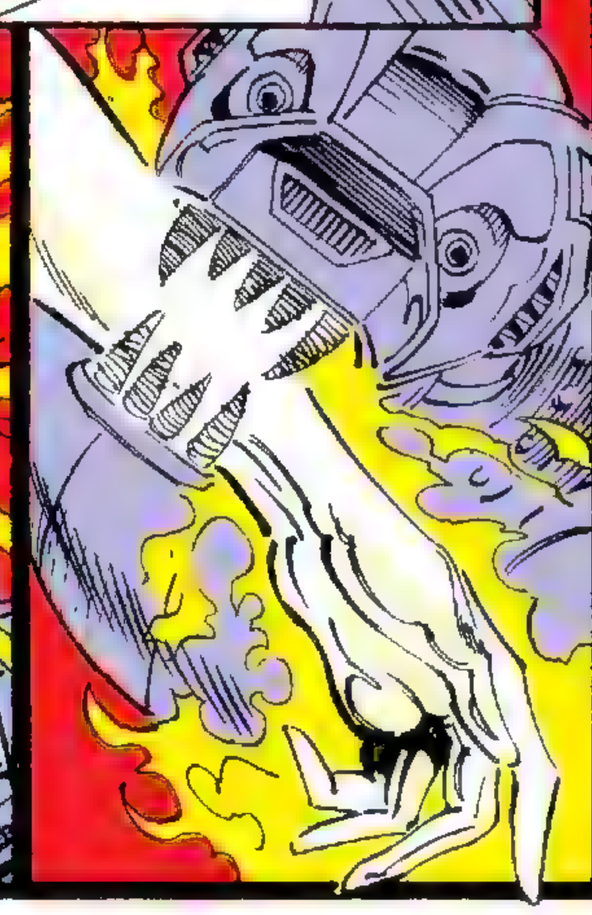

DON'T LET THEM SEPARATE US!

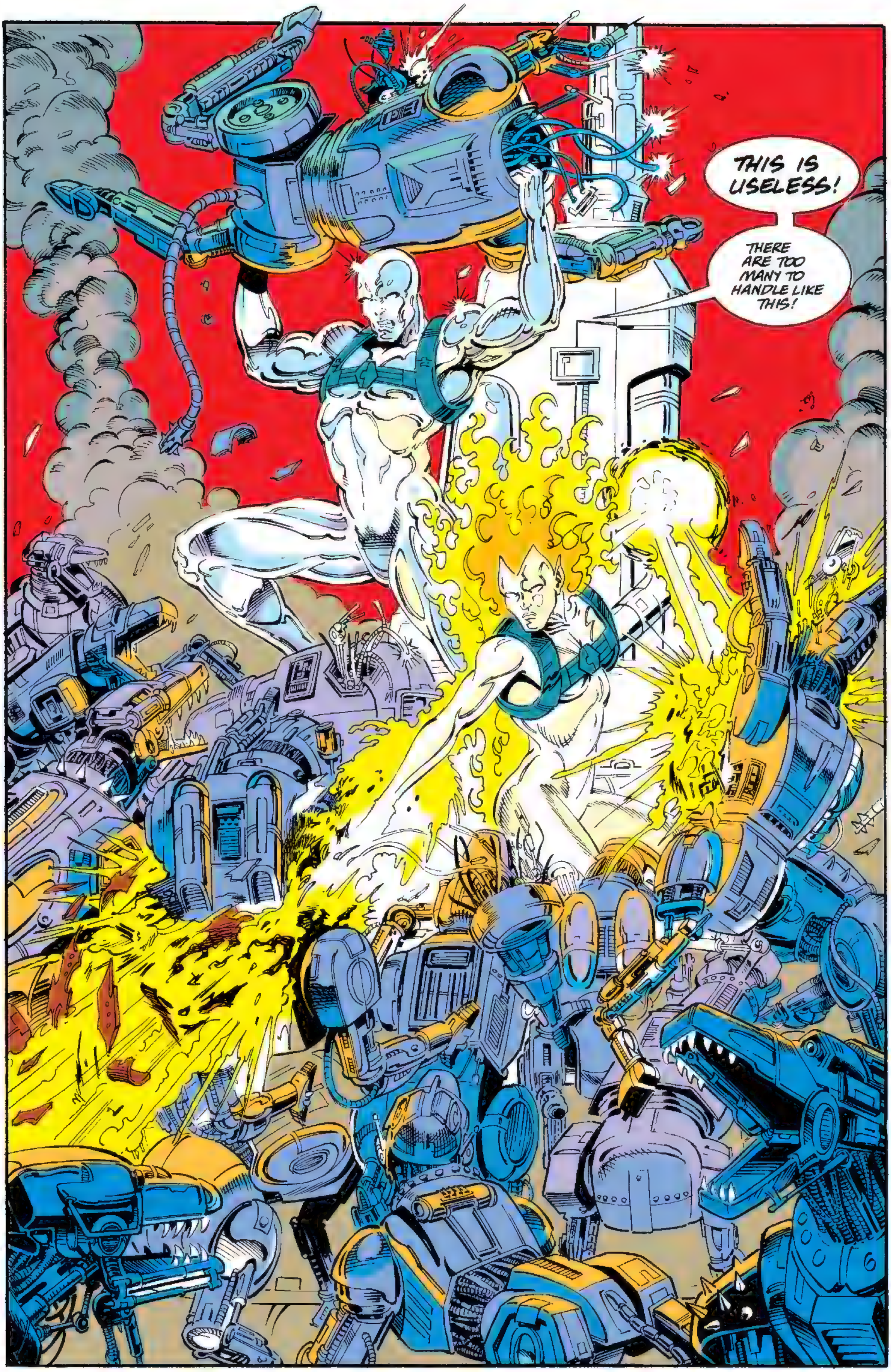
PUT YOUR BACK TO MINE!
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GIVING ANY MORE PIGGYBACK RIDES!

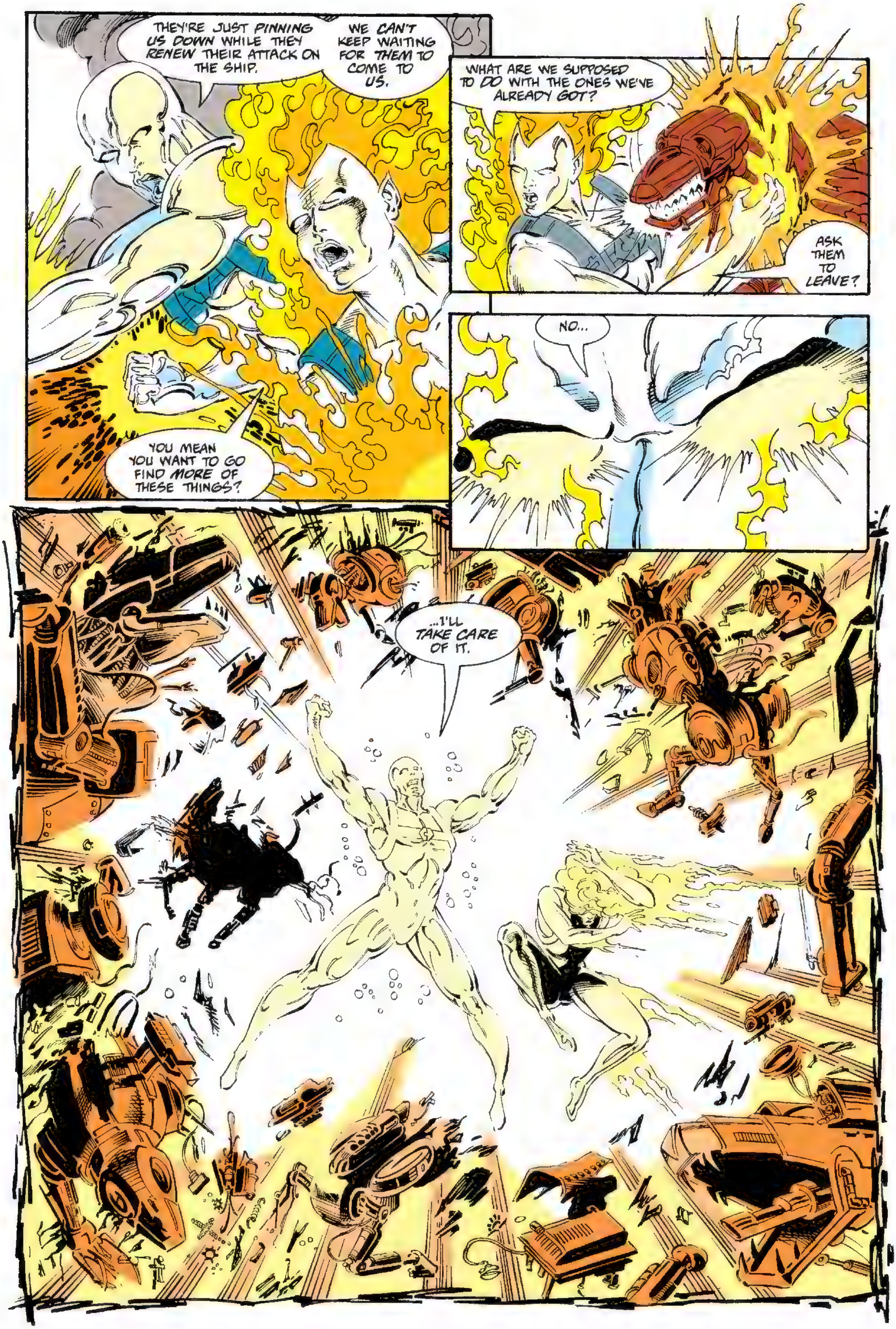

WHAT NOW? THEY DIDN'T SEPARATE US--THEY SURROUNDED US!
GET TO HIGH GROUND. WE CAN KEEP THEM AT BAY IF THEY CAN'T ALL GET TO US AT ONCE.

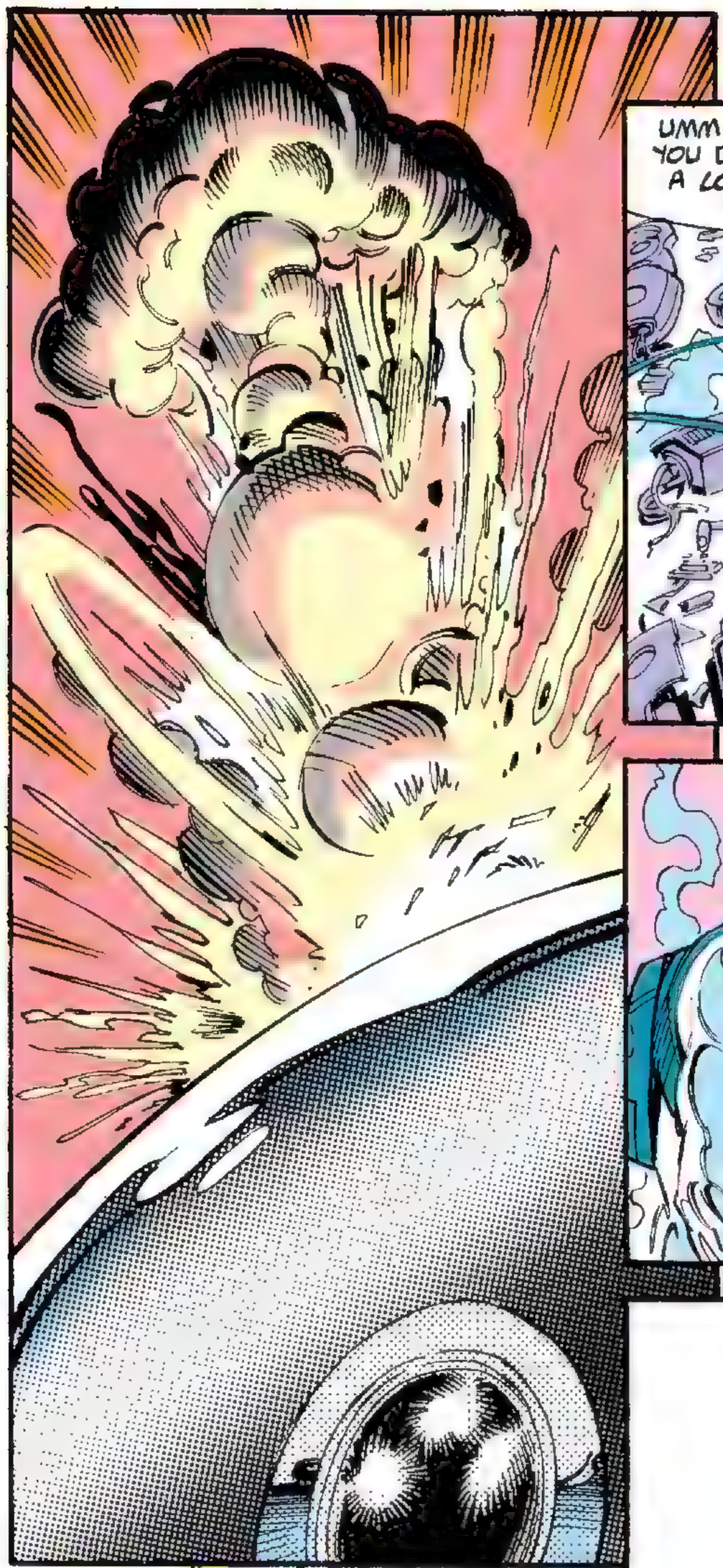


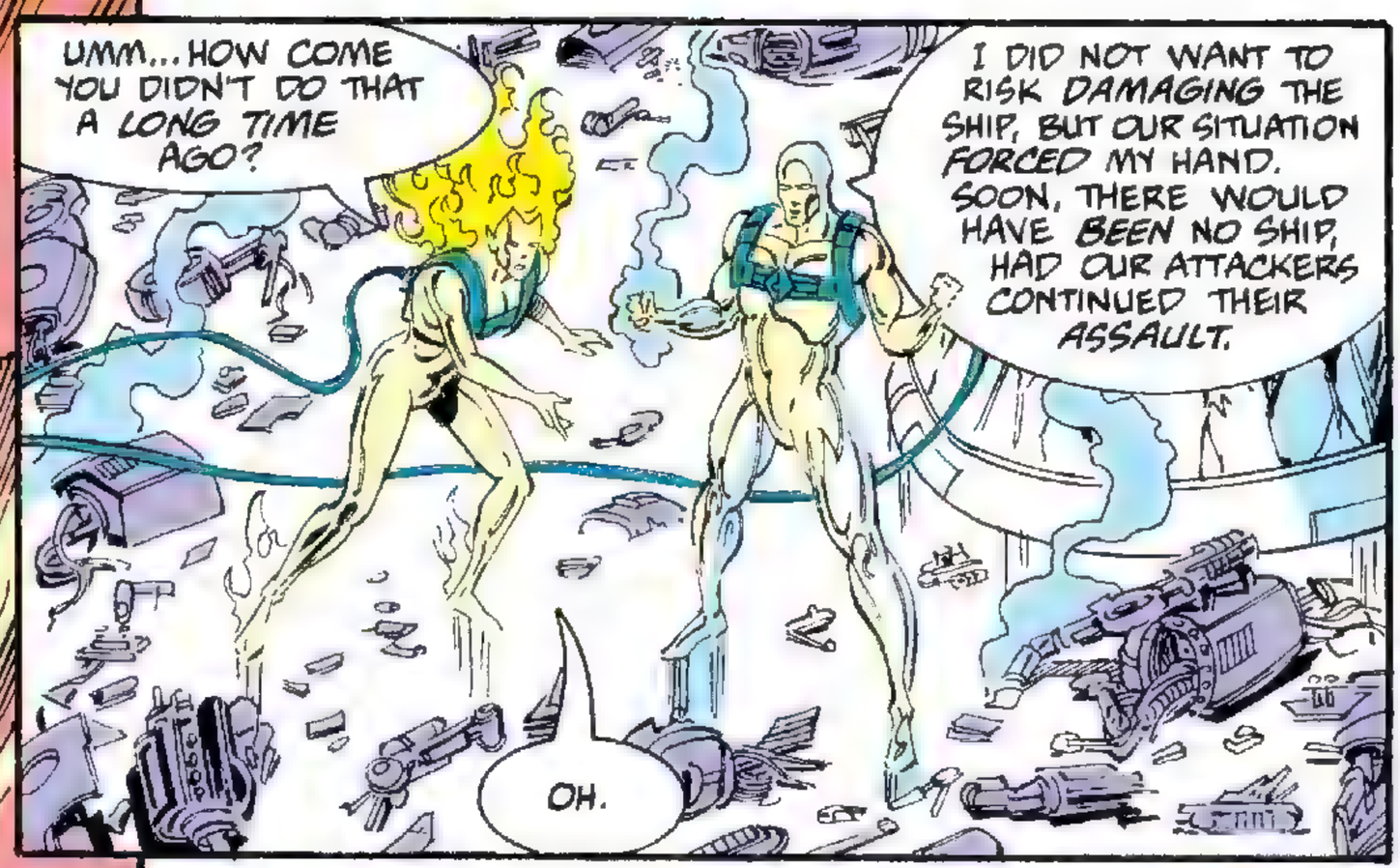




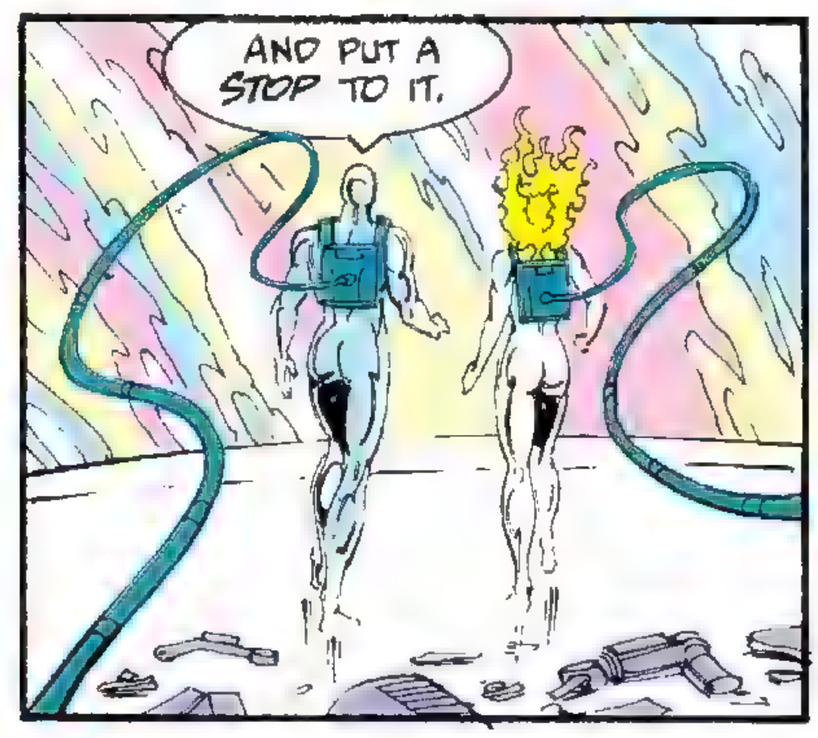

THIS IS USELESS!
THERE ARE TOO MANY TO HANDLE LIKE THIS!

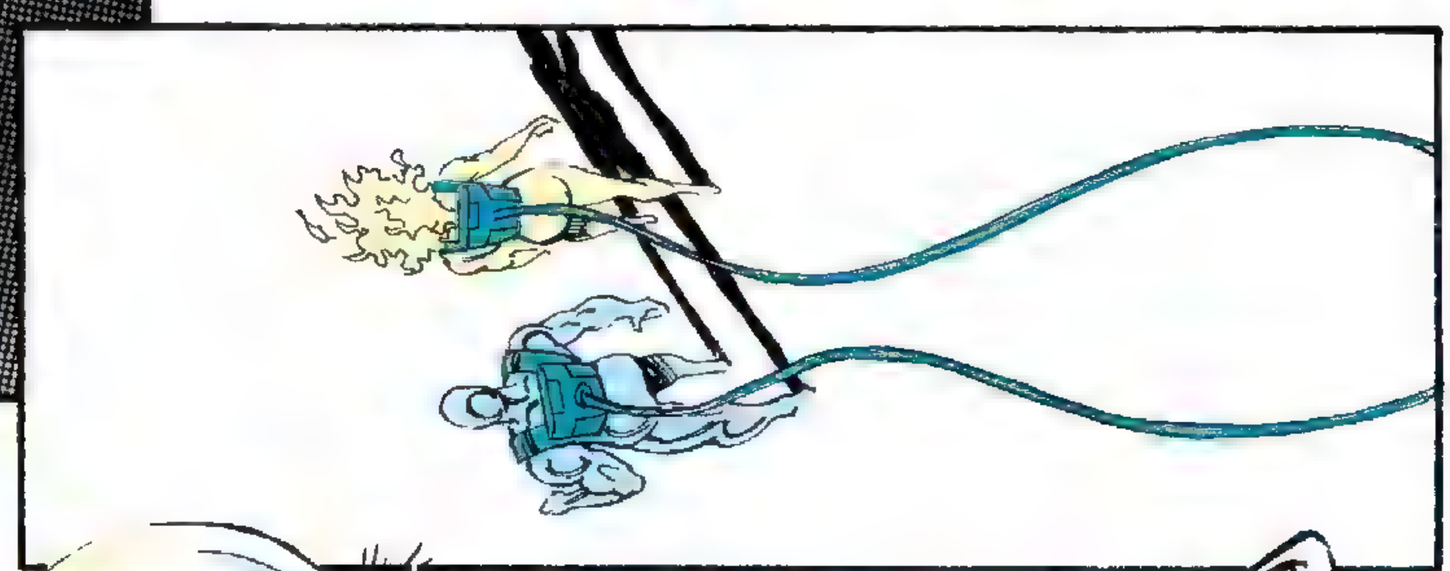

THEY'RE JUST PINNING US DOWN WHILE THEY RENEW THEIR ATTACK ON THE SHIP.
WE CAN'T KEEP WAITING FOR THEM TO COME TO US.
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO GO FIND MORE OF THESE THINGS?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE ONES WE'VE ALREADY GOT?
ASK THEM TO LEAVE?
NO...
...I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

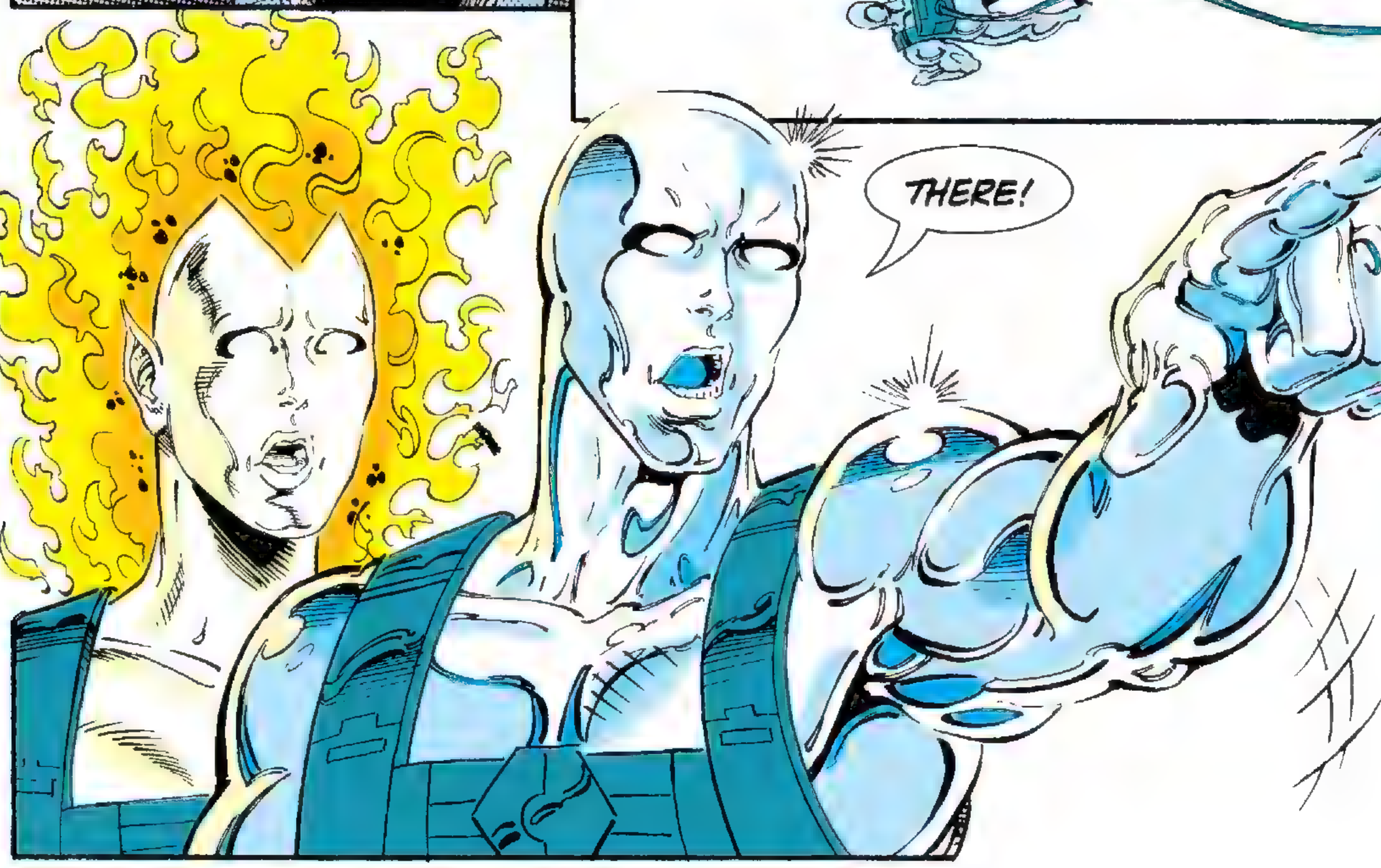


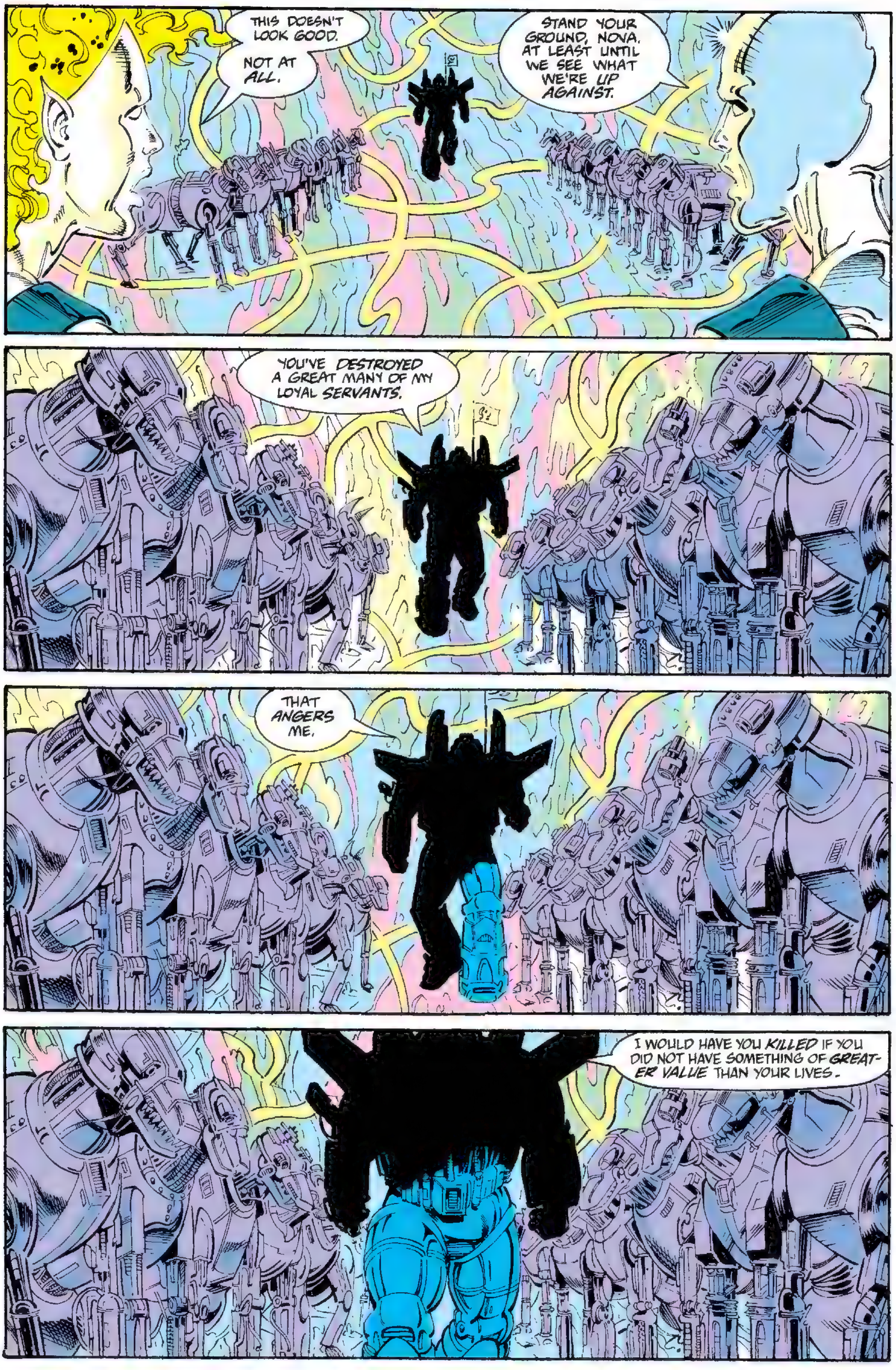

UMM... HOW COME YOU DIDN'T DO THAT A LONG TIME AGO?
I DID NOT WANT TO RISK DAMAGING THE SHIP, BUT OUR SITUATION FORCED MY HAND. SOON, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SHIP, HAD OUR ATTACKERS CONTINUED THEIR ASSAULT.
OH.

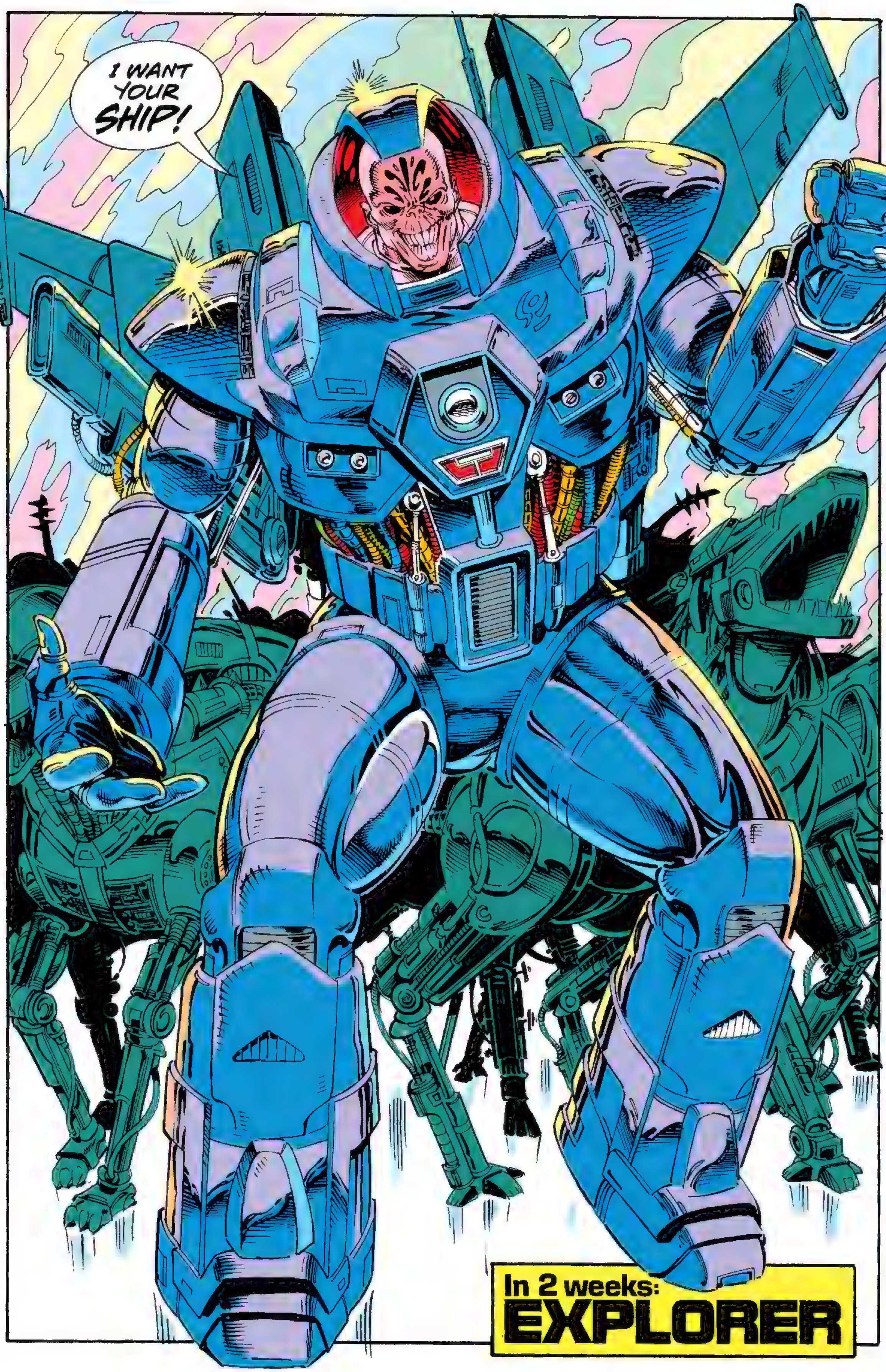
IT'S NOT FINISHED. WE STILL HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.


AND PUT A STOP TO IT.




THERE!


THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
NOT AT ALL.
STAND YOUR GROUND, NOVA. AT LEAST UNTIL WE SEE WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.
YOU'VE DESTROYED A GREAT MANY OF MY LOYAL SERVANTS.
THAT ANGERS ME.
I WOULD HAVE YOU KILLED IF YOU DID NOT HAVE SOMETHING OF GREATER VALUE THAN YOUR LIVES.


I WANT YOUR SHIP!
In 2 weeks:
EXPLORER

MARVEL COMICS
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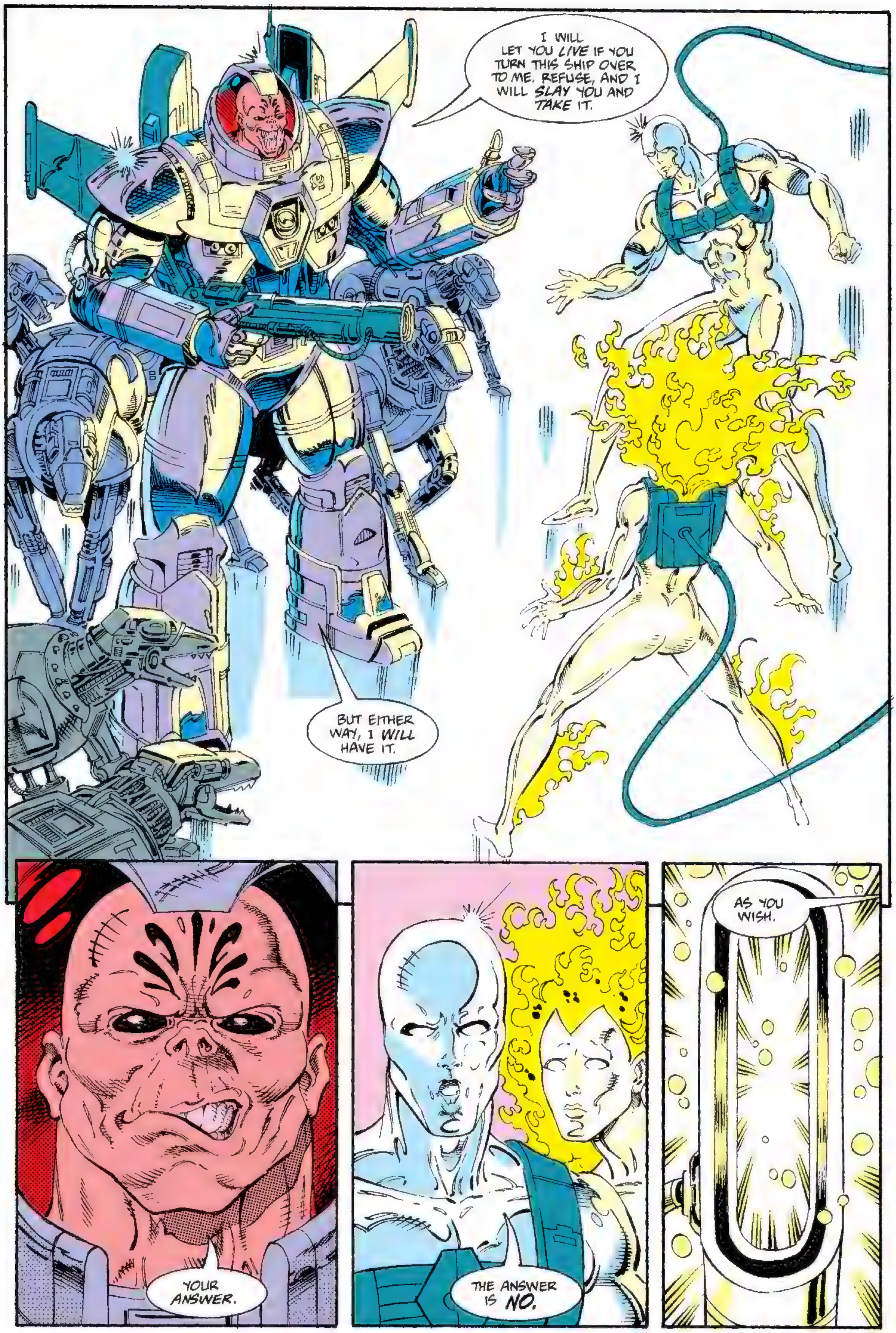
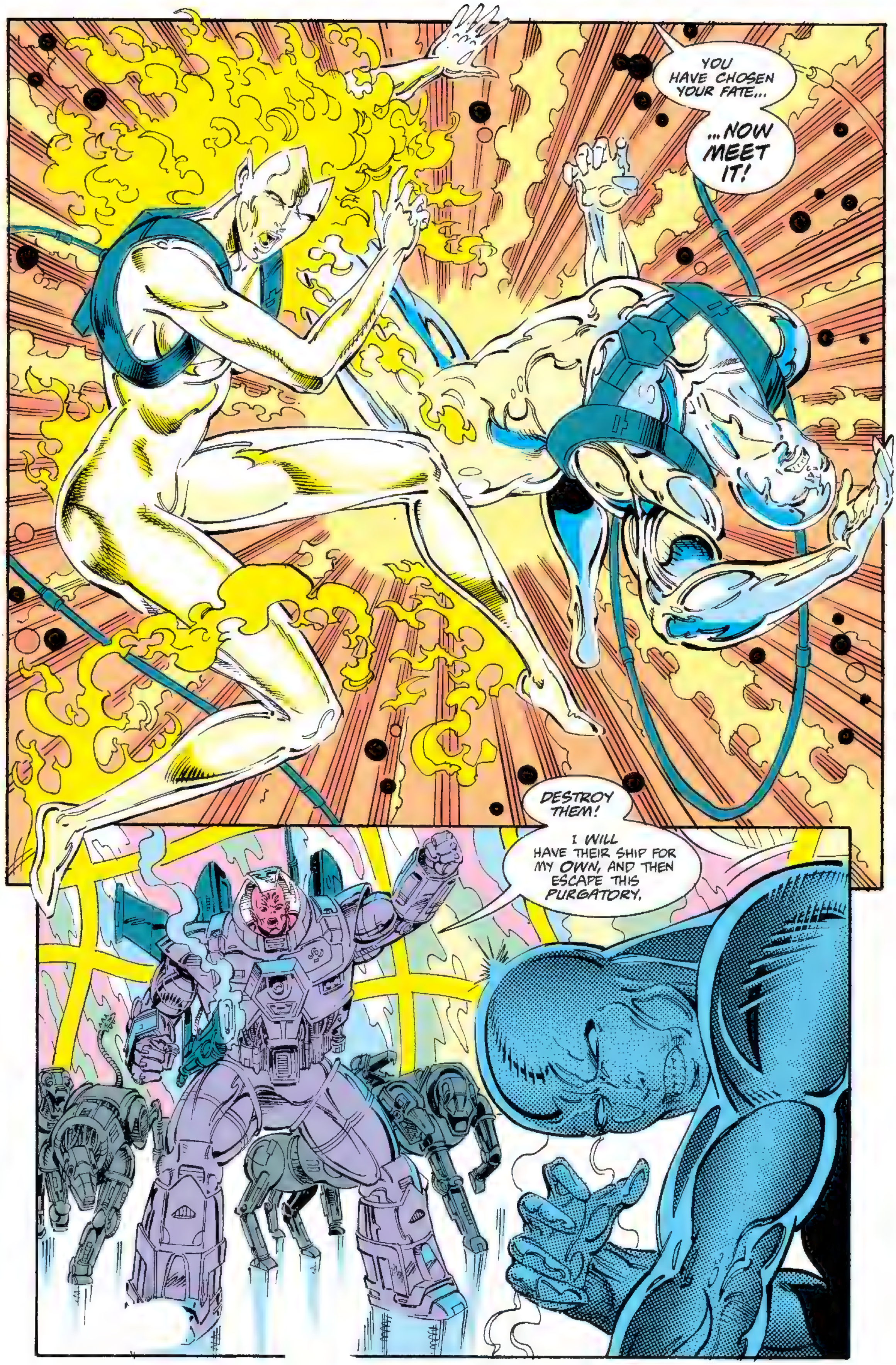
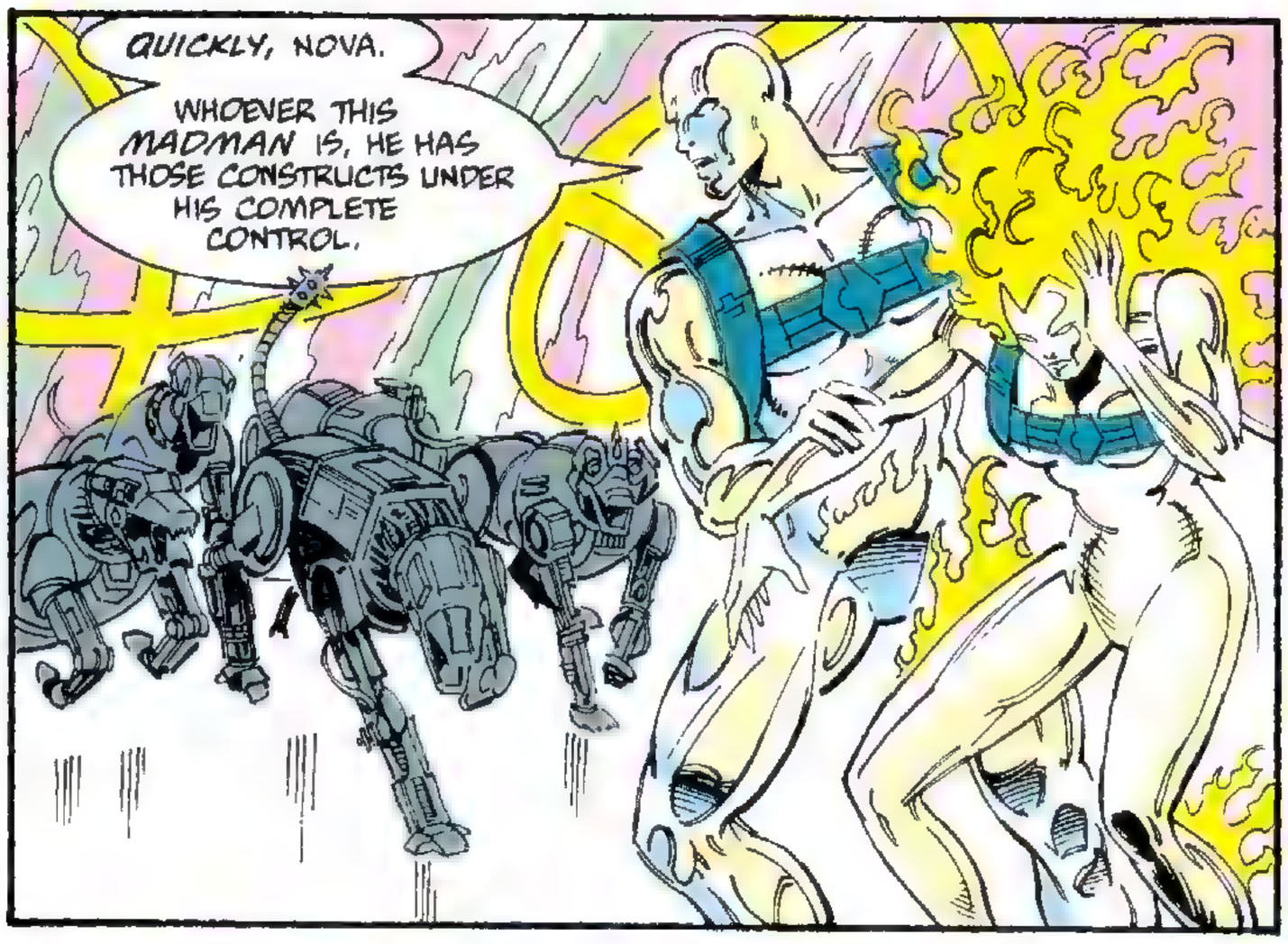
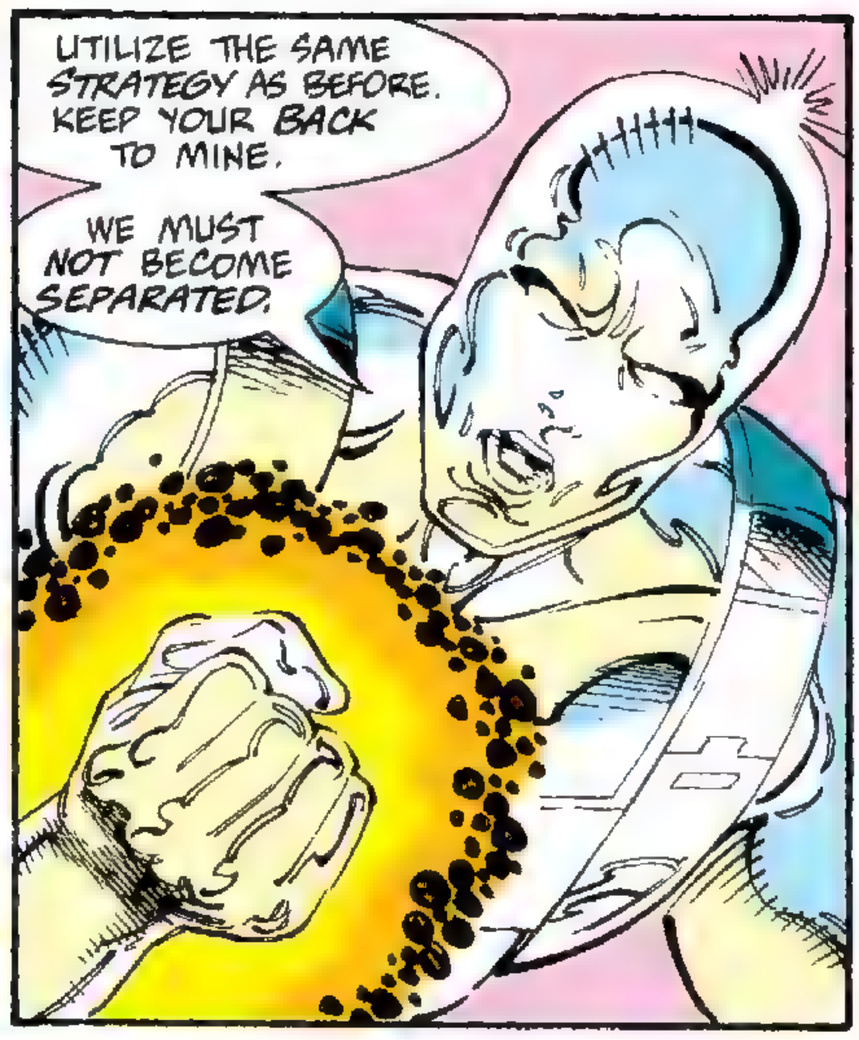
THE SILVER SURFER
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
IN THE CLUTCHES OF KHOON
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

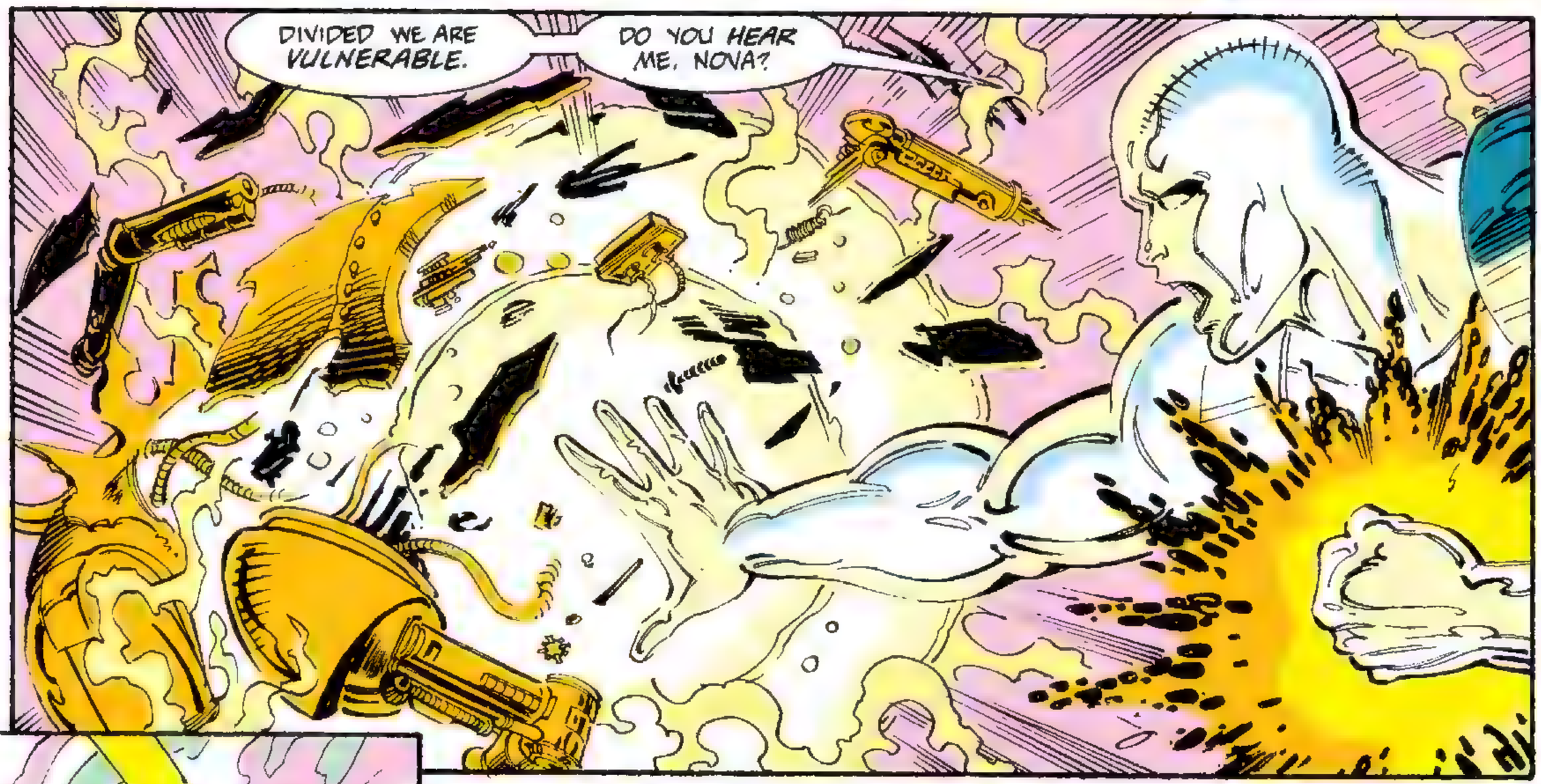
TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE. A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**


I WILL LET YOU LIVE IF YOU TURN THIS SHIP OVER TO ME. REFUSE, AND I WILL SLAY YOU AND TAKE IT.
BUT EITHER WAY, I WILL HAVE IT.
YOUR ANSWER.
THE ANSWER IS NO.
AS YOU WISH.

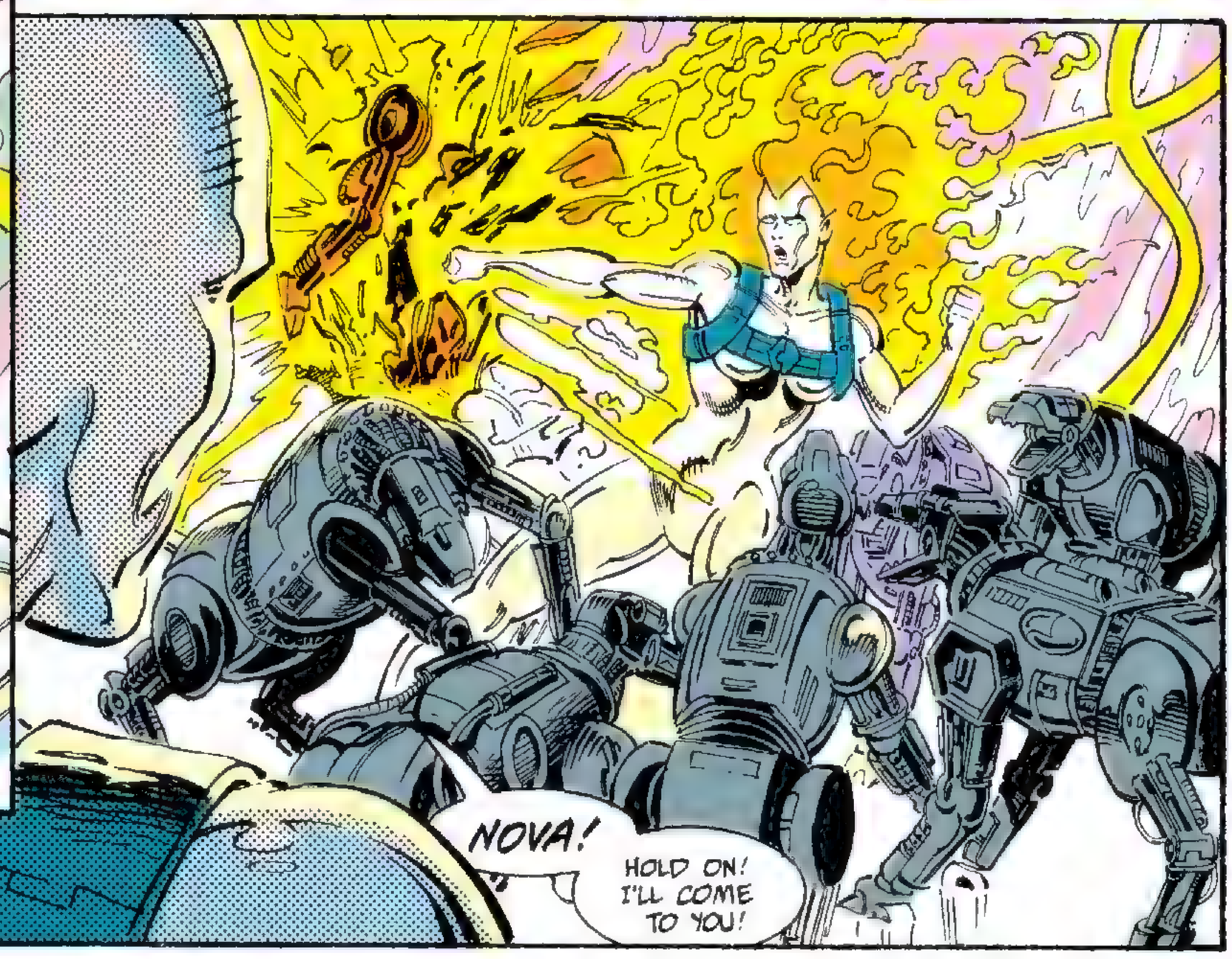

YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR FATE...
...NOW MEET IT!
DESTROY THEM!
I WILL HAVE THEIR SHIP FOR MY OWN, AND THEN ESCAPE THIS PURGATORY.

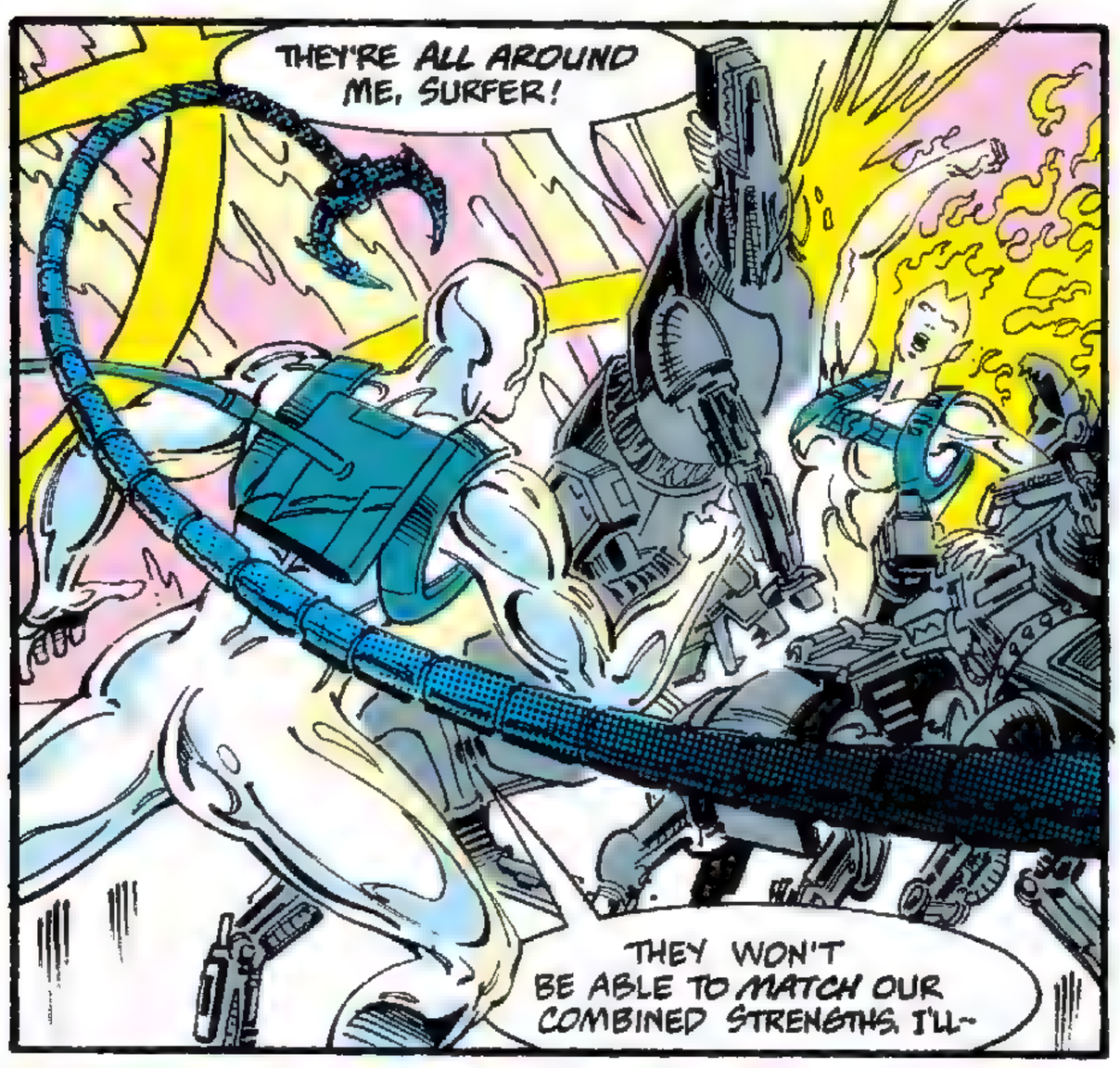

QUICKLY, NOVA.
WHOEVER THIS MADMAN IS, HE HAS THOSE CONSTRUCTS UNDER HIS COMPLETE CONTROL.


UTILIZE THE SAME STRATEGY AS BEFORE. KEEP YOUR BACK TO MINE.
WE MUST NOT BECOME SEPARATED.

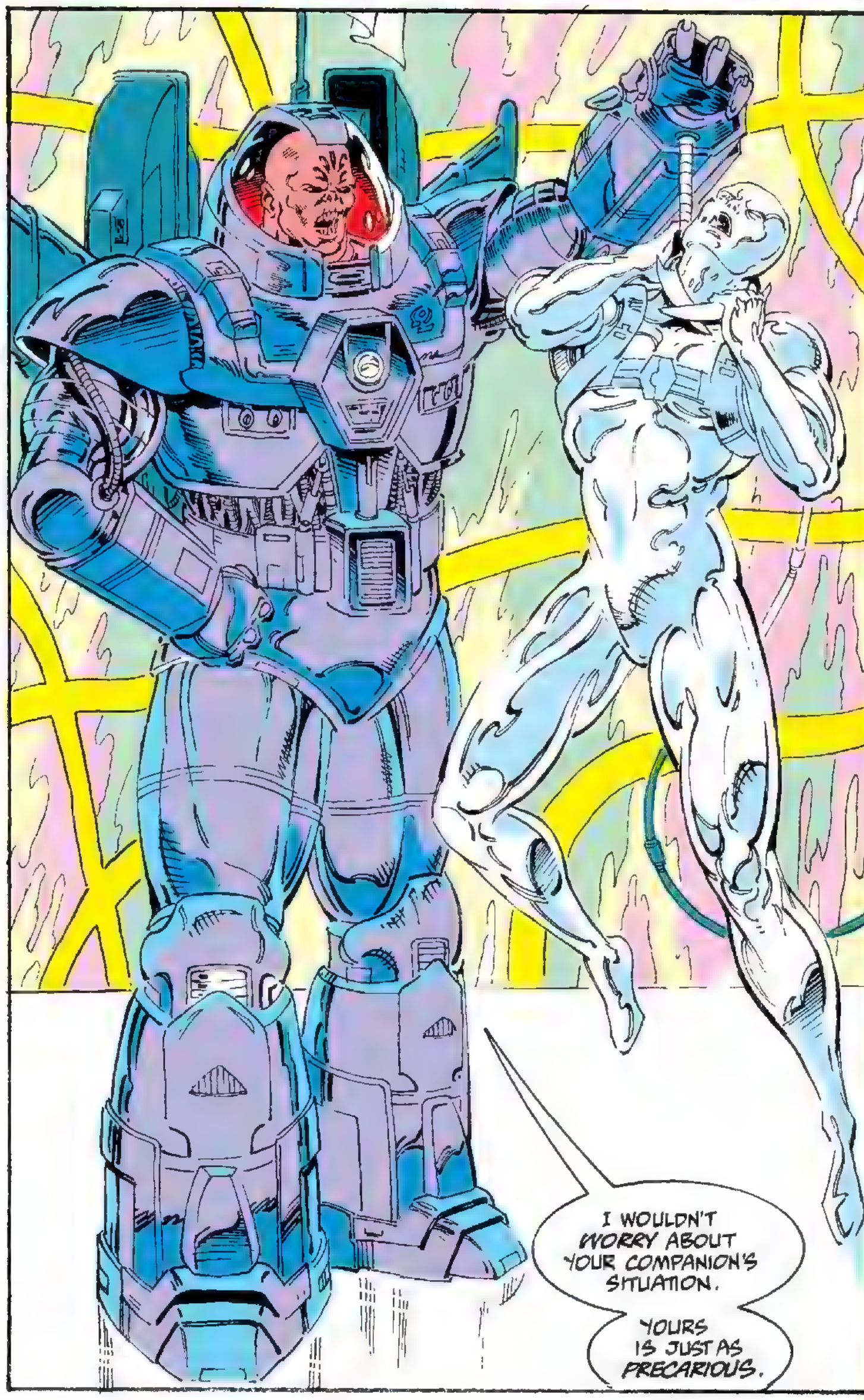

DIVIDED WE ARE VULNERABLE.
DO YOU HEAR ME, NOVA?

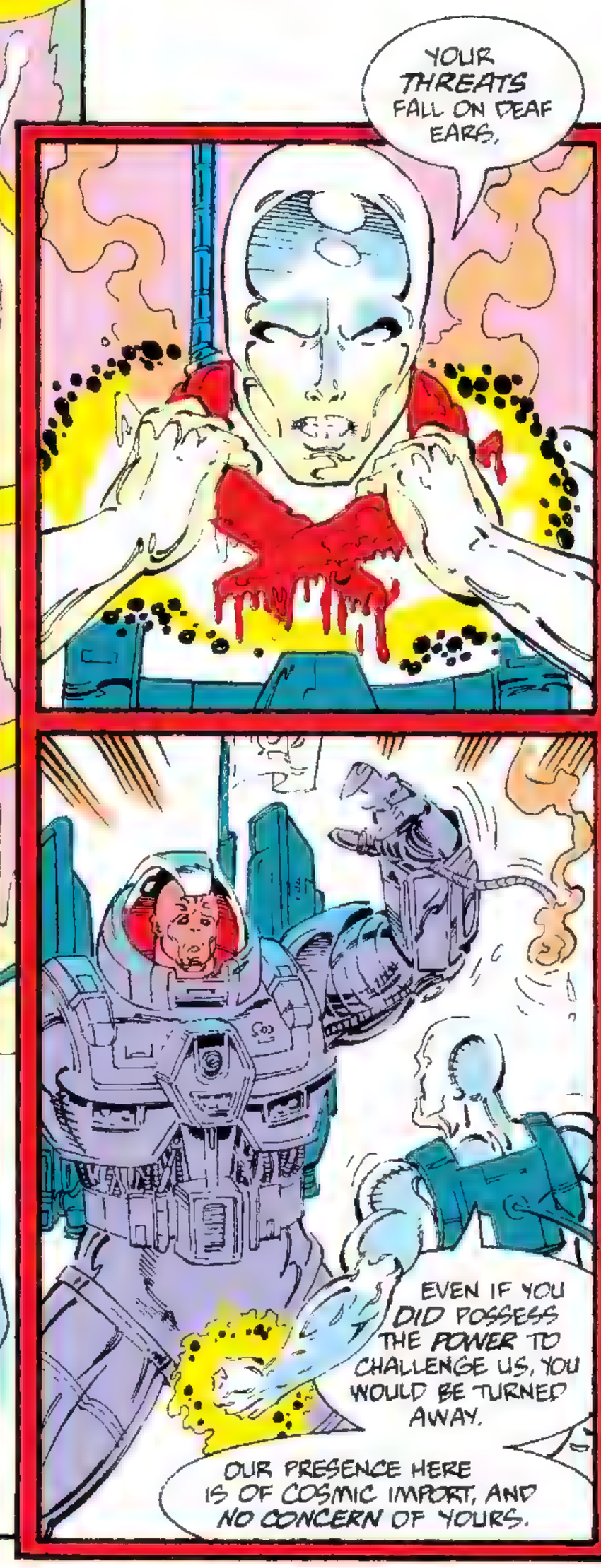
NOVA?

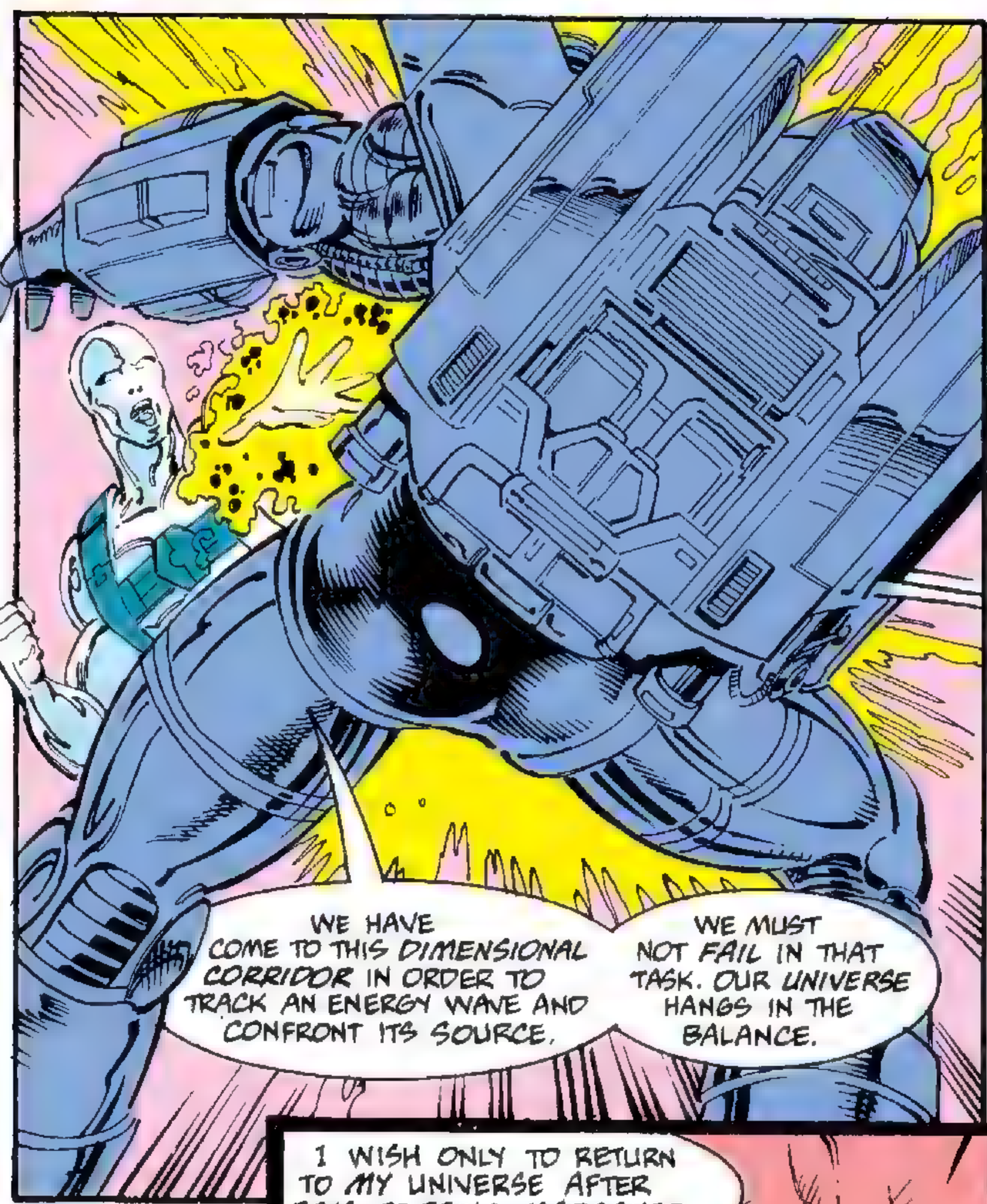

NOVA!
HOLD ON! I'LL COME TO YOU!

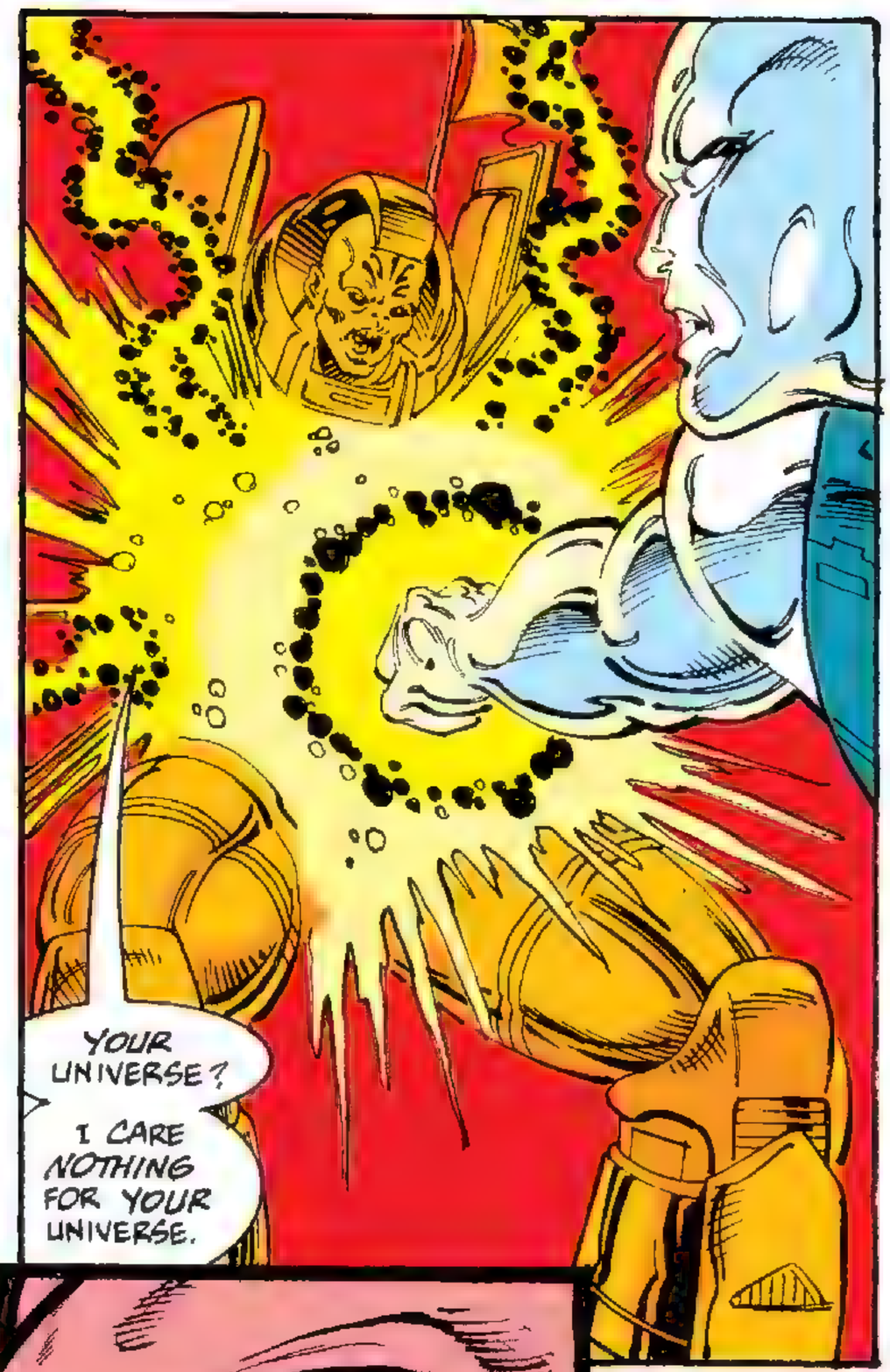

THEY'RE ALL AROUND ME, SURFER!
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MATCH OUR COMBINED STRENGTHS. I'LL-

-URRRKKK!


I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR COMPANION'S SITUATION.
YOURS IS JUST AS PRECARIOUS.


YOUR THREATS FALL ON DEAF EARS.
EVEN IF YOU DID POSSESS THE POWER TO CHALLENGE US, YOU WOULD BE TURNED AWAY.
OUR PRESENCE HERE IS OF COSMIC IMPORT, AND NO CONCERN OF YOURS.

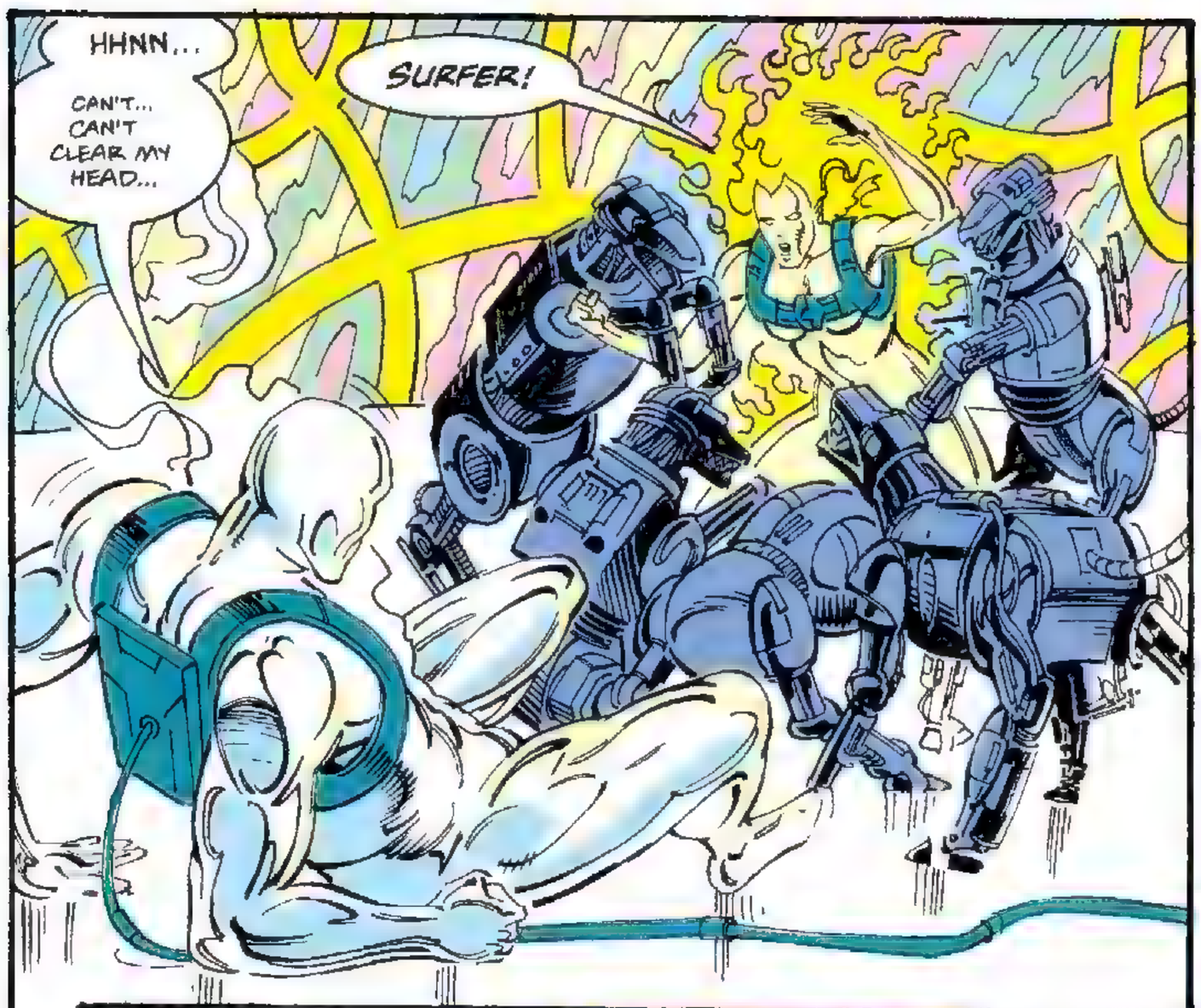


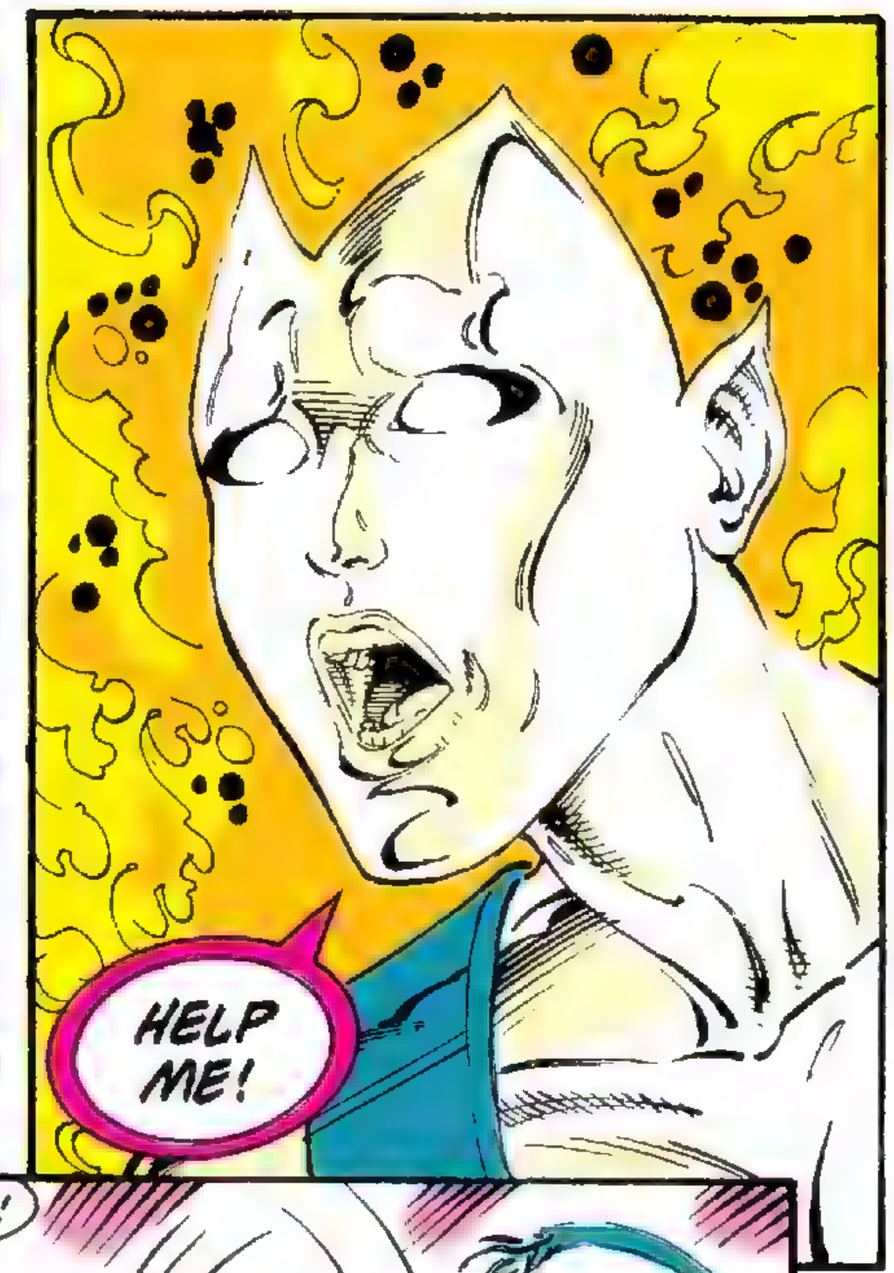


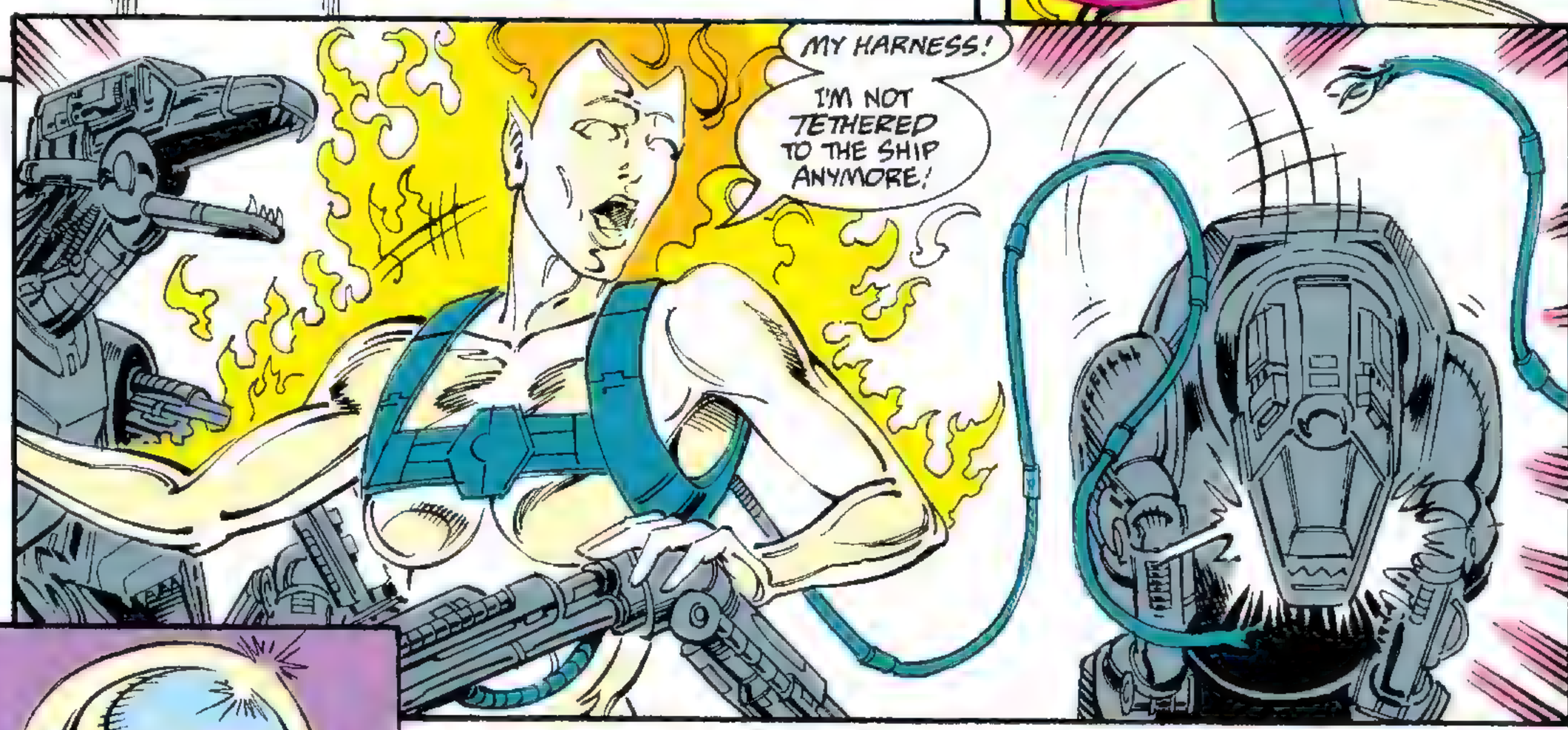
I WISH ONLY TO RETURN TO MY UNIVERSE AFTER EONS OF BEING MAROONED HERE.

YOU PRESENT A MEANS OF ESCAPE...

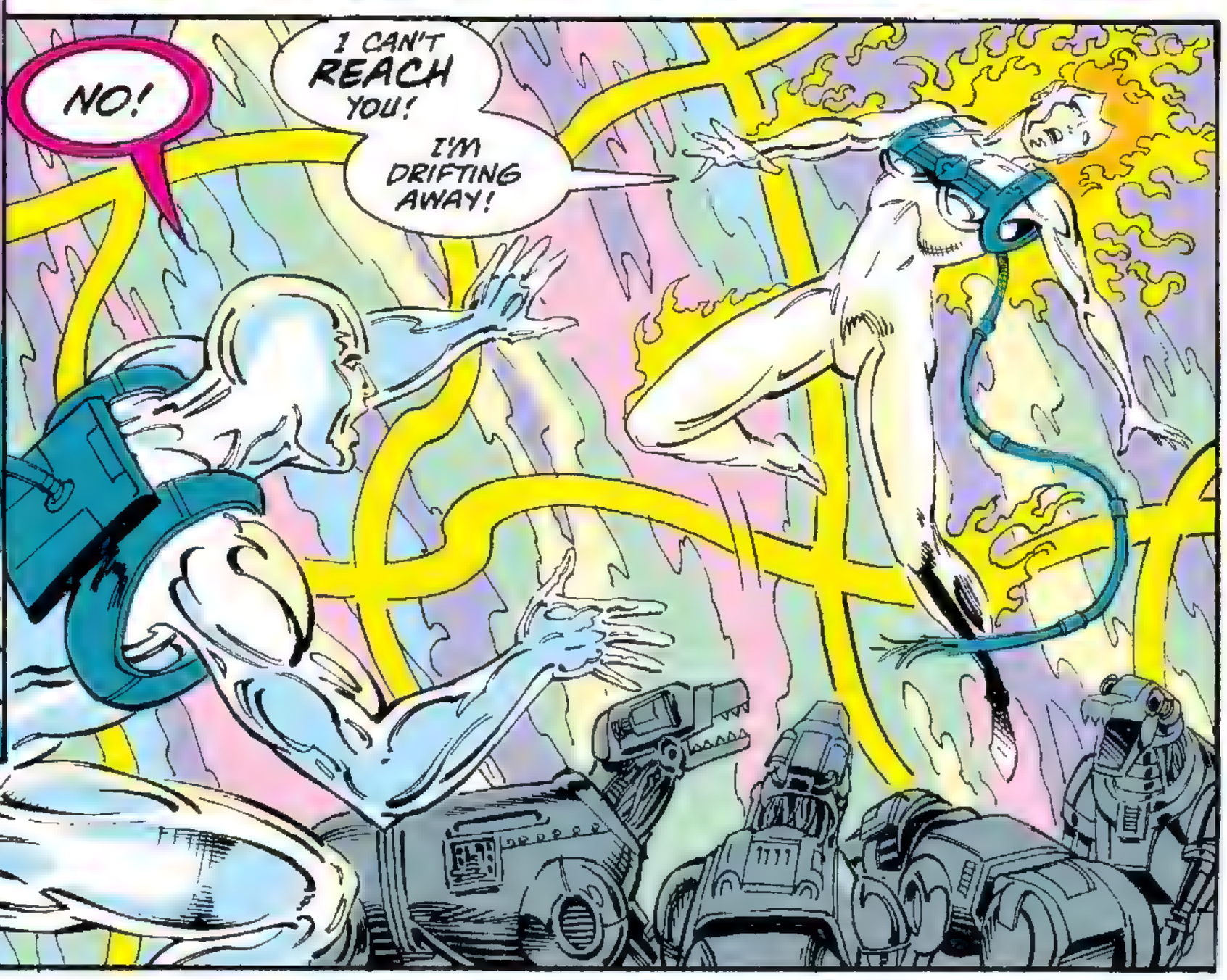
...AND I MEAN TO TAKE IT!


HHNN...
CAN'T... CAN'T CLEAR MY HEAD...
SURFER!


HELP ME!

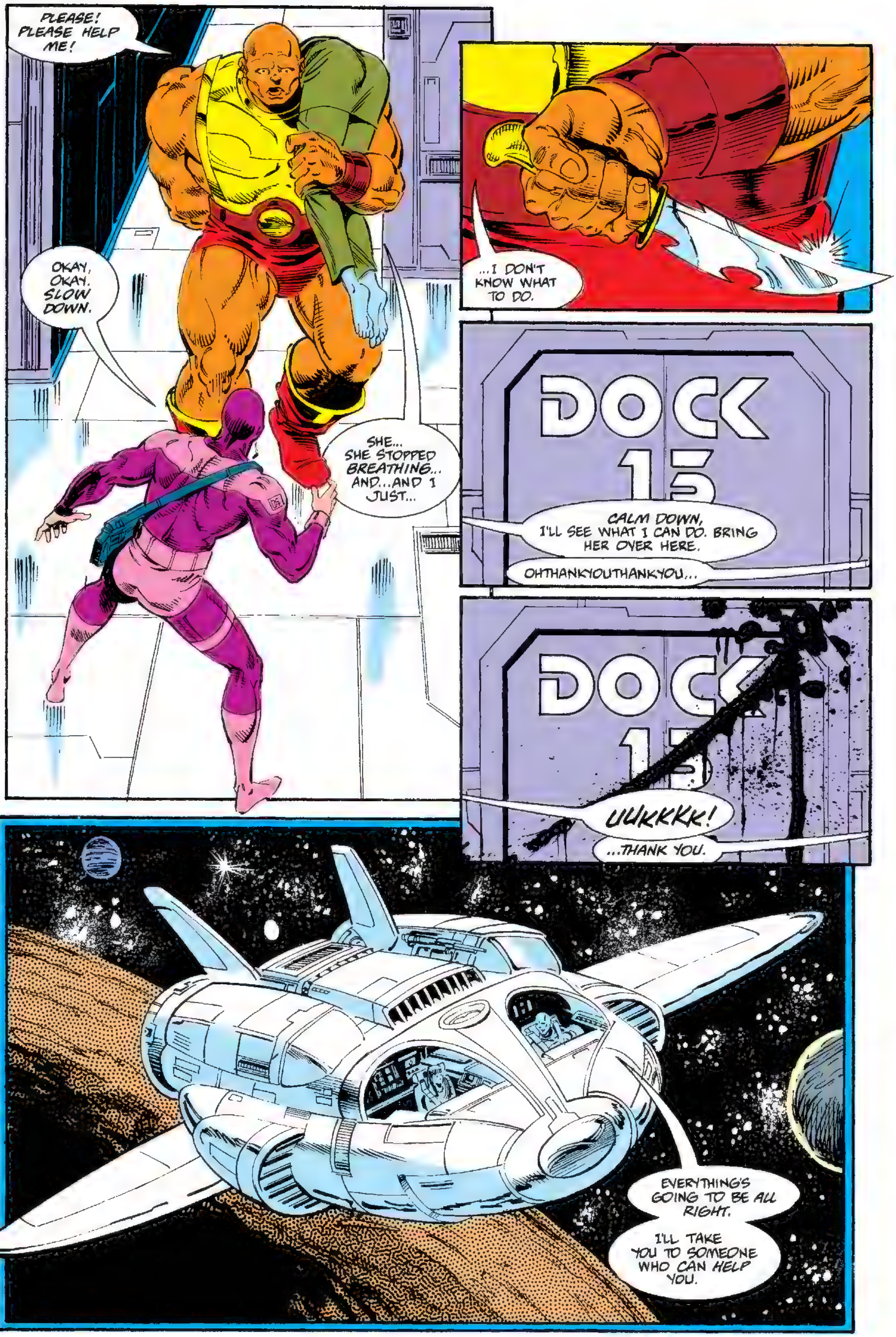

MY HARNESS!
I'M NOT TETHERED TO THE SHIP ANYMORE!

OH...NO.

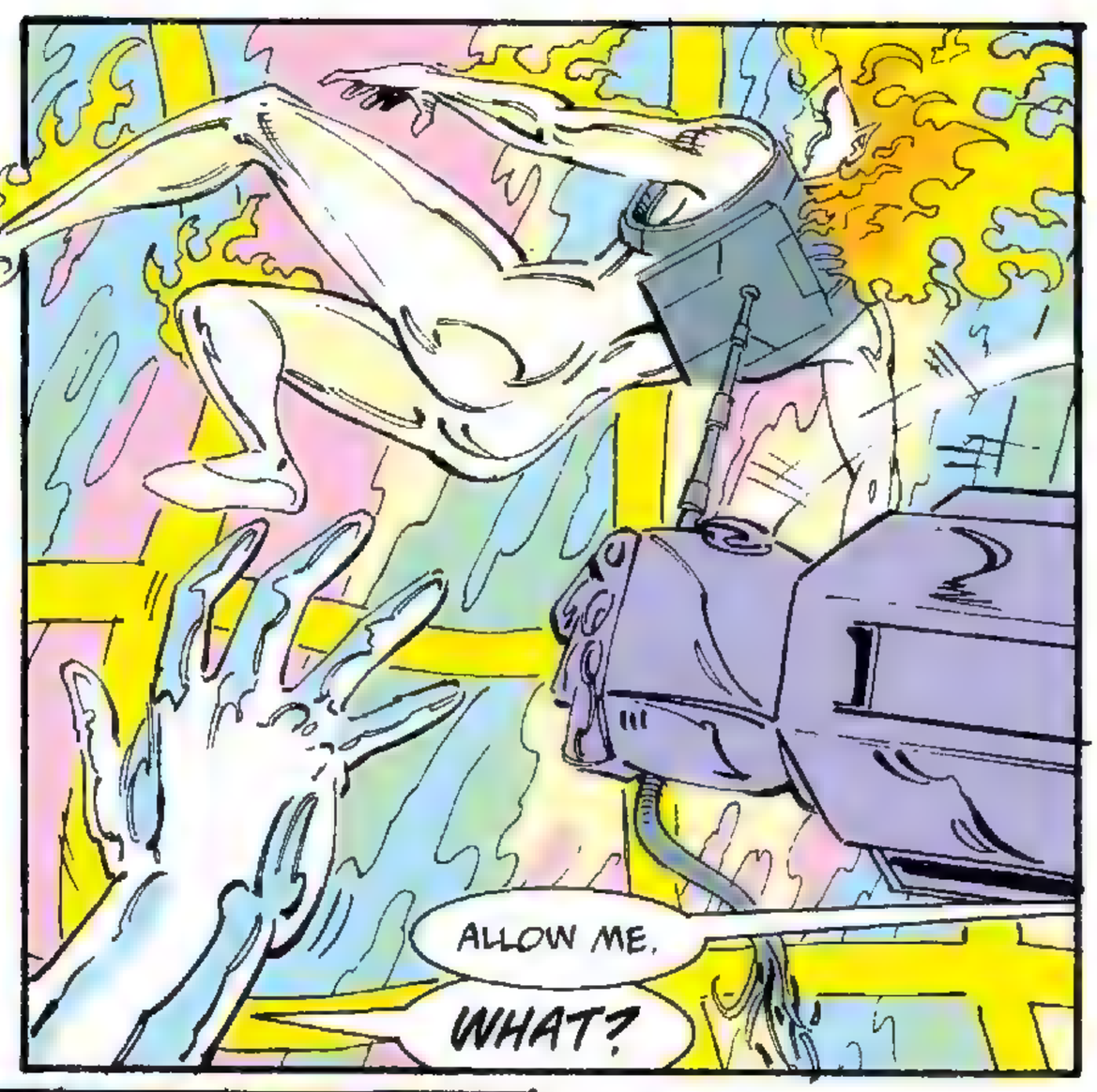

NO!
I CAN'T REACH YOU!
I'M DRIFTING AWAY!

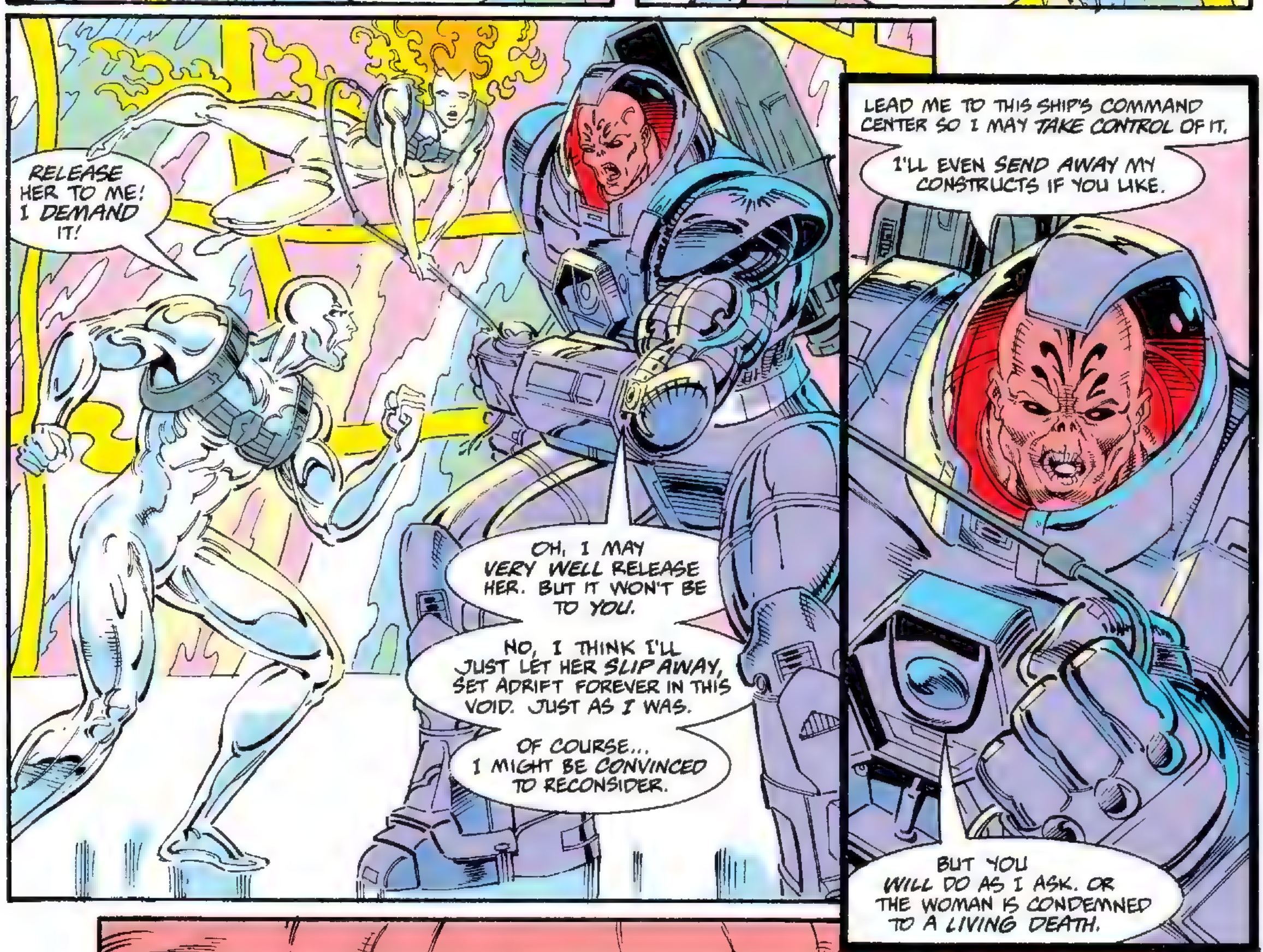
TITAN.
GOOD MORNING, MY CAPTAIN.
YOU SLEPT WELL?
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR BREAKFAST.
IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
THEY TRUST ME WELL ENOUGH NOW. NO ONE WATCHES ME IN THE KITCHEN.
THEY DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO POST A GUARD OUTSIDE YOUR CELL.

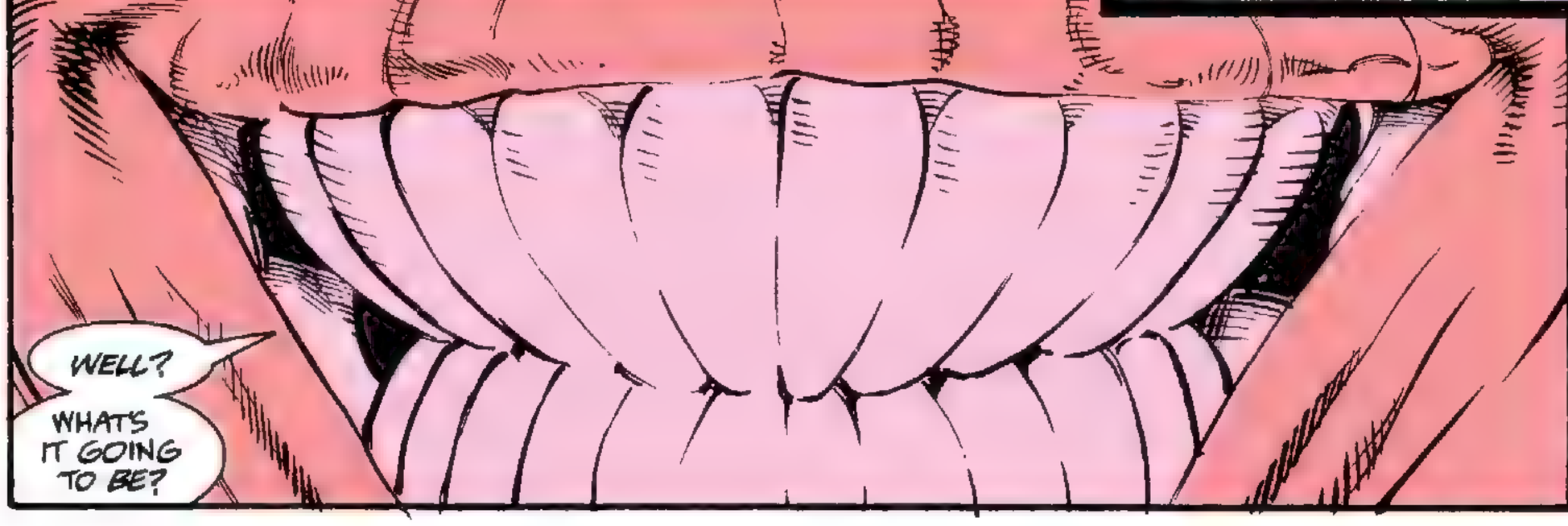
IT'S TIME TO LEAVE NOW, CAPTAIN.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE HERE. THEY DON'T REALLY WANT YOU TO GET BETTER. THEY WANT YOU TO BE...
...A VEGETABLE.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
WE'LL STEAL A SHIP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET HEALTHY AGAIN.
EVERYTHING WILL BE LIKE BEFORE, I PROMISE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING, CAPTAIN.
THIS WILL BE SO EASY. JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME.

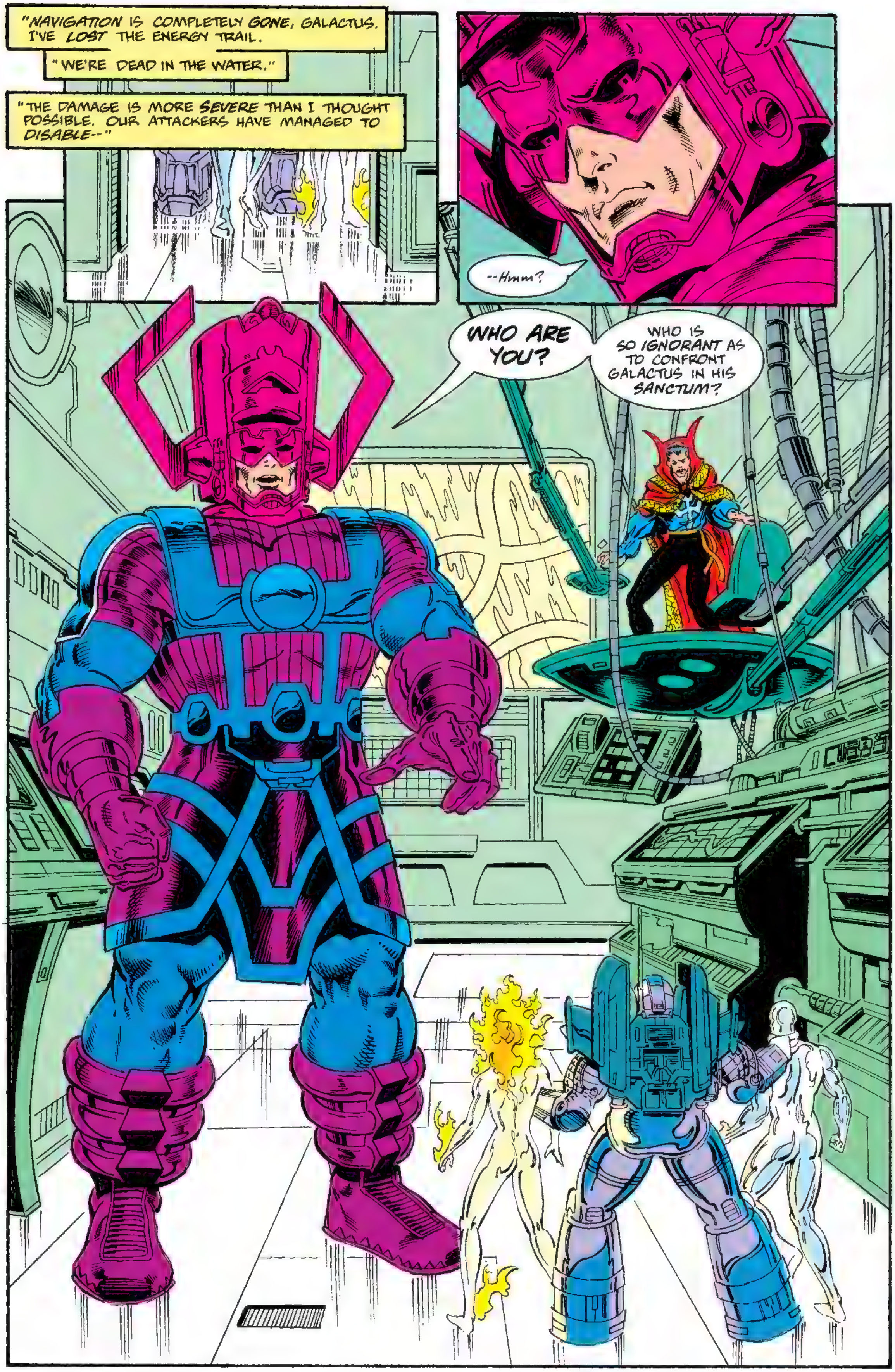

PLEASE! PLEASE HELP ME!
OKAY, OKAY. SLOW DOWN.
SHE... SHE STOPPED BREATHING... AND...AND I JUST...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
DOCK 15
CALM DOWN, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO. BRING HER OVER HERE.
OHTHANKYOUTHANKYOU...
DOCK 15
UUKKKK!
...THANK YOU.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP YOU.

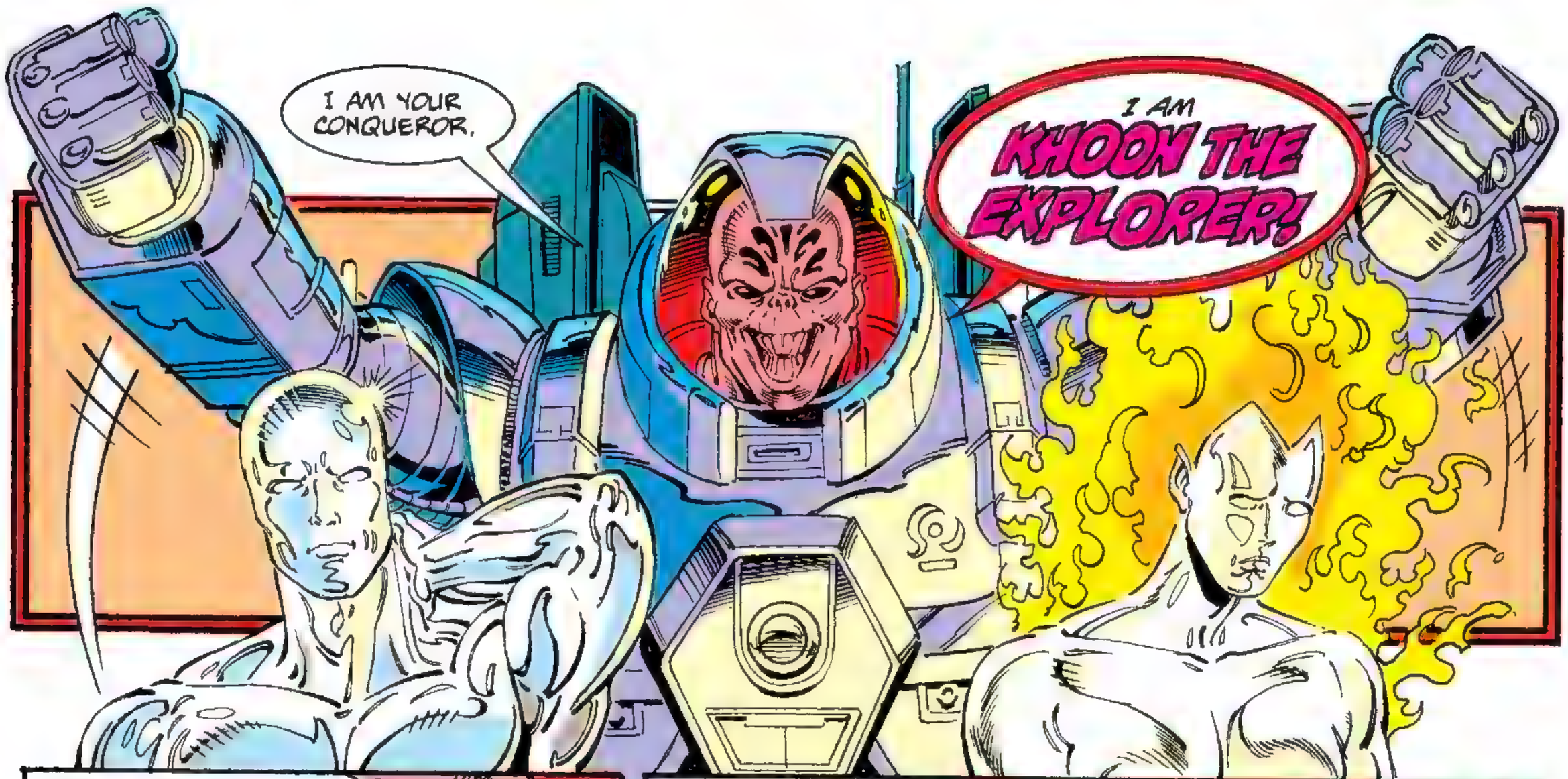
HELP ME!
HOLD ON, NOVA!


ALLOW ME.
WHAT?


RELEASE HER TO ME! I DEMAND IT!
OH, I MAY VERY WELL RELEASE HER. BUT IT WON'T BE TO YOU.
NO, I THINK I'LL JUST LET HER SLIP AWAY, SET ADRIFT FOREVER IN THIS VOID. JUST AS I WAS.
OF COURSE... I MIGHT BE CONVINCED TO RECONSIDER.
LEAD ME TO THIS SHIP'S COMMAND CENTER SO I MAY TAKE CONTROL OF IT.
I'LL EVEN SEND AWAY MY CONSTRUCTS IF YOU LIKE.
BUT YOU WILL DO AS I ASK. OR THE WOMAN IS CONDEMNED TO A LIVING DEATH.

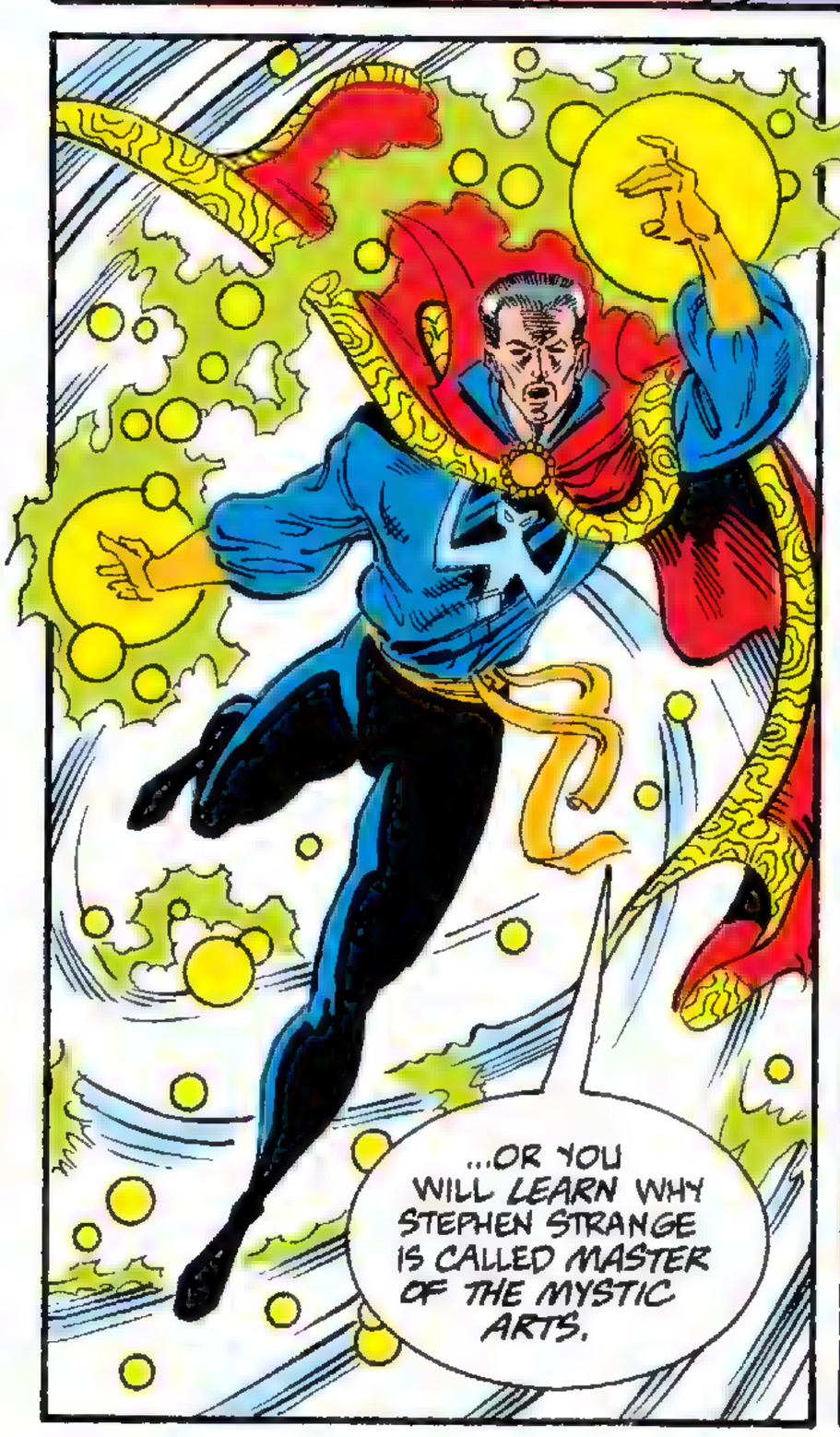

WELL?
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

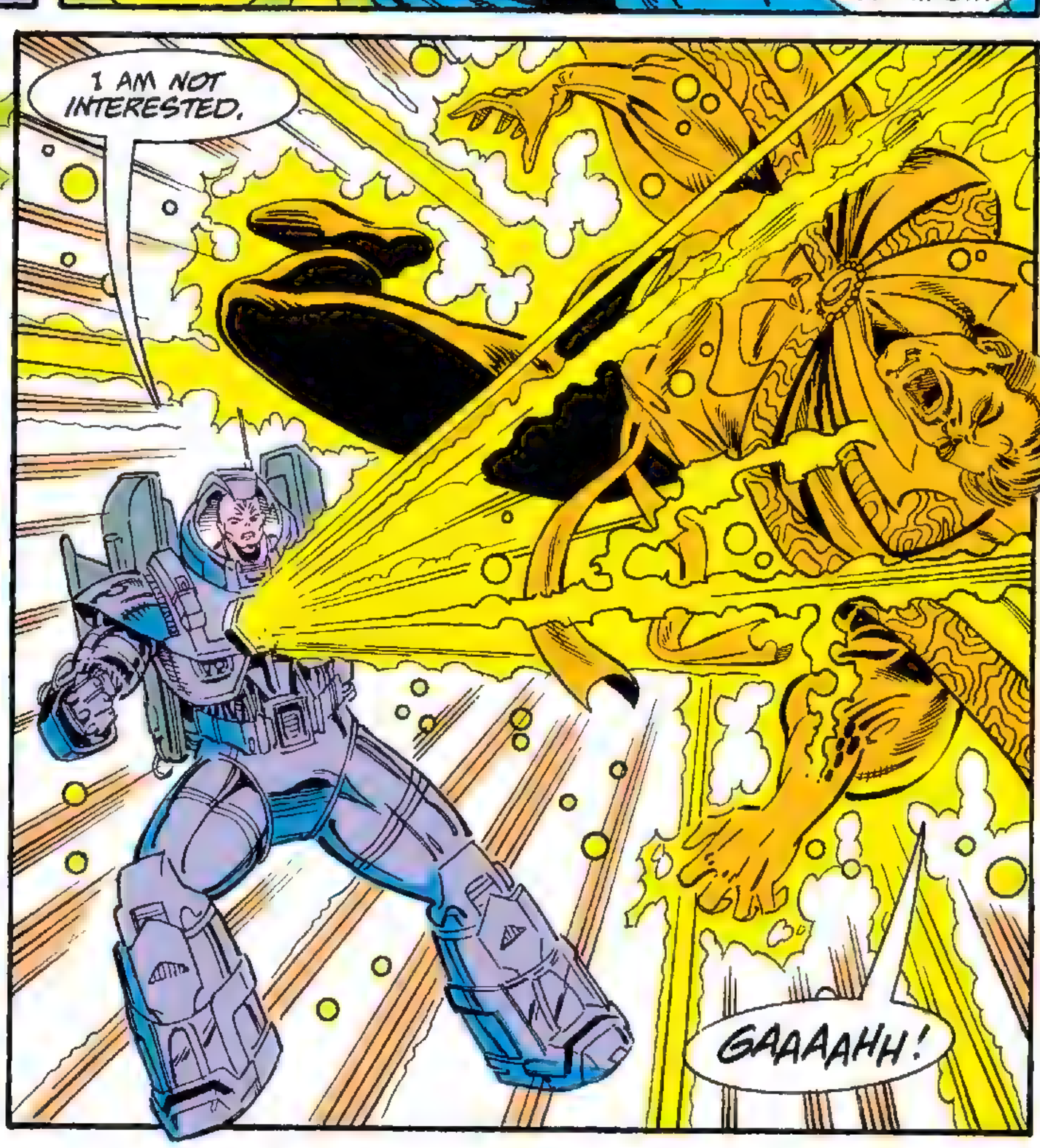

"NAVIGATION IS COMPLETELY GONE, GALACTUS. I'VE LOST THE ENERGY TRAIL.
"WE'RE DEAD IN THE WATER."
"THE DAMAGE IS MORE SEVERE THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE. OUR ATTACKERS HAVE MANAGED TO DISABLE--"
--Hmm?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO IS SO IGNORANT AS TO CONFRONT GALACTUS IN HIS SANCTUM?

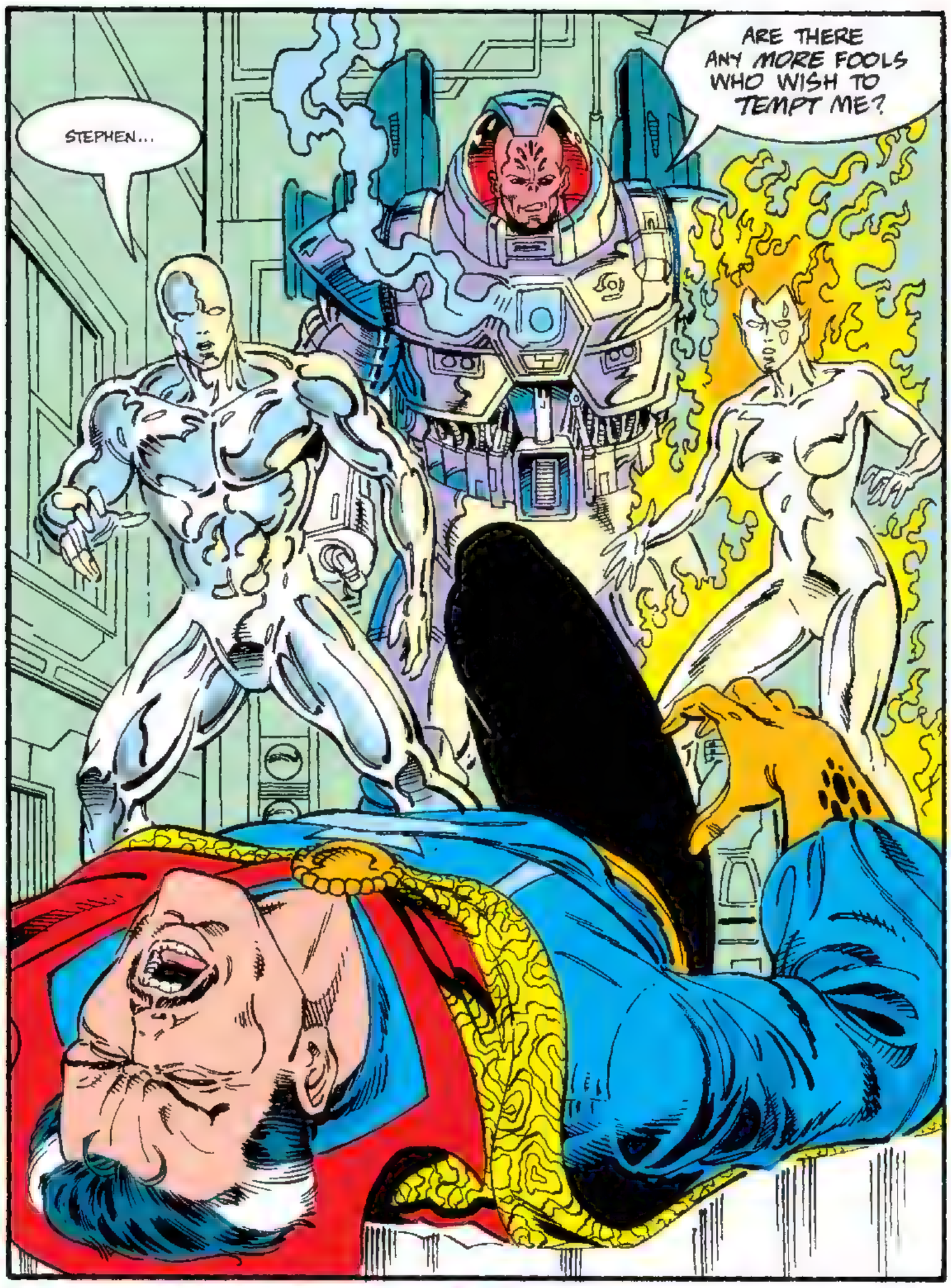

I AM YOUR CONQUEROR.
I AM KHOON THE EXPLORER!

AND I CLAIM THIS SHIP AS MY OWN. YOU WILL ALL LEAVE IT.
NOW.

WE ARE GOING NOWHERE!
WE HAVE A MISSION THAT MUST BE COMPLETED, ONE FAR TOO SERIOUS TO BE THREATENED BY A SELF-IMPORTANT UPSTART IN A TIN SUIT.
YOU WILL BE THE ONE LEAVING...


...OR YOU WILL LEARN WHY STEPHEN STRANGE IS CALLED MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

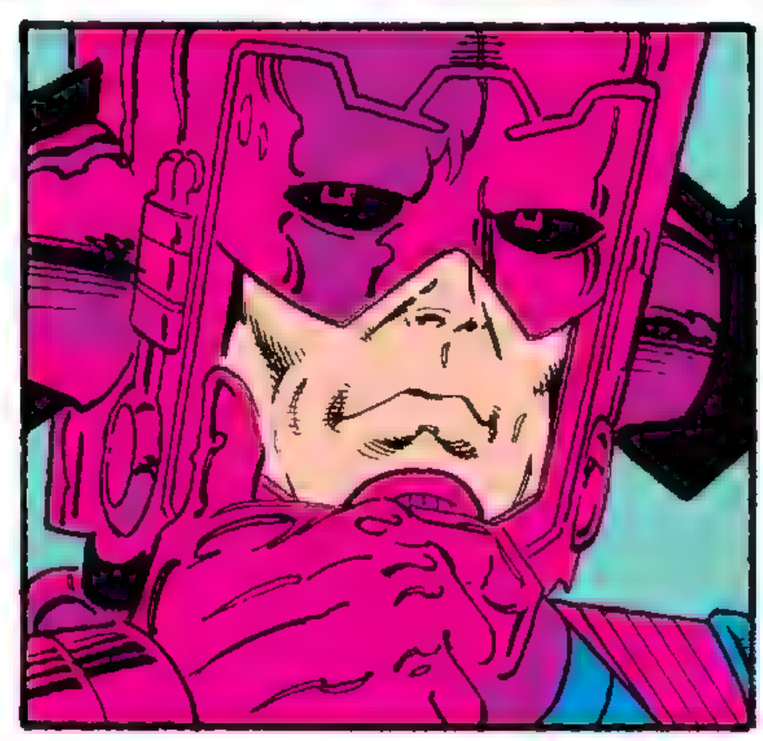

I AM NOT INTERESTED.
GAAAAHH!


STEPHEN...
ARE THERE ANY MORE FOOLS WHO WISH TO TEMPT ME?

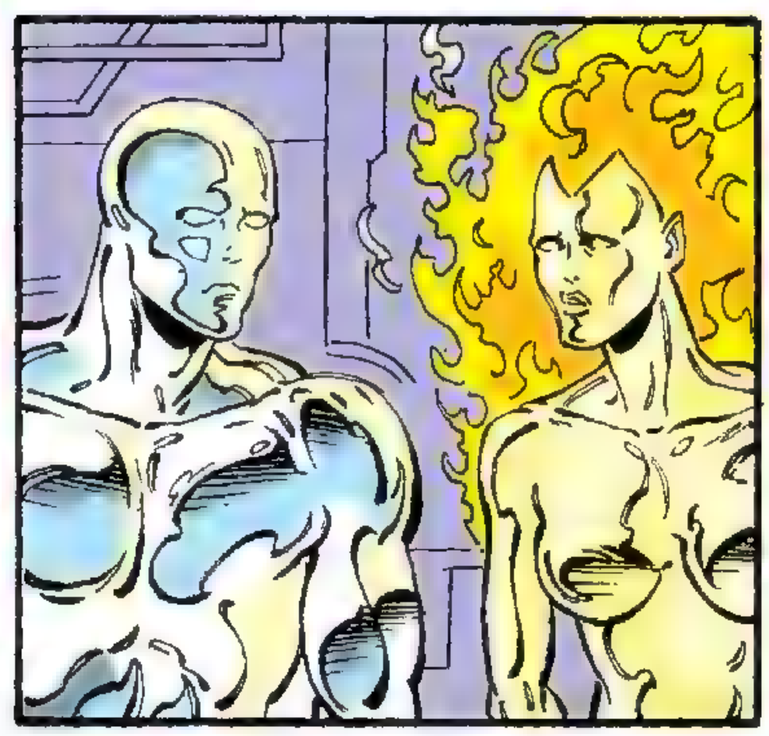
YOU,
YOU ARE THE MASTER OF THIS SHIP?
I AM.
THEN YOU WILL FORMALLY SURRENDER IT TO ME. DO SO IMMEDIATELY AND I WILL NOT FURTHER HARM YOU OR YOUR COMPANIONS.

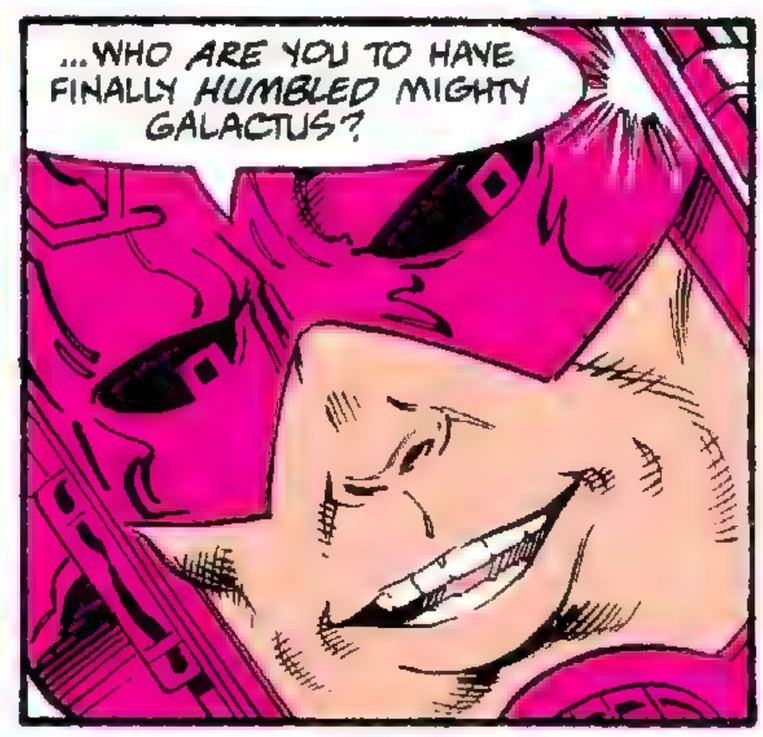
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, DO YOU?

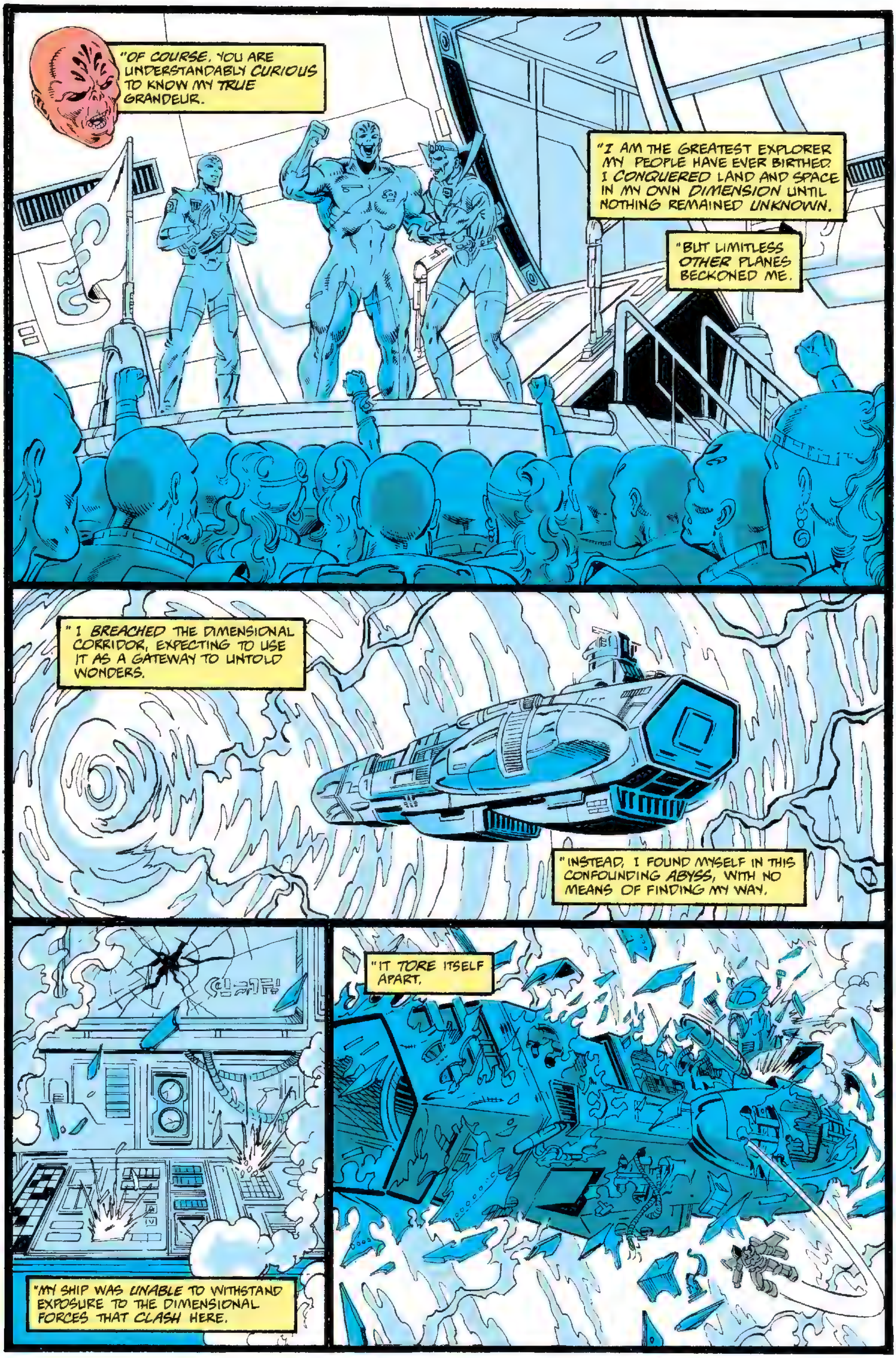
NO. NOR COULD I CARE.
NOW DO AS I'VE COMMANDED... BEFORE YOU TRY MY PATIENCE.

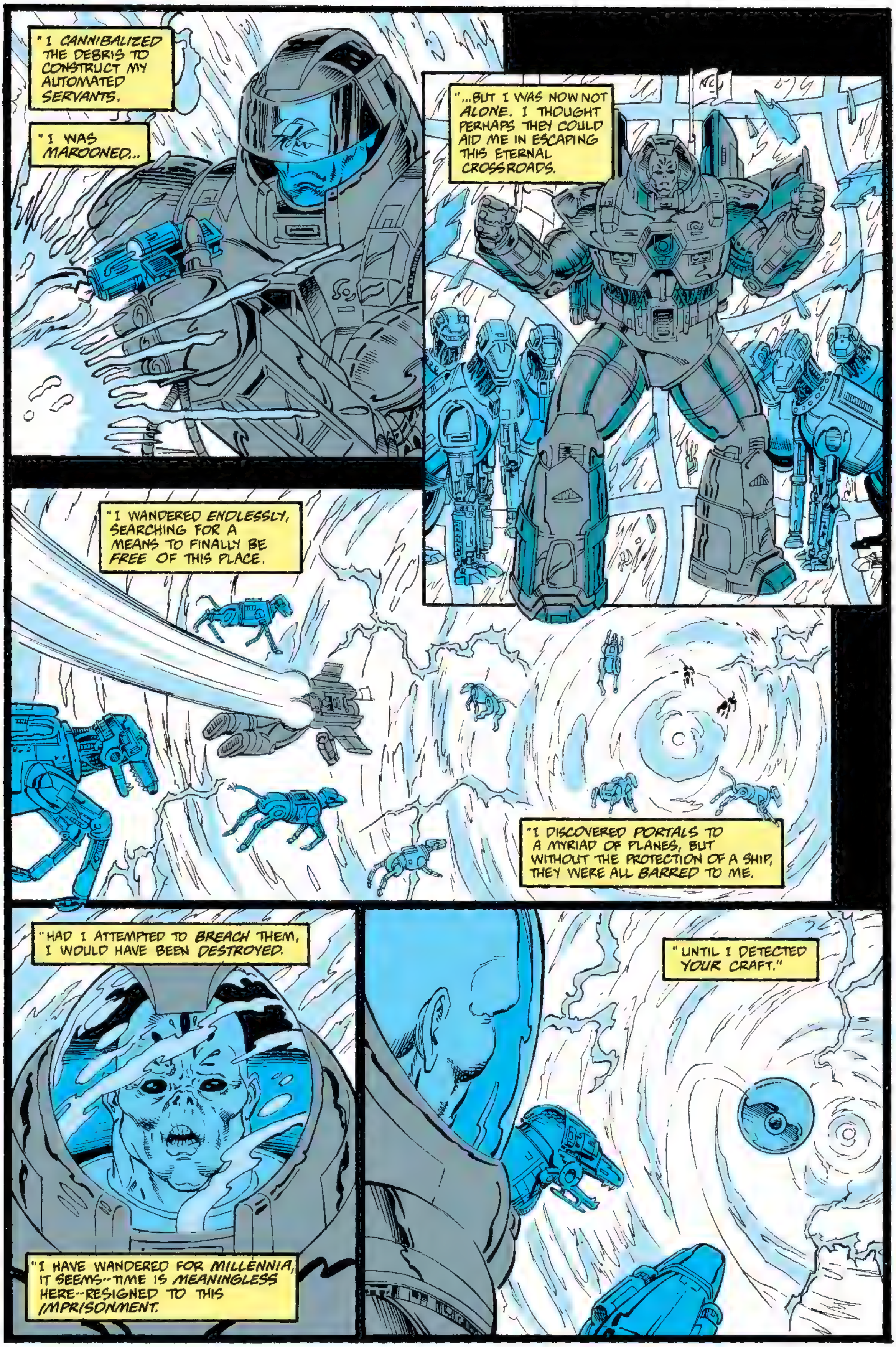


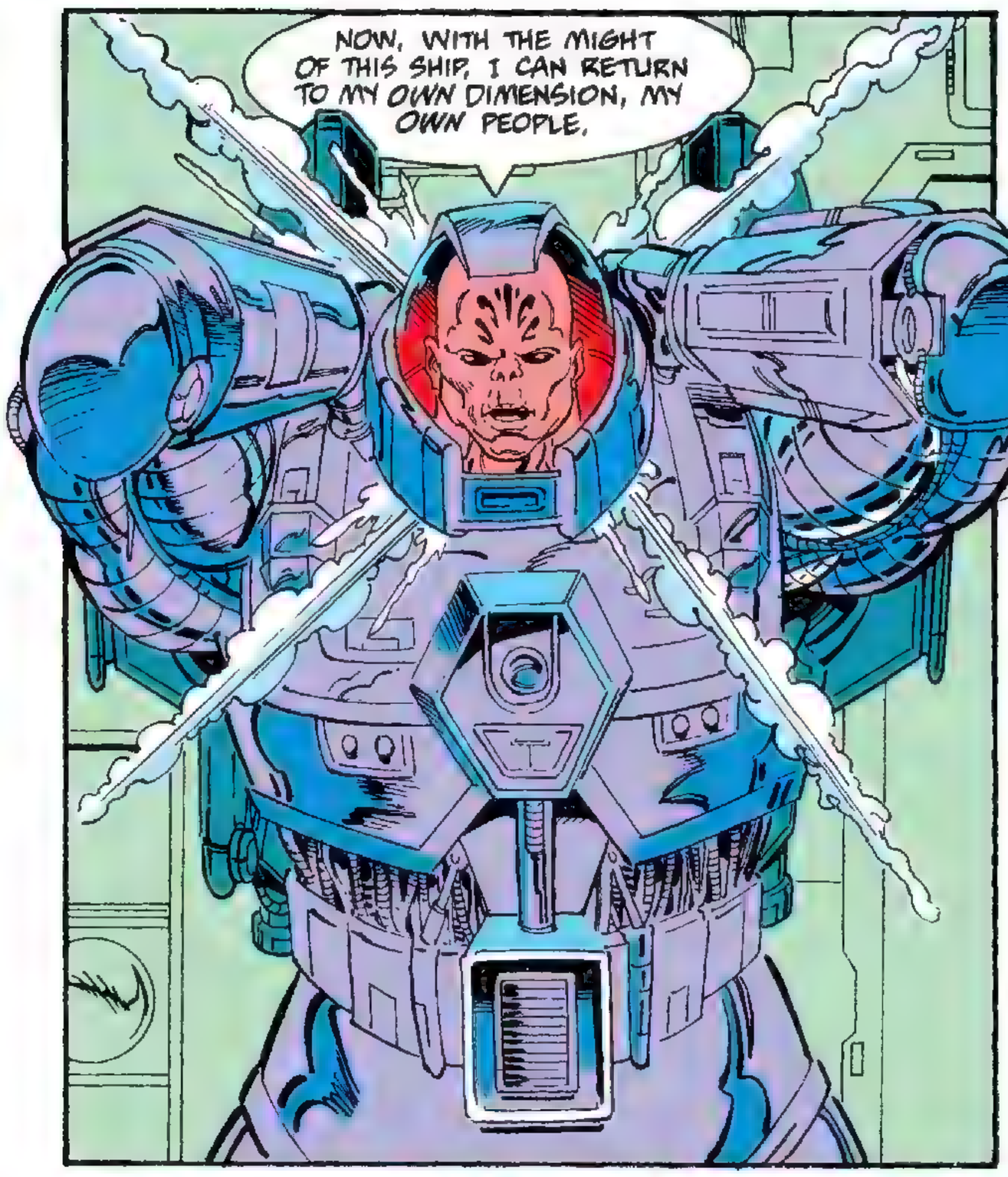
VERY WELL.
BUT FIRST TELL ME...

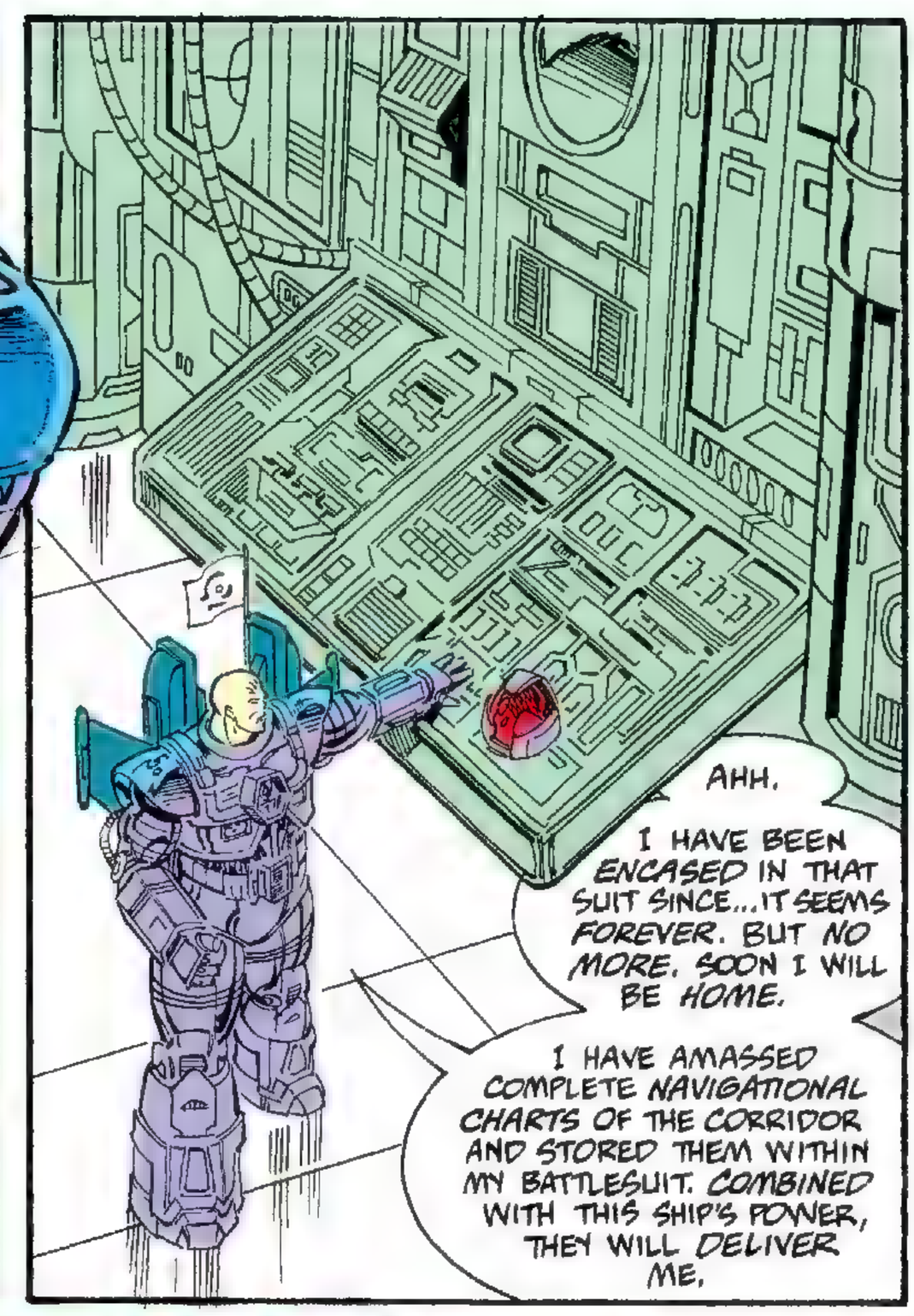



...WHO ARE YOU TO HAVE FINALLY HUMBLED MIGHTY GALACTUS?

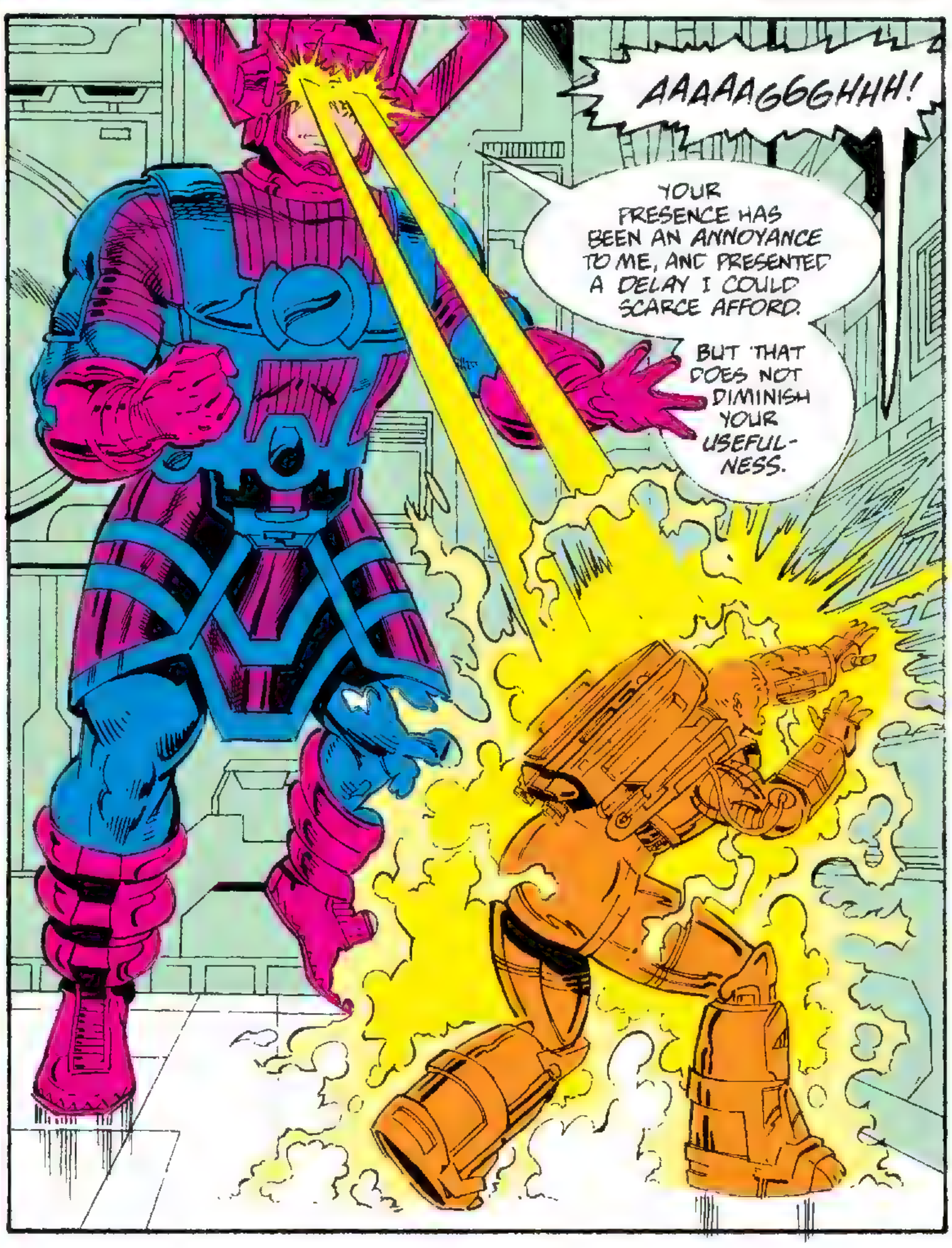

"OF COURSE, YOU ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CURIOUS TO KNOW MY TRUE GRANDEUR.
"I AM THE GREATEST EXPLORER MY PEOPLE HAVE EVER BIRTHED. I CONQUERED LAND AND SPACE IN MY OWN DIMENSION UNTIL NOTHING REMAINED UNKNOWN.
"BUT LIMITLESS OTHER PLANES BECKONED ME.
"I BREACHED THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR, EXPECTING TO USE IT AS A GATEWAY TO UNTOLD WONDERS.
"INSTEAD, I FOUND MYSELF IN THIS CONFOUNDING ABYSS, WITH NO MEANS OF FINDING MY WAY.
"IT TORE ITSELF APART.
"MY SHIP WAS UNABLE TO WITHSTAND EXPOSURE TO THE DIMENSIONAL FORCES THAT CLASH HERE.

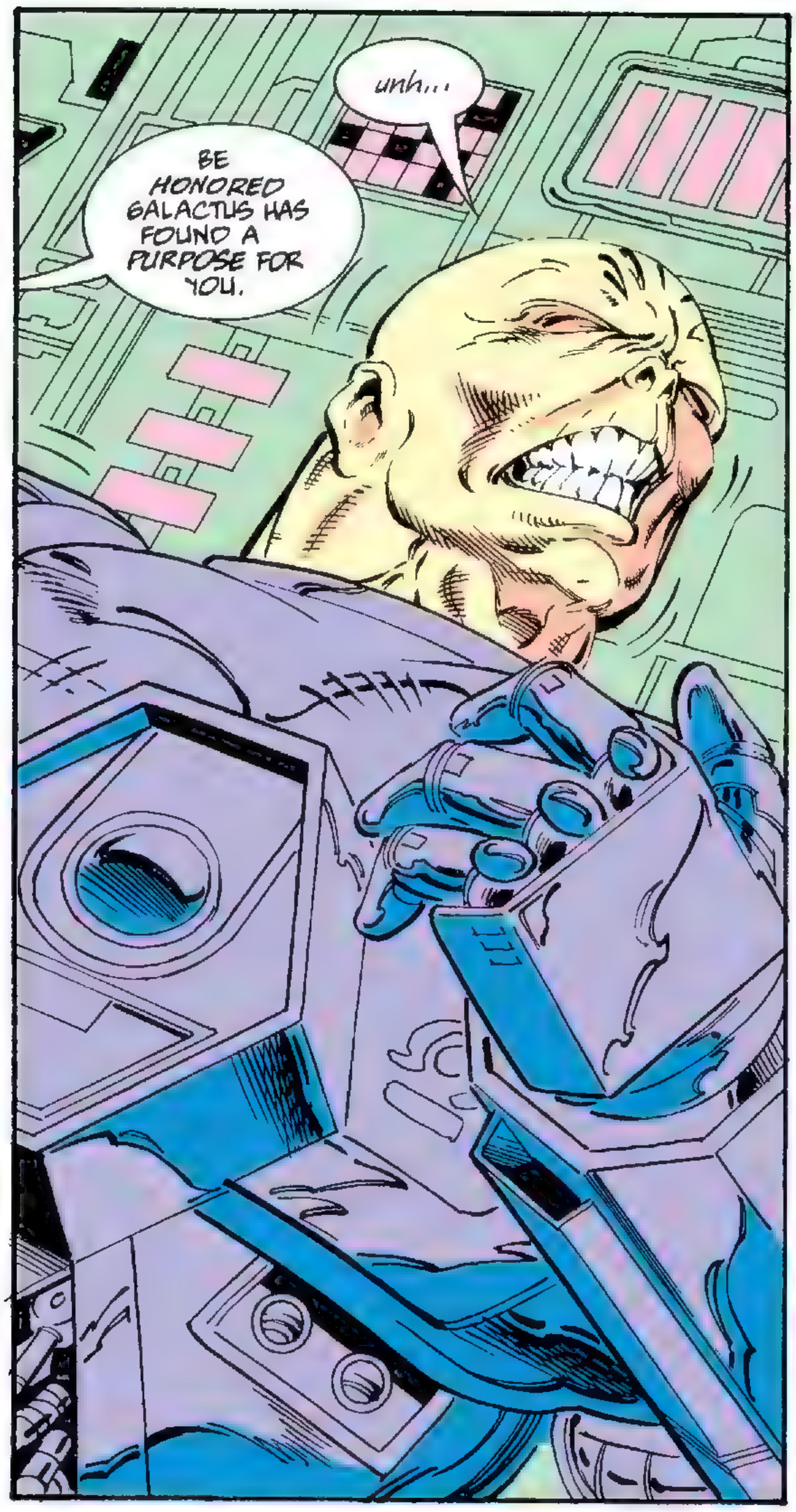

"I CANNIBALIZED THE DEBRIS TO CONSTRUCT MY AUTOMATED SERVANTS.
"I WAS MAROONED...
"...BUT I WAS NOW NOT ALONE. I THOUGHT PERHAPS THEY COULD AID ME IN ESCAPING THIS ETERNAL CROSSROADS.
"I WANDERED ENDLESSLY, SEARCHING FOR A MEANS TO FINALLY BE FREE OF THIS PLACE.
"I DISCOVERED PORTALS TO A MYRIAD OF PLANES, BUT WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF A SHIP, THEY WERE ALL BARRED TO ME.
"HAD I ATTEMPTED TO BREACH THEM, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
"I HAVE WANDERED FOR MILLENNIA, IT SEEMS--TIME IS MEANINGLESS HERE--RESIGNED TO THIS IMPRISONMENT.
"UNTIL I DETECTED YOUR CRAFT."

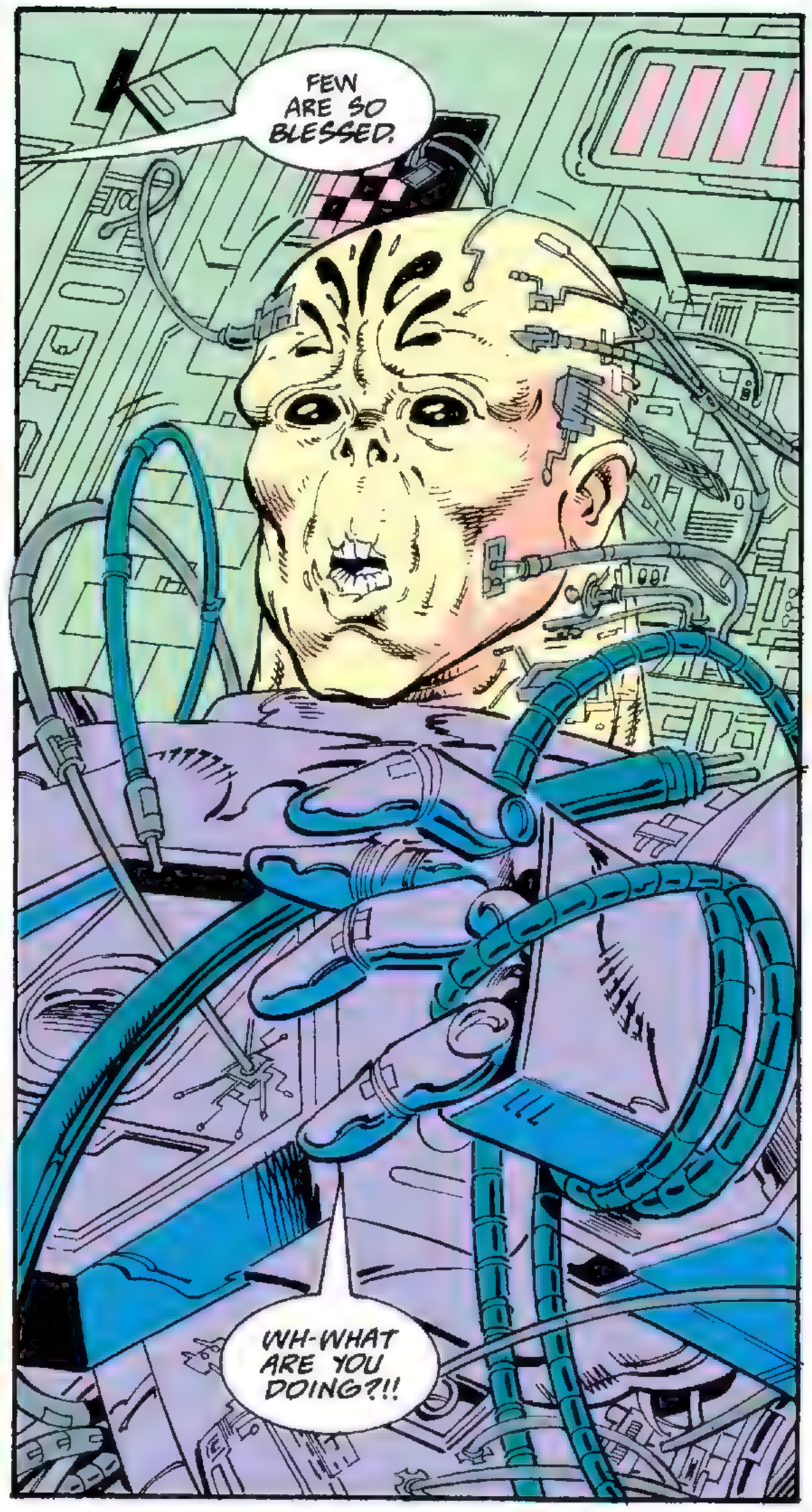

NOW, WITH THE MIGHT OF THIS SHIP, I CAN RETURN TO MY OWN DIMENSION, MY OWN PEOPLE.

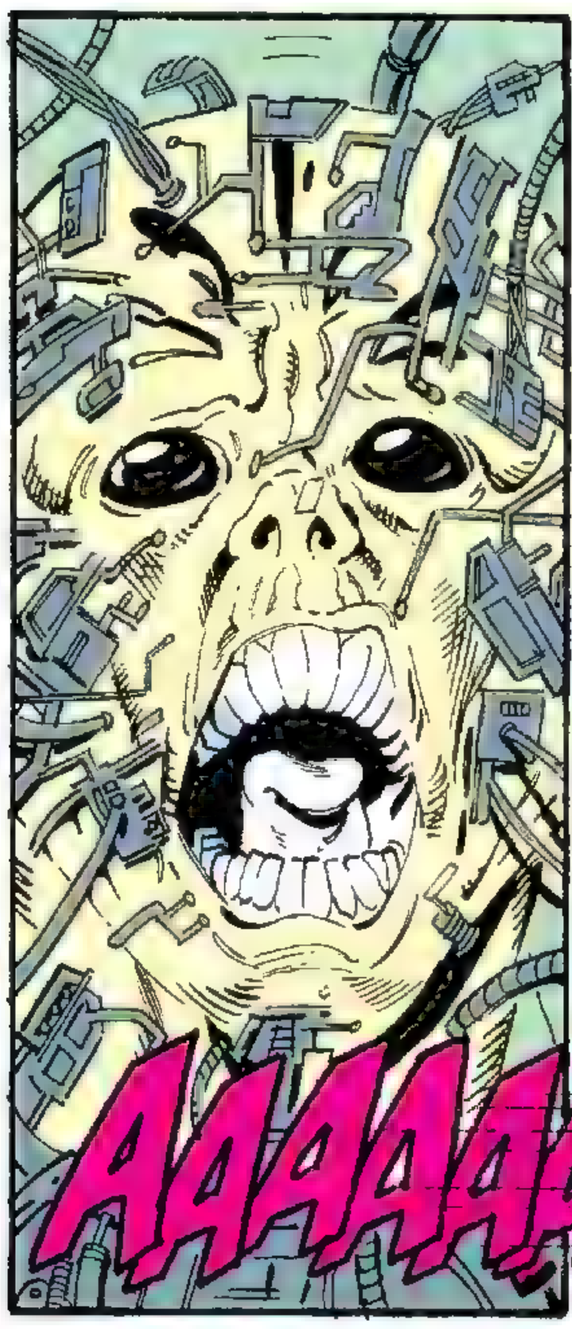

AHH.
I HAVE BEEN ENCASED IN THAT SUIT SINCE...IT SEEMS FOREVER. BUT NO MORE. SOON I WILL BE HOME.
I HAVE AMASSED COMPLETE NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS OF THE CORRIDOR AND STORED THEM WITHIN MY BATTLESUIT. COMBINED WITH THIS SHIP'S POWER, THEY WILL DELIVER ME.

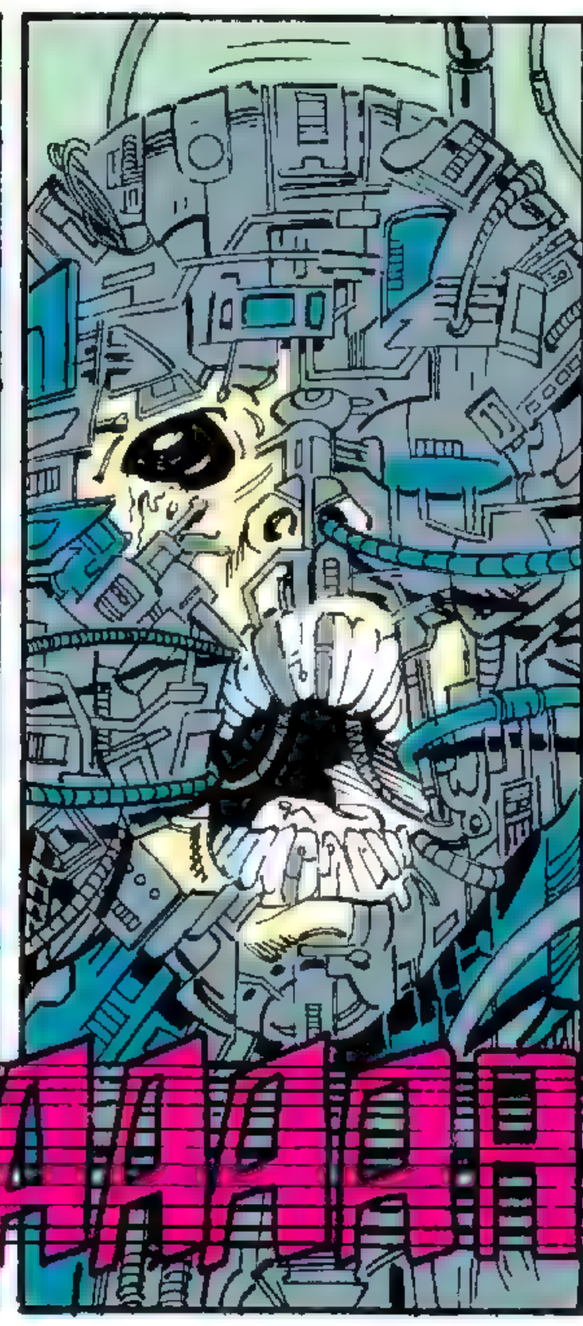
AS I THOUGHT.

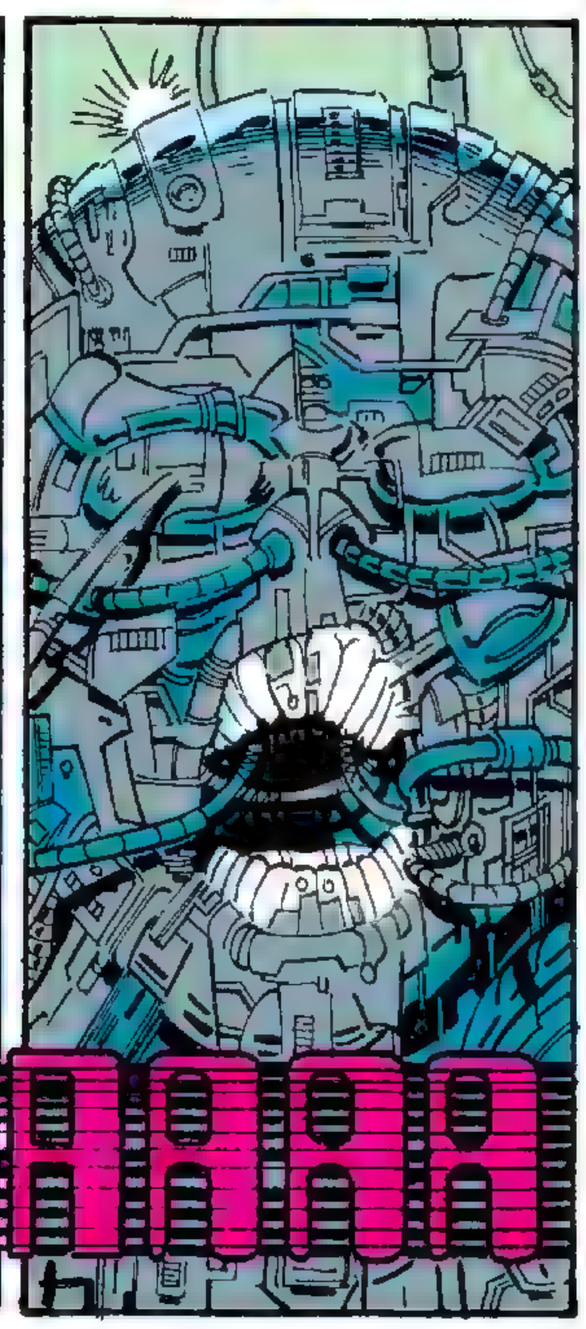

AAAAAGGGHHH!
YOUR PRESENCE HAS BEEN AN ANNOYANCE TO ME, AND PRESENTED A DELAY I COULD SCARCE AFFORD.
BUT THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH YOUR USEFUL-NESS.


unh...
BE HONORED GALACTUS HAS FOUND A PURPOSE FOR YOU.


FEW ARE SO BLESSED.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!







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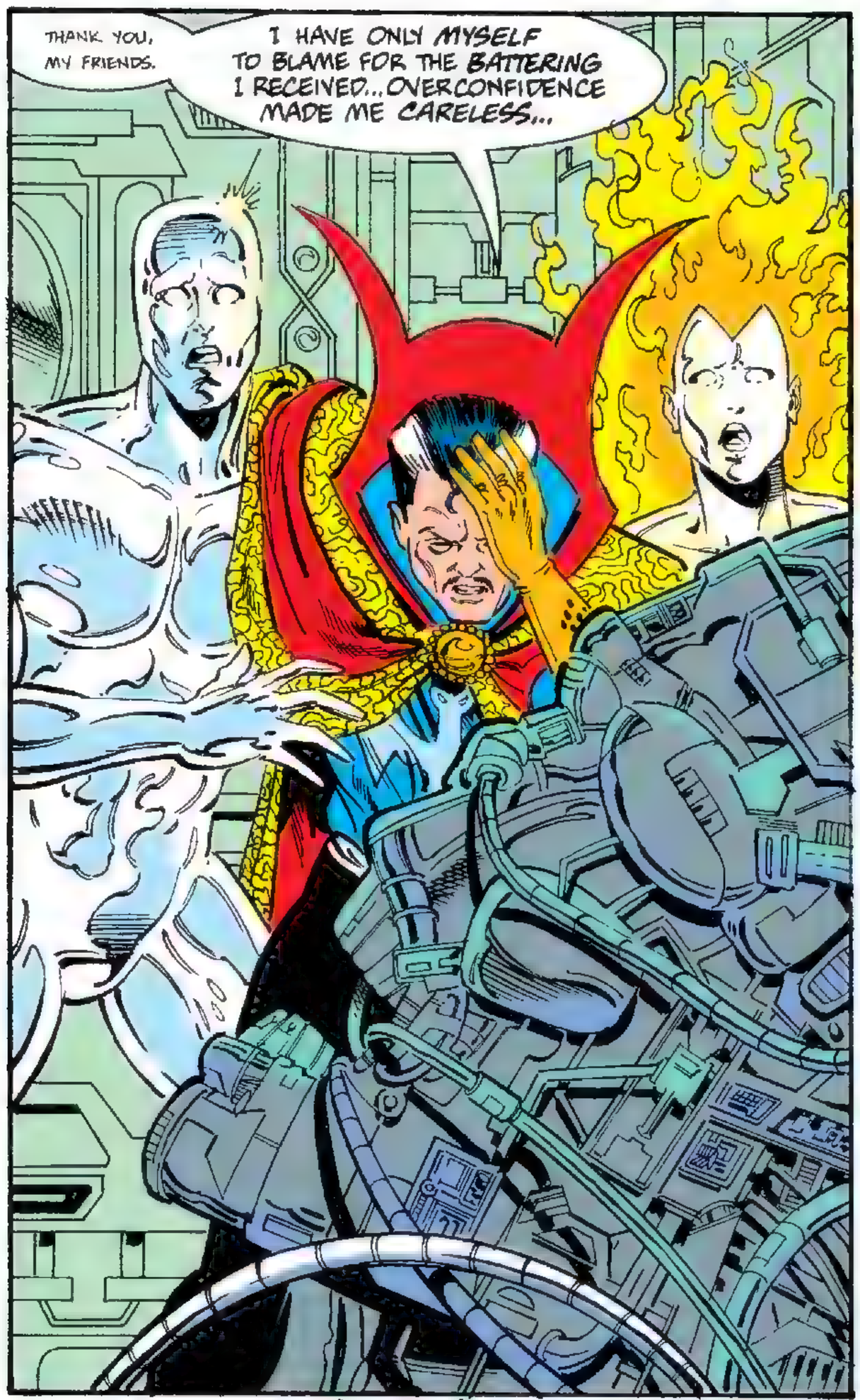
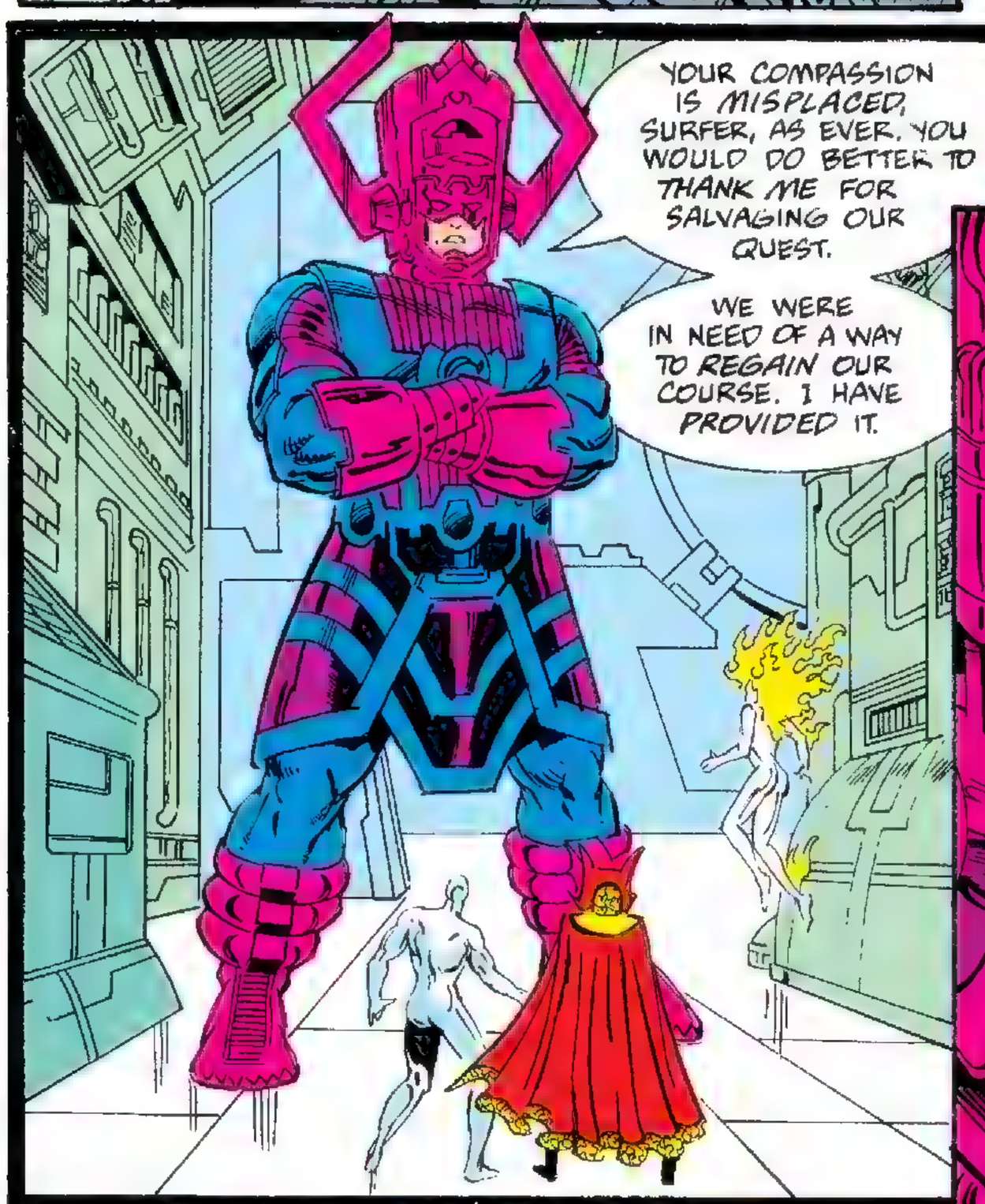
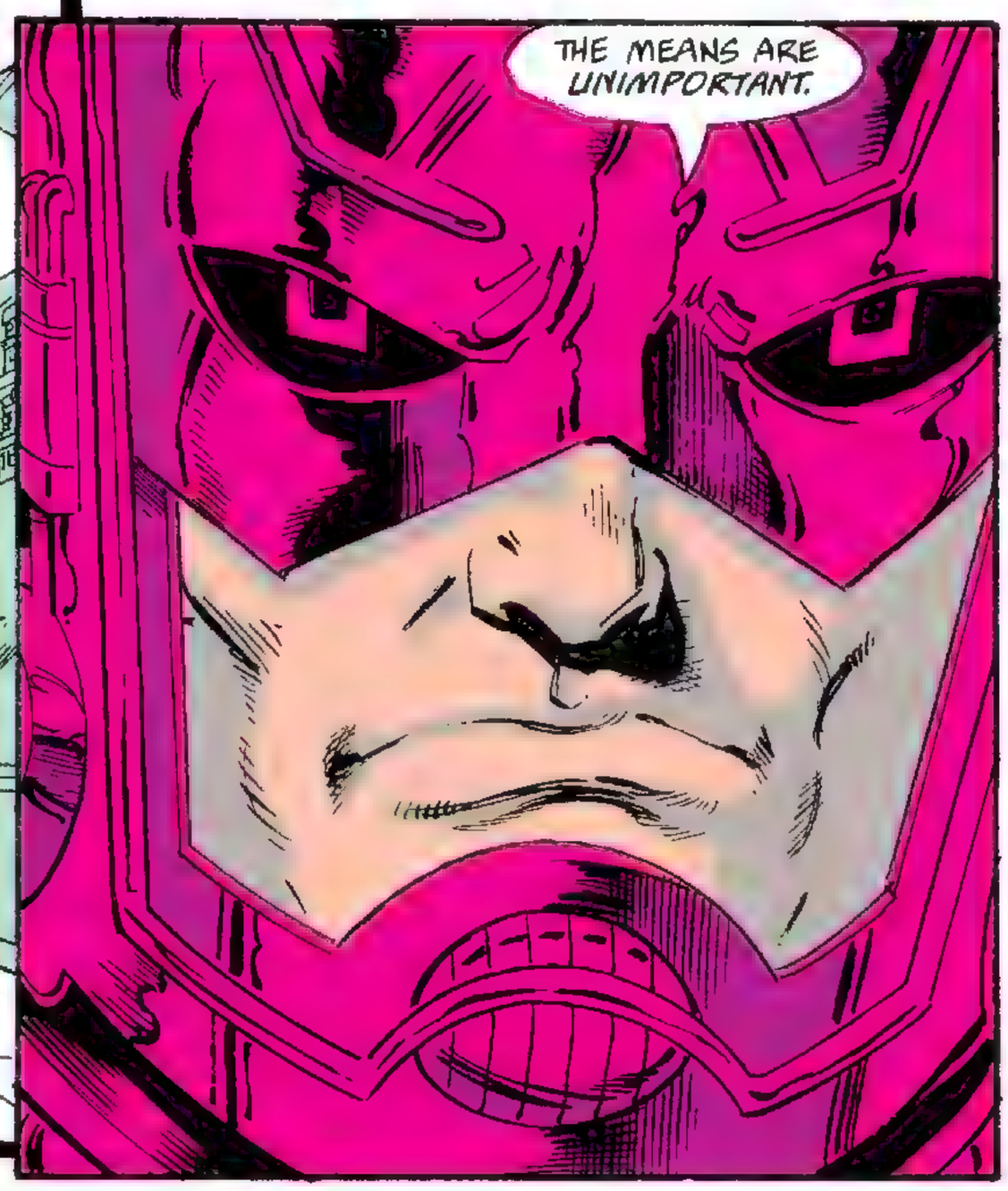

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS.
I HAVE ONLY MYSELF TO BLAME FOR THE BATTERING I RECEIVED...OVERCONFIDENCE MADE ME CARELESS...

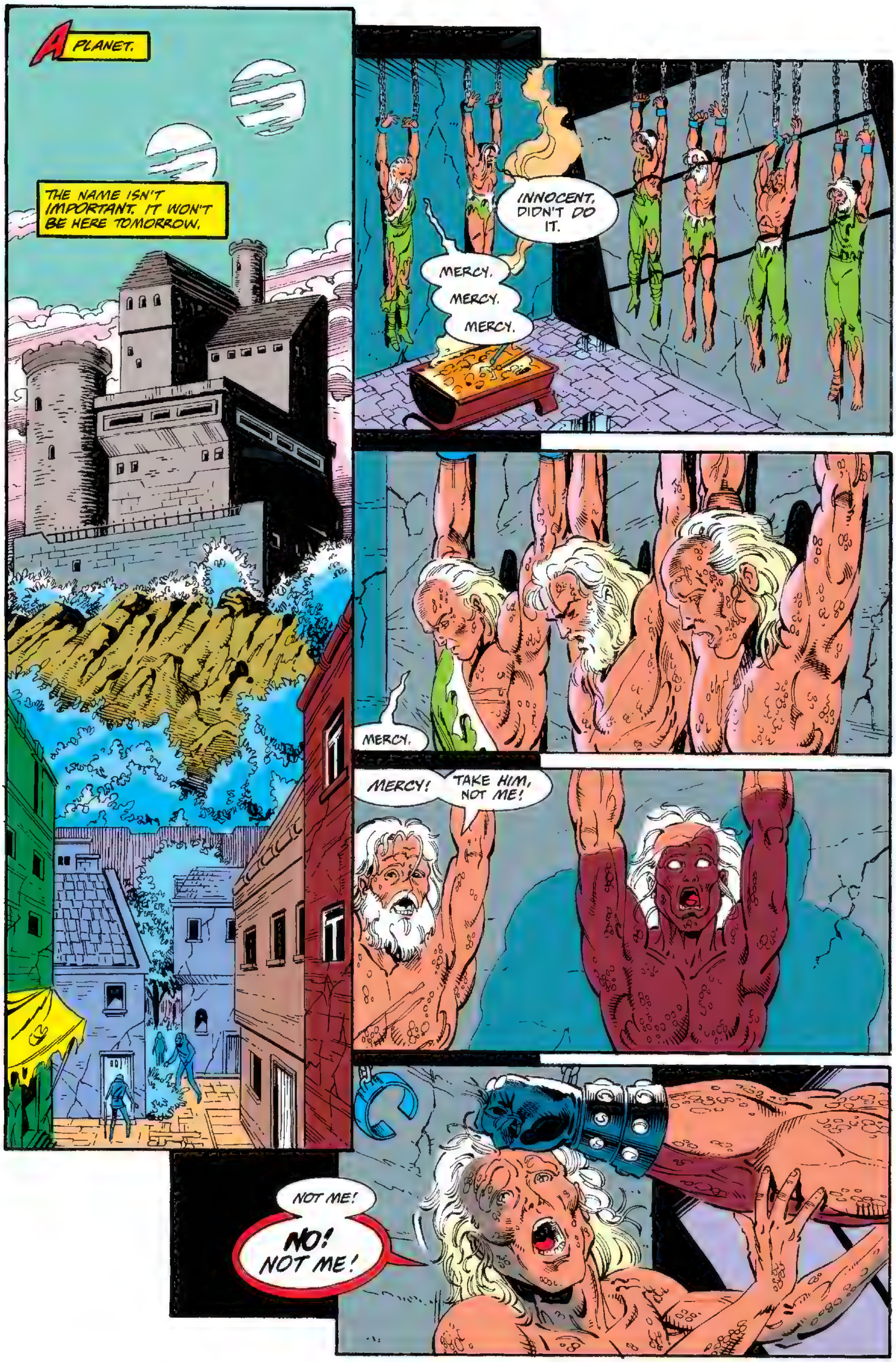
GOOD LORD! WHAT'S HAPPENED!?

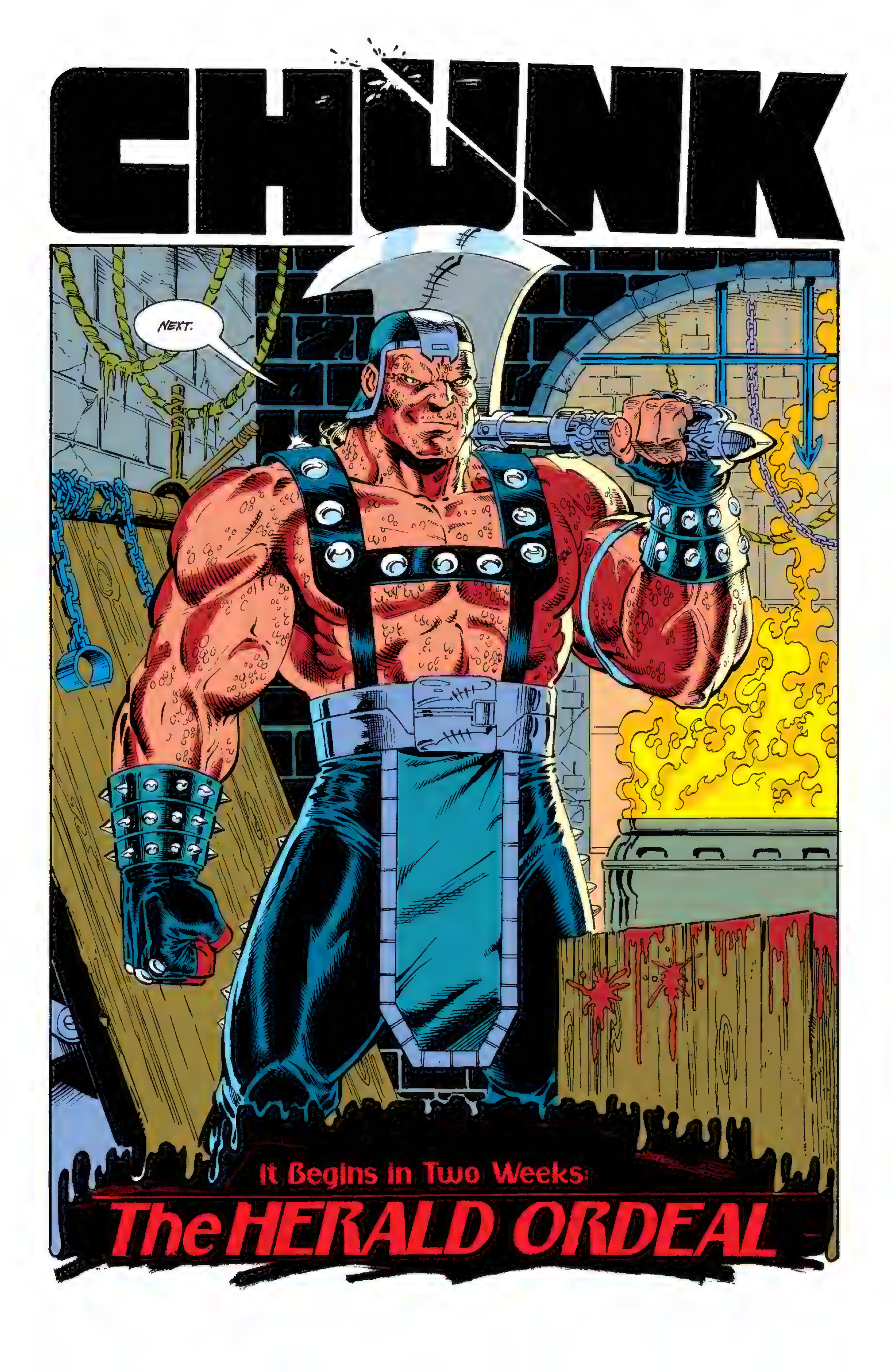
GALACTUS SOMEHOW INCORPORATED OUR FOE--AND HIS KNOWLEDGE--INTO THE SHIP.
A HORRIBLE WAY TO PERISH.


YOUR COMPASSION IS MISPLACED, SURFER, AS EVER. YOU WOULD DO BETTER TO THANK ME FOR SALVAGING OUR QUEST.
WE WERE IN NEED OF A WAY TO REGAIN OUR COURSE. I HAVE PROVIDED IT.


THE MEANS ARE UNIMPORTANT.

"INSTEAD, CONCERN YOURSELF WITH WHAT LIES AHEAD. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP...
"...AND I DOUBT IT WILL BE A PLEASANT ONE."
CONTINUED IN INFINITY WAR #3.


A PLANET.
THE NAME ISN'T IMPORTANT. IT WON'T BE HERE TOMORROW.
INNOCENT. DIDN'T DO IT.
MERCY. MERCY. MERCY.
MERCY.
MERCY!
TAKE HIM, NOT ME!
NOT ME!
NO! NOT ME!


CHUNK
NEXT.
It Begins in Two Weeks:
The HERALD ORDEAL

MARVEL COMICS
DR. STRANGE
SORCERER SUPREME™
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
44
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
ISHERWOOD 92

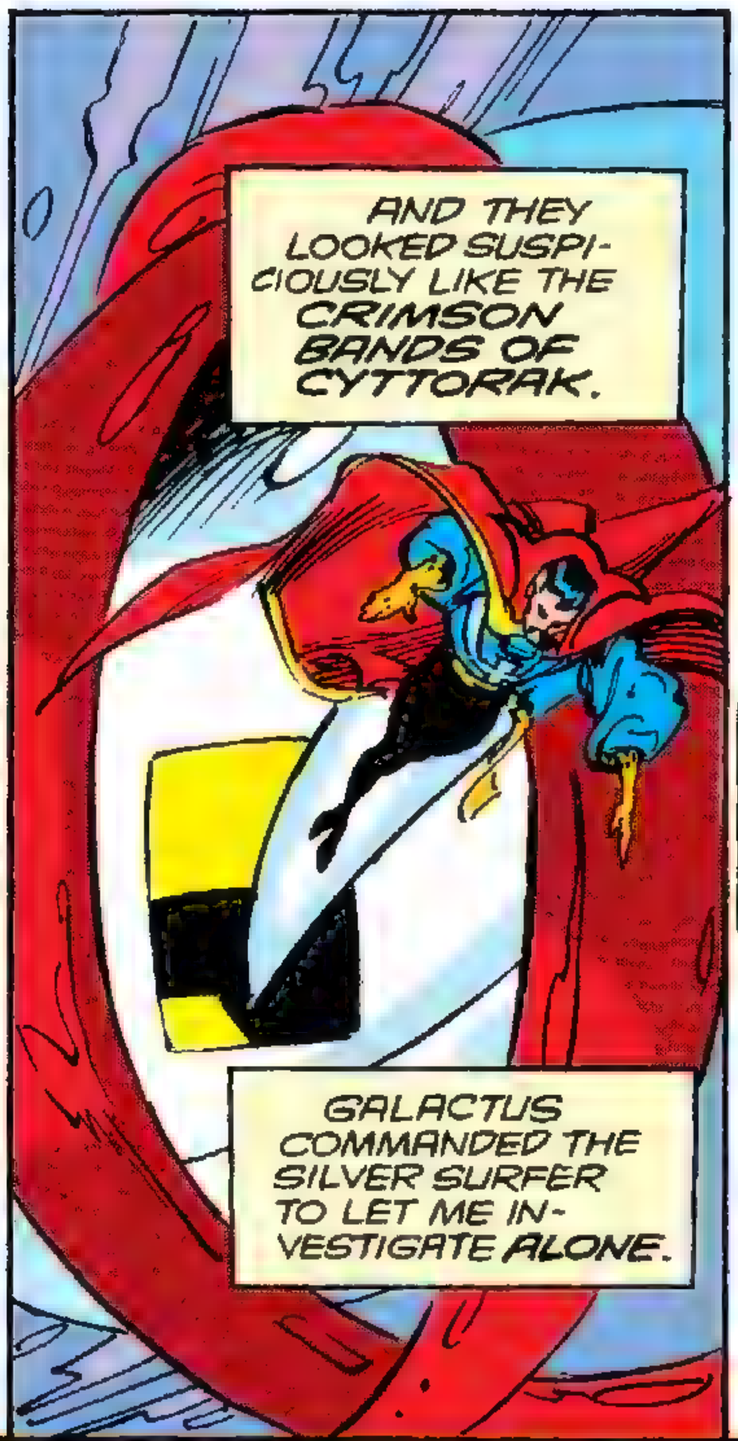
HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

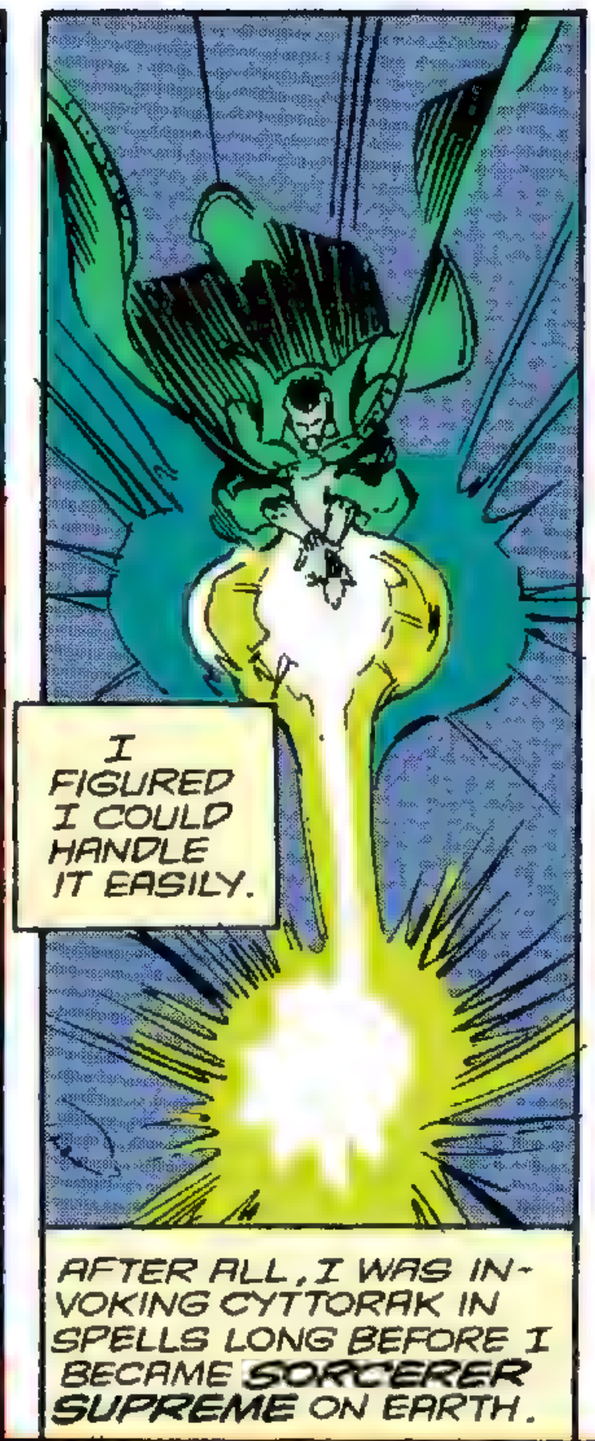
DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

THE COLOR CRIMSON

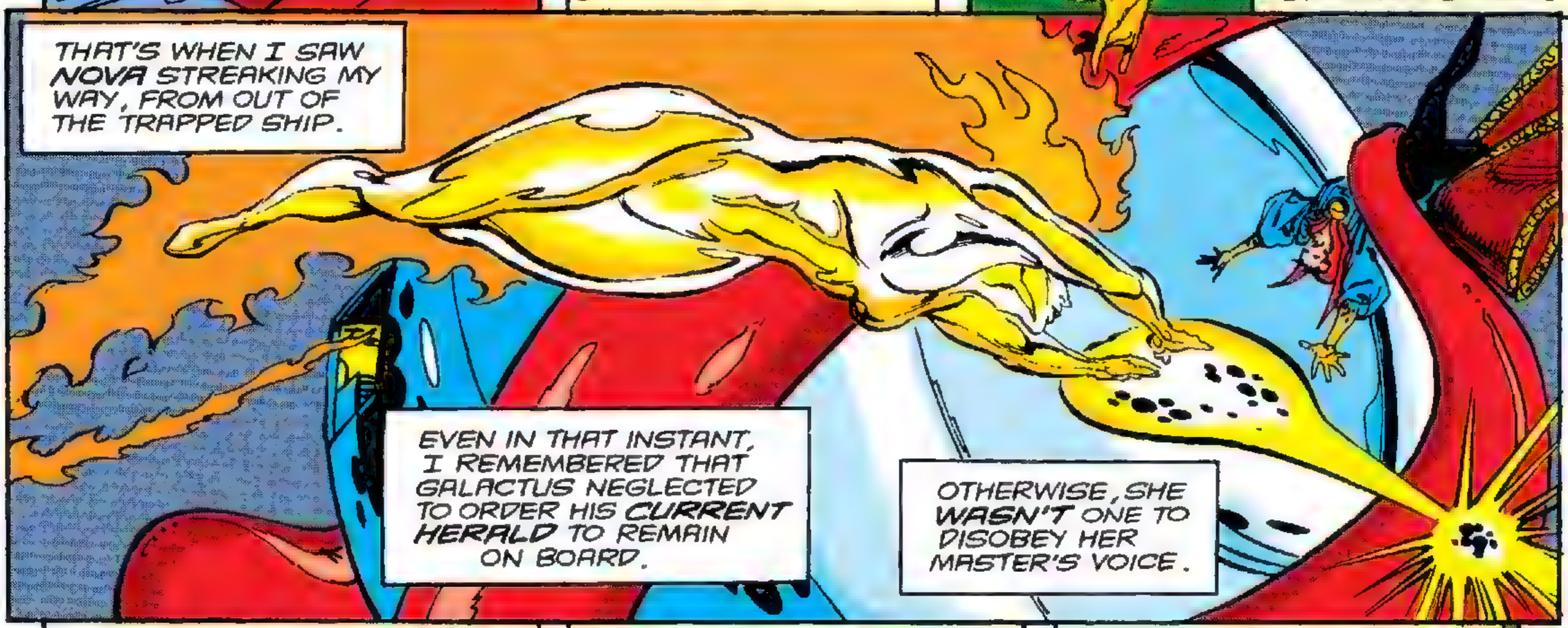
THIS ISSUE OCCURS BEFORE GALACTUS'S SHIP IS DISINTEGRATED IN *INFINITY WAR #3*, AND AFTER *SILVER SURFER #69*.

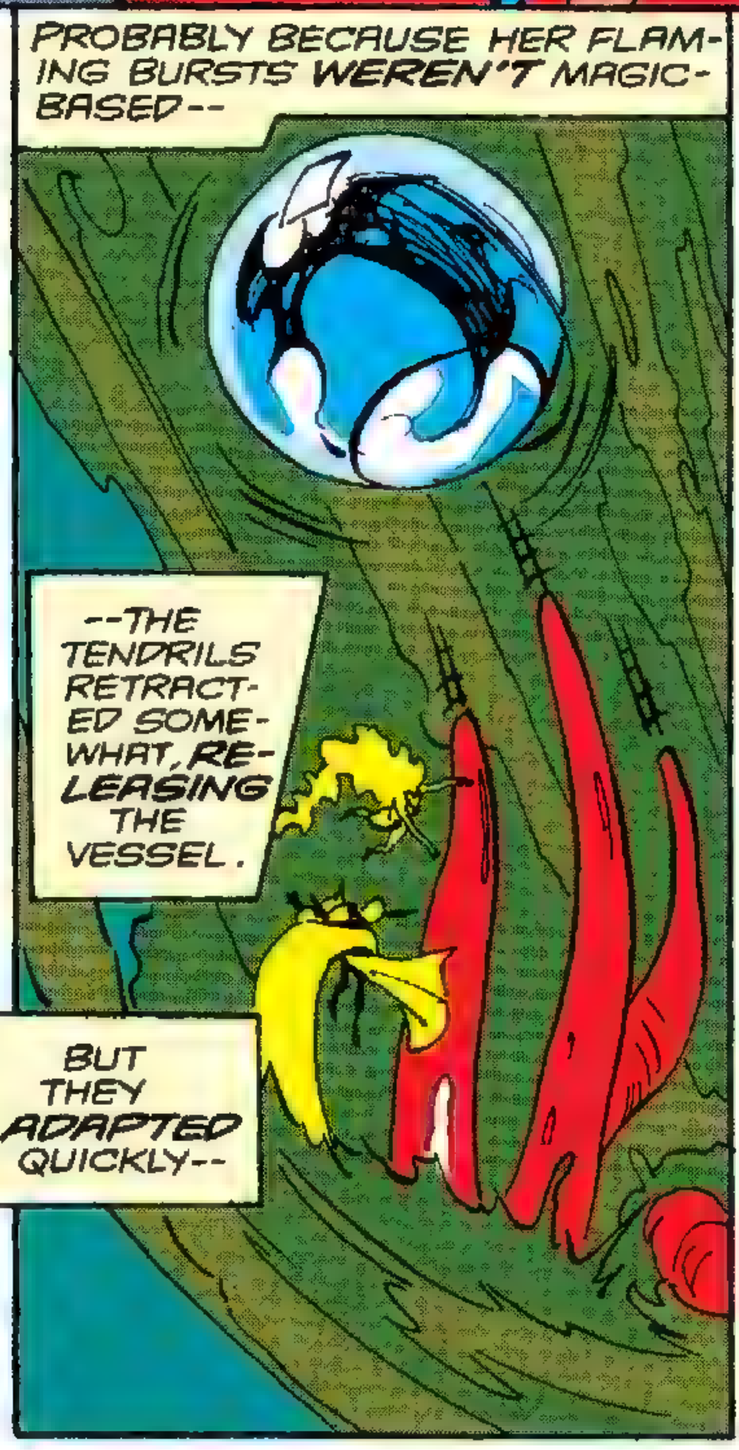
AND THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL, TOO...
...AT LEAST, ONCE WE'D LEFT THE REALM OF AGAMOTTO BEHIND.
GALACTUS'S VESSEL WAS MAKING RECORD TIME ALONG THE INTERSPATIAL CORRIDOR TOWARD THE RELAY DIMENSION.
AND THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO WAS KEEPING US RIGHT ON TRACK...
...IN SEARCH OF WHATEVER HAD TURNED THE AWESOMELY POWERFUL ETERNITY INTO A BIG, BLACK, STAR-FILLED VEGETABLE.
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST.
SOME EXTERNAL FORCE--HAS STOPPED THE SHIP!
IF NOT FOR INTERIA-LESS DRIVE, WE WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN LITERALLY FLATTENED AGAINST THE BULKHEAD!
NOVA! CAN YOU SEE IN THE VIEWSCREEN WHAT'S HAPPENED OUTSIDE?
JUST ENOUGH TO GUESS, DOC--
--THAT IT'S SOMETHING MORE IN YOUR LINE OF WORK THAN OURS!
MASSIVE CRIMSON TENDRILS--GRASPING OUR BUBBLE-CRAFT THROUGH RUPTERS IN THE VERY WALL OF THE DIMENSIONAL PASSAGE.


AND THEY LOOKED SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK.
GALACTUS COMMANDED THE SILVER SURFER TO LET ME INVESTIGATE ALONE.

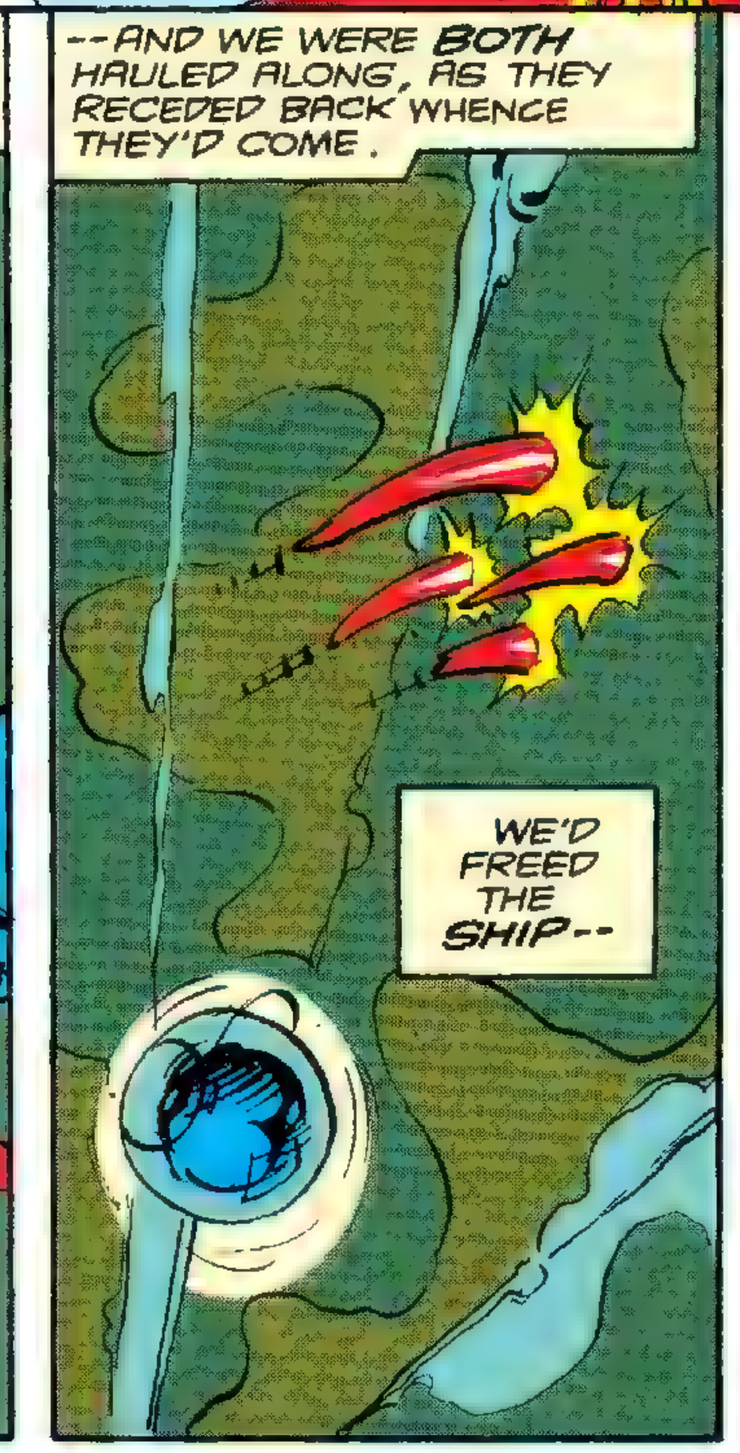

I FIGURED I COULD HANDLE IT EASILY.
AFTER ALL, I WAS INVOKING CYTTORAK IN SPELLS LONG BEFORE I BECAME SORCERER SUPREME ON EARTH.

BUT THESE TENTACLES SHOOK OFF MY ELDRITCH BOLTS--
--TO ENCIRCLE ME IN BANDS OF LIGHT THAT WERE STRONGER THAN CHROME STEEL!


THAT'S WHEN I SAW NOVA STREAKING MY WAY, FROM OUT OF THE TRAPPED SHIP.
EVEN IN THAT INSTANT, I REMEMBERED THAT GALACTUS NEGLECTED TO ORDER HIS CURRENT HERALD TO REMAIN ON BOARD.
OTHERWISE, SHE WASN'T ONE TO DISOBEY HER MASTER'S VOICE.


PROBABLY BECAUSE HER FLAMING BURSTS WEREN'T MAGIC-BASED--
--THE TENDRILS RETRACTED SOMEWHAT, RELEASING THE VESSEL.
BUT THEY ADAPTED QUICKLY--

--SO THAT, IN MOMENTS, SHE WAS AS MUCH IN THEIR GRIP AS I WAS--


--AND WE WERE BOTH HAULED ALONG, AS THEY RECEDED BACK WHENCE THEY'D COME.
WE'D FREED THE SHIP--

--BUT ONLY AT A COST WE COULDN'T YET COMPUTE.

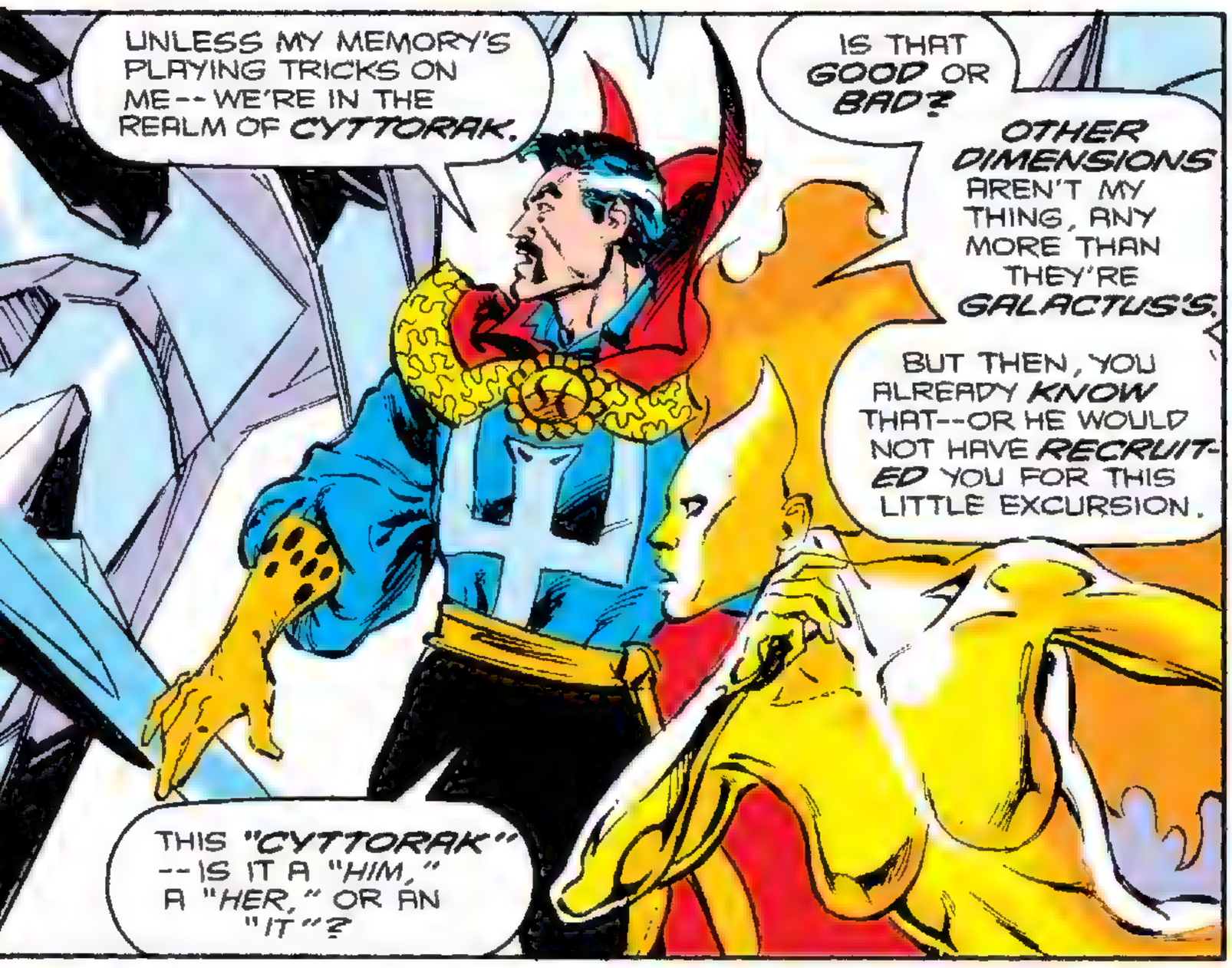
THE VISHANTI PRESERVE US!

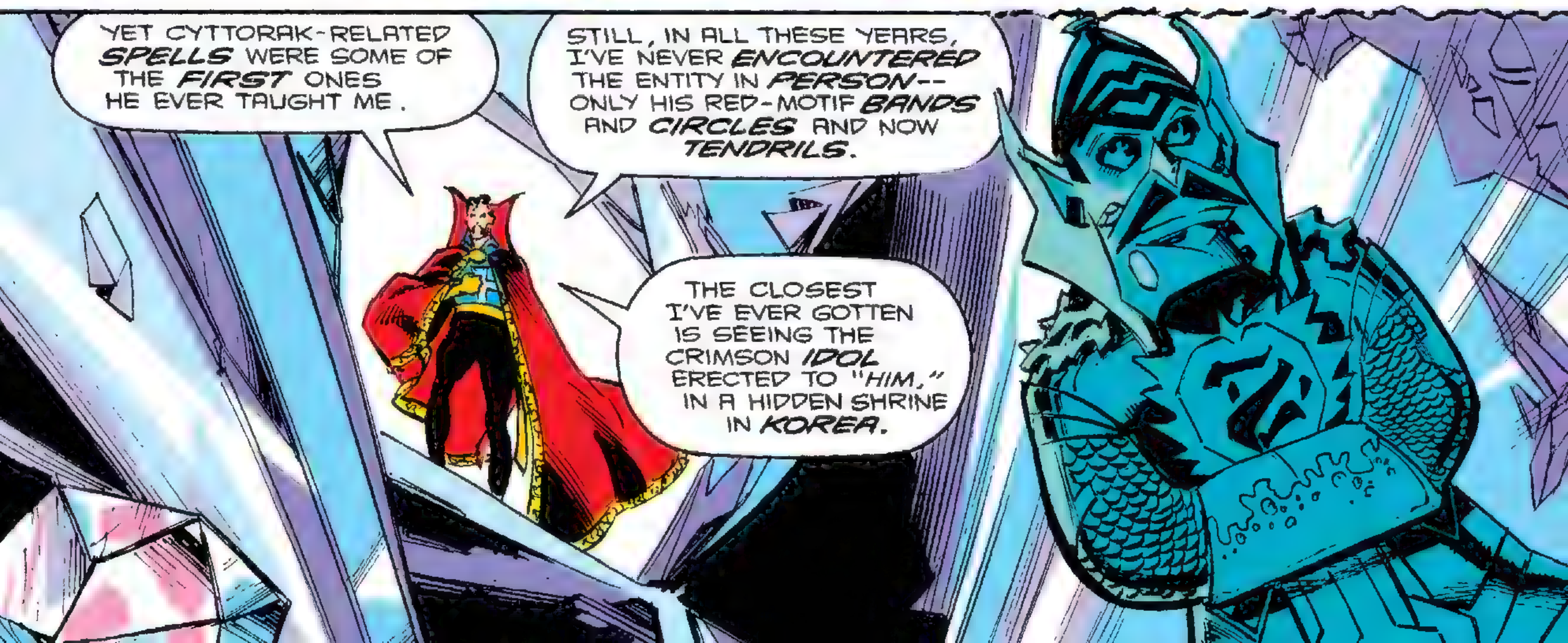
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NOVA?

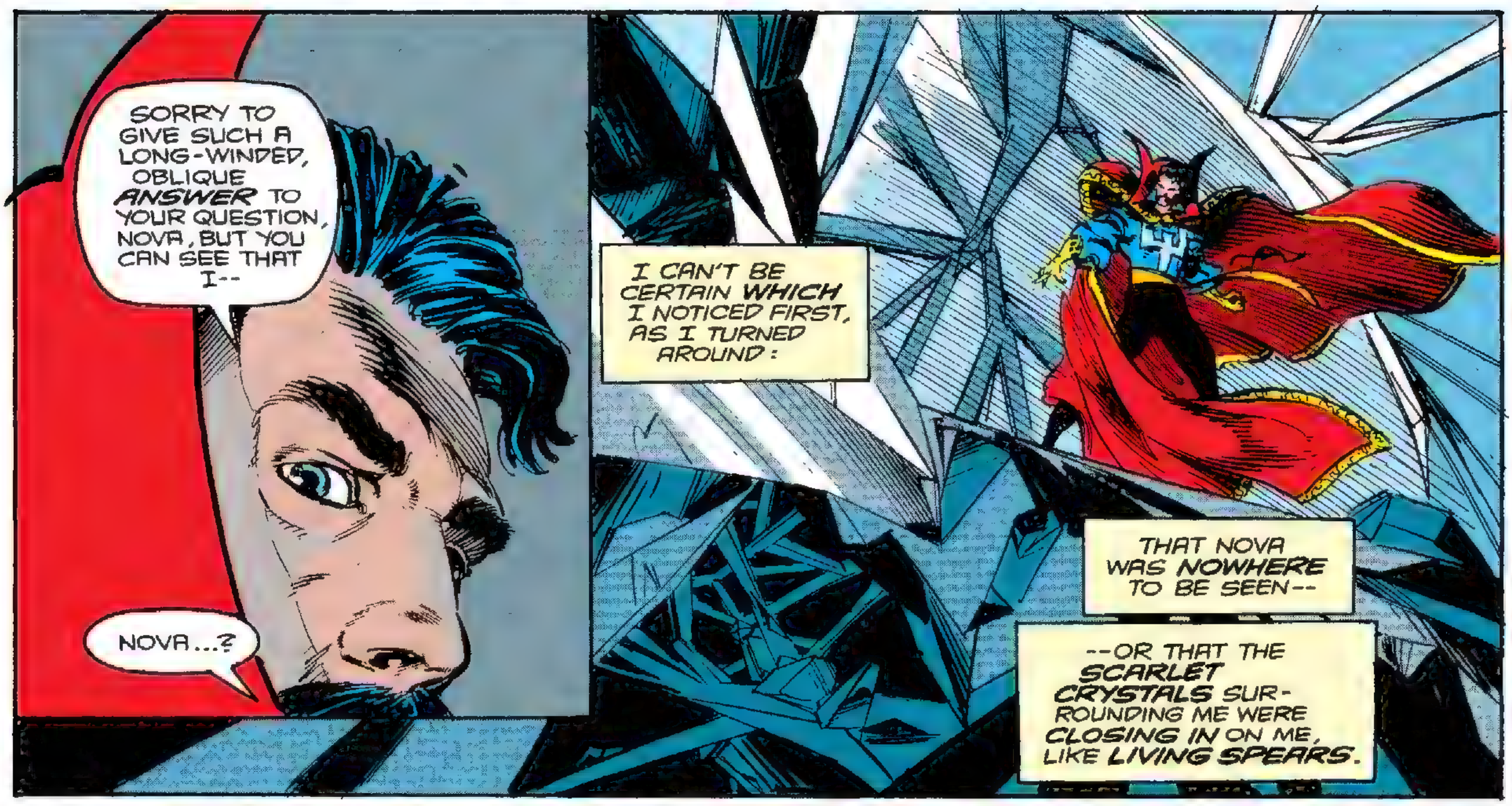
I'LL-- UNNH! --LET YOU KNOW!

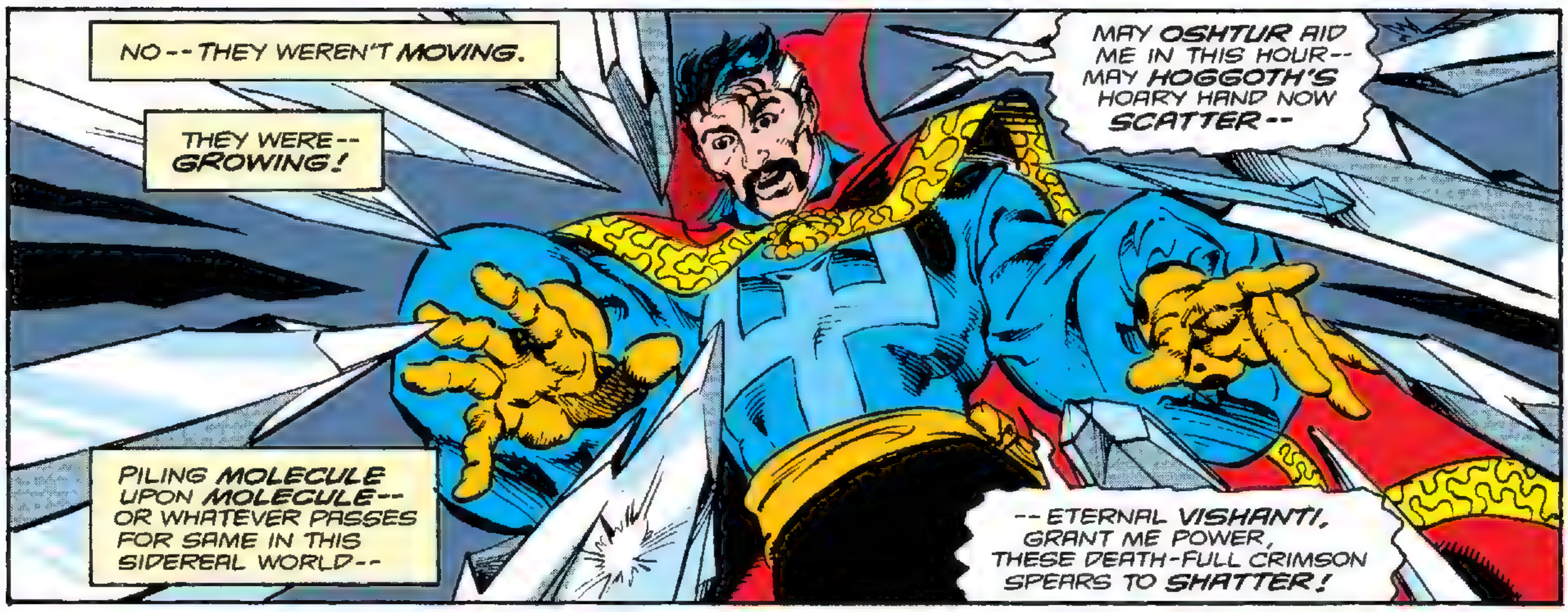
WHERE IN BLAZES ARE WE, ANYWAY?

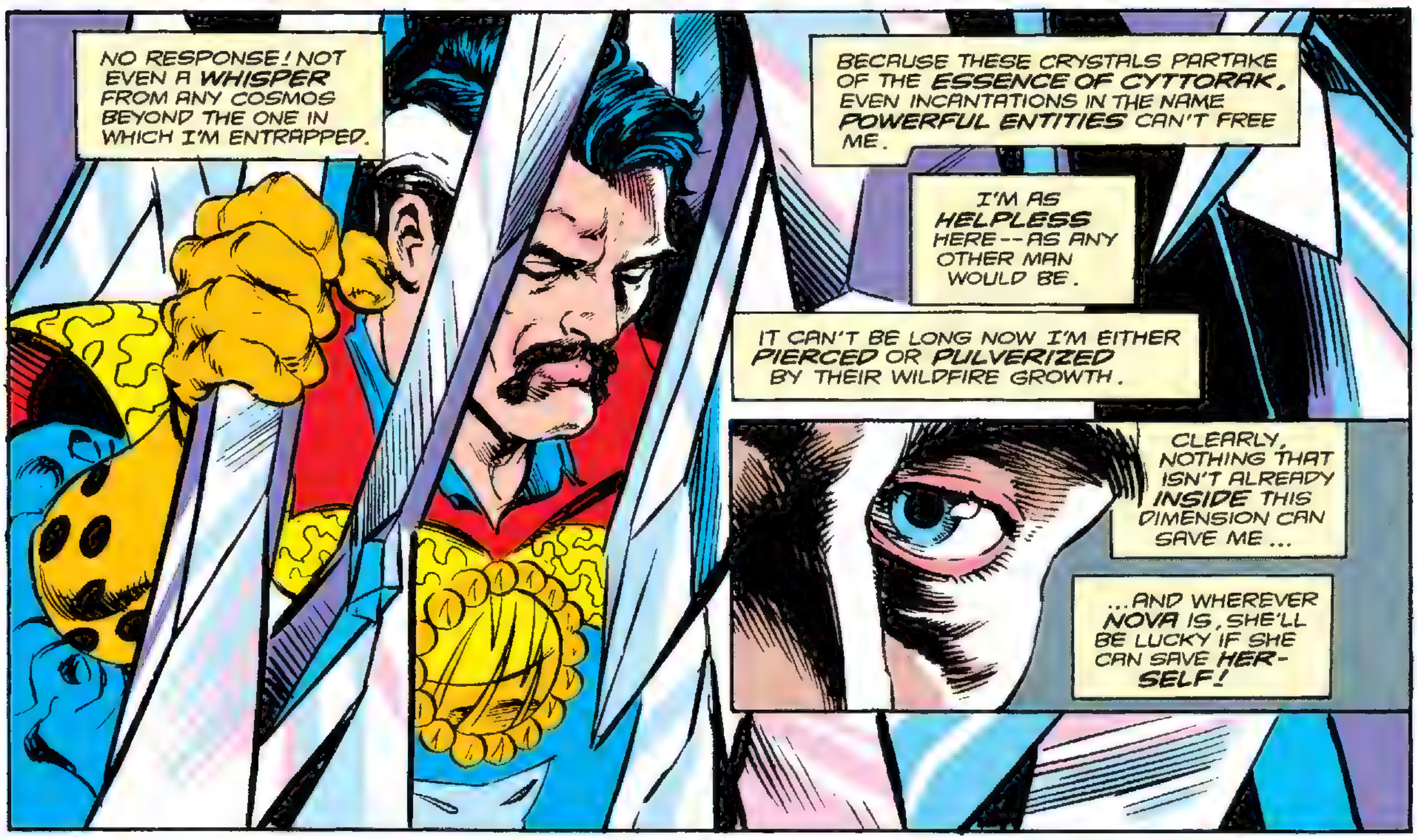
THERE'S MORE RED AROUND HERE THAN YOU GET IN A CLIVE BARKER MOVIE.






SORRY TO GIVE SUCH A LONG-WINDED, OBLIQUE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, NOVA, BUT YOU CAN SEE THAT I--
NOVA...?
I CAN'T BE CERTAIN WHICH I NOTICED FIRST, AS I TURNED AROUND:
THAT NOVA WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN--
--OR THAT THE SCARLET CRYSTALS SURROUNDING ME WERE CLOSING IN ON ME, LIKE LIVING SPEARS.


NO--THEY WEREN'T MOVING.
THEY WERE--GROWING!
MAY OSHTUR AID ME IN THIS HOUR--MAY HOGGOTH'S HOARY HAND NOW SCATTER--
PILING MOLECULE UPON MOLECULE--OR WHATEVER PASSES FOR SAME IN THIS SIDEREAL WORLD--
--ETERNAL VISHANTI, GRANT ME POWER, THESE DEATH-FULL CRIMSON SPEARS TO SHATTER!


NO RESPONSE! NOT EVEN A WHISPER FROM ANY COSMOS BEYOND THE ONE IN WHICH I'M ENTRAPPED.
BECAUSE THESE CRYSTALS PARTAKE OF THE ESSENCE OF CYTTORAK, EVEN INCANTATIONS IN THE NAME POWERFUL ENTITIES CAN'T FREE ME.
I'M AS HELPLESS HERE--AS ANY OTHER MAN WOULD BE.
IT CAN'T BE LONG NOW I'M EITHER PIERCED OR PULVERIZED BY THEIR WILDFIRE GROWTH.
CLEARLY, NOTHING THAT ISN'T ALREADY INSIDE THIS DIMENSION CAN SAVE ME...
...AND WHEREVER NOVA IS, SHE'LL BE LUCKY IF SHE CAN SAVE HERSELF!

YOU CANNOT DESERT HIM, GALACTUS!

I WILL NOT LET YOU ABANDON DR. STRANGE!

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER IN WHOSE VESSEL YOU ARE, NORRIN RADD.

I HAVE HARNESSED ENOUGH OF THE POWER OF THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO TO ALLOW ME TO FOREGO THE ACTUAL MAGE HIMSELF.

IN SHORT-- I NO LONGER NEED HIM.

HOW DID I EVER HAVE THE STOMACH TO SERVE YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS, WORLD-DEVOURER?

WAS I EVER SO BLIND THAT I SAW YOU AS ANYTHING BUT THE UNFEELING MONSTER YOU TRULY ARE?

I AM NOT AS INSENSITIVE AS YOU CLAIM, MY FORMER HERALD.

TO PROVE IT-- I SHALL WAIT ONE EARTHLY HOUR BEFORE I PROCEED ALONG THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.

OF COURSE, I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DEPART SOONER--

"-- SHOULD MY PRESENT HERALD NOVA MANAGE TO RETURN BEFORE THAT HOUR ELAPSES."

THAT CRYSTAL CHUTE SUCKED ME DOWN HERE-- BEFORE I COULD EVEN CRY OUT.

HOPE STRANGE IS OKAY.

HE'S NOT BAD, FOR SOMEONE WHO'S STILL HUMAN.

BUT THEN, I ALWAYS DID HAVE THIS THING FOR TALL, DARK FATHER FIGURES.

NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND OUT WHERE I--

SOMEBODY UP AHEAD...

DOC?

UNNNHH--!

WRONG...

...I GUESS I WAS **DEAD WRONG** TO THINK THAT, SINCE NO ONE **FOREIGN** TO THIS DIMENSION COULD HELP ME, I HAD STUMBLED ON AN **ANSWER.**

AND, UNLESS THE LAST-DITCH **SENDING** I TRIED DID ITS JOB BETTER THAN IT APPEARS IT DID--

--I'LL SOON JUST BE **DEAD.**

OR--**WILL I?**

GRAB YER **SOCKS** AND COMB YER **LOCKS,** JERK--

--'CAUSE I'M COMIN' THROUGH!
SMASH!!
HELLO, JUGGERNAUT.
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
DOC STRANGE!?

HOW'D *YOU* GET IN THE *CRIMSON COSMOS?*

MATTER OF FACT-- HOW'D *I* GET HERE?

YOU MEAN YOU *DON'T REMEMBER,* CAIN MARKO?

OH, I RECALL WHAT I WAS *DOIN'* TO-NIGHT--IF THAT'S WHAT YA MEAN.

SAME THING I DO MOST *NIGHTS* WHEN I AIN'T IN UNIFORM ...

"...NAMELY, GETTIN' GOOD AN' *PLASTERED.*

"BUT TONIGHT, I GOT THIS *BUZZIN'* IN MY HEAD *EARLIER'N* USUAL.

"SO I WENT HOME, AND CLIMBED INTO MY *JUGGER-NAUT* GEAR.

"I WAS JUST PUTTIN' ON MY HELMET WHEN *SOMETHIN'* CAME FLICKERIN' THROUGH THE WALL.

"ONE SECOND, IT LOOKED LIKE A *LIGHTNIN'-BUG.*

"THE NEXT, IT TURNED INTO THIS BIG *POOL OF LIGHT*--

"--AND *SUCKED ME IN* LIKE A *VACUUM CLEANER!* WHAT GIVES?"

IT'S SIMPLE. YOU *GOT* YOUR POWERS, YEARS AGO, FROM THE *RUBY OF CYTTORAK*--

--THE SAME GEM THAT LATER PULLED YOU INTO THIS WORLD, WHEN YOU GRABBED IT AWAY FROM THE *X-MEN.**

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A *SYMBIOTIC CONNECTION* WITH THE *CRIMSON COSMOS.*

WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK I DISPATCHED THAT *MYSTIC SENDING* TO BRING YOU HERE?

*UNCANNY X-MEN #12 & 33.--MIKE

WHAT??

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAULED ME BACK IN HERE?

WHY, I OUGHTTA--

IN FACT-- I THINK I WILL!

YOU MISSED, MARKO!

NOW HEAR ME OUT--

AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT--HE DOES.

--SO YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD HAVE SUMMONED INTO THIS DIMENSION TO HELP NOVA AND ME.

I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO IT, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE--

--AND NOW, NONE OF US IS GOING HOME UNTIL WE FIRST FIND NOVA--THEN CYTTORAK HIMSELF.

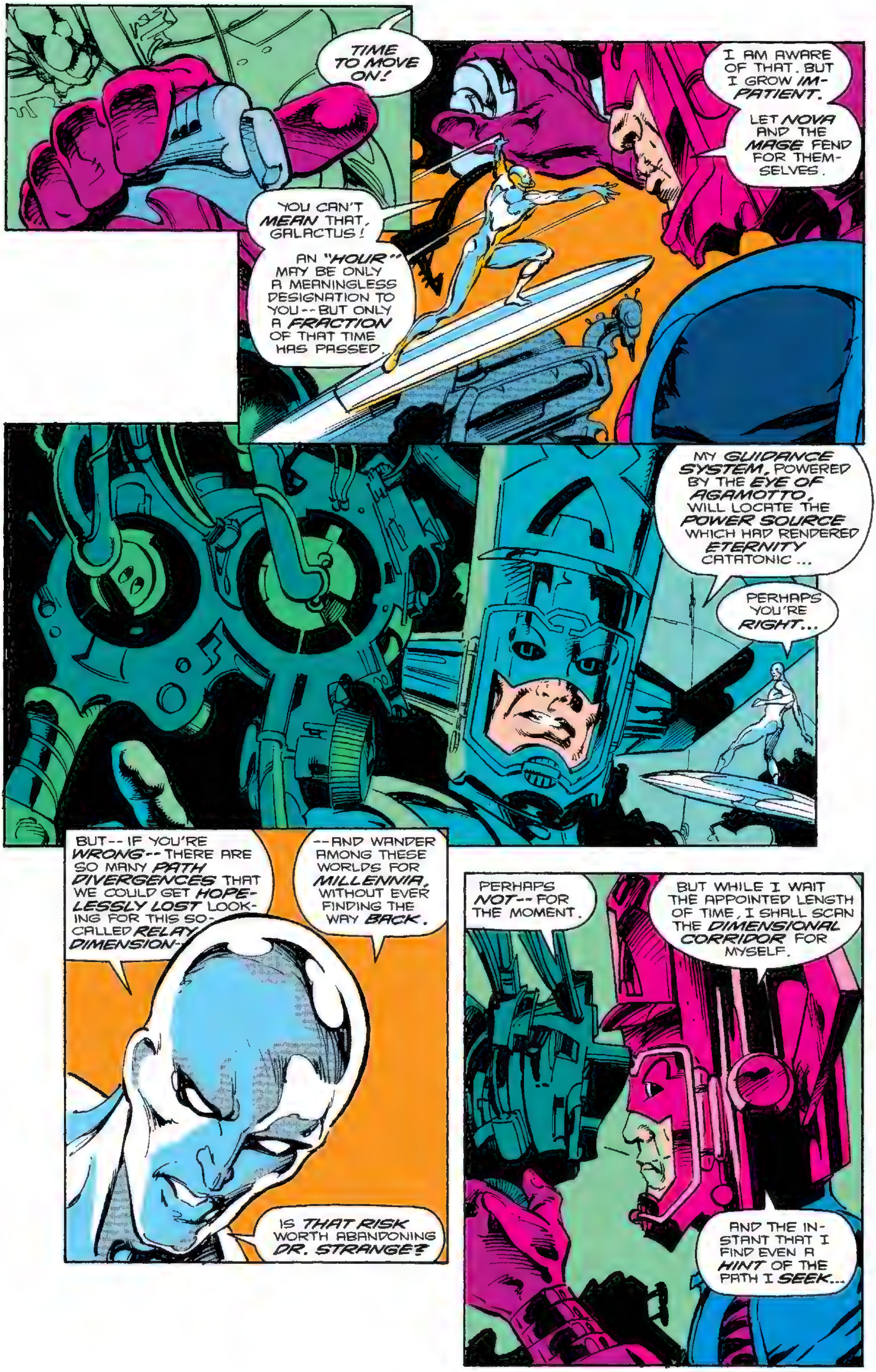
GOT IT ALL PLANNED OUT, DO YA?

WELL, YER PROB'LY RIGHT.

LIKE YOU SAID, THAT RUBY'S THE SOURCE OF MY MUSCLE--BUT I LOST WHAT MYSTICAL POWERS I HAD, A LONG TIME AGO.

SO I GUESS I BETTER HELP YOU FIND THIS CYTTORAK CLOWN AN' TALK HIM INTO LETTIN' US OFF THE BUS.

AN' HE BLASTED WELL BETTER NOT GIVE US A HARD TIME ABOUT IT!


TIME TO MOVE ON!
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, GALACTUS!
AN "HOUR" MAY BE ONLY A MEANINGLESS DESIGNATION TO YOU--BUT ONLY A FRACTION OF THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
I AM AWARE OF THAT. BUT I GROW IMPATIENT.
LET NOVA AND THE MAGE FEND FOR THEMSELVES.
MY GUIDANCE SYSTEM, POWERED BY THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO, WILL LOCATE THE POWER SOURCE WHICH HAD RENDERED ETERNITY CATATONIC...
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT--IF YOU'RE WRONG--THERE ARE SO MANY PATH DIVERGENCES THAT WE COULD GET HOPELESSLY LOST LOOKING FOR THIS SO-CALLED RELAY DIMENSION--
--AND WANDER AMONG THESE WORLDS FOR MILLENNIA, WITHOUT EVER FINDING THE WAY BACK.
IS THAT RISK WORTH ABANDONING DR. STRANGE?
PERHAPS NOT--FOR THE MOMENT.
BUT WHILE I WAIT THE APPOINTED LENGTH OF TIME, I SHALL SCAN THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR FOR MYSELF.
AND THE INSTANT THAT I FIND EVEN A HINT OF THE PATH I SEEK...

CAIN MARKO IS CONTENT TO FOLLOW MY LEAD... FOR NOW. I DON'T EXPECT IT TO LAST.

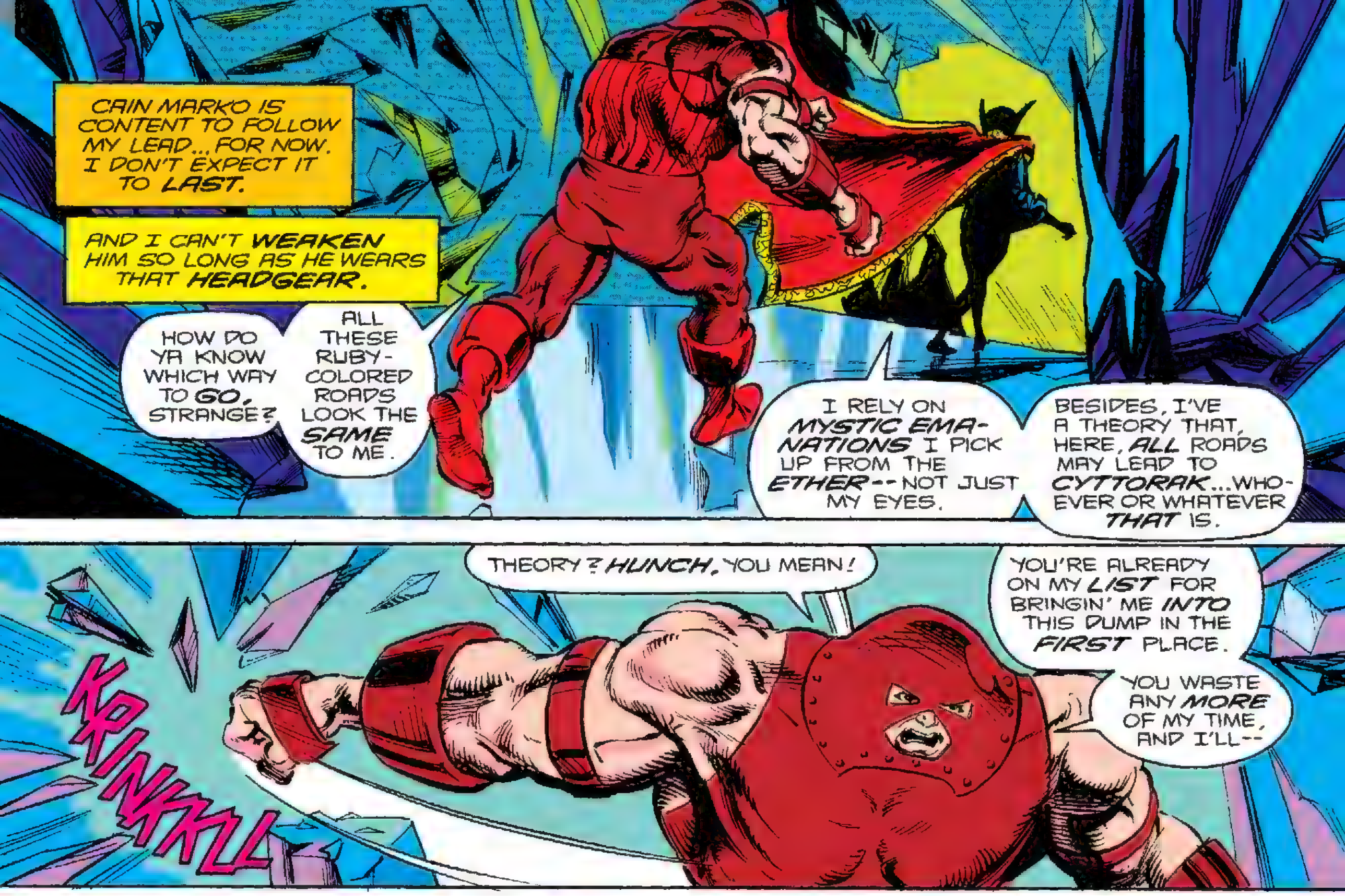
AND I CAN'T WEAKEN HIM SO LONG AS HE WEARS THAT HEADGEAR.

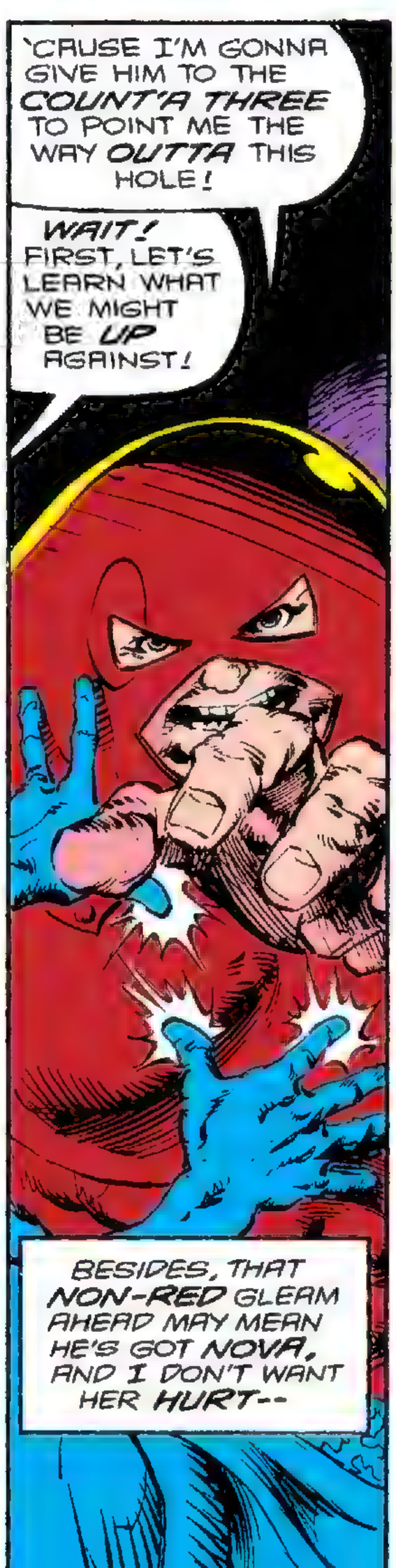
HOW DO YA KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO, STRANGE?

ALL THESE RUBY-COLORED ROADS LOOK THE SAME TO ME.

I RELY ON MYSTIC EMANATIONS I PICK UP FROM THE ETHER -- NOT JUST MY EYES.

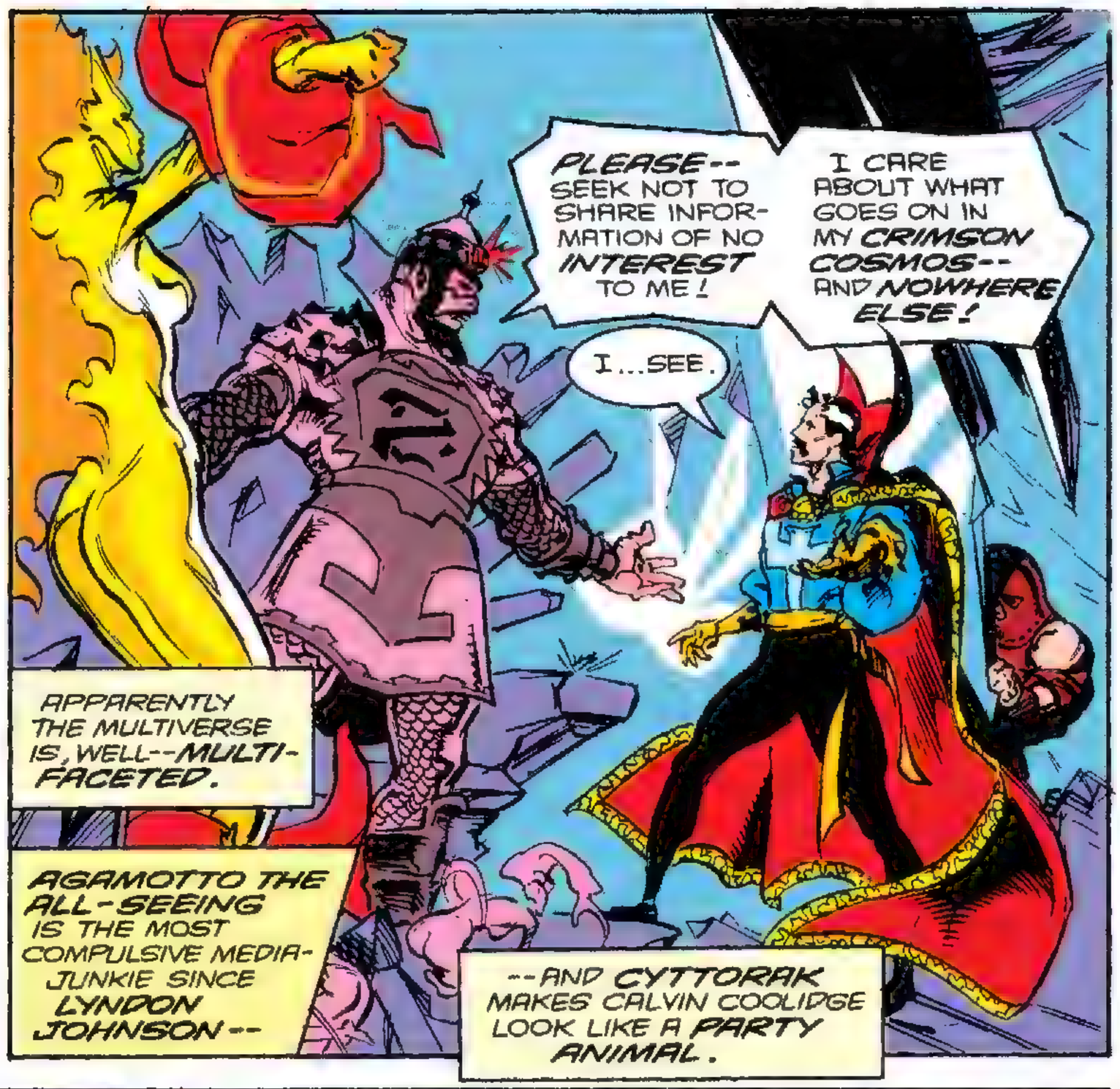
BESIDES, I'VE A THEORY THAT, HERE, ALL ROADS MAY LEAD TO CYTTORAK... WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THAT IS.



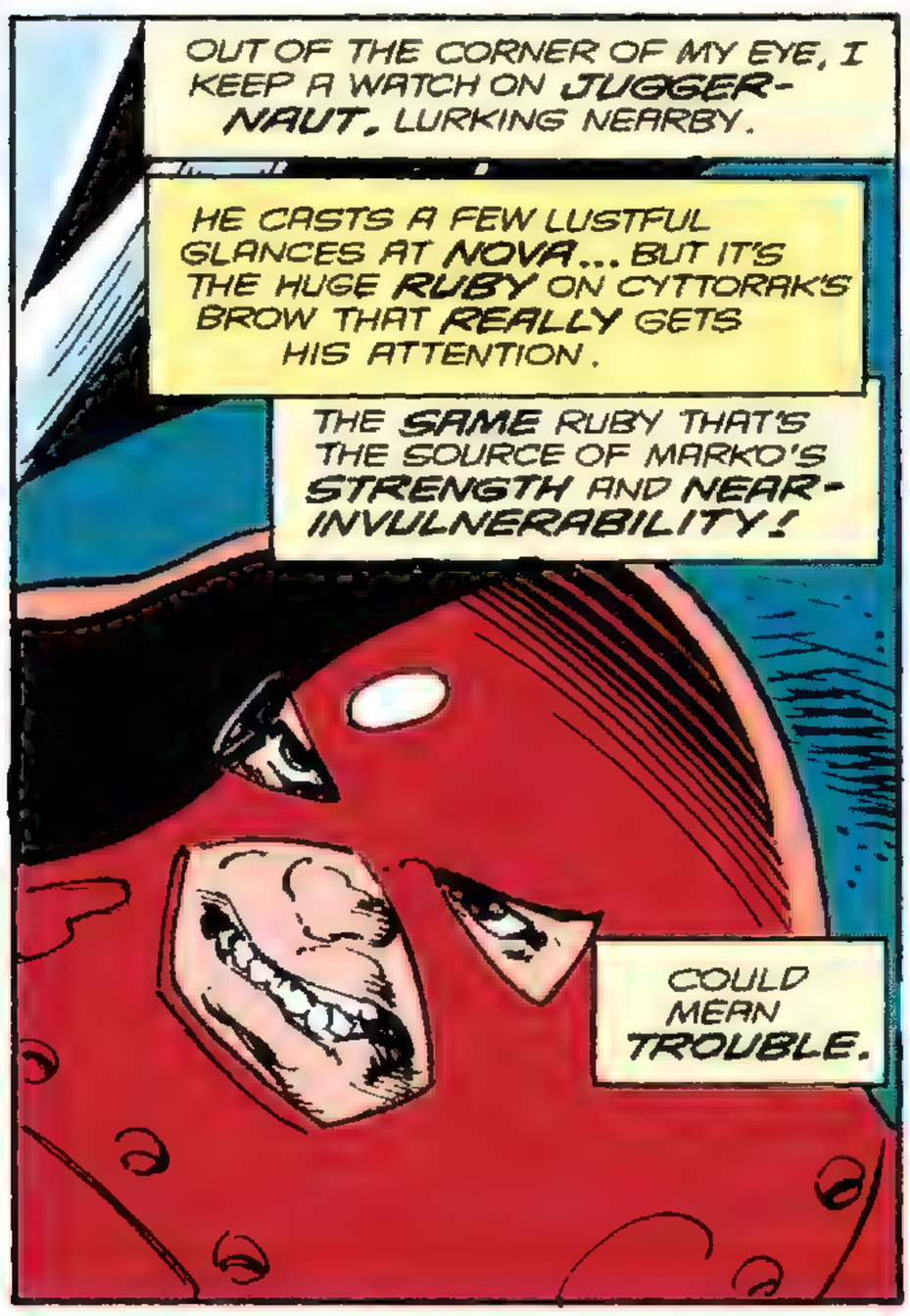


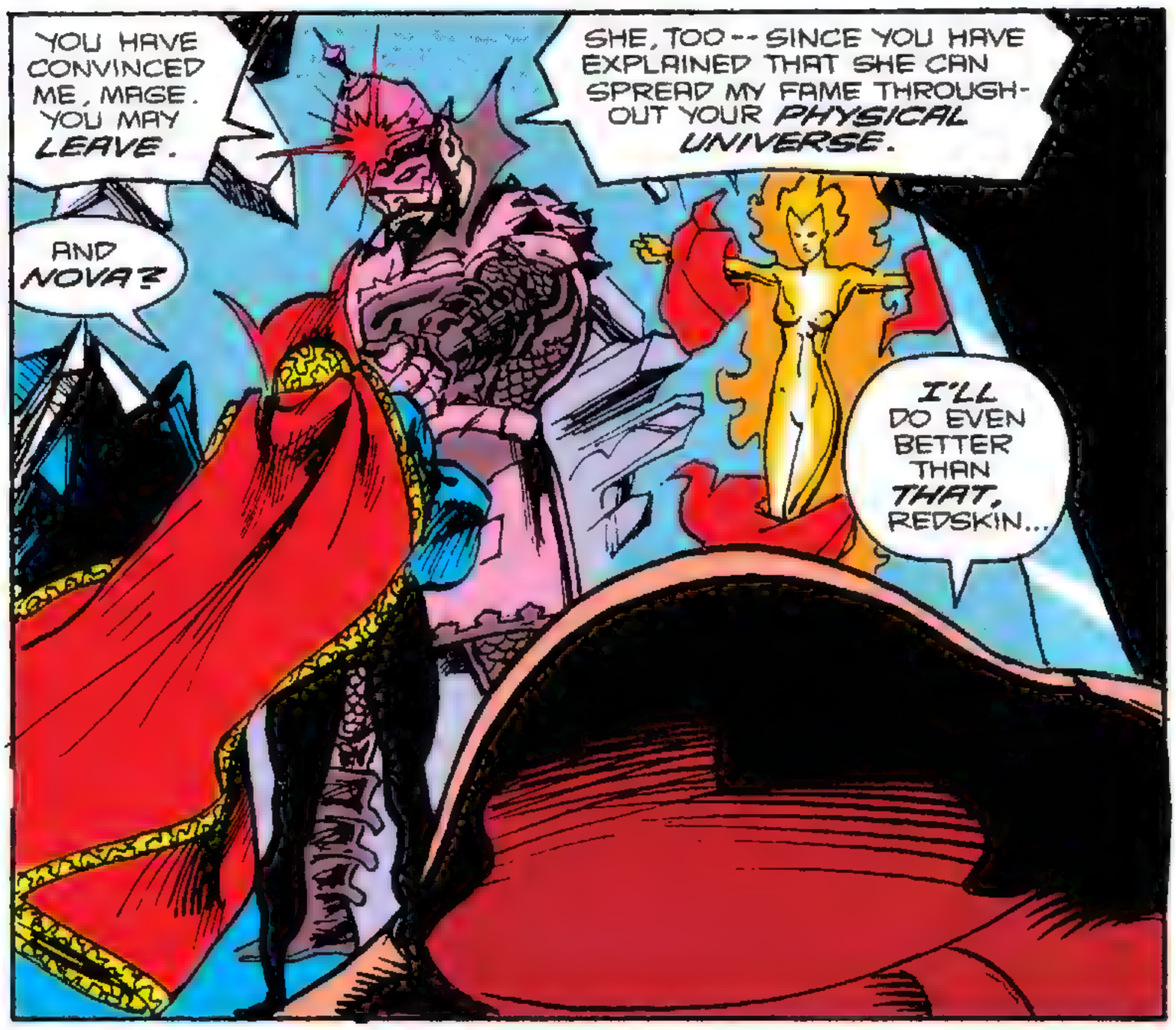
YOU WANT ME TO BECOME YOUR HIGH PRIEST-ESS!?
TO PRESIDE OVER THESE MINI-WOR-SHIPPERS OF YOURS--
--ECSTATIC ELVES YOU ADMIT YOU CREATED JUST SO THEY COULD ADORE YOU?
WHAT ELSE IS WORTHY OF A GOD'S CREATIVE FORCE?
TO BE WORSHIPPED --PAID HOMAGE --REVERED --IS ALL!
SO YOU'VE SHAPED A WORLD TO YOUR LIKING--AND PEOPLED IT WITH CREATURES WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO DANCE IN PRAISE TO YOU?
I'M ALREADY WORKING FOR ONE COSMIC EGOMANIAC --BUT AT LEAST GALACTUS DOESN'T DEMAND THAT I SING HYMNS TO HIM.
SO, THANKS FOR THE JOB OFFER--BUT NO, THANKS.
NOW, HOW ABOUT LETTING ME GO?
SURELY YOU ARE NOT SO DISINGENUOUS AS TO BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
YOU--AND THE WIZARD YOU CAME WITH, WHOM I WILL SEEK OUT LATER--SHALL BECOME MY PRIEST AND PRIESTESS, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.
AND SINCE ONE DOES NOT AGE HERE, THAT WILL KEEP YOU BOTH BUSY FOR A VERY LONG TIME, INDEED!
I THINK I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
CYTTORAK!
I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU RELEASE THE FEMALE CALLED NOVA--NOW.
I'LL TRY THE POLITE APPROACH FIRST.
IT MIGHT WORK.

SO, SORCERER --YOU SOUGHT ME OUT,
YOU KNOW WE'RE HERE ONLY BECAUSE YOU ATTACKED OUR VESSEL, SCARLET ONE.
WE ARE ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION CONCERNING THE ENTITY ETERNITY, WHO --


PLEASE-- SEEK NOT TO SHARE INFORMATION OF NO INTEREST TO ME!
I CARE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN MY CRIMSON COSMOS-- AND NOWHERE ELSE!
I...SEE.
APPARENTLY THE MULTIVERSE IS, WELL--MULTI-FACETED.
AGAMOTTO THE ALL-SEEING IS THE MOST COMPULSIVE MEDIA-JUNKIE SINCE LYNDON JOHNSON --
--AND CYTTORAK MAKES CALVIN COOLIDGE LOOK LIKE A PARTY ANIMAL.

IT'S A WONDER ANYONE EVER GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO CARVE HIS LIKENESS FOR THAT IDOL IN KOREA.
STILL, IF HE'S THE TYPE WHO GETS OFF ON GRAVEN IMAGES--!
YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN CALLING UPON MY POWER, FOR SOME TIME?
YES. SPREADING YOUR FAME, CLEARLY WITHOUT DIMINISHING YOUR POWER.
IN A SENSE, THEN, YOU ARE ALREADY MY DEVOTEE, ARE YOU NOT?
YOU COULD LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.
AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, IF I LET YOU DEPART?
I CAN GUARANTEE IT.


OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE, I KEEP A WATCH ON JUGGERNAUT, LURKING NEARBY.
HE CASTS A FEW LUSTFUL GLANCES AT NOVA... BUT IT'S THE HUGE RUBY ON CYTTORAK'S BROW THAT REALLY GETS HIS ATTENTION.
THE SAME RUBY THAT'S THE SOURCE OF MARKO'S STRENGTH AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY!
COULD MEAN TROUBLE.


YOU HAVE CONVINCED ME, MAGE. YOU MAY LEAVE.
SHE, TOO -- SINCE YOU HAVE EXPLAINED THAT SHE CAN SPREAD MY FAME THROUGHOUT YOUR PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
AND NOVA?
I'LL DO EVEN BETTER THAN THAT, REDSKIN...

I'LL SPREAD YOU ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE!
MARKO--!
AMAZINGLY--MORE QUICKLY THAN THE TIME IT TAKES TO SAY IT--CYTTORAK IS DOWN ON THE CRYSTALLINE GROUND--
--AND THE JUGGERNAUT HAS RIPPED HIS GREAT RUBY OUT OF HIS HEAD!
IT'S MINE!
ALL MINE!
SO IT WOULD SEEM.

AND CAIN MARKO IS DETERMINED TO BATTER HIS LONGTIME UNSUSPECTING PATRON INTO OBLIVION...
STOP IT! YOU'LL DESTROY HIM!
AIN'T YOU THE OBSERVANT ONE!
WITH HIM GONE, THERE'LL BE NOBODY WHO COULD EVER TAKE MY POWER FROM ME--
--AND THAT INCLUDES YOU, STRANGE!
SPLEE
KIKK!
AM I REALLY SURPRISED THAT HE'S NOW TRYING TO KILL ME?
HE TOLD ME I WAS ON HIS LIST.
HE'S PROBABLY GOT A DIFFERENT ONE THAT INCLUDES NOVA--
--NOW FIERCELY STRUGGLING TO ESCAPE THE ORIGINAL PROTOTYPES OF THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK.

I'VE GOT TO BUY HER SOME *TIME*...

G-GIVE UP YET... MARKO...?

YER A REAL *RIOT*, AIN'TCHA?

THIS RUBY'S BOUND TA MAKE ME EVEN *STRONGER* THAN I BEEN TILL *NOW*--

--AN' YOU KNOW HOW STRONG *THAT* IS!

*THE OPPRESSIVE, RED-TINTED AIR OF CYTTORAK'S DIMENSION **SLOWS** ME--LIKE WALKING THROUGH WATER--*

*AND THOUGH THE JUGGERNAUT'S **FIRST** BLOW MISSES ME--*

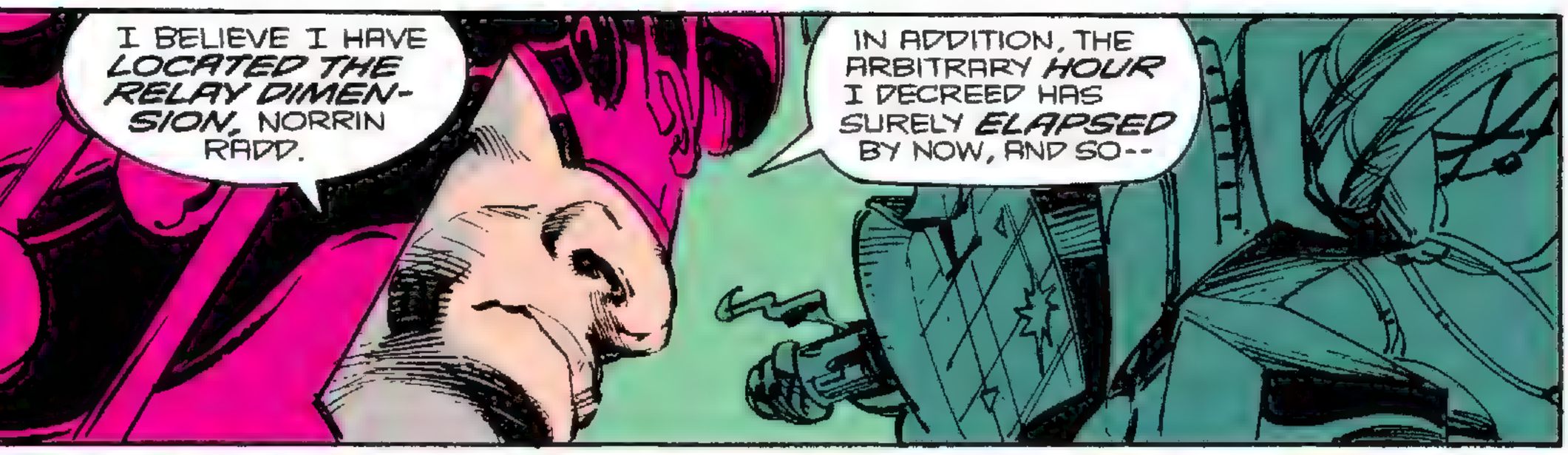
*--THE SECOND ONE **DOESN'T!***

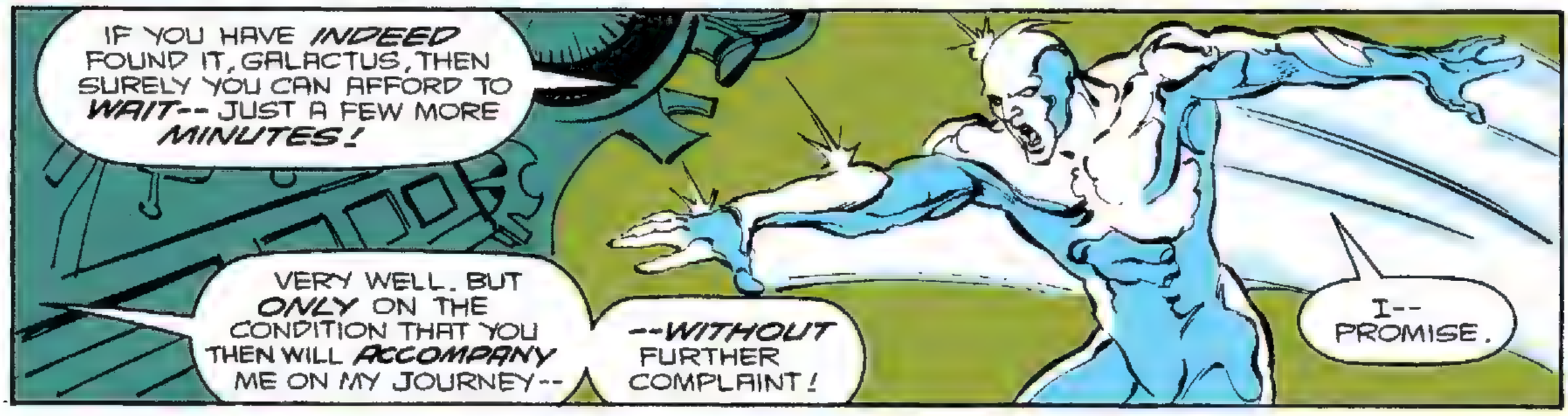
AARRRHH--!

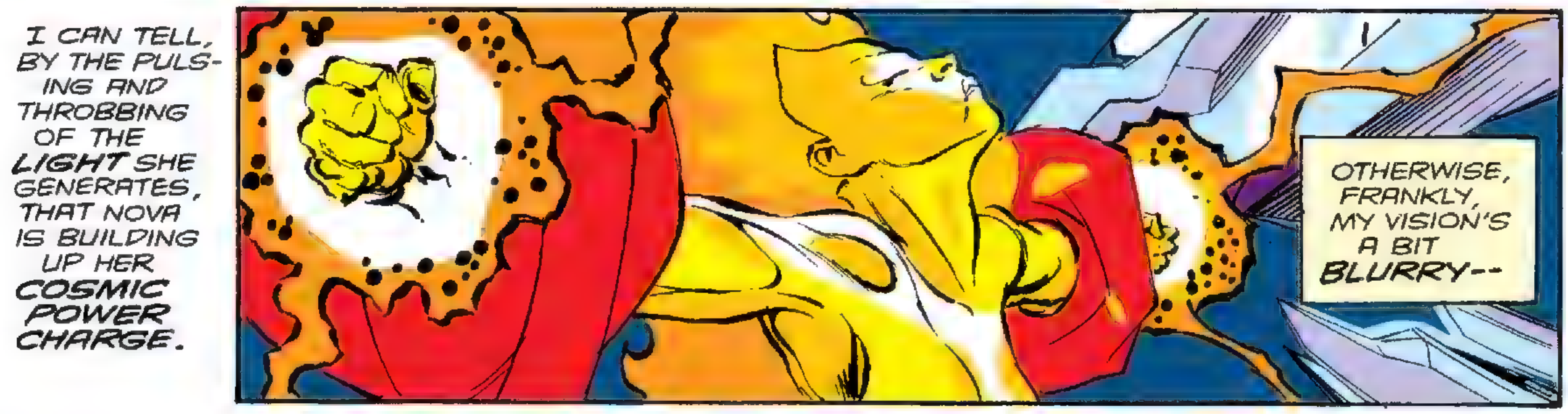
HAH! I'VE KNOCKED HOLES IN *TRACTOR TRAILERS* WITH THAT PUNCH, STRANGE.

JUST IMAGINE WHAT IT'S DOIN' TO YER *SPINE!*

WHAAK!


I BELIEVE I HAVE LOCATED THE RELAY DIMENSION, NORRIN RADD.
IN ADDITION, THE ARBITRARY HOUR I DECREED HAS SURELY ELAPSED BY NOW, AND SO--


IF YOU HAVE INDEED FOUND IT, GALACTUS, THEN SURELY YOU CAN AFFORD TO WAIT-- JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES!
VERY WELL. BUT ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU THEN WILL ACCOMPANY ME ON MY JOURNEY--
--WITHOUT FURTHER COMPLAINT!
I-- PROMISE.

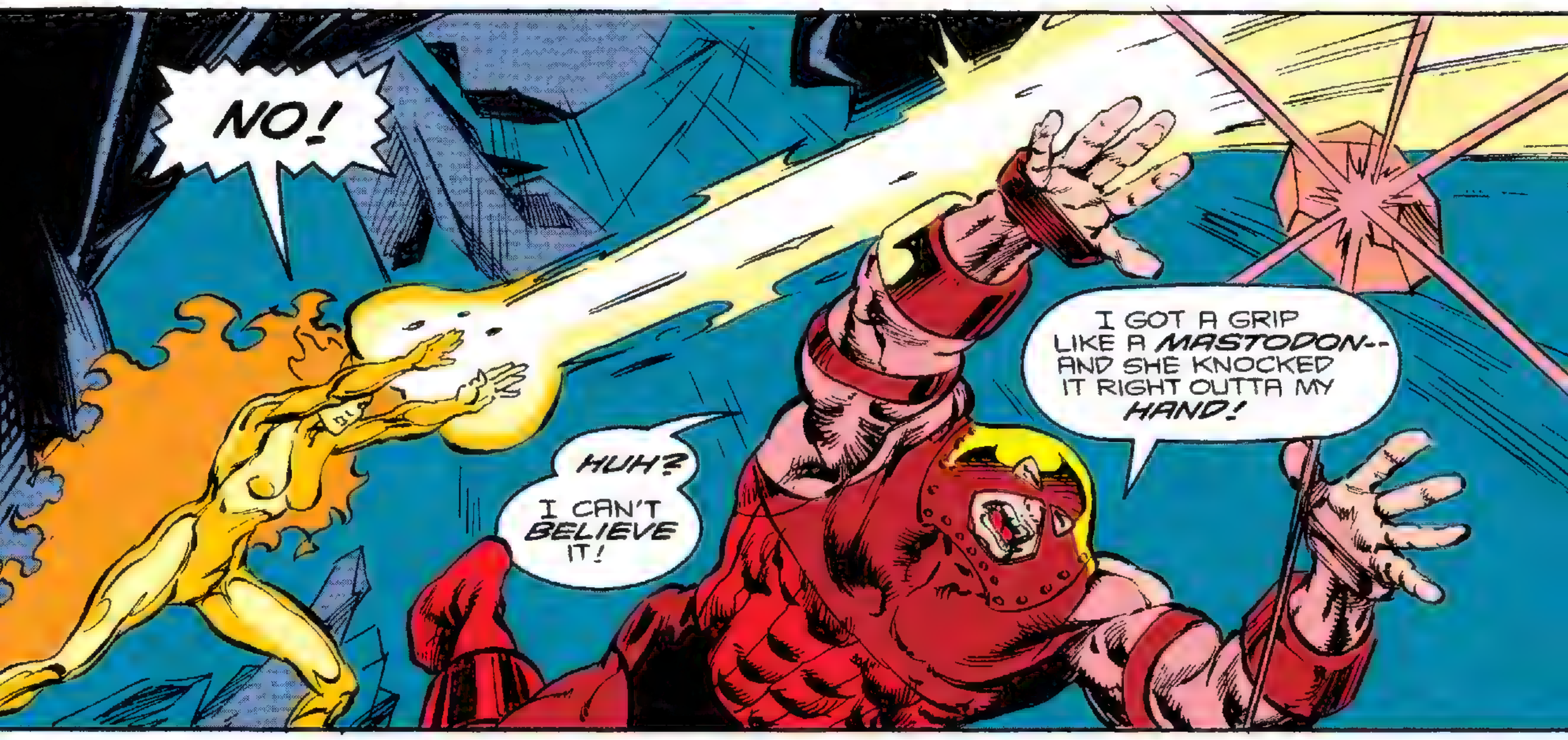

I CAN TELL, BY THE PULSING AND THROBBING OF THE LIGHT SHE GENERATES, THAT NOVA IS BUILDING UP HER COSMIC POWER CHARGE.
OTHERWISE, FRANKLY, MY VISION'S A BIT BLURRY--

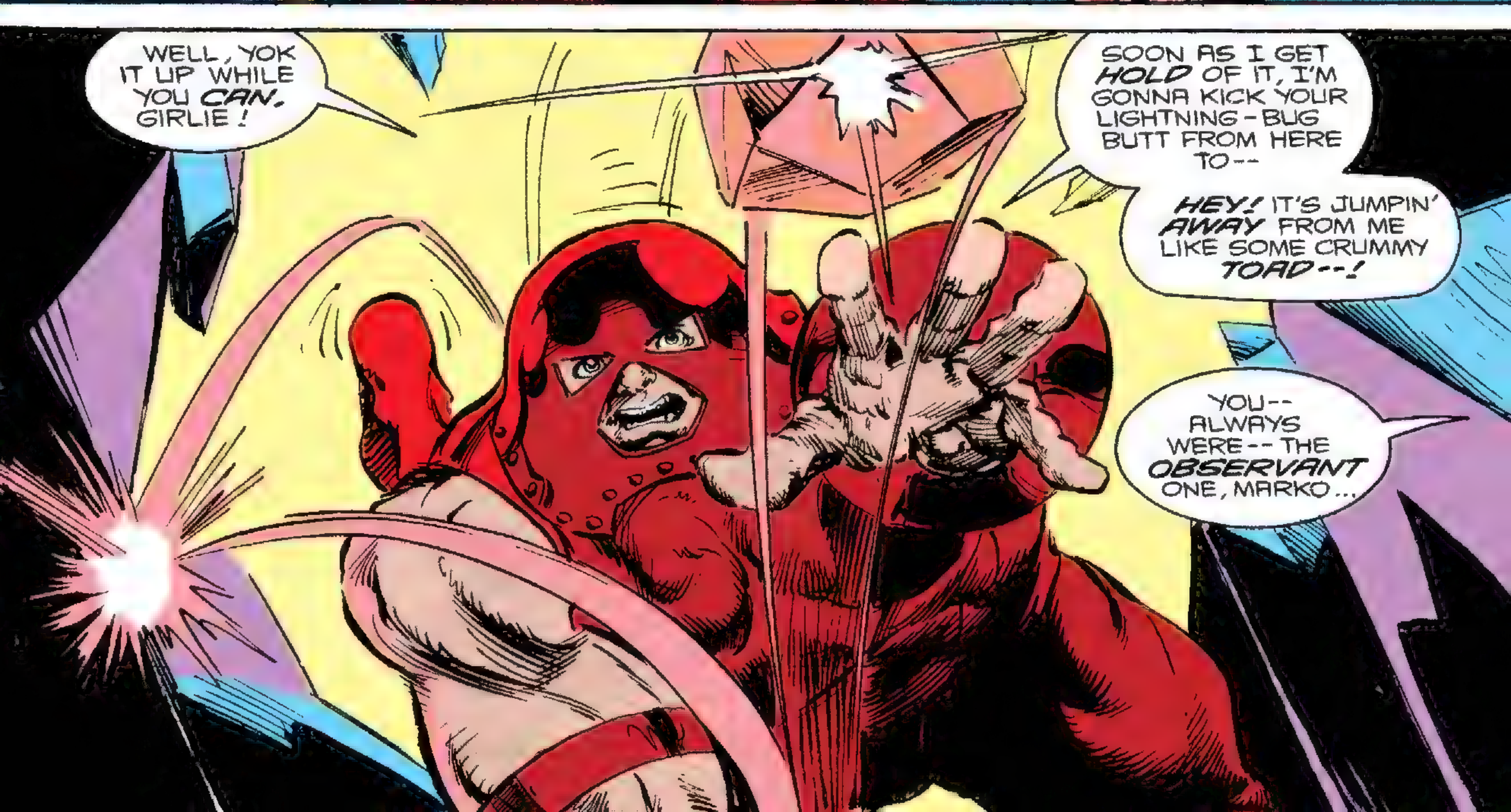
--AND THE PAIN IN MY LOWER BACK WOULD KEEP AN INCORPORATED GANG OF CHIROPRACTORS BUSY FOR A WEEK.
GOTTA ADMIT, PAL--YOU MUST BE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN YOU LOOK.
OTHERWISE, YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW!
M-MARKO-- PUT DOWN-- THE RUBY--
--AND F-FIGHT ME --MAN TO MAN!

WHY? YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND ONE? HAW HAWHAW
FORGET IT, MAN! I'M KING OF THIS BURG NOW!
FUNNY THING, THOUGH--I SHOULD FEEL STRONGER NOW THAT I GOT THIS RUBY, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, THOUGH, I'M FEELIN'-- A LITTLE LIGHT-HEADED.
BUT NOTHIN' CAN HURT ME-- LONG AS I WEAR THIS HELMET.
WELL...THE DIZZINESS'LL DIE OUT--
--JUST LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO, WHEN I--

FREE!

IGNORE HER, STRANGE. LET'S SEE WHICH ONE'S HARDER --
MY RUBY--
--OR YER SKULL!


NO!
HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I GOT A GRIP LIKE A MASTODON-- AND SHE KNOCKED IT RIGHT OUTTA MY HAND!


WELL, YOK IT UP WHILE YOU CAN, GIRLIE!
SOON AS I GET HOLD OF IT, I'M GONNA KICK YOUR LIGHTNING-BUG BUTT FROM HERE TO--
HEY! IT'S JUMPIN' AWAY FROM ME LIKE SOME CRUMMY TOAD--!
YOU-- ALWAYS WERE-- THE OBSERVANT ONE, MARKO...

...SO PERHAPS YOU CAN FIGURE OUT... WHO'S KEEPING IT AWAY FROM YOU!
--CYTTORAK!
I GOT IT--!
BLAST! IT'S LIKE TRYIN' TO GRAB HOLD OF A BAR OF SOAP!
SOMETHING CAIN MARKO HASN'T DONE NEARLY OFTEN ENOUGH.
IT'S FLYIN' STRAIGHT FOR--
YOU HAVE BEGUN THE ENGINES AGAIN, GALACTUS.
DOES THAT MEAN--?
THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT IN THE READINGS BY MY SHIPBOARD COMPUTERS.
THEY ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE THE FIX THEY HAVE UPON THE RE-LAY DIMENSION.
WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE-- OR RISK THE ULTIMATE FAILURE OF OUR MISSION!
I THOUGHT I KILLED THIS CLOWN!
BUT-- HIS EYES--
--THEY'RE OPEN AGAIN!

I GOT TO--

WHOOOOOOAA!!

NO!

WE MUST GIVE THEM A *FEW MORE SECONDS!*

YOU *DARE* TO DISINTEGRATE MY *HYPER-SPATIAL THROTTLE!?*

...SO YOU WERE WORKING TO *WEAKEN* JUGGERNAUT, ALL ALONG?

I KNEW HE'D WEAKEN *HIMSELF,* NOVA--

--IF HE DARED ATTACK *CYTTORAK!*

THE *FOOL!* I--AND THE COSMOS THAT *IS* MYSELF--HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE ULTIMATE *SOURCE* OF HIS POWER.

WHEN BY SHEER RAGE HE BRIEFLY *"DEFEATED"* ME, HE WAS IN TRUTH MERELY *ENFEEBLING HIMSELF!*

WHAT GOOD TO GRASP THE *RUBY*--WHEN HE HAD DAMMED UP THE *FOUNTAIN* FROM WHICH ITS ENERGY FLOWED?

IT IS ALMOST AS IF HE THOUGHT I TRULY *WAS* THIS OVERLY HUMANOID FORM I WEAR FROM TIME TO TIME.

WHY SHOULD I? WHAT CARE *I* WHAT OCCURS OUTSIDE MY REALM, SO LONG AS MY *FAME* EVER GROWS?

FAME IS SPREAD BY *EVIL* AS WELL AS BY *GOOD*, WIZARD-- AND BOTH ARE THE *SAME* TO CYTTORAK.

WILL YOU HENCEFORTH *DENY* MARKO YOUR POWER, SCARLET ONE?

SO CYTTORAK AND AGAMOTTO DO HAVE *ONE* THING IN COMMON, AFTER ALL!

BUT YOU ALL HAVE *DISTURBED* MY CONTEMPLATION OF SELF *LONG ENOUGH*.

OUT YOU GO, EACH TO YOUR OWN LESSER SPHERES!

THE CRASS AND CRUDE *JUGGERNAUT* BACK TO THE *EARTH*--

--AND THE PAIR OF *YOU*--

--TO THE *VESSEL* WHENCE YOU CAME!

STRANGE! NOVA! YOU ARE JUST IN *TIME!*

GALACTUS WAS ABOUT TO TAKE THE *POWER COSMIC* AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!

AND I YET *MAY*, IMPUDENT ONE--IF THIS DELAY CAUSES OUR QUEST TO *FAIL!*

AS IT IS, WE HAVE *DAWDLED* LONG ENOUGH!

"*DAWDLED*"? IF YOU'D BEEN WITH *US*, YOU'D--

--HAVE *EXTRICATED* US ALL, LONG SINCE, AND WE WOULD ALREADY BE ON OUR *WAY*.

NOW, TAKE YOUR POSITION, MAGE, BEFORE THE *INFRA-COSMIC TRANSMUTER*--

--FOR OUR DESTINY IS EITHER *VICTORY*-- OR *DEATH!*

NEXT:

DEATH!

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Fantastic Four
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
RYAN '92
AT THE MERCY OF THE PUPPET MASTER!

REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! **BEN GRIMM,** THE THING! **SUE RICHARDS,** INVISIBLE WOMAN! **JOHNNY STORM,** THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

TOM DEFALCO — WORDS
PAUL RYAN — PENCILS
IVY & KRYSSING — INKS
JON BABCOCK — LETTERS
GINA GOING — COLORS
RALF — ASPIRIN

A MOMENT LATER, AS THE TENSION-FILLED TRANSMISSION IS CONCLUDED--!

WHAT'S *HAPPENING*, DARLING? ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNICATIONS LOG, YOU'VE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE *AVENGERS*... BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN INFORMED YOUR OWN *TEAMMATES* OF THIS MENACE!

THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, SUE! THE SITUATION IS MUCH TOO *COMPLICATED!*

I'VE SCHEDULED A MAJOR *SUMMIT* OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES SO THAT I CAN UPDATE EVERYONE AT ONCE!

I MUST STILL ALERT THE *NEW WARRIORS* AND *ALPHA FLIGHT!* IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THEY ATTEND!

SUIT YOURSELF, BUSTER! I DON'T LIKE BEING KEPT IN THE *DARK*... ESPECIALLY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!

THAT'S NO WAY TO PROMOTE *HARMONY* IN THIS HOUSEHOLD!

I... I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WAY REED'S BEEN *ACTING!* HE CAN BE SO INFURIATING AT TIMES!

WE'VE OFTEN ARGUED ABOUT THE WAY HE SOMETIMES GETS CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT, BUT TO *DELIBERATELY* KEEP ME OUT OF THE BIG PICTURE--?

THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM AT ALL! HE'S BEEN SO COLD SO *RUDE*--SO *DIFFERENT*-- EVER SINCE THE ENCEPHALIZER...

THE ENCEPHALIZER--?!

Oh, NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE--!

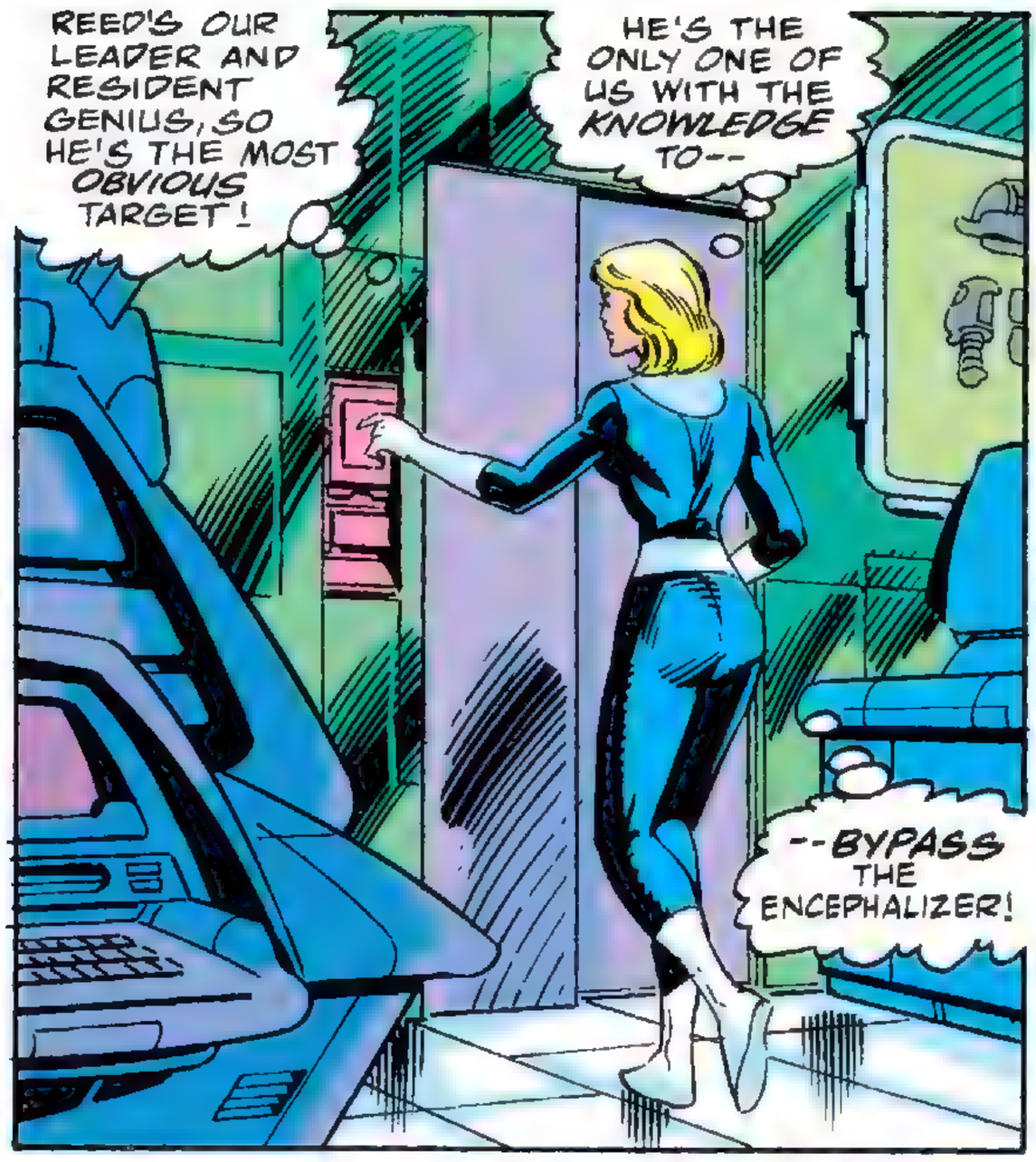
NOT... REED!

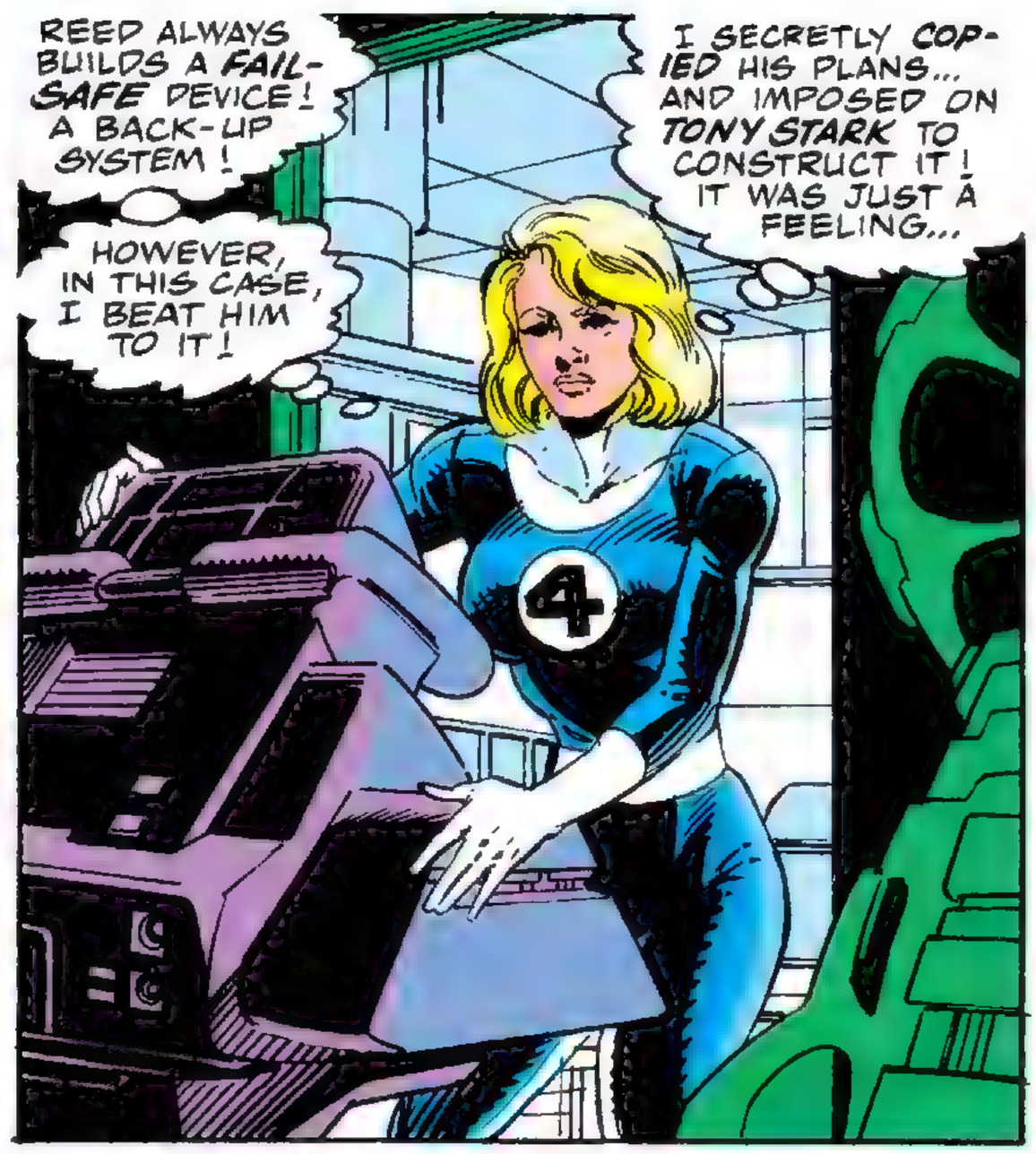
REED DESIGNED THE ENCEPHALIZER TO PROTECT US FROM CHARACTERS LIKE THE *PUPPET MASTER* AND *SKRULL* IMPERSONATORS!

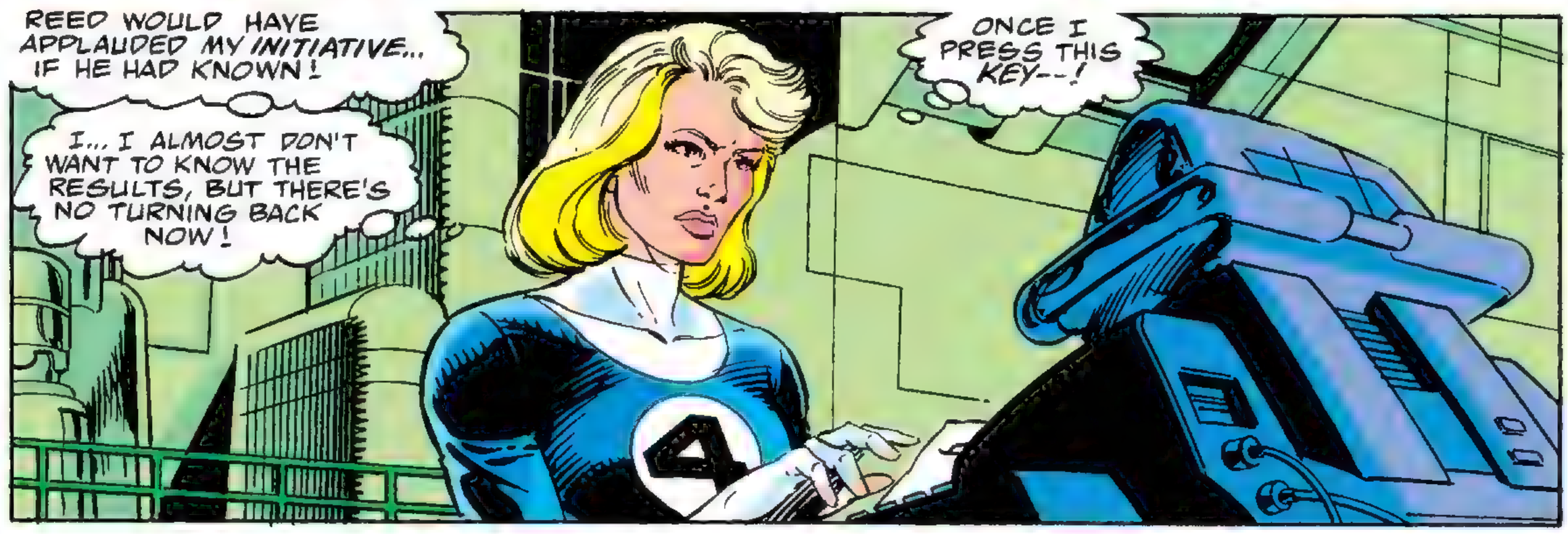
IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH OUR *BRAIN PATTERNS* AND IS SUPPOSED TO SOUND THE *ALARM* IF ANYONE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTROL OUR *MINDS*... OR *REPLACE* US!

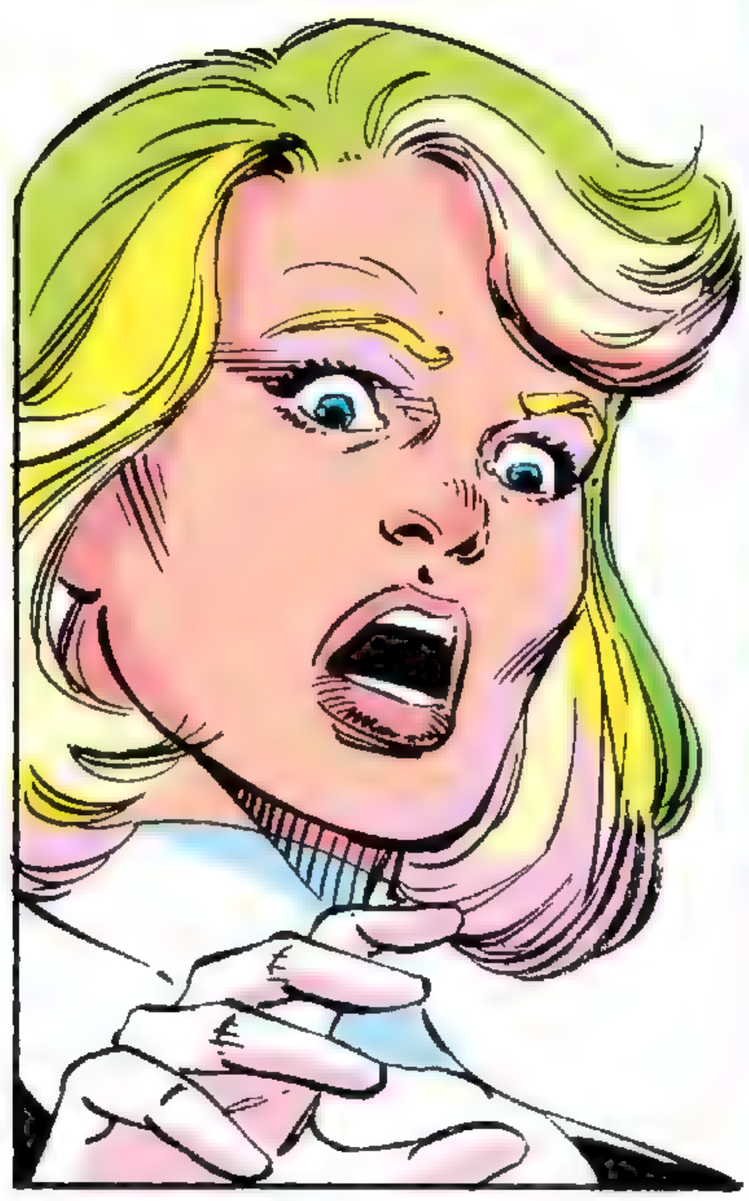
THAT ALARM *SOUNDED* RECENTLY!

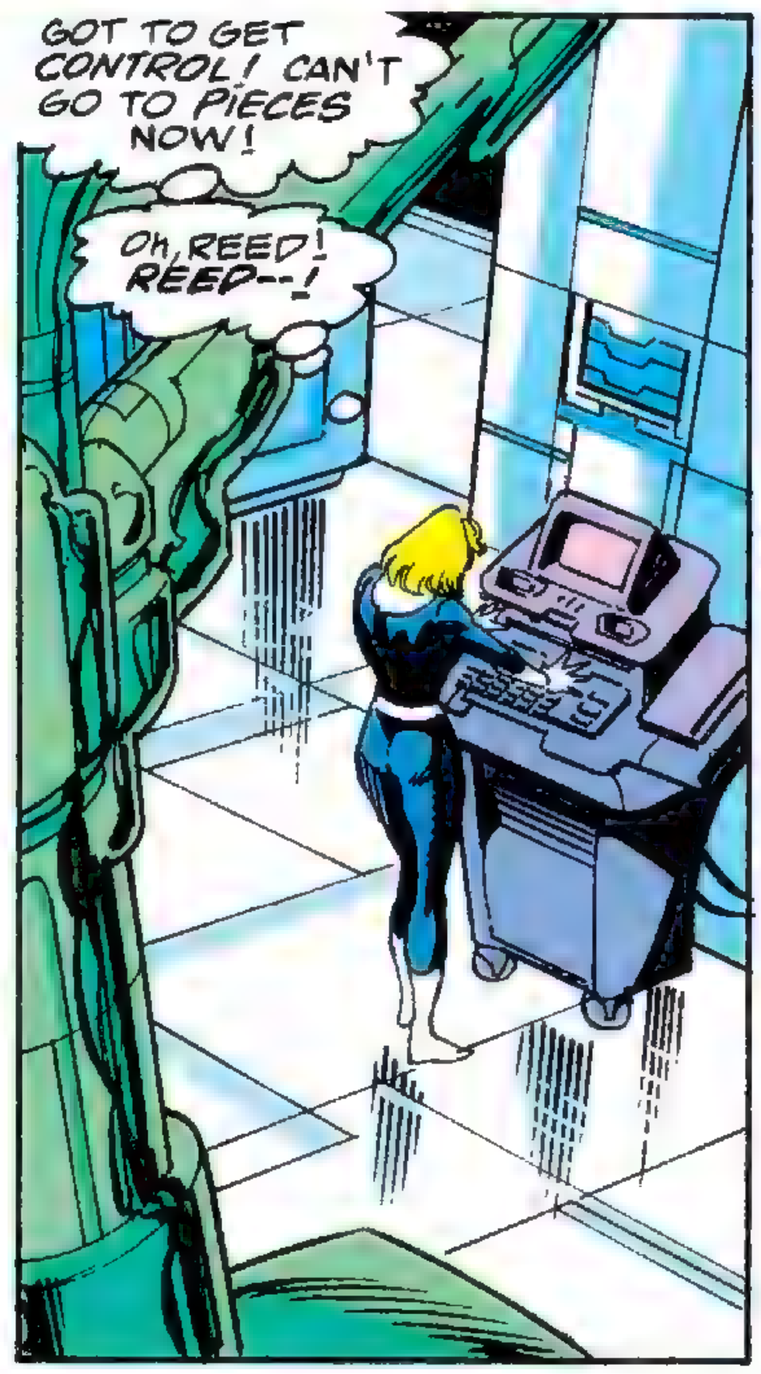
REED TOLD ME IT WAS ONLY A MALFUNCTION, BUT... *WHAT IF*--?!


REED'S OUR LEADER AND RESIDENT GENIUS, SO HE'S THE MOST OBVIOUS TARGET!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO--
--BYPASS THE ENCEPHALIZER!

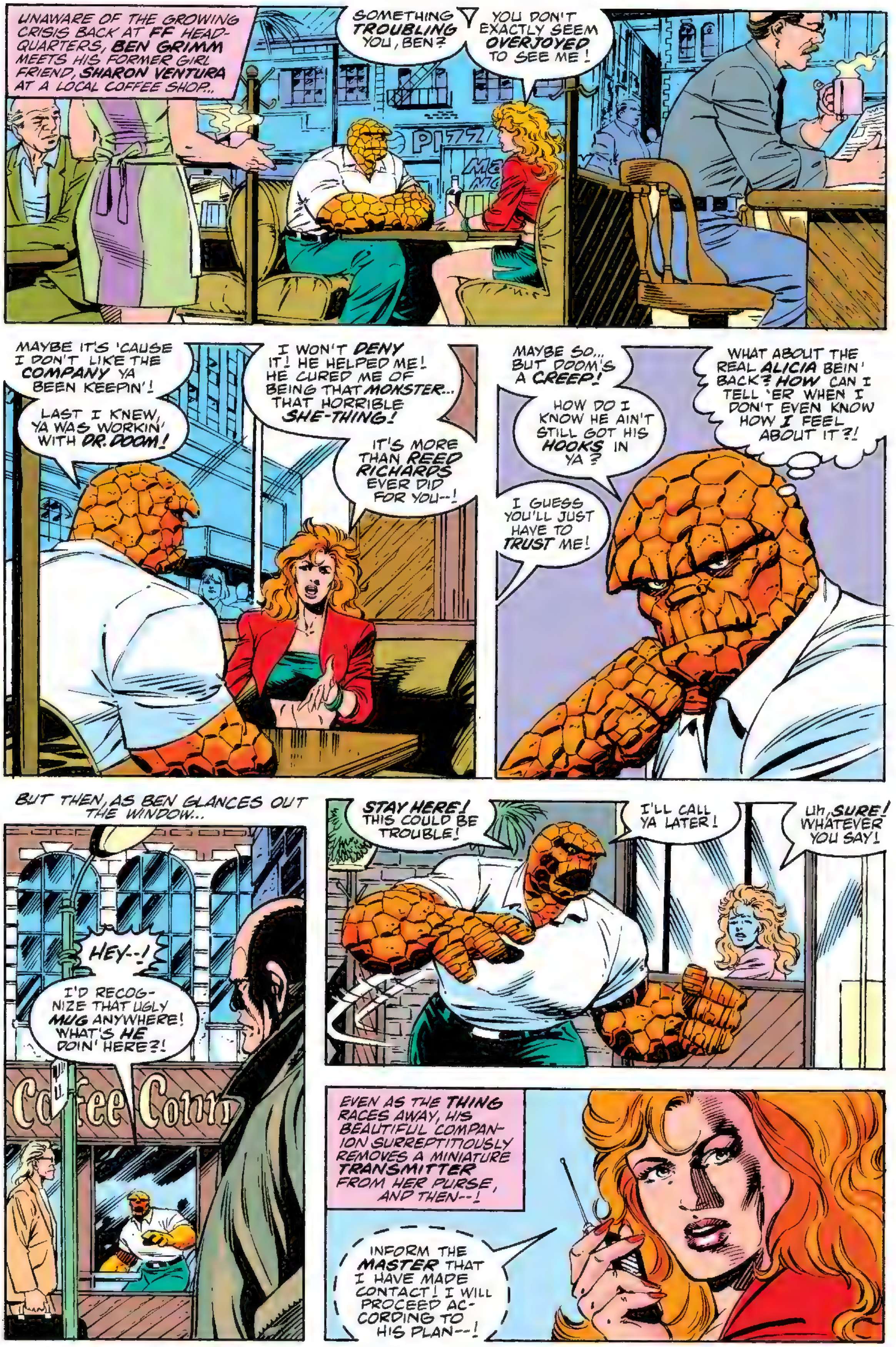

REED ALWAYS BUILDS A FAIL-SAFE DEVICE! A BACK-UP SYSTEM!
I SECRETLY COPIED HIS PLANS... AND IMPOSED ON TONY STARK TO CONSTRUCT IT! IT WAS JUST A FEELING...
HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE, I BEAT HIM TO IT!


REED WOULD HAVE APPLAUDED MY INITIATIVE... IF HE HAD KNOWN!
I... I ALMOST DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE RESULTS, BUT THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!
ONCE I PRESS THIS KEY--!

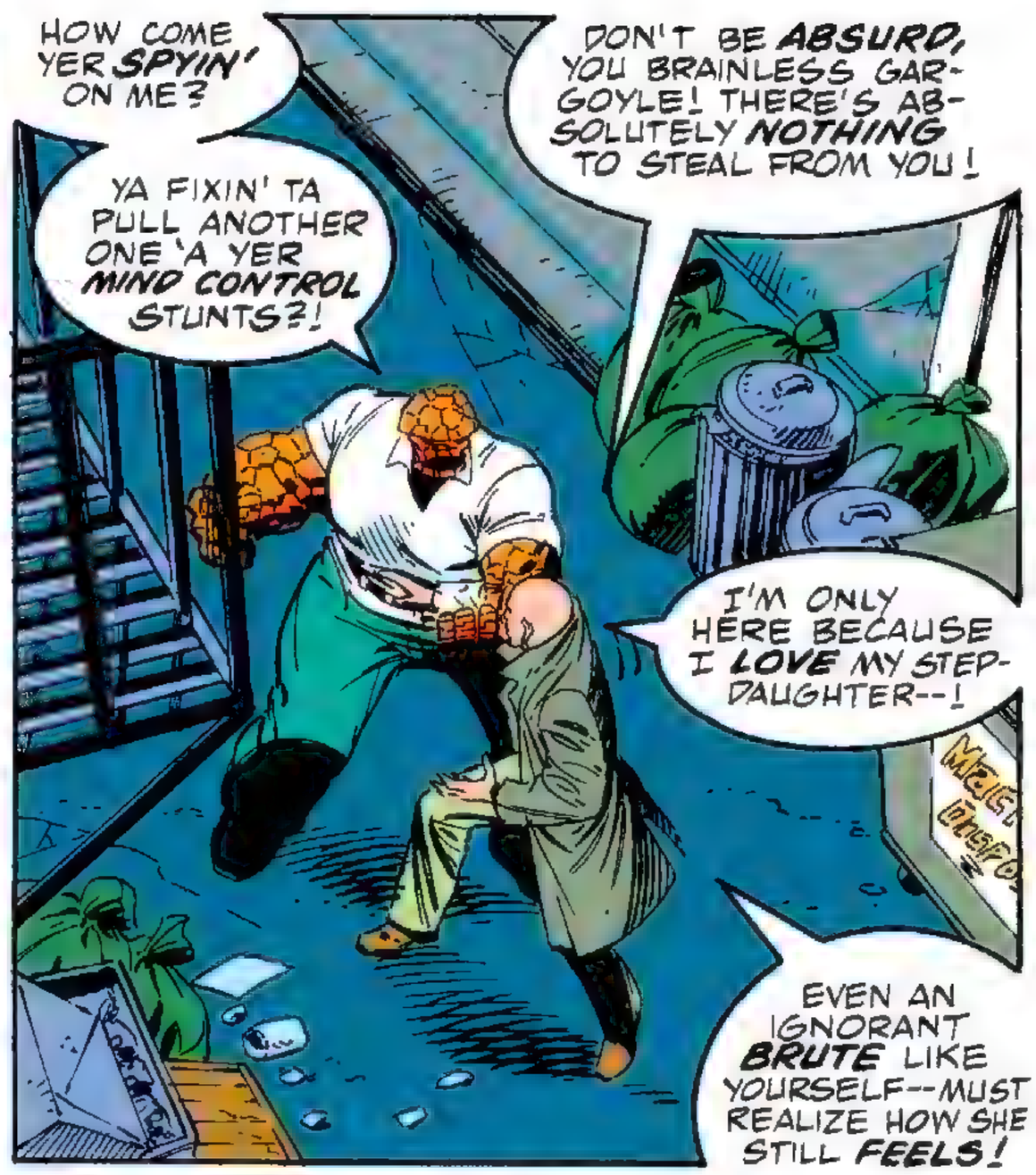



GOT TO GET CONTROL! CAN'T GO TO PIECES NOW!
OH, REED! REED--!

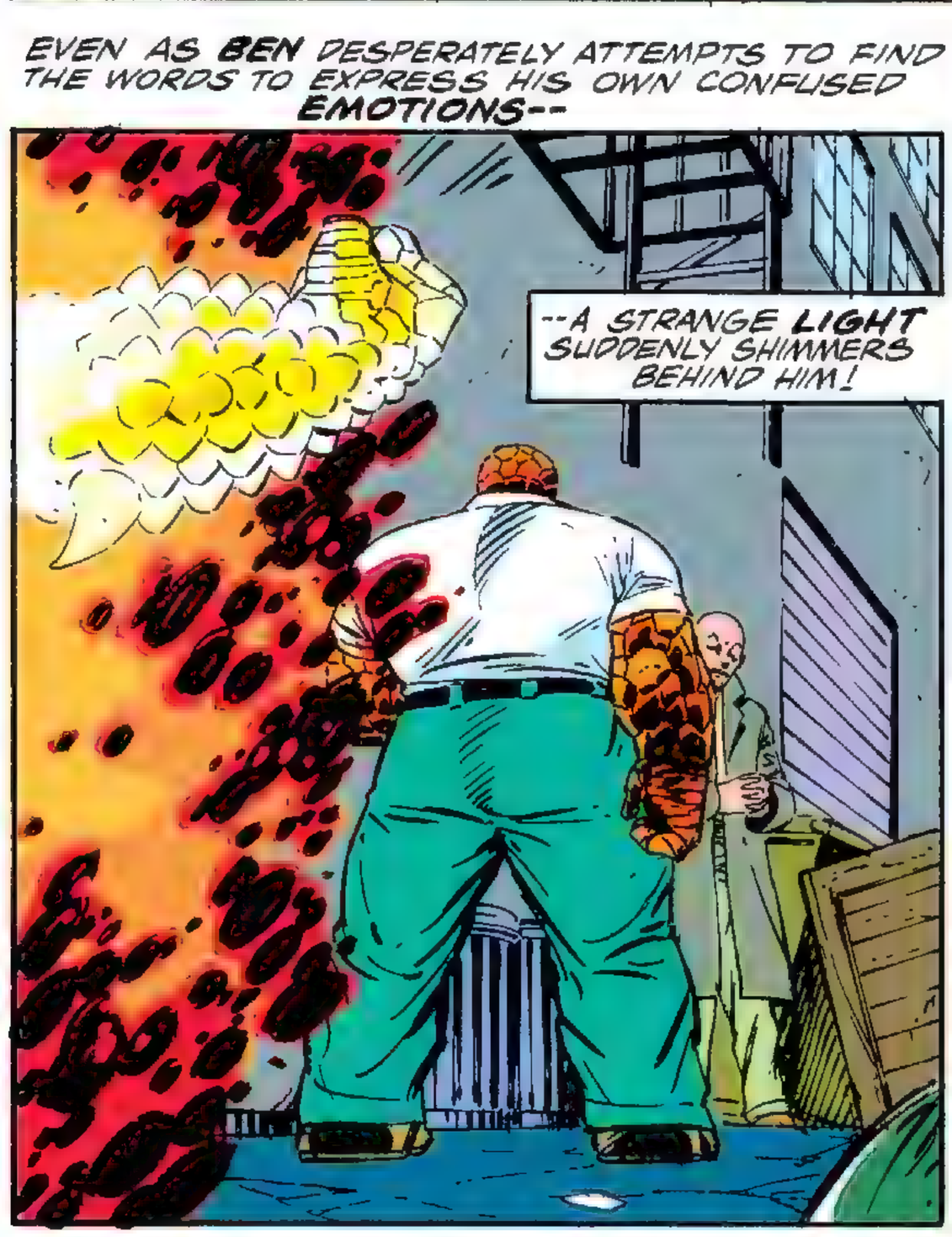
THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE-- COULD BE IN GRAVE JEOPARDY!
MY DARLING NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER! I MUST FIND A WAY TO RID HIM OF THIS EVIL INFLUENCE!


UNAWARE OF THE GROWING CRISIS BACK AT FF HEADQUARTERS, BEN GRIMM MEETS HIS FORMER GIRL FRIEND, SHARON VENTURA AT A LOCAL COFFEE SHOP...
SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, BEN?
YOU DON'T EXACTLY SEEM OVERJOYED TO SEE ME!
MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE I DON'T LIKE THE COMPANY YA BEEN KEEPIN'!
LAST I KNEW, YA WAS WORKIN' WITH DR. DOOM!
I WON'T DENY IT! HE HELPED ME! HE CURED ME OF BEING THAT MONSTER... THAT HORRIBLE SHE-THING!
IT'S MORE THAN REED RICHARDS EVER DID FOR YOU--!
MAYBE SO... BUT DOOM'S A CREEP!
HOW DO I KNOW HE AIN'T STILL GOT HIS HOOKS IN YA?
I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME!
WHAT ABOUT THE REAL ALICIA BEIN' BACK? HOW CAN I TELL 'ER WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT?!
BUT THEN, AS BEN GLANCES OUT THE WINDOW...
HEY--!
I'D RECOGNIZE THAT UGLY MUG ANYWHERE! WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE?!
Coffee Corner
STAY HERE! THIS COULD BE TROUBLE!
I'LL CALL YA LATER!
UH, SURE! WHATEVER YOU SAY!
EVEN AS THE THING RACES AWAY, HIS BEAUTIFUL COMPANION SURREPTITIOUSLY REMOVES A MINIATURE TRANSMITTER FROM HER PURSE, AND THEN--!
INFORM THE MASTER THAT I HAVE MADE CONTACT! I WILL PROCEED ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN--!

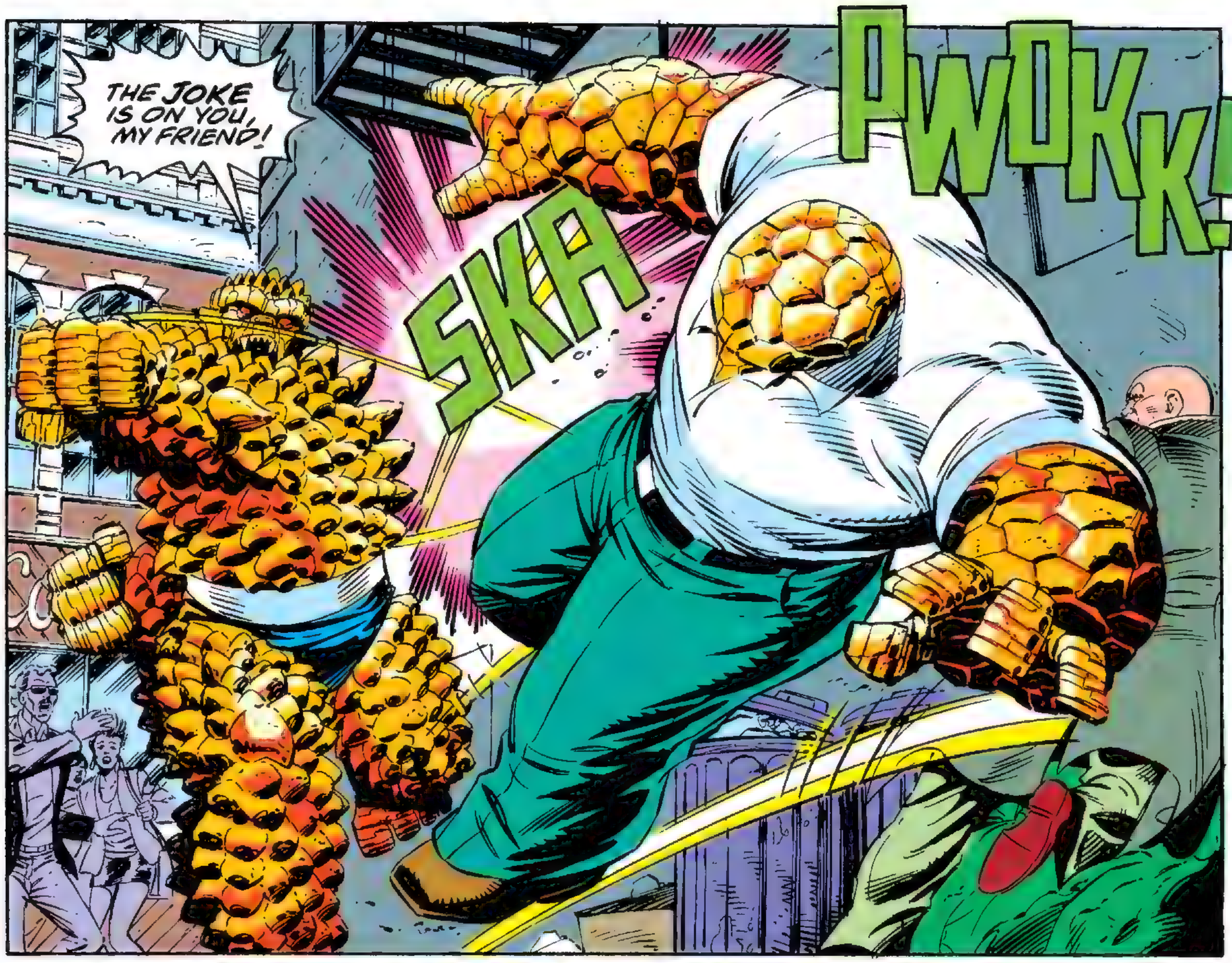
MEANWHILE...
IT'S HIM... THE PUPPET MASTER!
YO, BALDY! WHAT'S YER HURRY--?

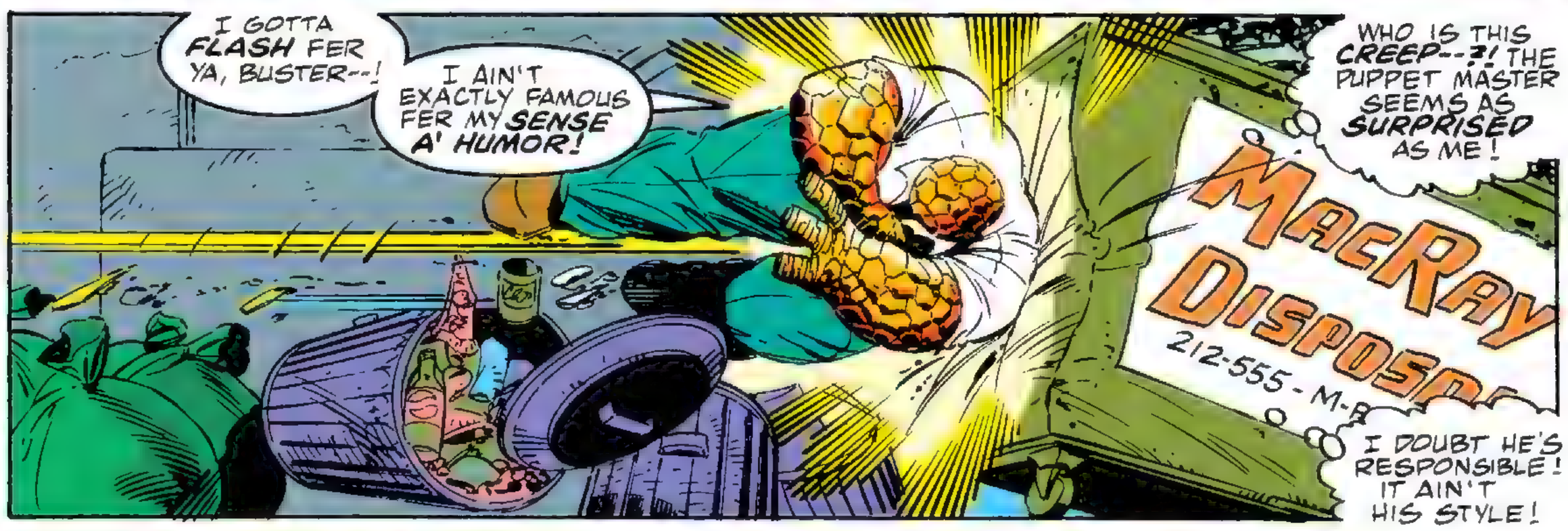

HOW COME YER SPYIN' ON ME?
YA FIXIN' TA PULL ANOTHER ONE 'A YER MIND CONTROL STUNTS?!
DON'T BE ABSURD, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO STEAL FROM YOU!
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I LOVE MY STEP-DAUGHTER--!
EVEN AN IGNORANT BRUTE LIKE YOURSELF--MUST REALIZE HOW SHE STILL FEELS!

HOW CAN YOU BETRAY HER LIKE THIS?
BUT... WELL... SHE... er... SHE MARRIED THE TORCH... MY OWN TEAMMATE!
THAT WAS AN IMPOSTOR!
YEAH, BUT KNOWIN' IS ONE THING... ACCEPTIN' ...THAT'S ANOTHER!

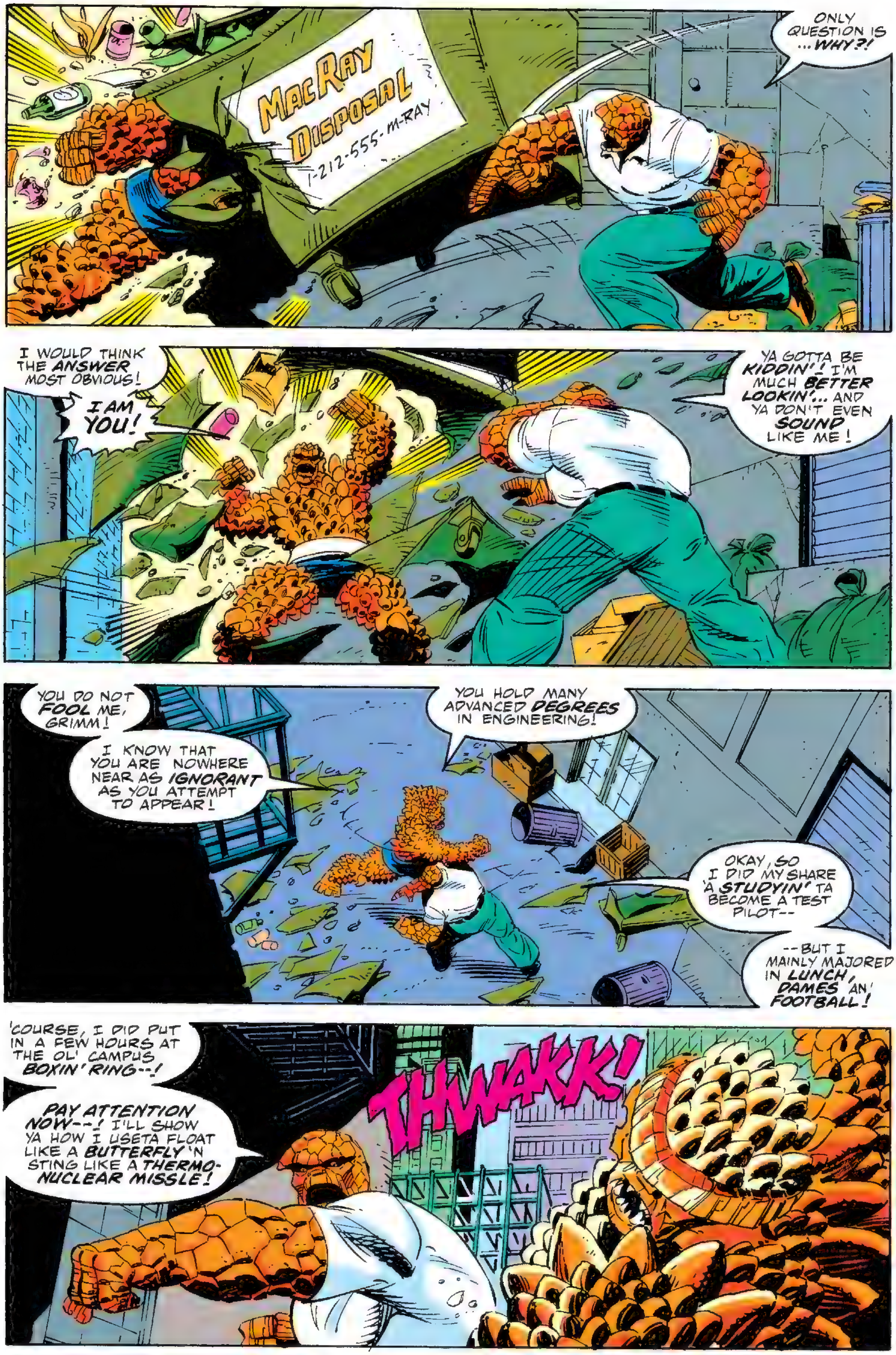

EVEN AS BEN DESPERATELY ATTEMPTS TO FIND THE WORDS TO EXPRESS HIS OWN CONFUSED EMOTIONS--
--A STRANGE LIGHT SUDDENLY SHIMMERS BEHIND HIM!

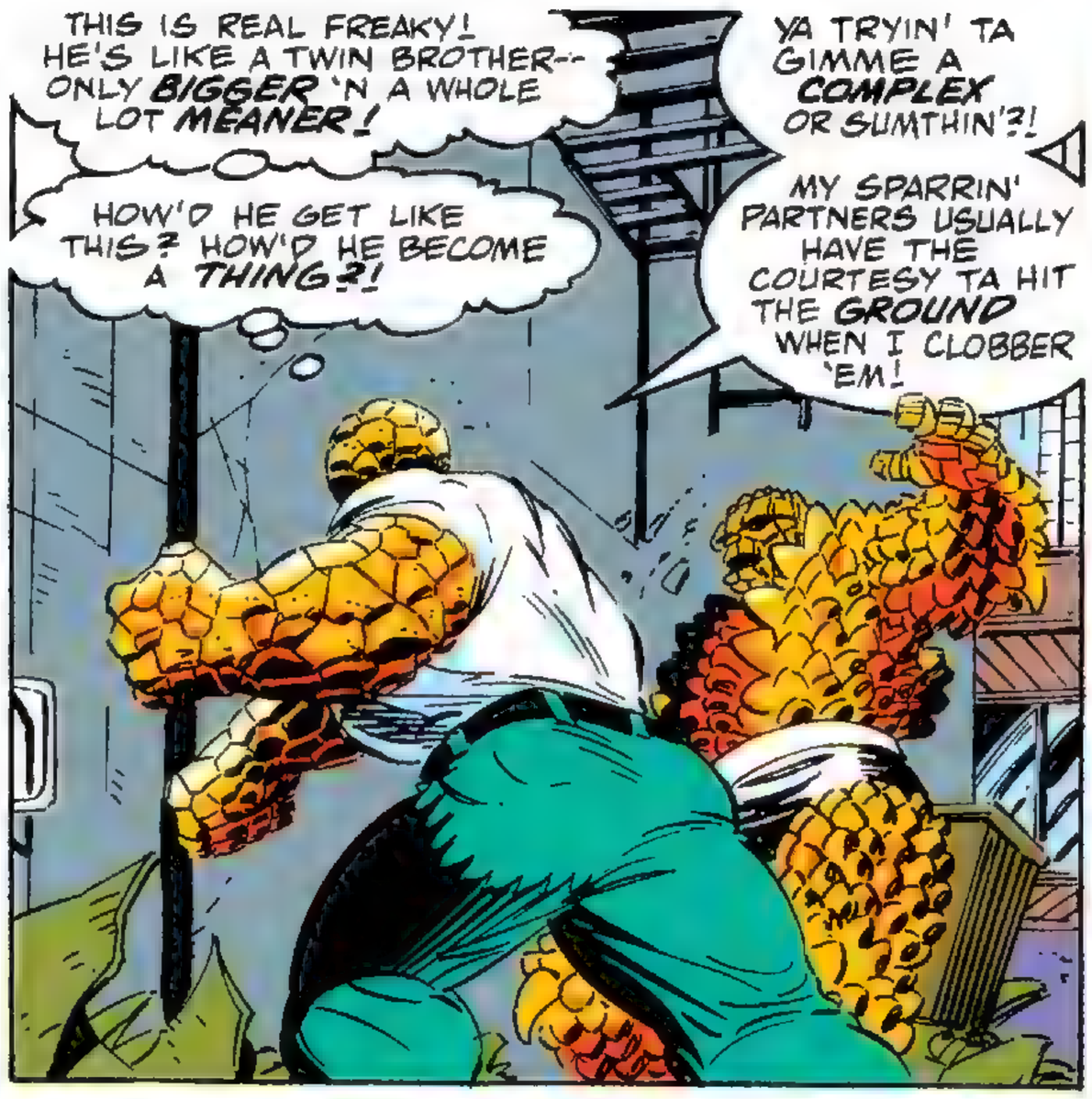
AND THEN--!
GRIMM, BEHIND YOU--! A MASSIVE--A MONSTROUS FIGURE IS SUDDENLY TAKING SHAPE!
WHAT'RE YA TRYIN' TA PULL--?!
I AIN'T FALLIN' FER THAT OL' GAG!


THE JOKE IS ON YOU, MY FRIEND!
SKA
PWOKK!

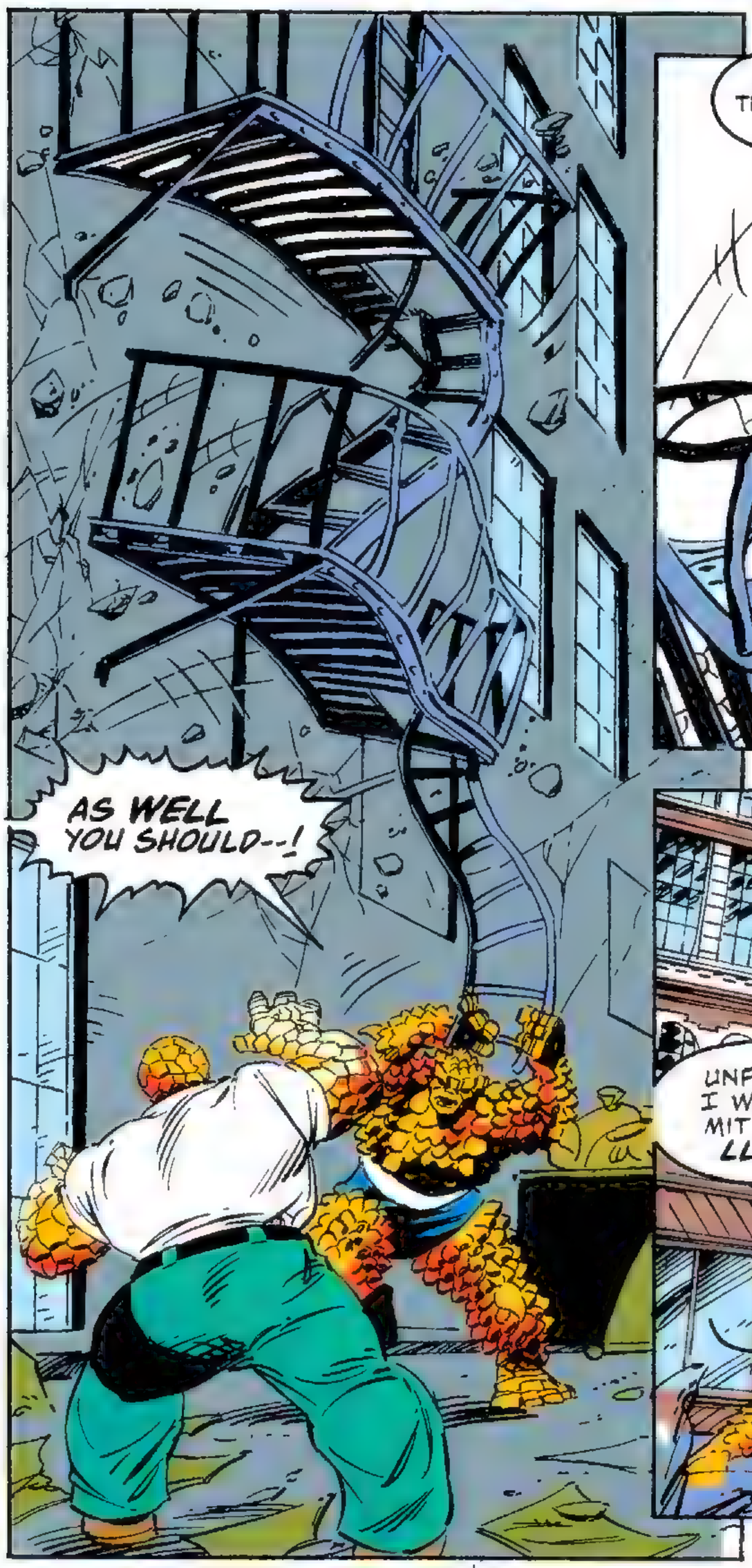

I GOTTA FLASH FER YA, BUSTER--!
I AIN'T EXACTLY FAMOUS FER MY SENSE A' HUMOR!
WHO IS THIS CREEP--?! THE PUPPET MASTER SEEMS AS SURPRISED AS ME!
MACRAY DISPOSAL
212-555-M-R
I DOUBT HE'S RESPONSIBLE! IT AIN'T HIS STYLE!

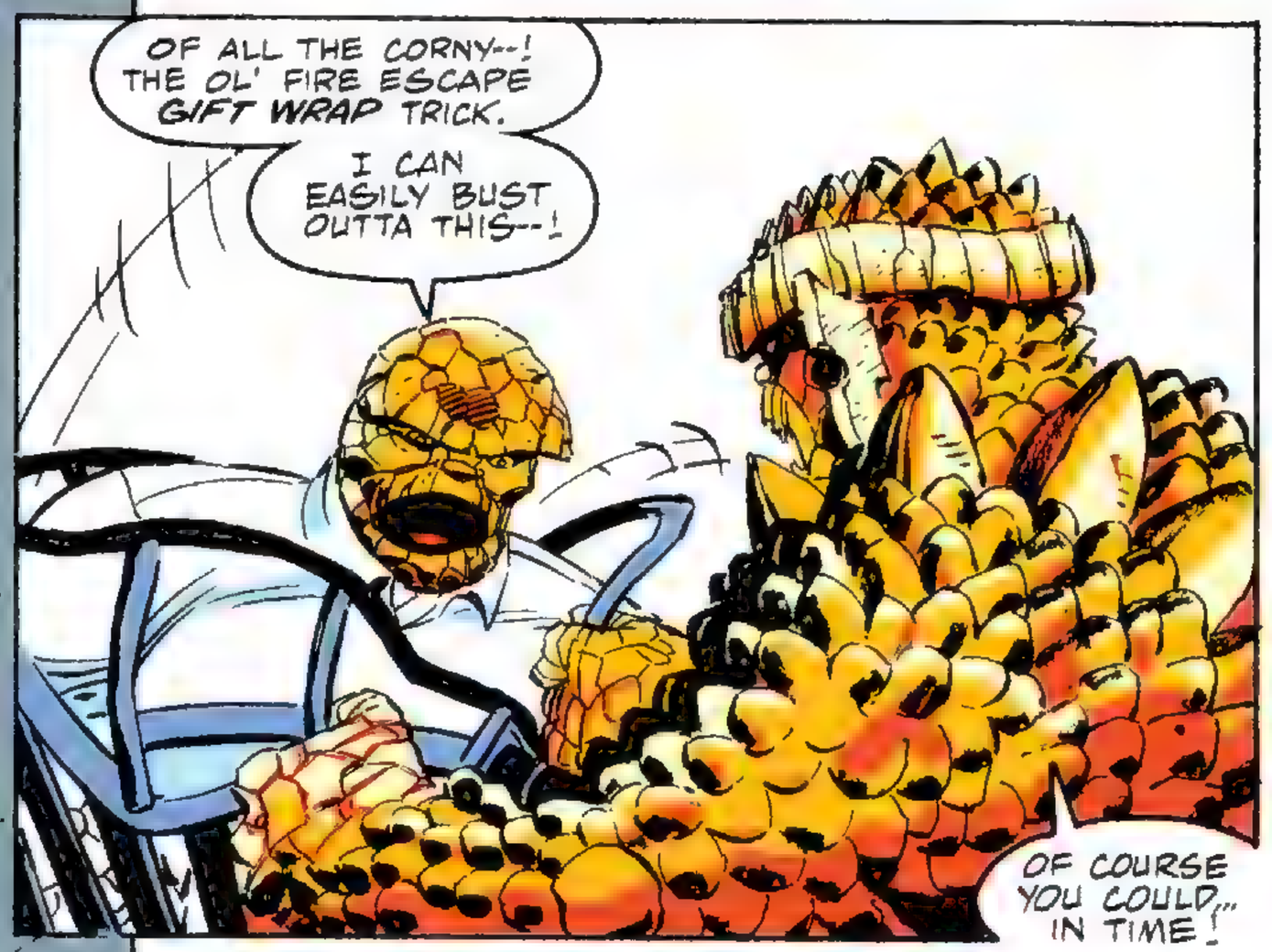
THAT'S A PRETTY FANCY HALLOWEEN OUTFIT, BUDDY!
YA LOOK JUST LIKE I DID A FEW MONTHS BACK--!

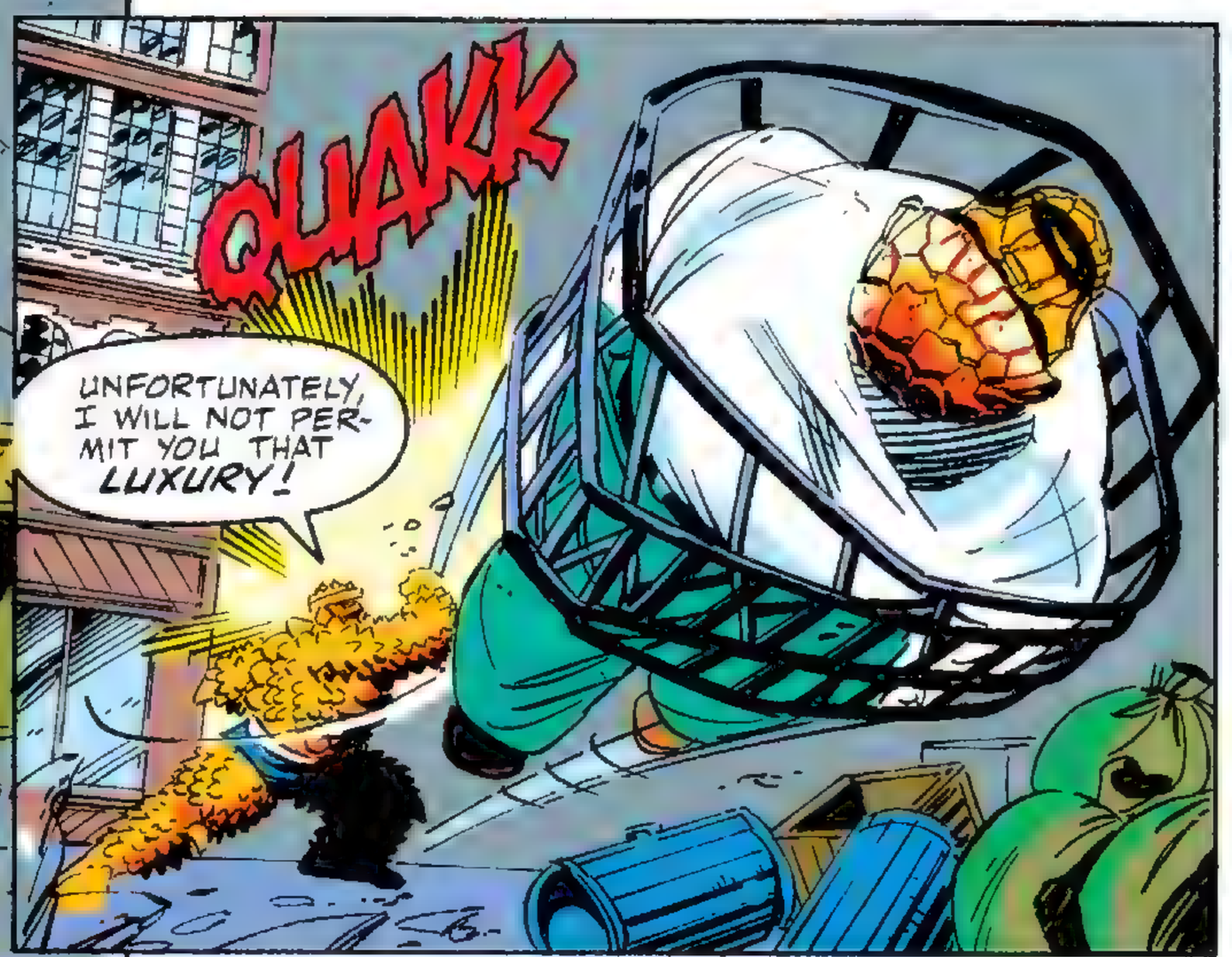

MacRay Disposal
1-212-555-M-RAY
ONLY QUESTION IS ...WHY?!
I WOULD THINK THE ANSWER MOST OBVIOUS!
I AM YOU!
YA GOTTA BE KIDDIN'! I'M MUCH BETTER LOOKIN'... AND YA DON'T EVEN SOUND LIKE ME!
YOU DO NOT FOOL ME, GRIMM!
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOWHERE NEAR AS IGNORANT AS YOU ATTEMPT TO APPEAR!
YOU HOLD MANY ADVANCED DEGREES IN ENGINEERING!
OKAY, SO I DID MY SHARE 'A STUDYIN' TA BECOME A TEST PILOT--
--BUT I MAINLY MAJORED IN LUNCH, DAMES AN' FOOTBALL!
'COURSE, I DID PUT IN A FEW HOURS AT THE OL' CAMPUS BOXIN' RING--!
PAY ATTENTION NOW--! I'LL SHOW YA HOW I USETA FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY 'N STING LIKE A THERMO-NUCLEAR MISSLE!
THWAKK!

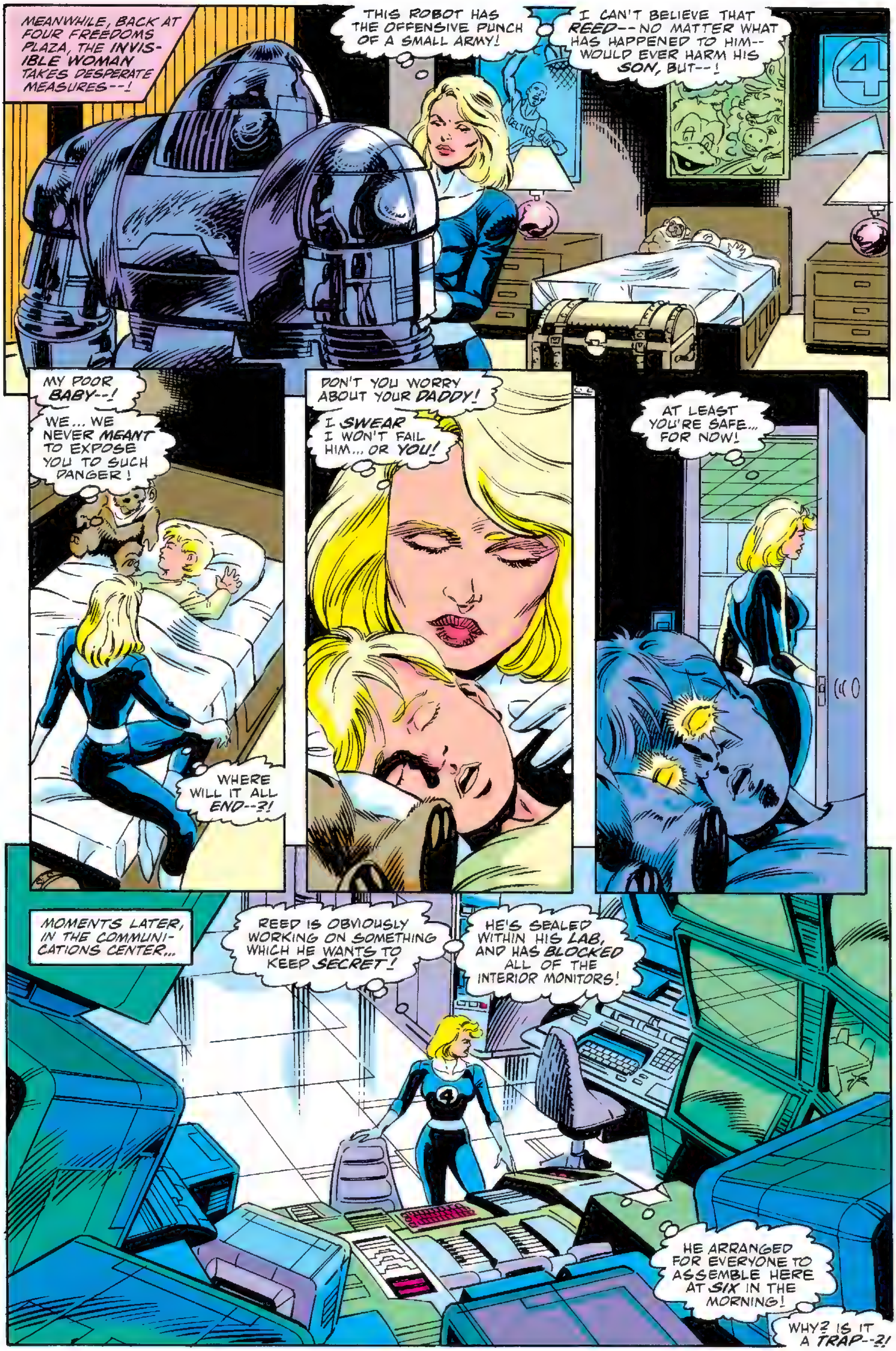

THIS IS REAL FREAKY! HE'S LIKE A TWIN BROTHER-- ONLY BIGGER 'N A WHOLE LOT MEANER!
HOW'D HE GET LIKE THIS? HOW'D HE BECOME A THING?!
YA TRYIN' TA GIMME A COMPLEX OR SUMTHIN'?!
MY SPARRIN' PARTNERS USUALLY HAVE THE COURTESY TA HIT THE GROUND WHEN I CLOBBER 'EM!

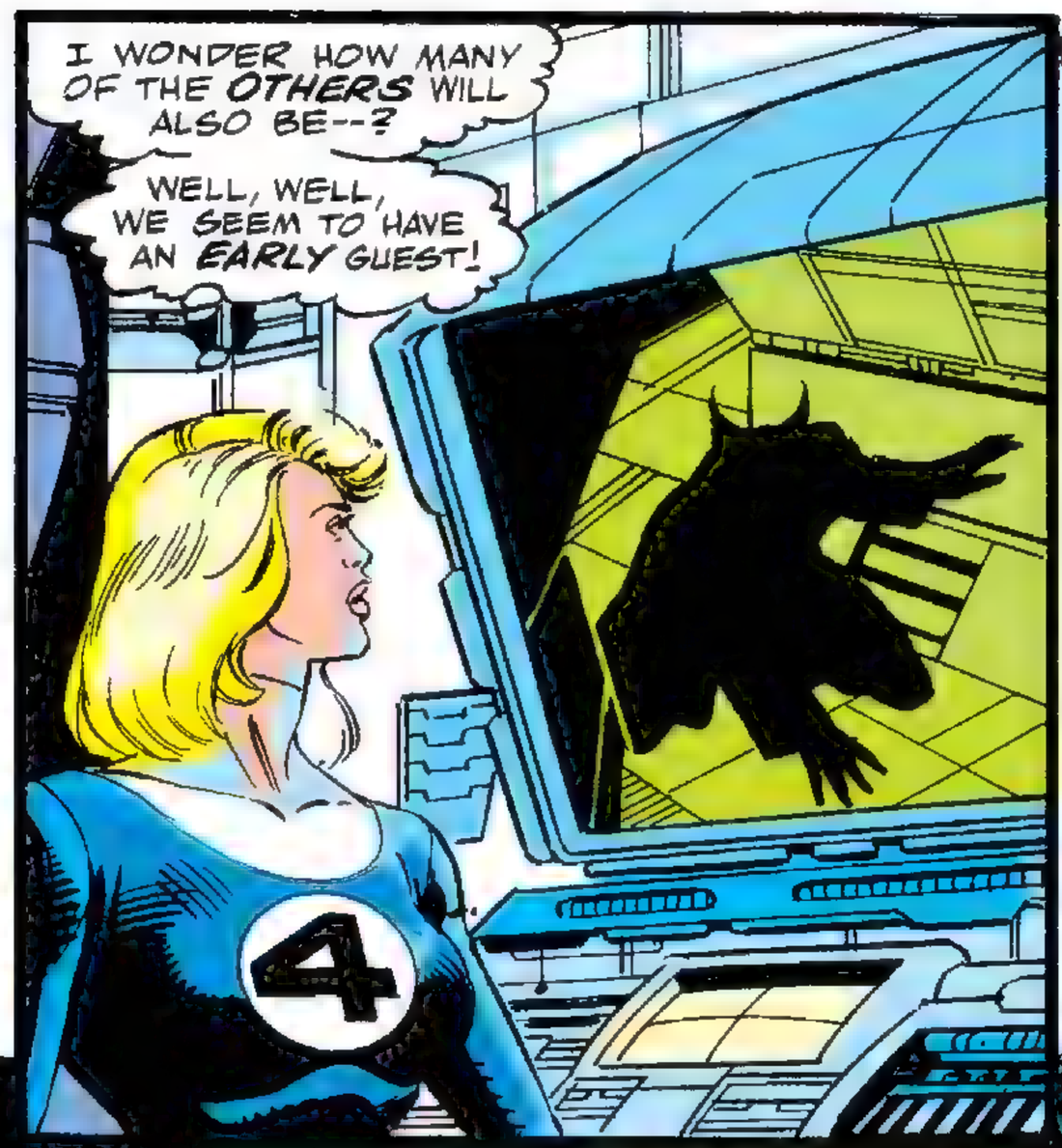
YOUR SPARKLING WIT DOES NOT MASK YOUR INSECURITIES, GRIMM!
YOU FEEL INADEQUATE!


AS WELL YOU SHOULD--!


OF ALL THE CORNY--! THE OL' FIRE ESCAPE GIFT WRAP TRICK.
I CAN EASILY BUST OUTTA THIS--!
OF COURSE YOU COULD... IN TIME!

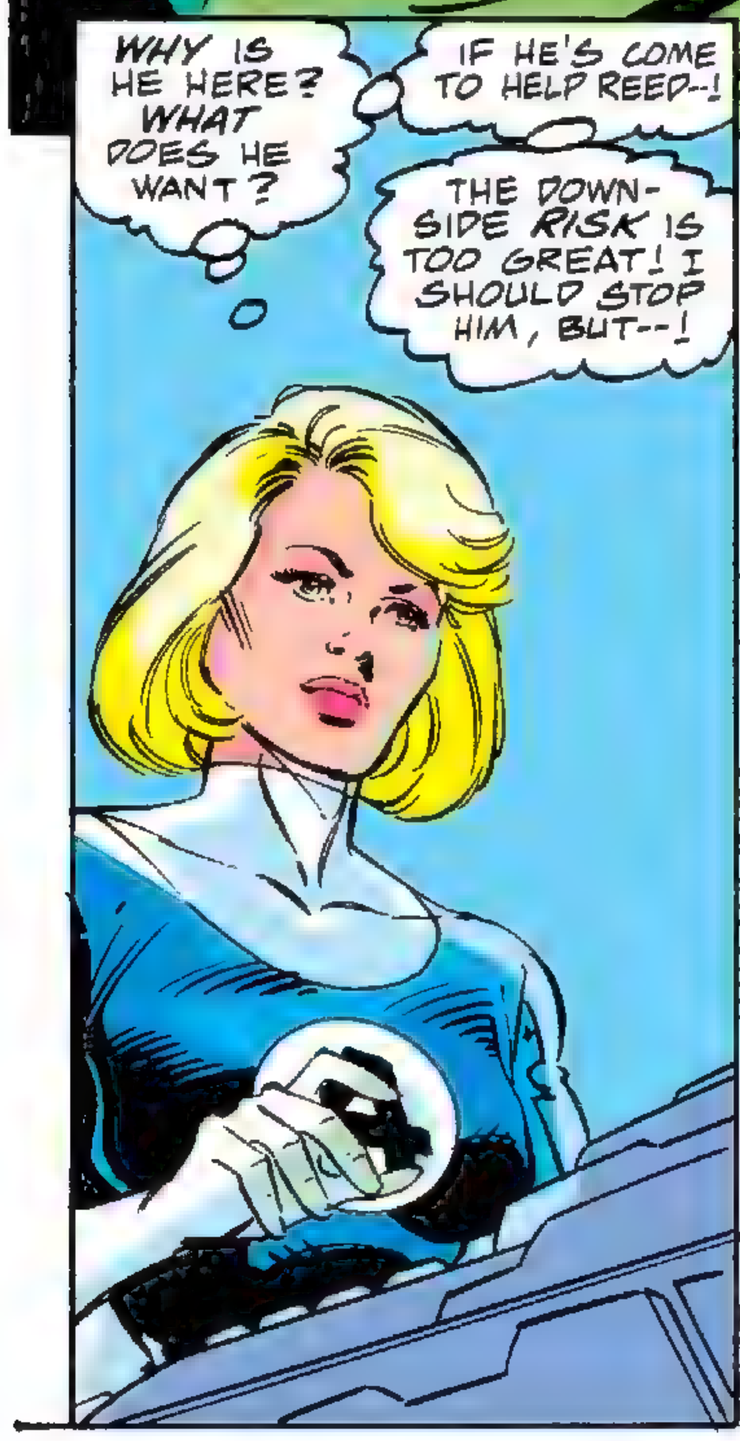

QUAKK
UNFORTUNATELY, I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU THAT LUXURY!


MEANWHILE, BACK AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN TAKES DESPERATE MEASURES--!
THIS ROBOT HAS THE OFFENSIVE PUNCH OF A SMALL ARMY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT REED--NO MATTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM--WOULD EVER HARM HIS SON, BUT--!
MY POOR BABY--!
WE... WE NEVER MEANT TO EXPOSE YOU TO SUCH DANGER!
WHERE WILL IT ALL END--?!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR DADDY!
I SWEAR I WON'T FAIL HIM... OR YOU!
AT LEAST YOU'RE SAFE... FOR NOW!
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER...
REED IS OBVIOUSLY WORKING ON SOMETHING WHICH HE WANTS TO KEEP SECRET!
HE'S SEALED WITHIN HIS LAB, AND HAS BLOCKED ALL OF THE INTERIOR MONITORS!
HE ARRANGED FOR EVERYONE TO ASSEMBLE HERE AT SIX IN THE MORNING!
WHY? IS IT A TRAP--?!


I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE OTHERS WILL ALSO BE--?
WELL, WELL, WE SEEM TO HAVE AN EARLY GUEST!

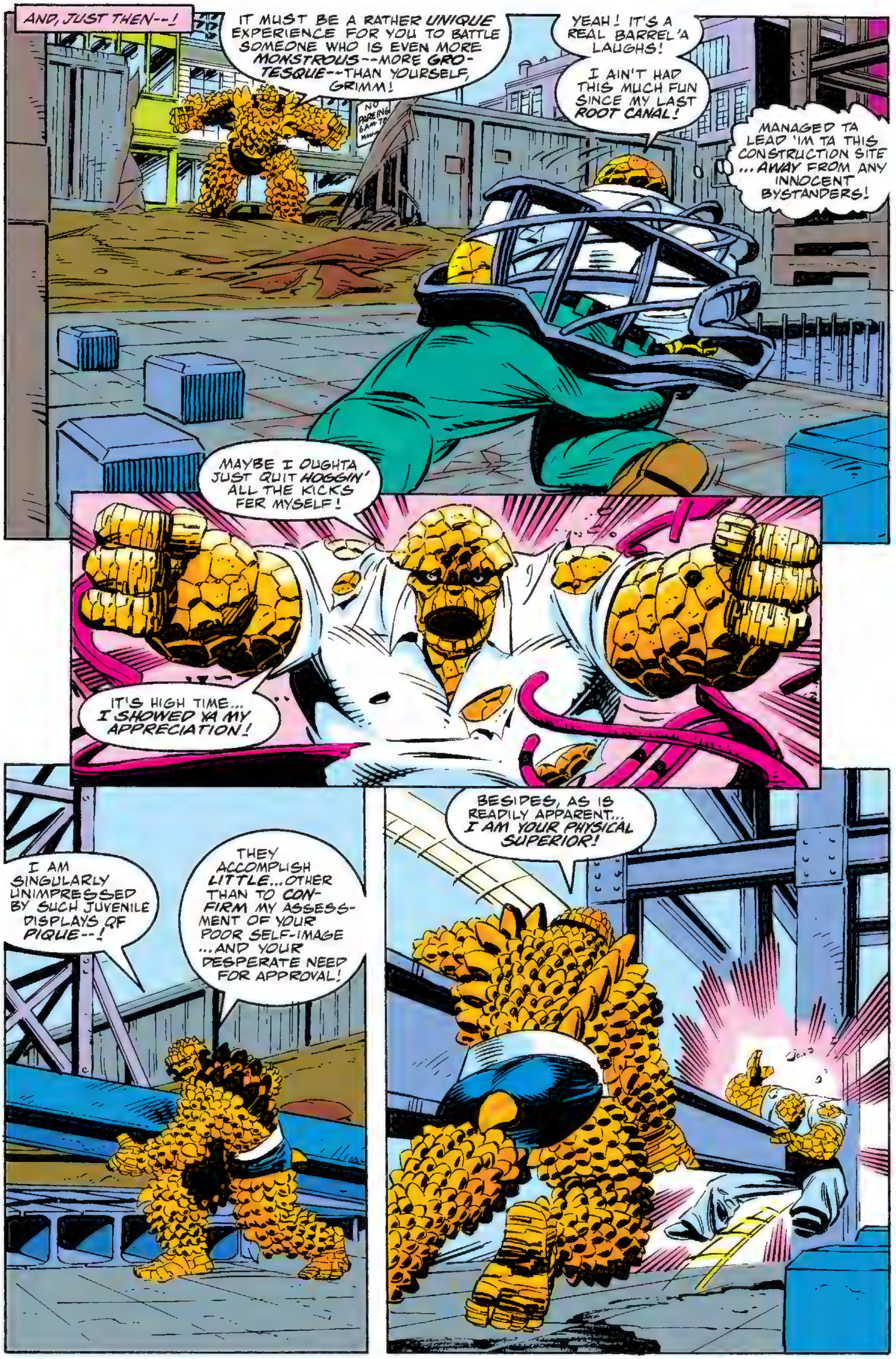
I HOPE HE WON'T THINK ME RUDE, BUT I REALLY MUST DISCOURAGE HIM FROM USING THE AIR CONDITIONING SHAFT!
INTRUDER ALERT

WAIT--! IT'S WOLVERINE OF THE X-MEN!
HE'S GOOD! I'M IMPRESSED THAT HE MANAGED TO PENETRATE SO DEEPLY--!


WHY IS HE HERE? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
IF HE'S COME TO HELP REED--!
THE DOWN-SIDE RISK IS TOO GREAT! I SHOULD STOP HIM, BUT--!

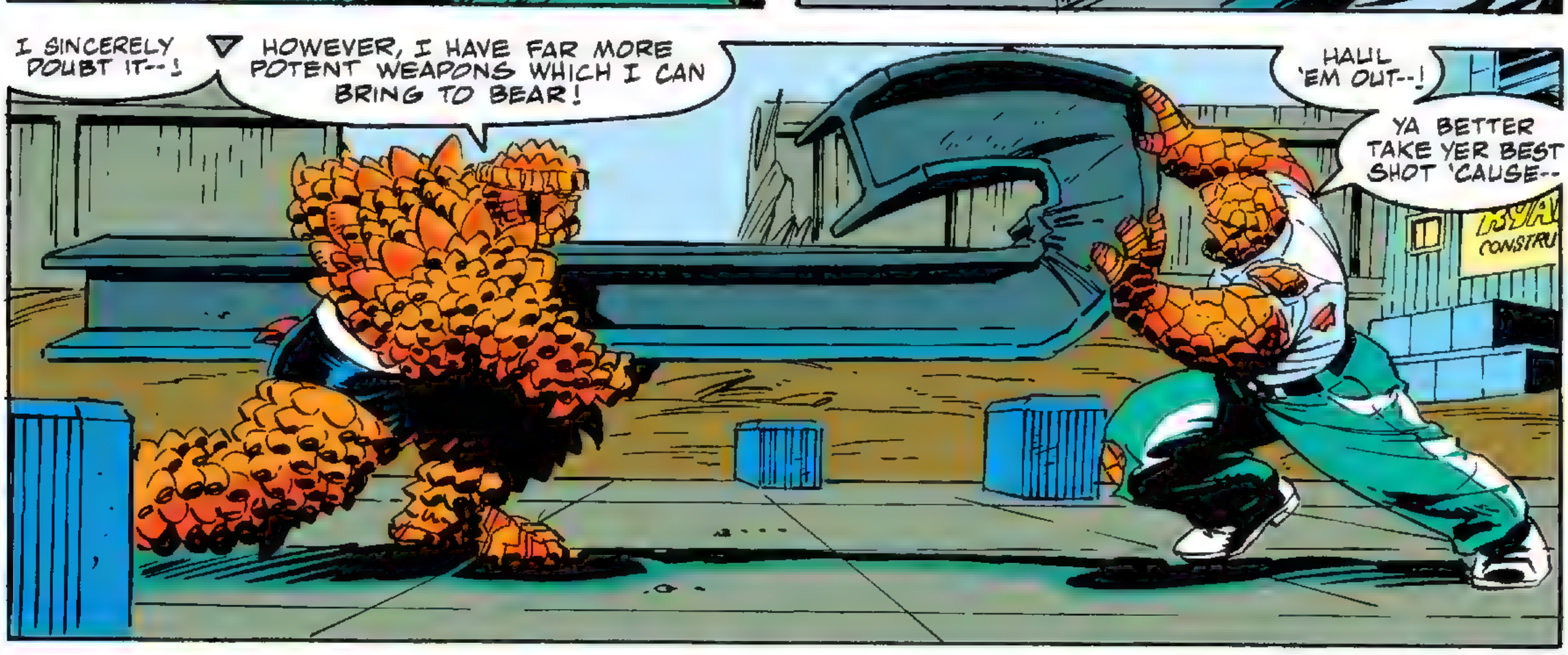
THAT'S... ODD!
I JUST NOTICED A SUDDEN CHANGE-- ALMOST A DOWNSHIFT IN THE WAY THIS SHAFT IS VIBRATING!

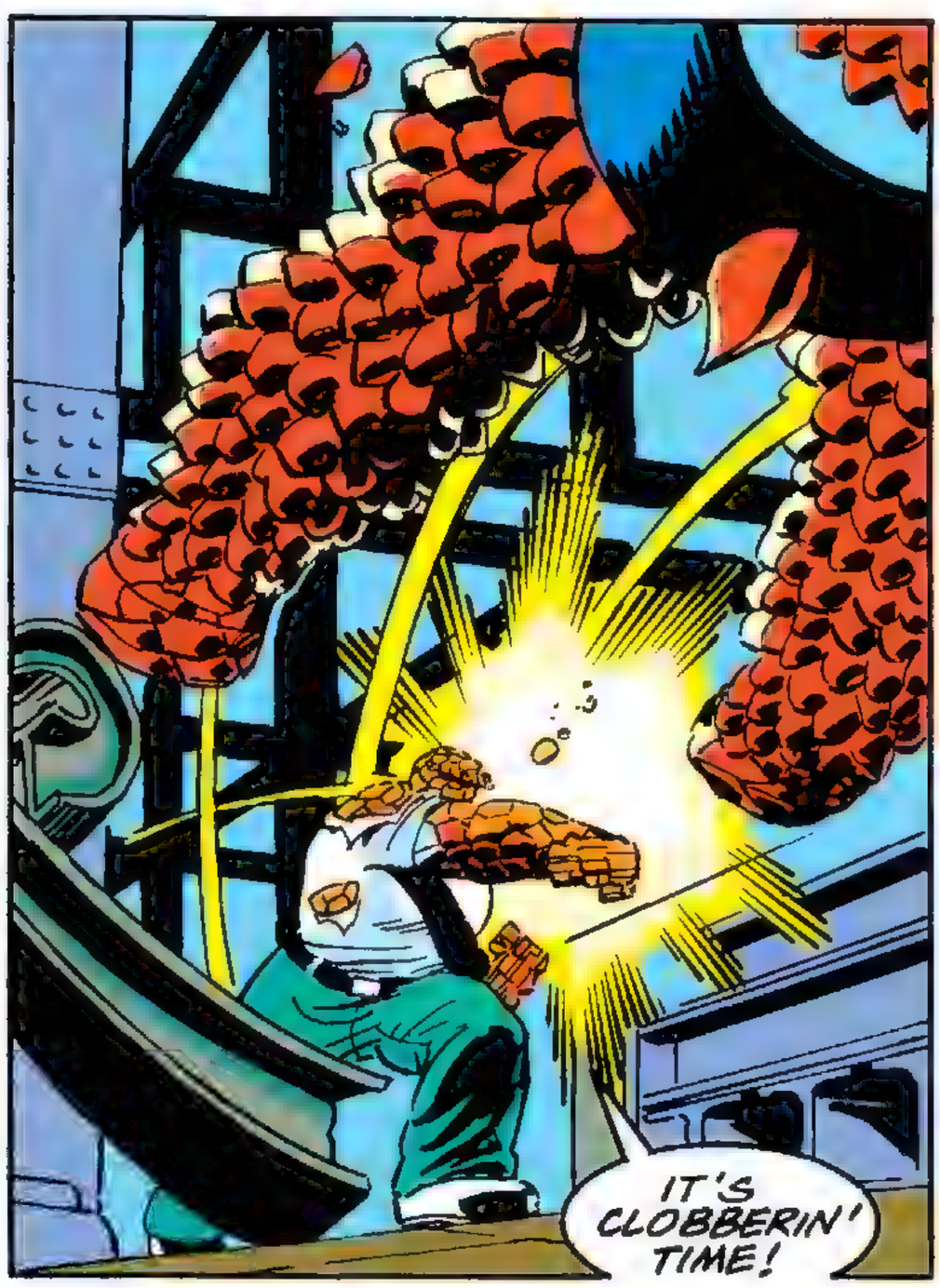
I THOUGHT BREAKING INTO FF HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE A BIGGER CHALLENGE--!
REED RICHARDS' DEFENSES AREN'T ANYWHERE NEAR WHAT THEY'RE CRACKED UP TO BE!
NOT THAT IT WOULD HAVE MATTERED IF THEY WERE--!

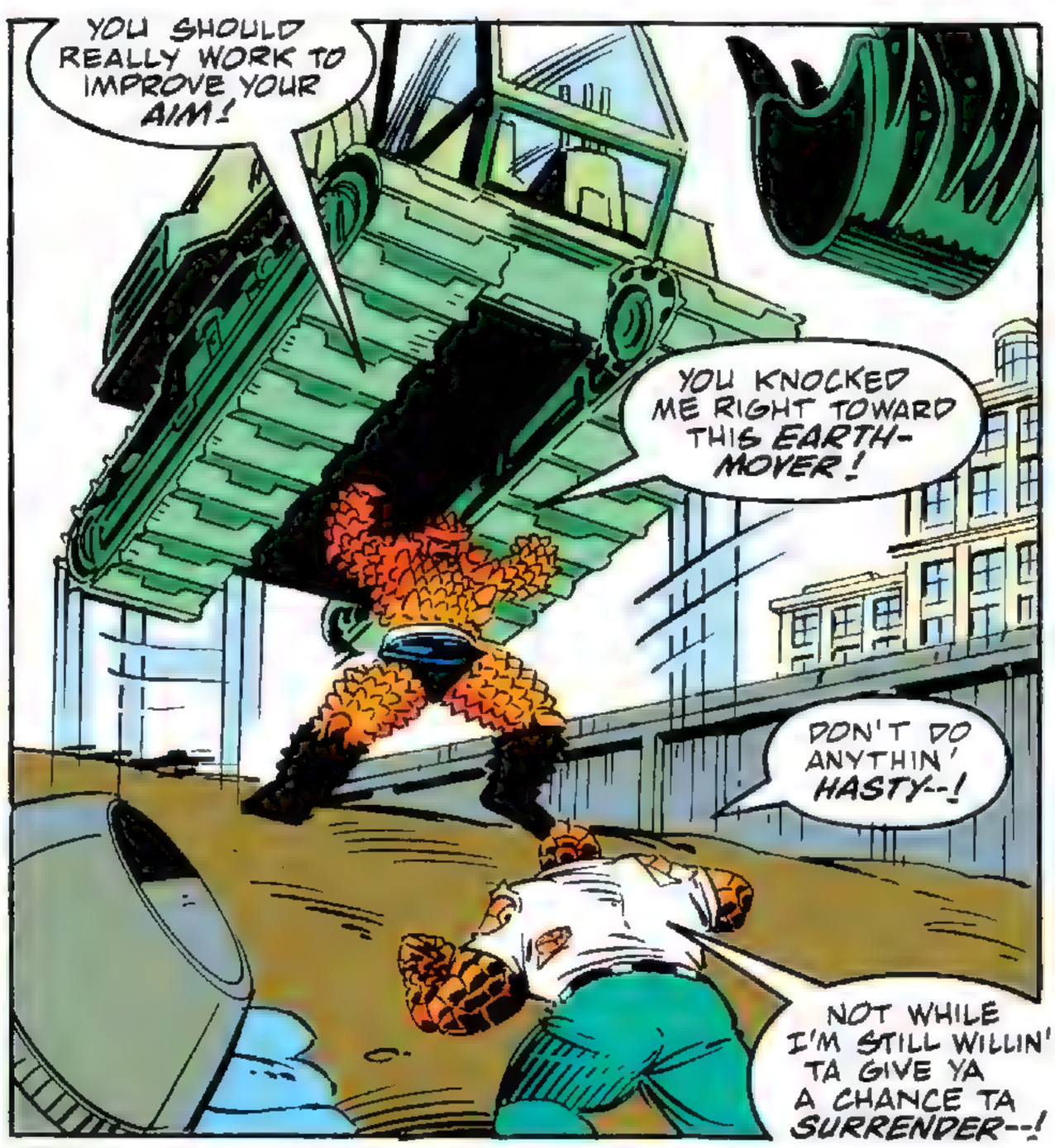

AND, JUST THEN--!
IT MUST BE A RATHER UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU TO BATTLE SOMEONE WHO IS EVEN MORE MONSTROUS--MORE GROTESQUE--THAN YOURSELF, GRIMM!
YEAH! IT'S A REAL BARREL'A LAUGHS!
I AIN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE MY LAST ROOT CANAL!
MANAGED TA LEAD 'IM TA THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE ...AWAY FROM ANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!
MAYBE I OUGHTA JUST QUIT HOGGIN' ALL THE KICKS FER MYSELF!
IT'S HIGH TIME... I SHOWED YA MY APPRECIATION!
I AM SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSED BY SUCH JUVENILE DISPLAYS OF PIQUE--!
THEY ACCOMPLISH LITTLE...OTHER THAN TO CONFIRM MY ASSESSMENT OF YOUR POOR SELF-IMAGE ...AND YOUR DESPERATE NEED FOR APPROVAL!
BESIDES, AS IS READILY APPARENT... I AM YOUR PHYSICAL SUPERIOR!

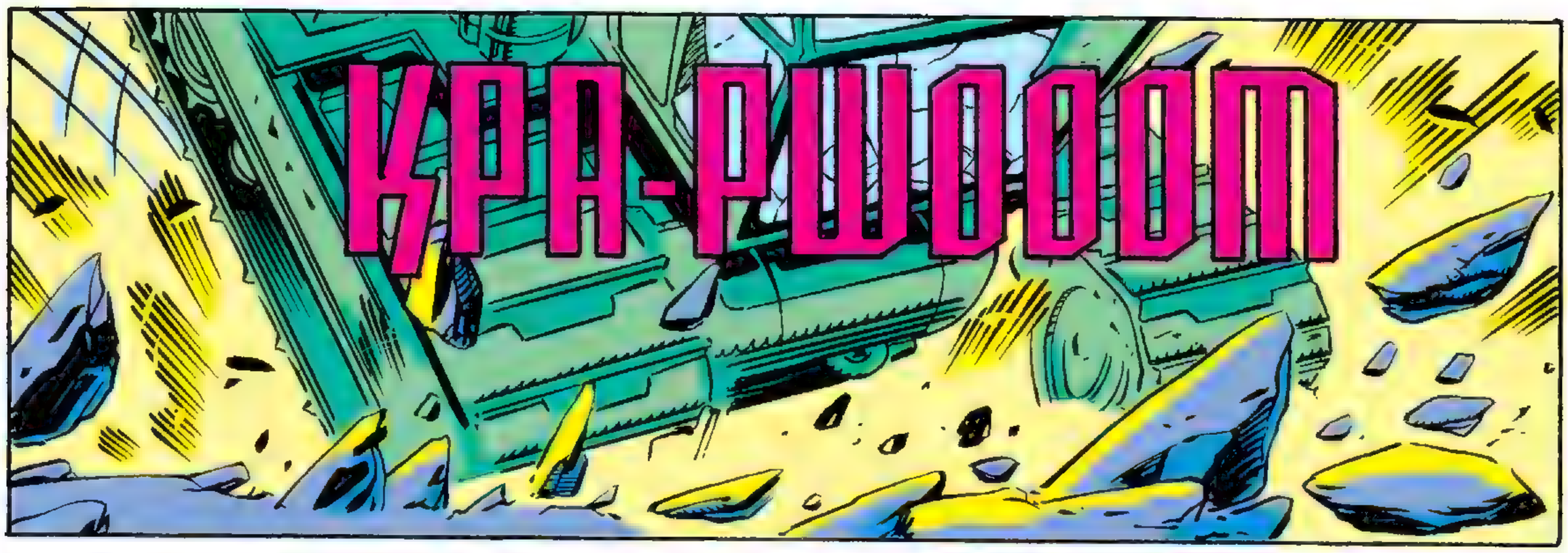
NICE TRY, KIDDO--! BUT, IF I WERE YOU, I'D TRY TA GET A REFUND FOR THIS OVERGROWN PAPERWEIGHT--
--AND YER TWO BIT PSYCHOLOGY!

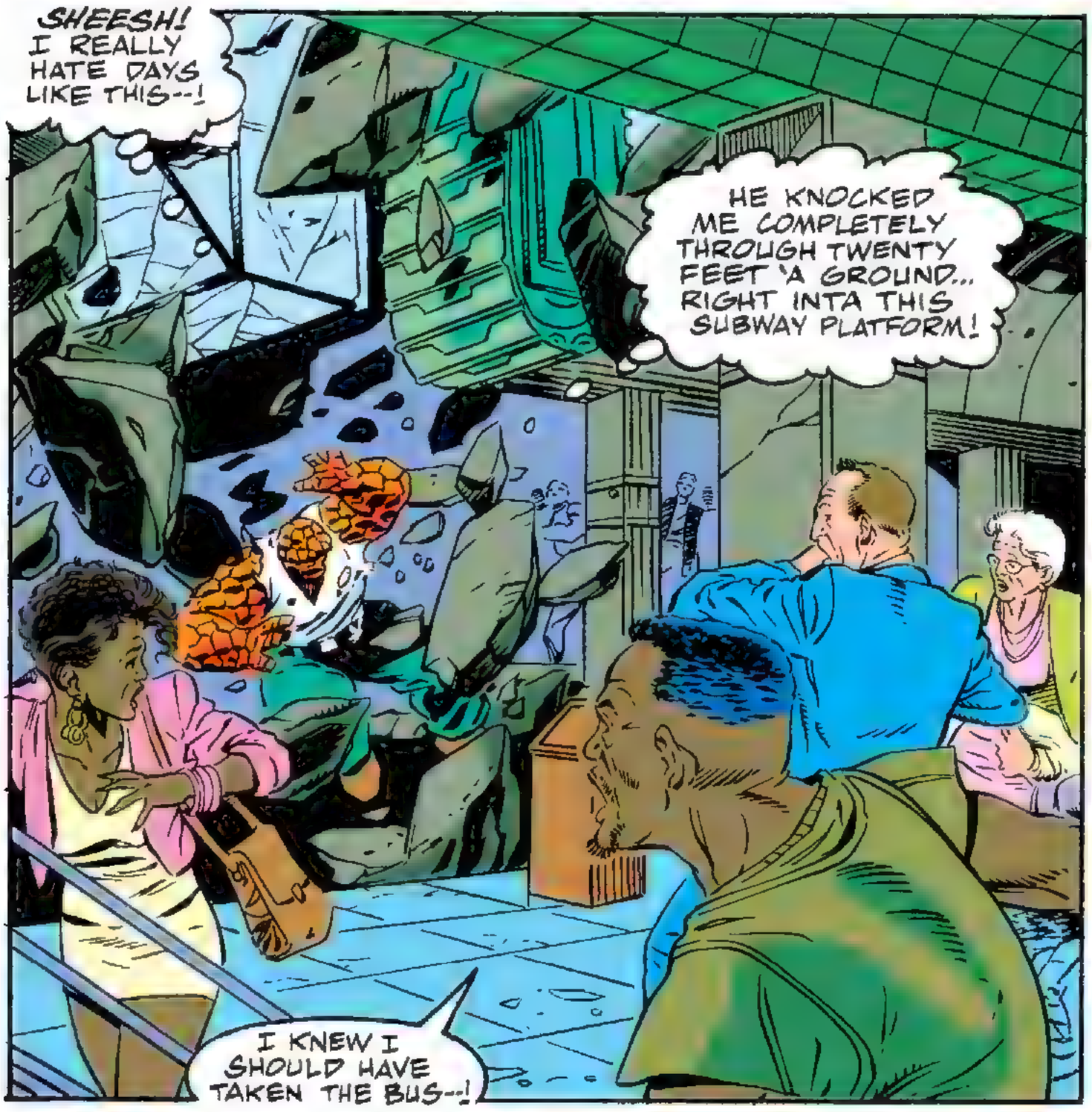
IN CASE YA AIN'T NOTICED... NEITHER ONE IS WORKIN'!
I'M JUST TOO SMART A COOKIE TA LET YA GET MY GOAT WIT' ALL 'A YER SMOOTH SWEET TALK!


I SINCERELY DOUBT IT--!
HOWEVER, I HAVE FAR MORE POTENT WEAPONS WHICH I CAN BRING TO BEAR!
HAUL 'EM OUT--!
YA BETTER TAKE YER BEST SHOT 'CAUSE--

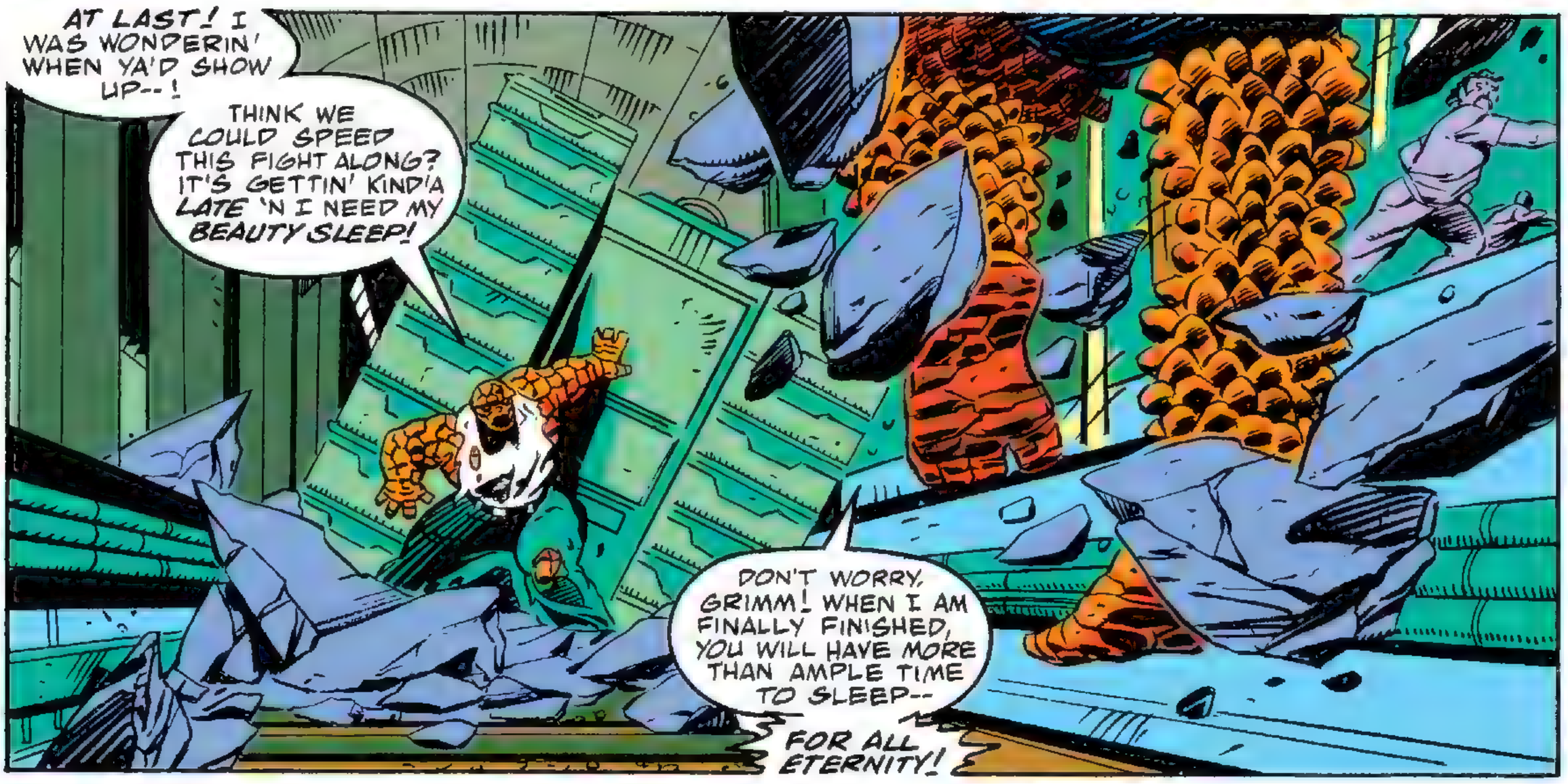

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

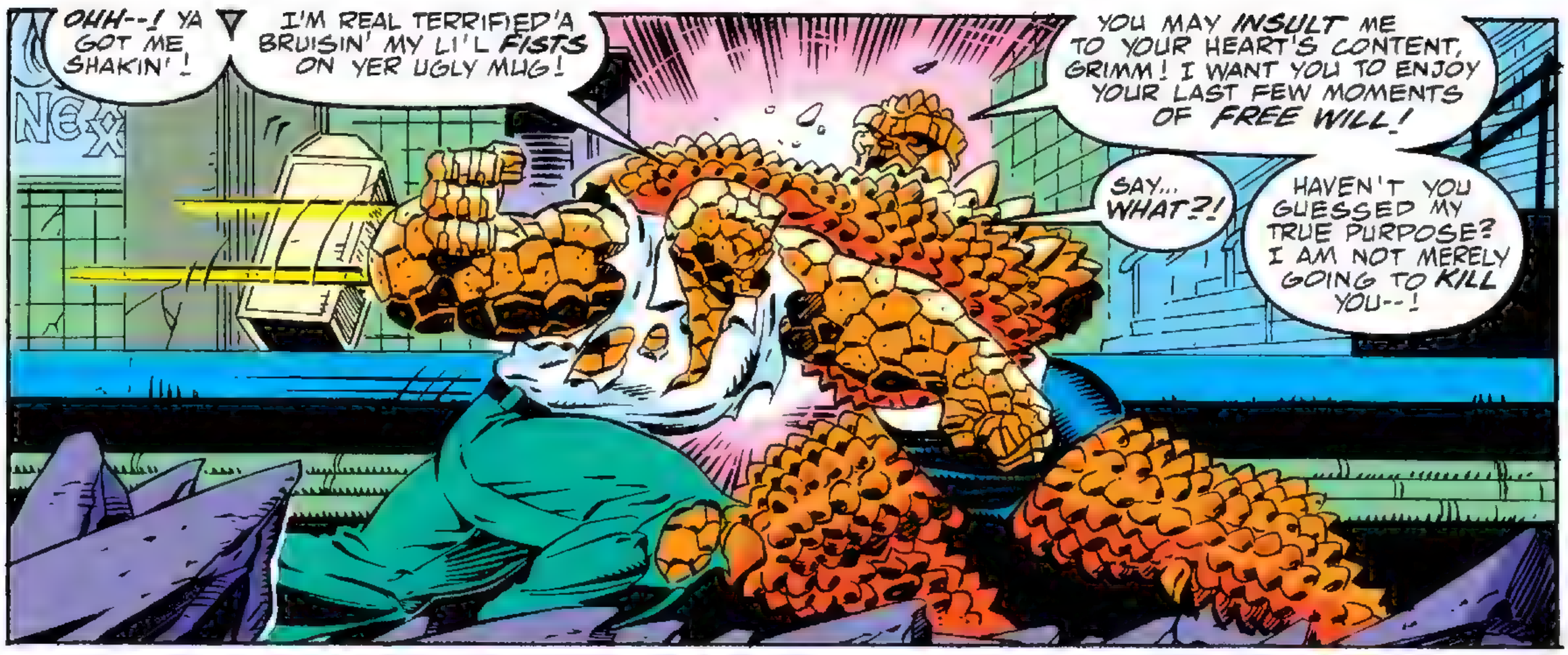

YOU SHOULD REALLY WORK TO IMPROVE YOUR AIM!
YOU KNOCKED ME RIGHT TOWARD THIS EARTH-MOVER!
DON'T DO ANYTHIN' HASTY--!
NOT WHILE I'M STILL WILLIN' TA GIVE YA A CHANCE TA SURRENDER--!


KRA-KWOOOM


SHEESH! I REALLY HATE DAYS LIKE THIS--!
HE KNOCKED ME COMPLETELY THROUGH TWENTY FEET 'A GROUND... RIGHT INTA THIS SUBWAY PLATFORM!
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE BUS--!

EVEN AS PANIC REIGNS BELOW--!
I'VE NEVER APPROVED OF GRIMM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MY STEPDAUGHTER, BUT I WAS FULLY PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY FOR HER HAPPINESS!
HE MAY BE A MONSTER, BUT THIS OTHER CREATURE--!

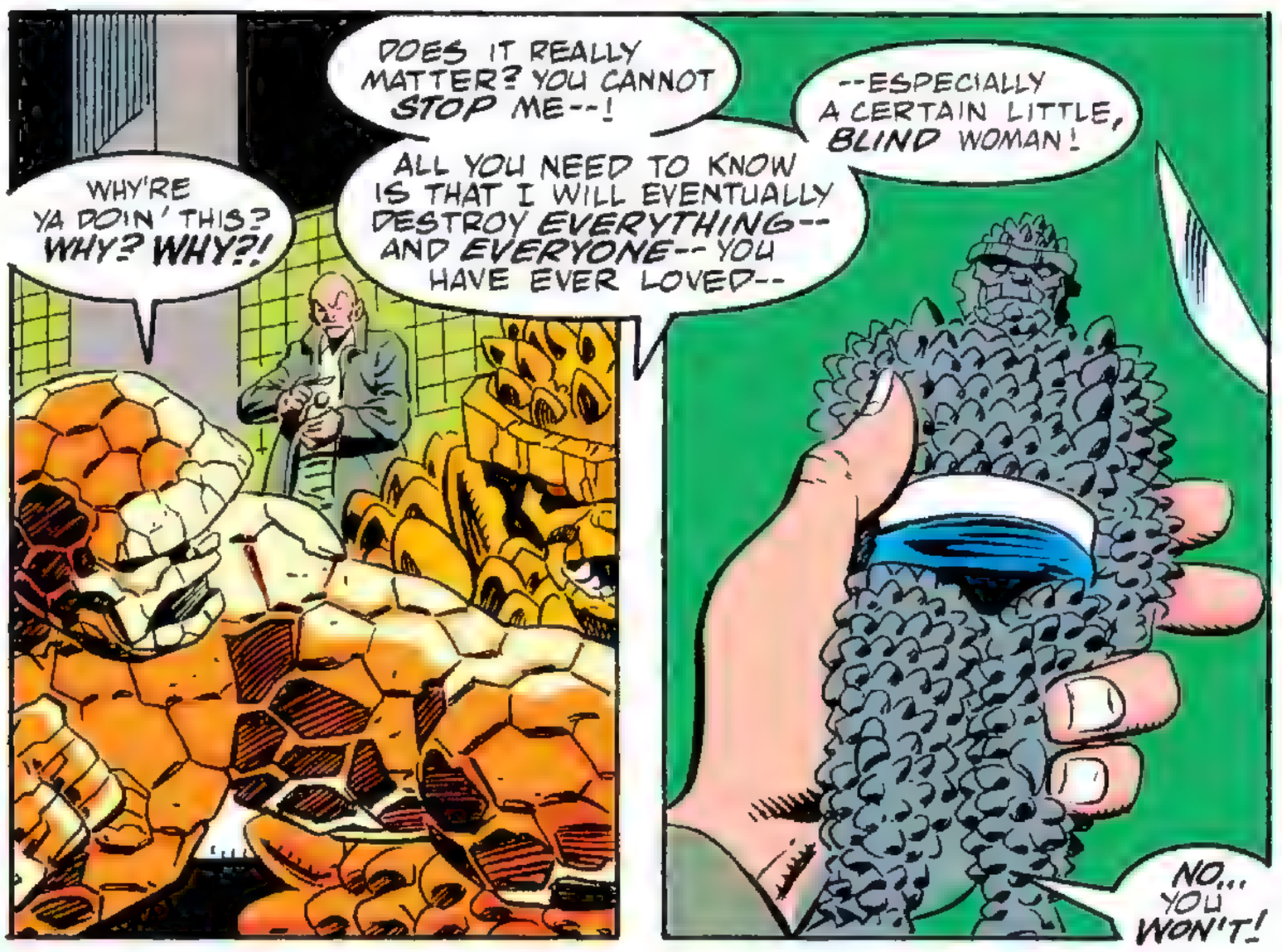

AT LAST! I WAS WONDERIN' WHEN YA'D SHOW UP--!
THINK WE COULD SPEED THIS FIGHT ALONG? IT'S GETTIN' KIND'A LATE 'N I NEED MY BEAUTY SLEEP!
DON'T WORRY, GRIMM! WHEN I AM FINALLY FINISHED, YOU WILL HAVE MORE THAN AMPLE TIME TO SLEEP--
FOR ALL ETERNITY!


OUH--! YA GOT ME SHAKIN'!
I'M REAL TERRIFIED'A BRUISIN' MY LI'L FISTS ON YER UGLY MUG!
YOU MAY INSULT ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT, GRIMM! I WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR LAST FEW MOMENTS OF FREE WILL!
SAY... WHAT?!
HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED MY TRUE PURPOSE? I AM NOT MERELY GOING TO KILL YOU--!

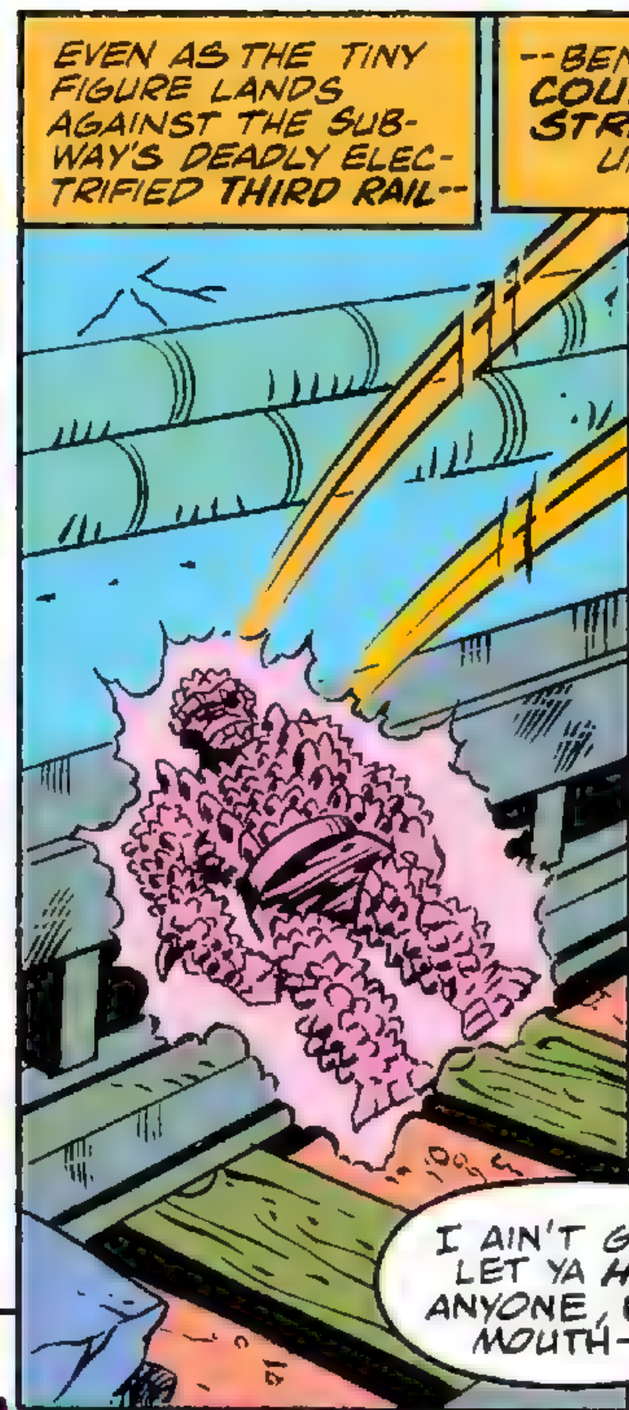
RUN! THOSE MONSTERS ARE GOING BER-SERK!
I'VE GOT TO REACH GRIMM! I OWE IT TO ALICIA!
THAT OTHER CREATURE MAY BE LARGER, BUT THE THING WON'T QUIT!
HE'S FIGHTING ON SHEER GUTS--!

I INTEND TO ASSUME YOUR IDENTITY!
I WILL BECOME YOU!
GRIMM IS STARTING TO FALTER! HE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE SOMEONE CRUSH THAT MUSCLEBOUND GARGOYLE, BUT--!

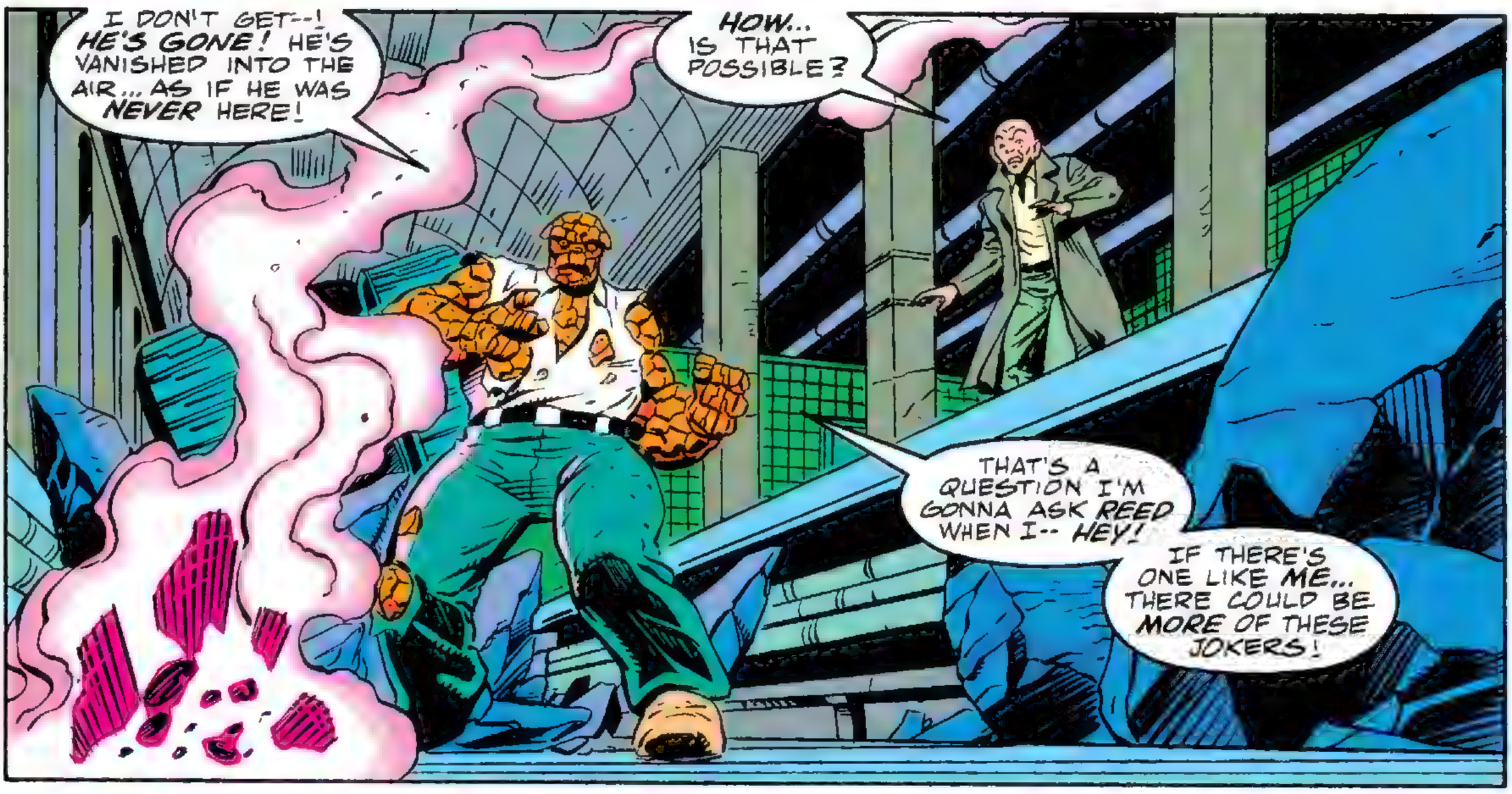

WHY'RE YA DOIN' THIS? WHY? WHY?!
DOES IT REALLY MATTER? YOU CANNOT STOP ME--!
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT I WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY EVERYTHING-- AND EVERYONE-- YOU HAVE EVER LOVED--
--ESPECIALLY A CERTAIN LITTLE, BLIND WOMAN!
NO... YOU WON'T!

NOT IF THE PUPPET MASTER HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT--!


EVEN AS THE TINY FIGURE LANDS AGAINST THE SUBWAY'S DEADLY ELECTRIFIED THIRD RAIL--

--BEN GRIMM SUMMONS ALL OF HIS COURAGE, ALL OF HIS REMAINING STRENGTH INTO ONE, FINAL, UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL BLOW!
KWUNK
I AIN'T GONNA LET YA HURT ANYONE, BIG MOUTH--
ESPECIALLY NOT ALICIA!

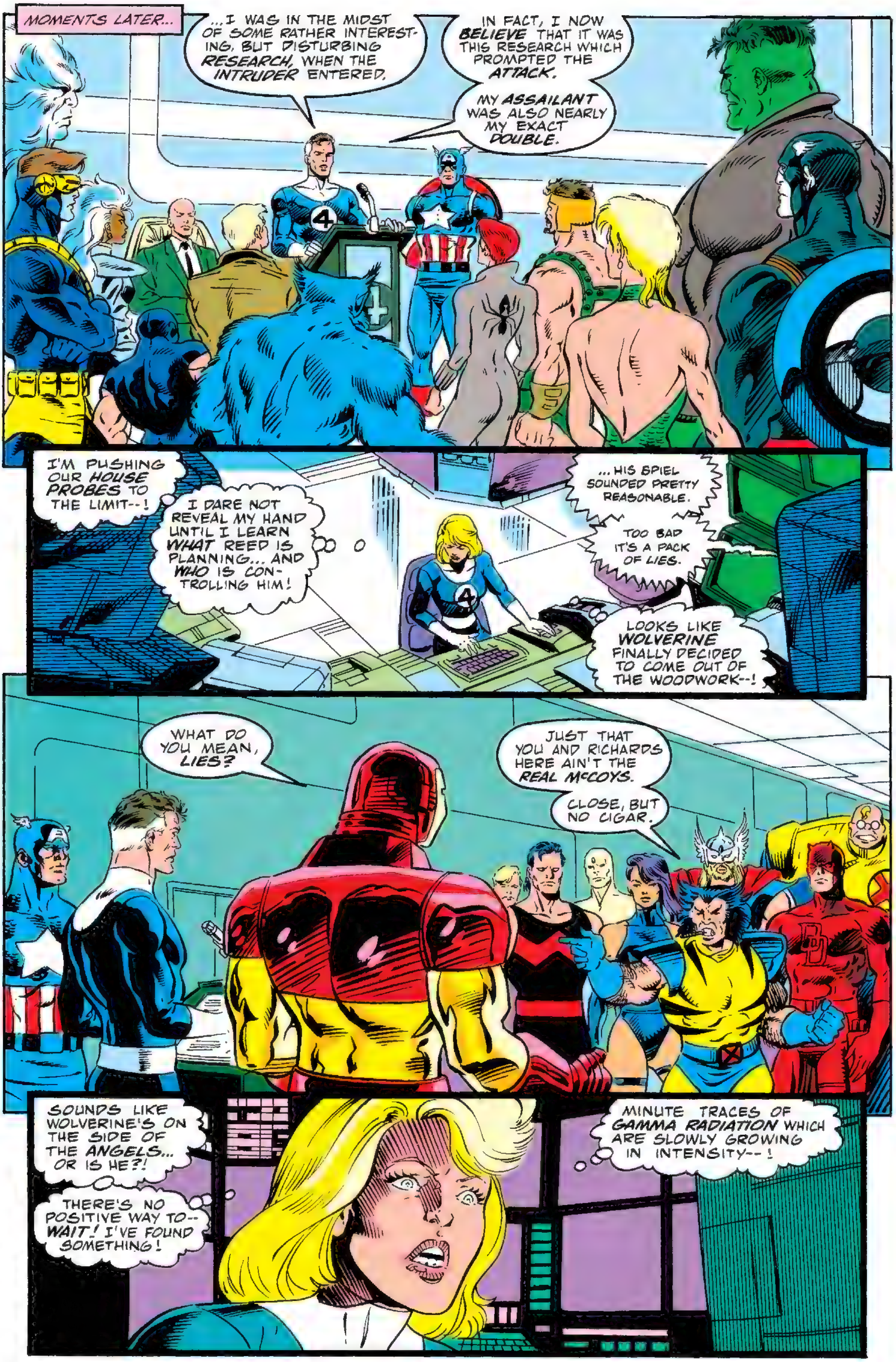
STUNNED BY THE SHATTERING IMPACT, BEN'S DOUBLE TOPPLES BACKWARD, AND--!
KAZZ-ZAKK!


I DON'T GET--! HE'S GONE! HE'S VANISHED INTO THE AIR... AS IF HE WAS NEVER HERE!
HOW... IS THAT POSSIBLE?
THAT'S A QUESTION I'M GONNA ASK REED WHEN I-- HEY!
IF THERE'S ONE LIKE ME... THERE COULD BE MORE OF THESE JOKERS!

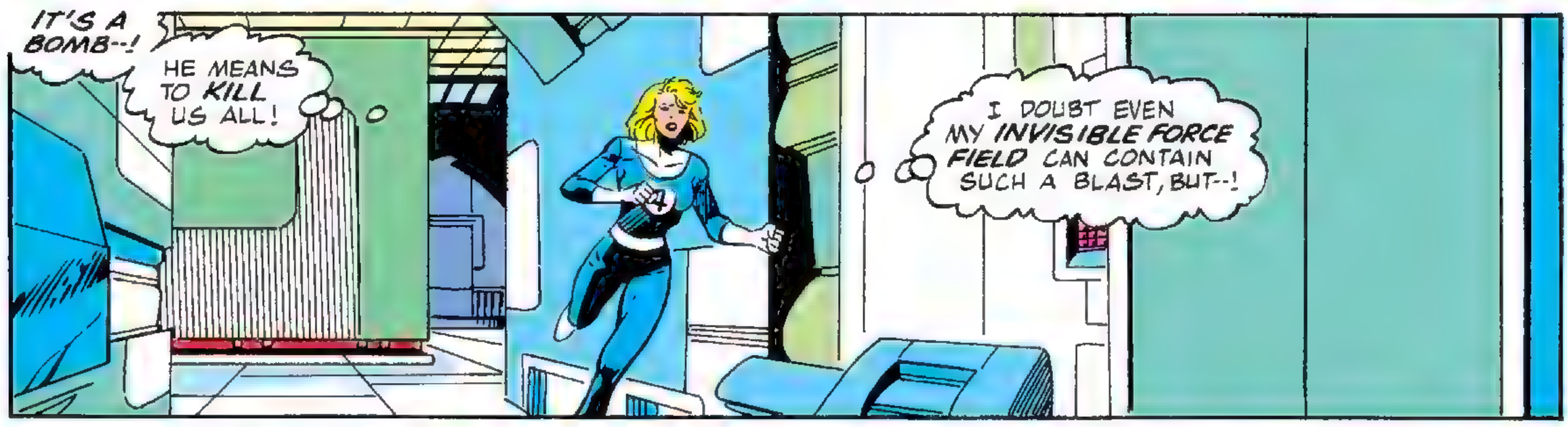
SHORTLY--!
THE PUPPET MASTER OUGHT'A BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER ALICIA FER THE TIME BEIN'!
I HAD TO RUSH BACK HERE, AND WARN THE OTHERS BEFORE--!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, BEN--!
SUZIE--?!
NO! YA CAN'T BE ONE'A THEM! NOT YOU! NOT YOU!
RELAX, BEN, I'M FINE...
AND, ACCORDING TO THIS PORTABLE SCANNER... SO ARE YOU!
YA REALLY HAD ME WORRIED, LADY--!
I TAKE IT YA ALREADY KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENIN'!
I... I'M AFRAID SO!
THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL--! REED HAS ARRANGED FOR SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES TO MEET HERE IN A FEW HOURS!
JOHNNY IS SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH SOME HIGH SCHOOL BUDDIES, BUT I LEFT A MESSAGE ON HIS VOICE MAIL!
WHAT ABOUT STRETCH? WHY AIN'T HE--WHOA! YA SUDDENLY DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, LADY!
BEN, I... WE HAVE TO TALK... BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...

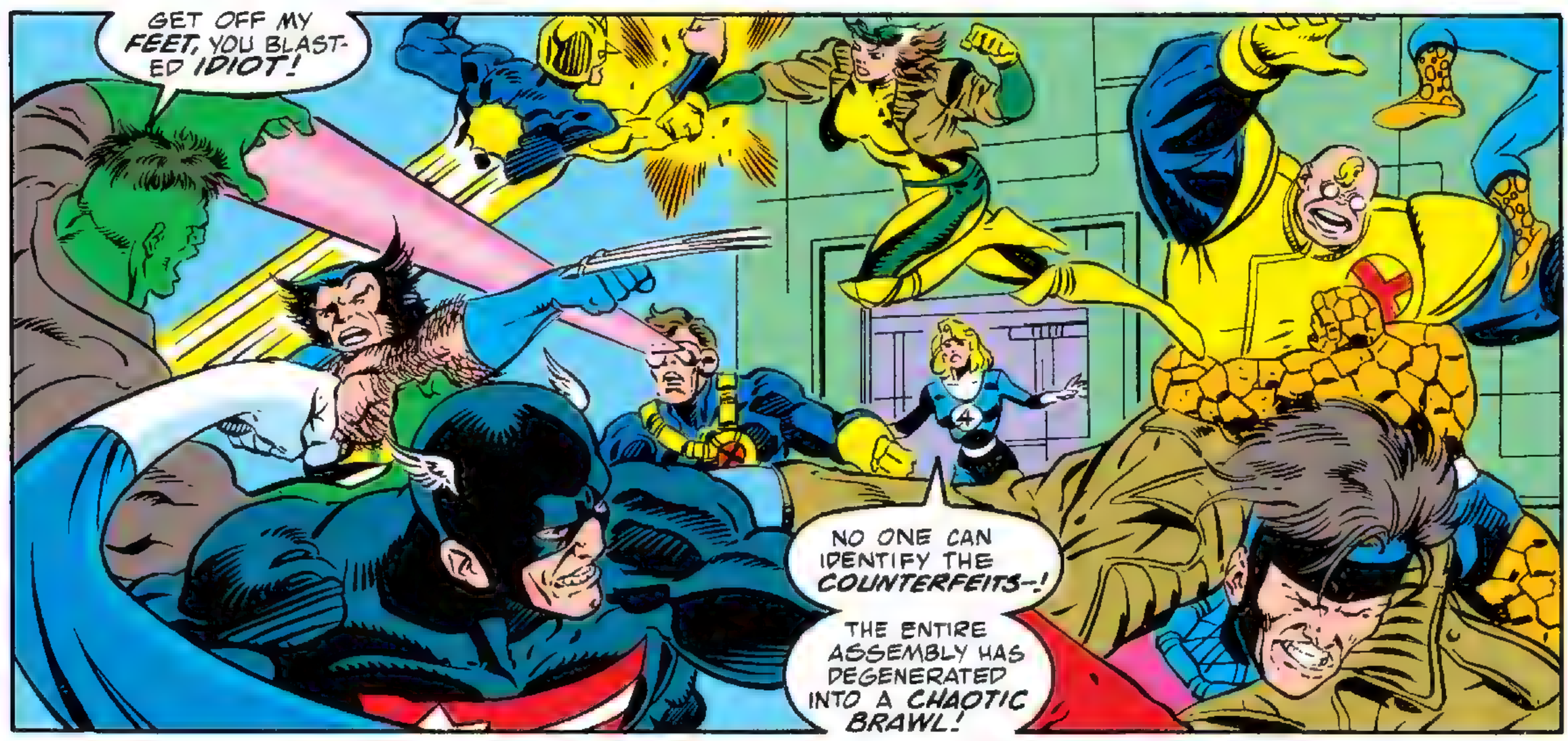
SOMETIME LATER, AS DAY BREAKS OVER FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
'BOUT TIME YA GOT HERE, HOT SHOT
YER ALMOST THE LAST TO SHOW!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BEN?
WHAT'S THE BIG EMERGENCY?
DON'T KNOW! REED'S KEEPING HIS TRAP SHUT TILL EVERYONE IS HERE!
WHO ELSE IS COMING?
AIN'T YA HEARD?
NO! JUST GOT THE MESSAGE FROM MY SERVICE...
HE LOOKS LIKE THE REAL TORCH, BUT--!
DON'T MOVE, KID! DON'T EVEN THINK OF FLAMIN' ON... NOT IF YA VALUE YER NECK!
QUIT KIDDING AROUND, BEN!
I ADMIT I USED THE LAST OF YOUR STRAWBERRY BUBBLE BATH, BUT--!
YOU CAN RELEASE HIM, BEN!
HE CHECKS OUT--!
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON--?!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER JOHNNY STORM HAS BEEN UPDATED...
IT'S ALL SO... INCREDIBLE!
DOPPELGANGERS ...LIKE "THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS!"
EXCEPT THIS IS NO MOVIE... AND THAT'S REALLY REED IN THERE!

I'M CERTAIN HE LURED EVERYONE HERE FOR SOME ORNATE TRAP!
I'M GOING BACK TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER TO SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN!
WE'LL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON REED ...AND MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO HIM!
WE HOPE!
BE CAREFUL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO--IF ANYONE--YOU CAN TRUST!
WE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FER US, JUNIOR!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SEE FOR YOURSELF--!
HOLY COW!
THIS IS WORSE THAN A SHRINERS CONVENTION!
LOT NOISIER, TOO!

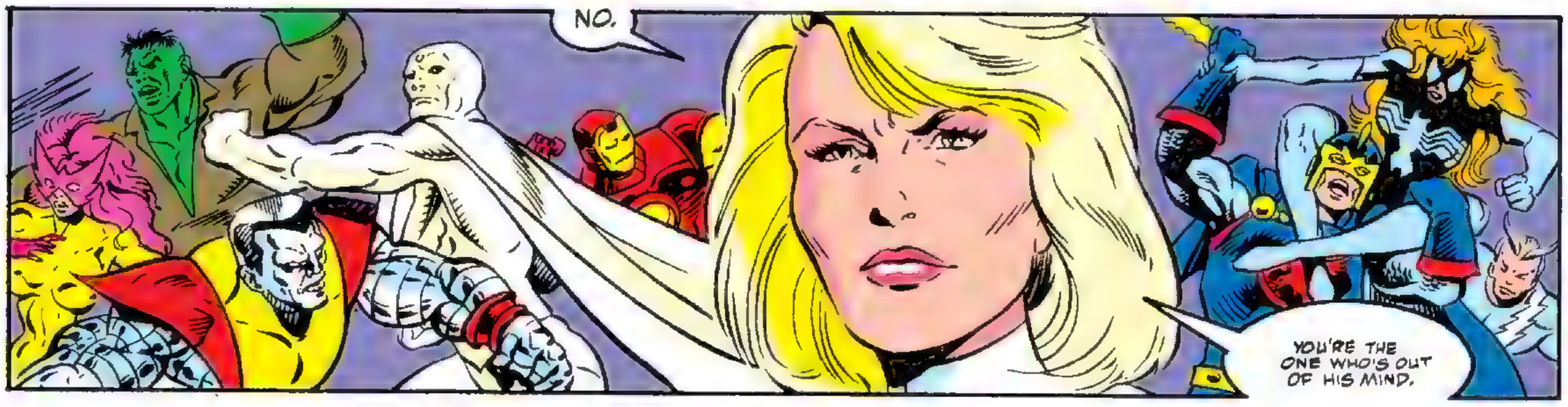

MOMENTS LATER...
...I WAS IN THE MIDST OF SOME RATHER INTERESTING, BUT DISTURBING RESEARCH, WHEN THE INTRUDER ENTERED.
IN FACT, I NOW BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THIS RESEARCH WHICH PROMPTED THE ATTACK.
MY ASSAILANT WAS ALSO NEARLY MY EXACT DOUBLE.
I'M PUSHING OUR HOUSE PROBES TO THE LIMIT--!
I DARE NOT REVEAL MY HAND UNTIL I LEARN WHAT REED IS PLANNING... AND WHO IS CONTROLLING HIM!
...HIS SPIEL SOUNDED PRETTY REASONABLE.
TOO BAD IT'S A PACK OF LIES.
LOOKS LIKE WOLVERINE FINALLY DECIDED TO COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK--!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LIES?
JUST THAT YOU AND RICHARDS HERE AIN'T THE REAL McCOYS.
CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR.
SOUNDS LIKE WOLVERINE'S ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS... OR IS HE?!
THERE'S NO POSITIVE WAY TO-- WAIT! I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
MINUTE TRACES OF GAMMA RADIATION WHICH ARE SLOWLY GROWING IN INTENSITY--!

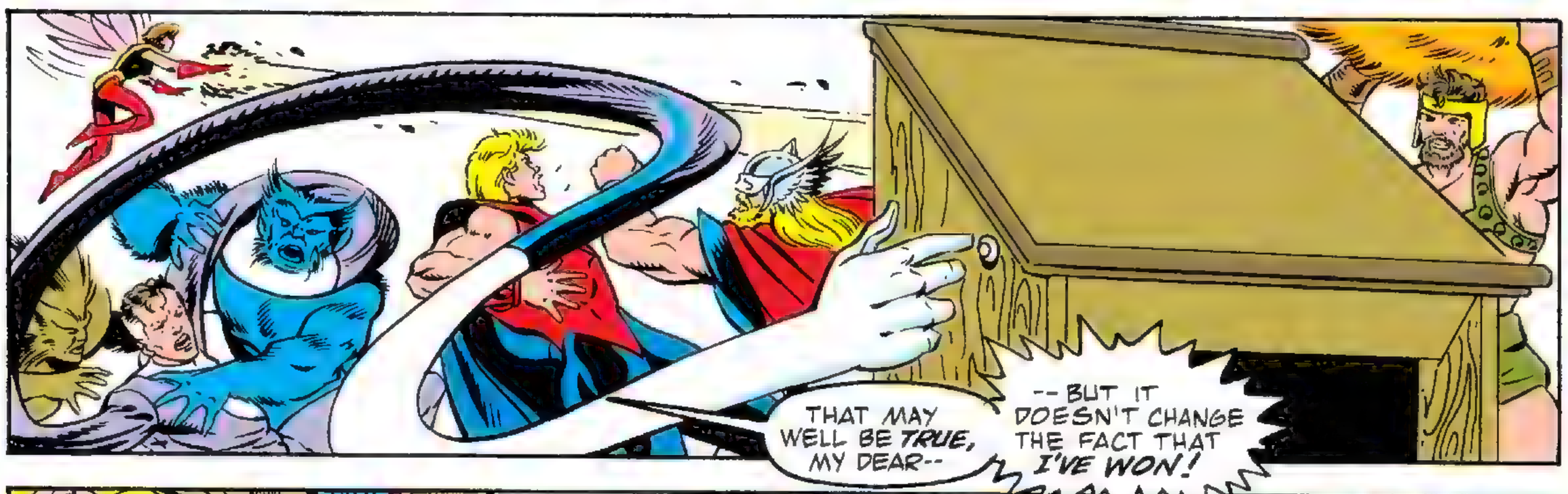
RICHARDS AND IRON MAN ARE THE IMPOSTORS!
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE PODIUM!


IT'S A BOMB--!
HE MEANS TO KILL US ALL!
I DOUBT EVEN MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD CAN CONTAIN SUCH A BLAST, BUT--!

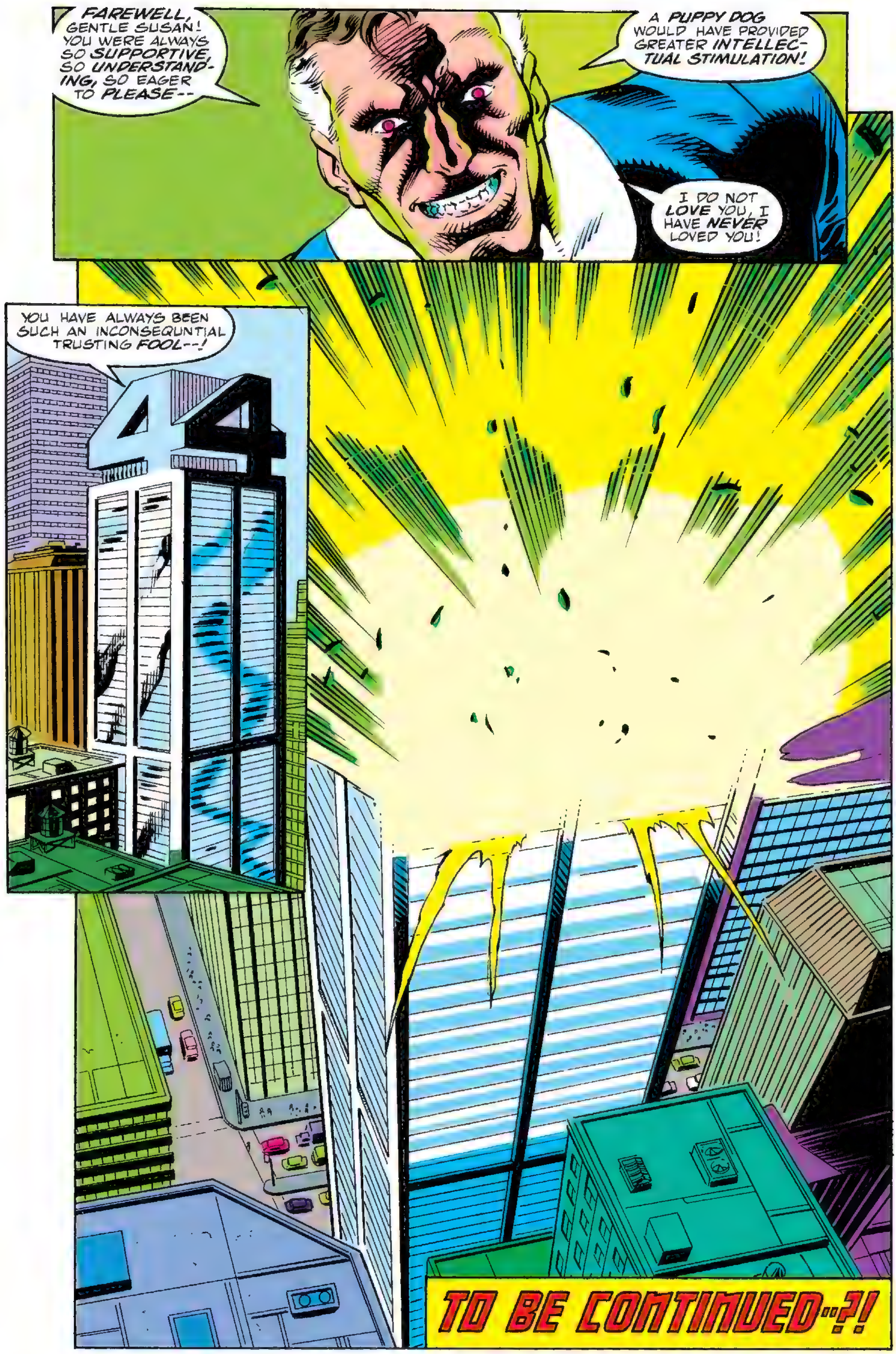

GET OFF MY FEET, YOU BLASTED IDIOT!
NO ONE CAN IDENTIFY THE COUNTERFEITS--!
THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY HAS DEGENERATED INTO A CHAOTIC BRAWL!

SUSAN--!
HELP ME, DARLING!
THEY'VE ALL GONE CRAZY!


NO.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S OUT OF HIS MIND.


THAT MAY WELL BE TRUE, MY DEAR--
--BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I'VE WON!

IT'S A GAMMA BOMB--!


FAREWELL, GENTLE SUSAN! YOU WERE ALWAYS SO SUPPORTIVE, SO UNDERSTANDING, SO EAGER TO PLEASE--
A PUPPY DOG WOULD HAVE PROVIDED GREATER INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION!
I DO NOT LOVE YOU, I HAVE NEVER LOVED YOU!
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH AN INCONSEQUNTIAL TRUSTING FOOL--!
44
TO BE CONTINUED--?!

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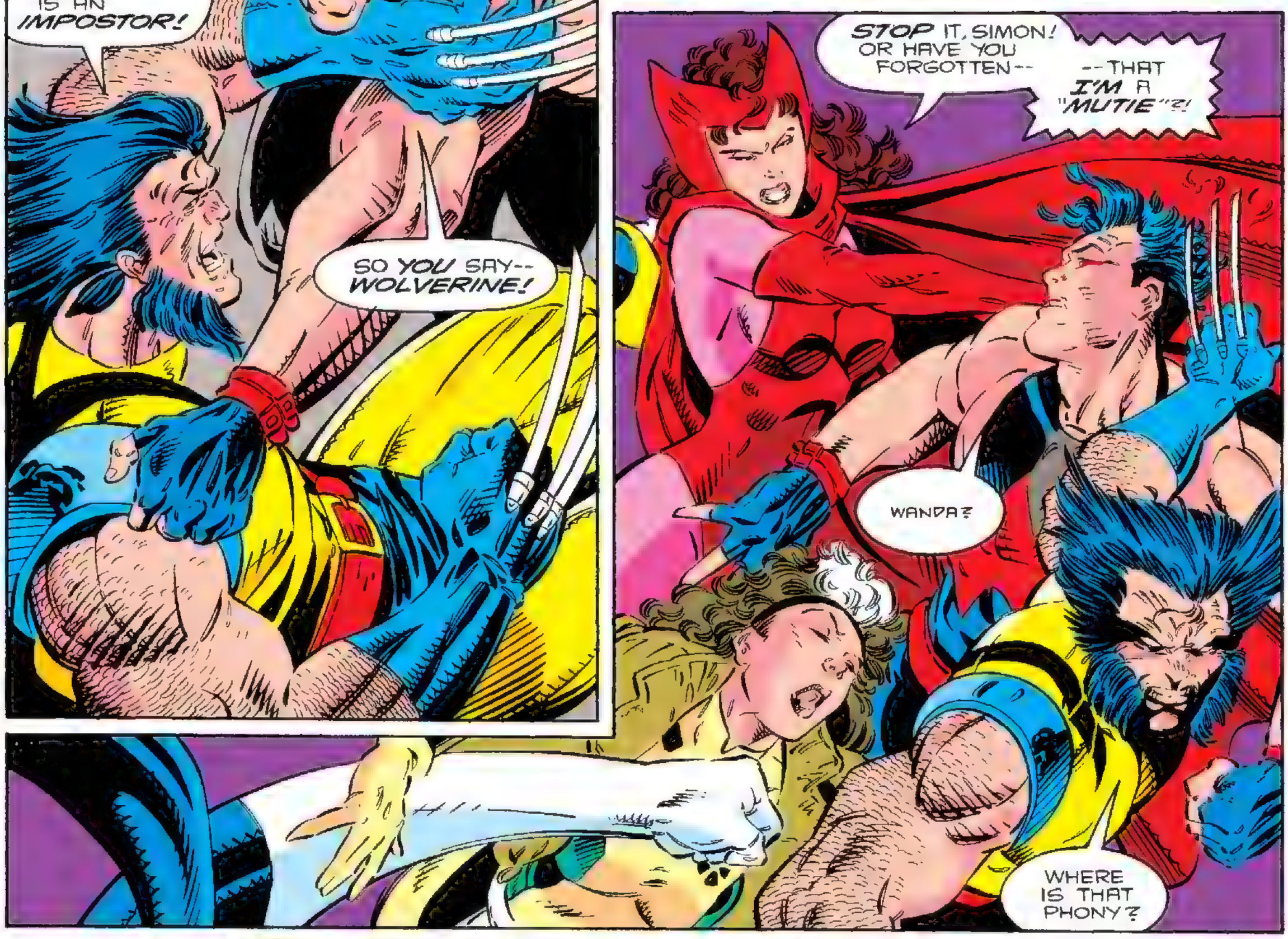
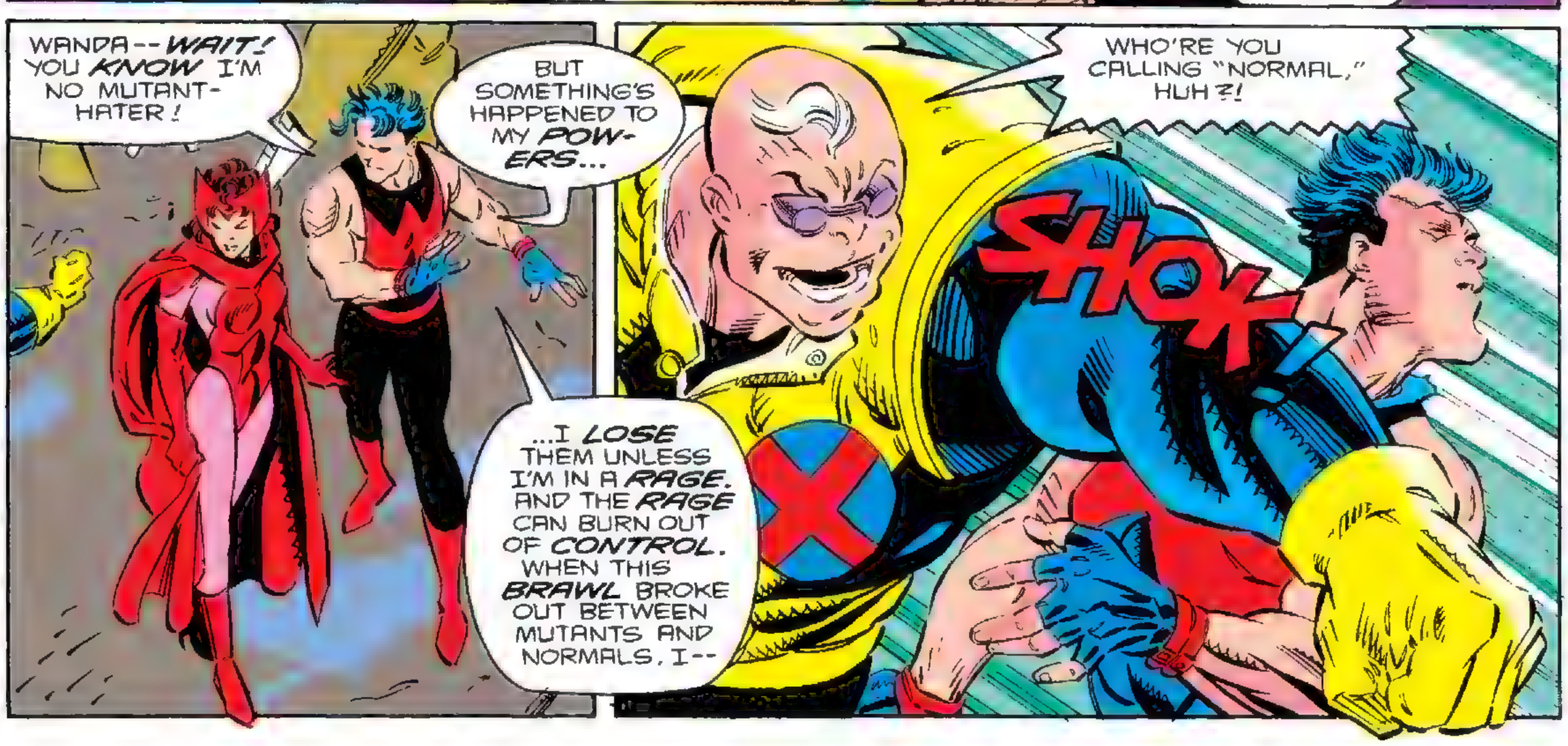
WONDER MAN™
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
DOUBLE TROUBLE
JOHNSON & AUSTIN

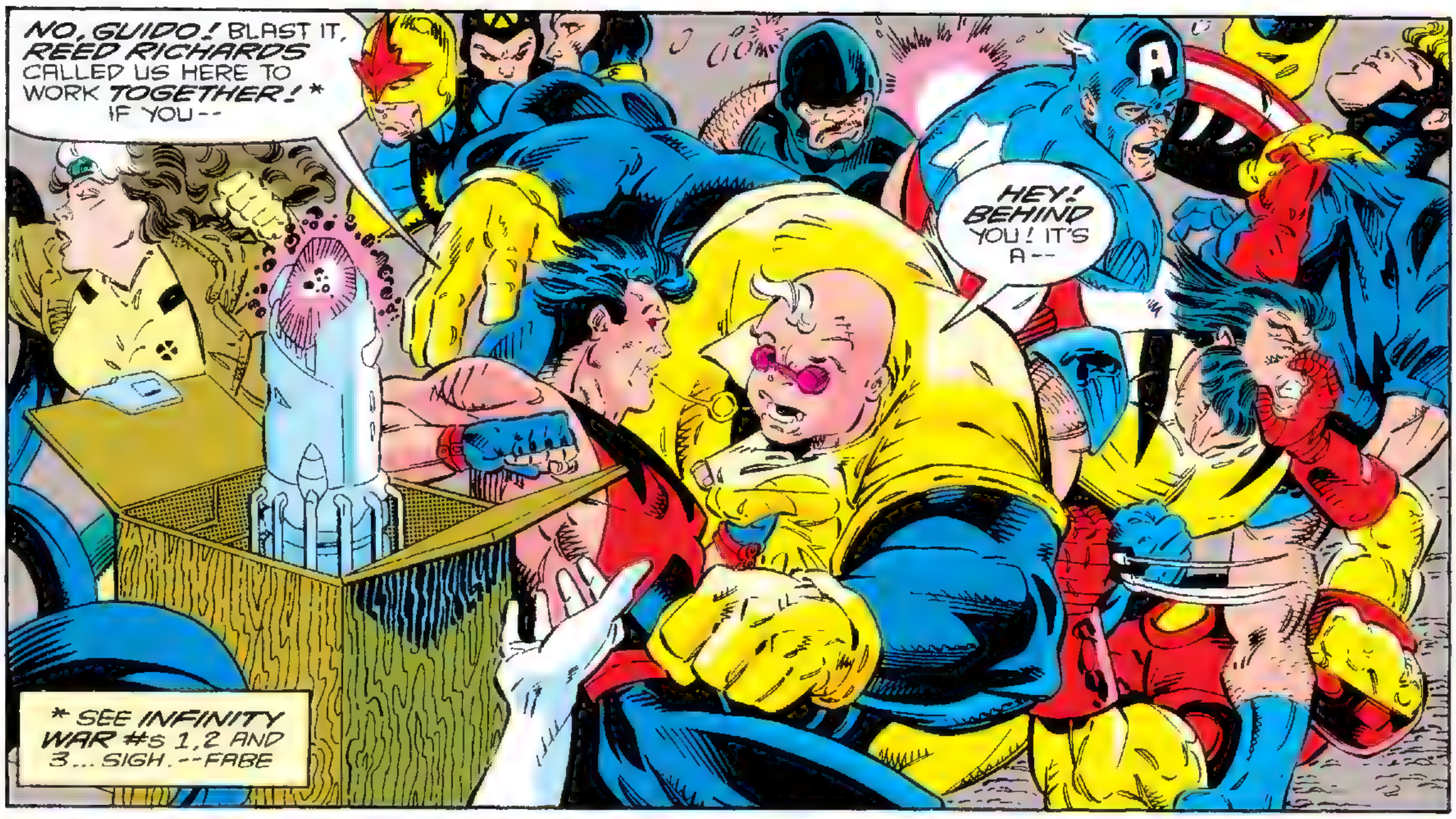
BOMBARDED BY ION RAYS, SIMON WILLIAMS GAINED SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY. NOW, HE WORKS AS A HOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND STUNTMAN, WHILE FIGHTING CRIME AS THE TINSELTOWN AVENGER! STAN LEE PRESENTS... **WONDER MAN!**

I'M TELLIN' YOU -- THIS "IRON MAN" IS AN IMPOSTOR!
SO YOU SAY-- WOLVERINE!

MAYBE IT'S TRUE ABOUT YOU MUTIES!
MAYBE YOU ARE OUT TO GET US!

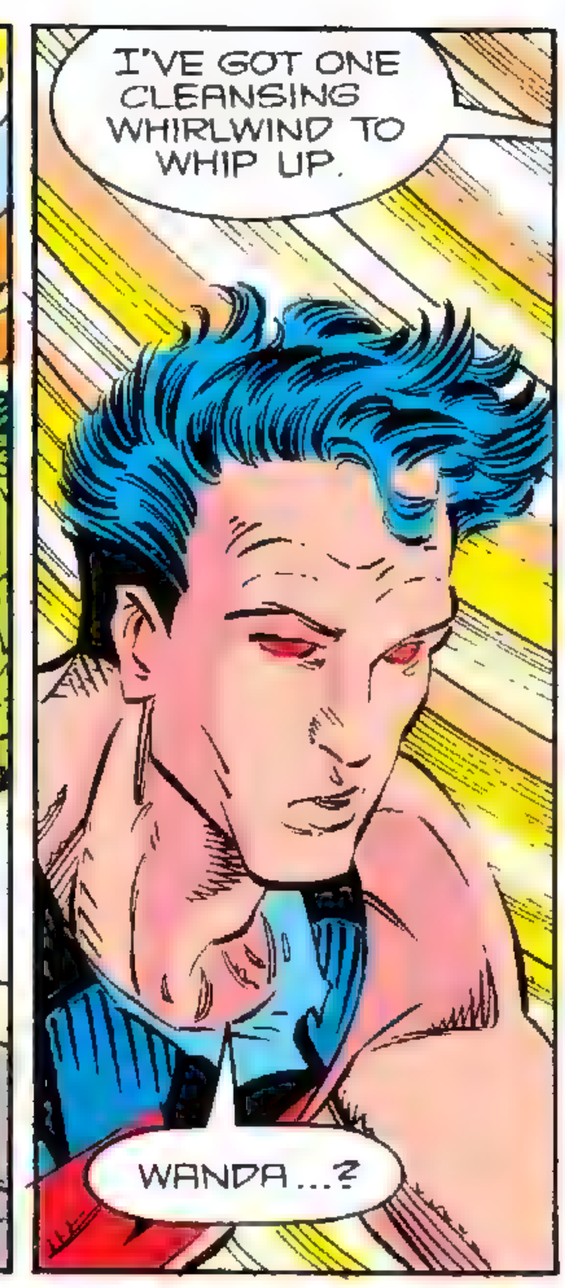

STOP IT, SIMON! OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN--
--THAT I'M A "MUTIE"?!
WANDA?
WHERE IS THAT PHONY?


WANDA -- WAIT! YOU KNOW I'M NO MUTANT-HATER!
BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MY POWERS...
...I LOSE THEM UNLESS I'M IN A RAGE. AND THE RAGE CAN BURN OUT OF CONTROL. WHEN THIS BRAWL BROKE OUT BETWEEN MUTANTS AND NORMALS, I--
WHO'RE YOU CALLING "NORMAL," HUH?!
SHOK


NO, GUIDO! BLAST IT, REED RICHARDS CALLED US HERE TO WORK TOGETHER! * IF YOU--
HEY! BEHIND YOU! IT'S A--
* SEE INFINITY WAR #s 1,2 AND 3... SIGH.--FABE

BUH-ROOOOM!
WANDAAAAA!

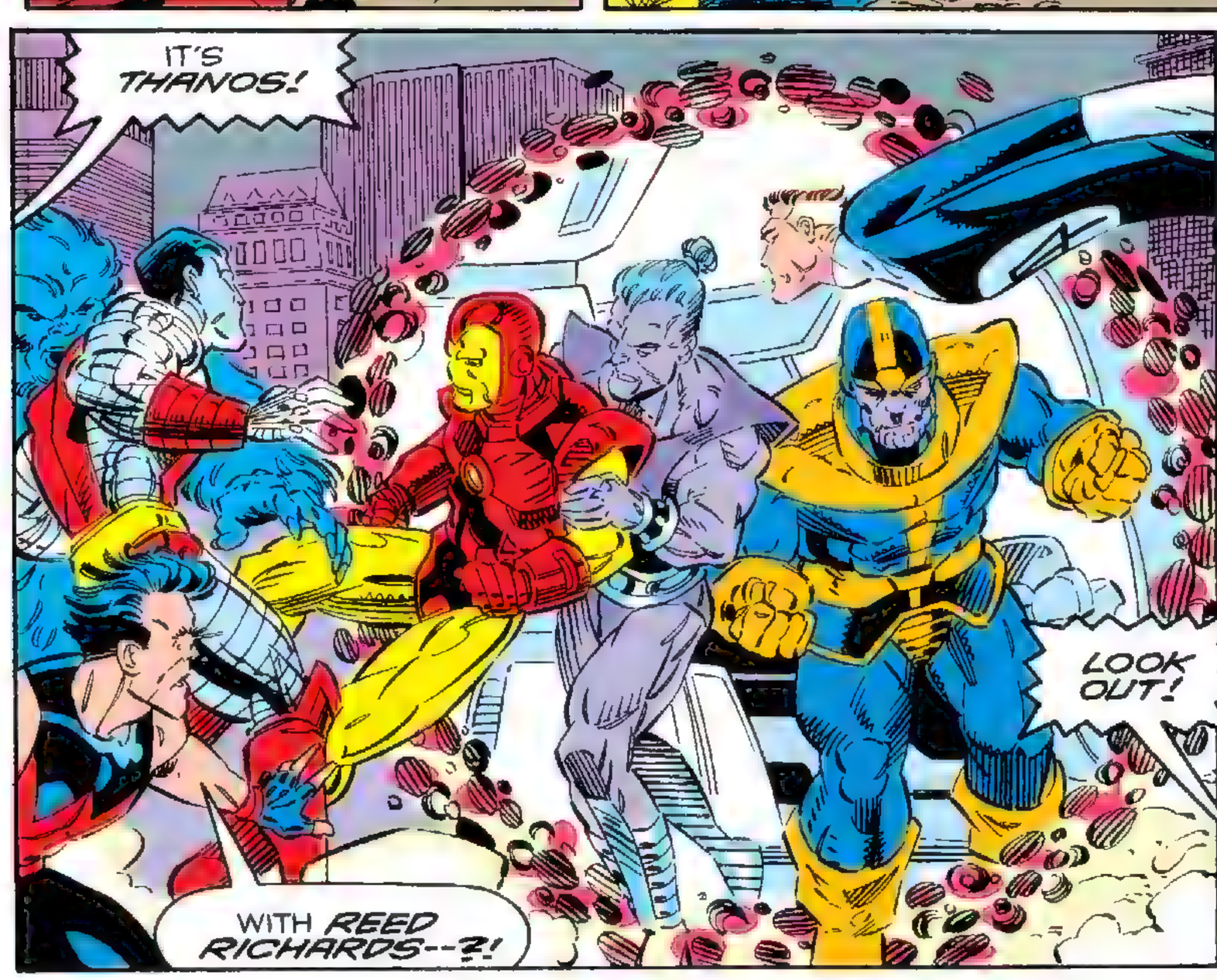
MRS. RICHARDS-- CAN THAT FIELD OF YOURS REALLY HOLD THAT BACK?
ONLY REDIRECT IT, THOR-- AND IT'S TAKING EVERY-THING I'VE GOT TO DO THAT.
A...TRAP? DID REED...CALL US INTO A TRAP?

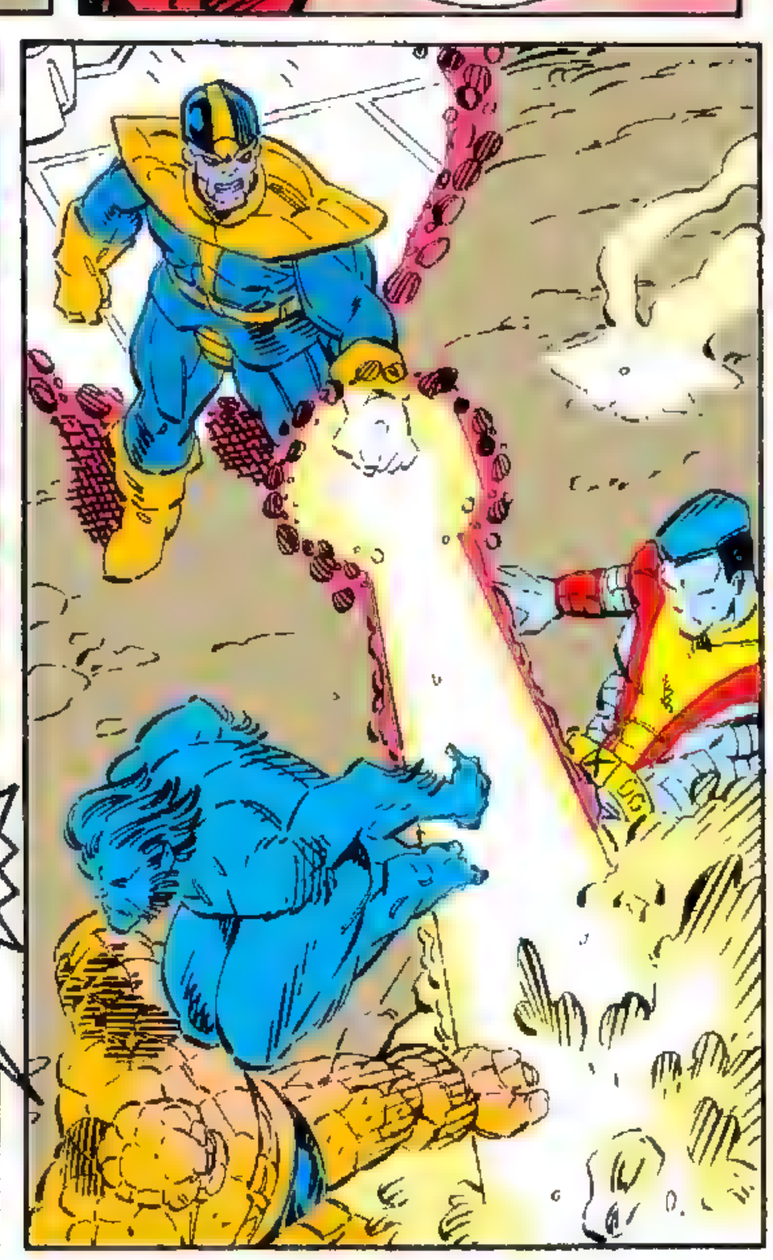

I'VE GOT ONE CLEANSING WHIRLWIND TO WHIP UP.
WANDA...?

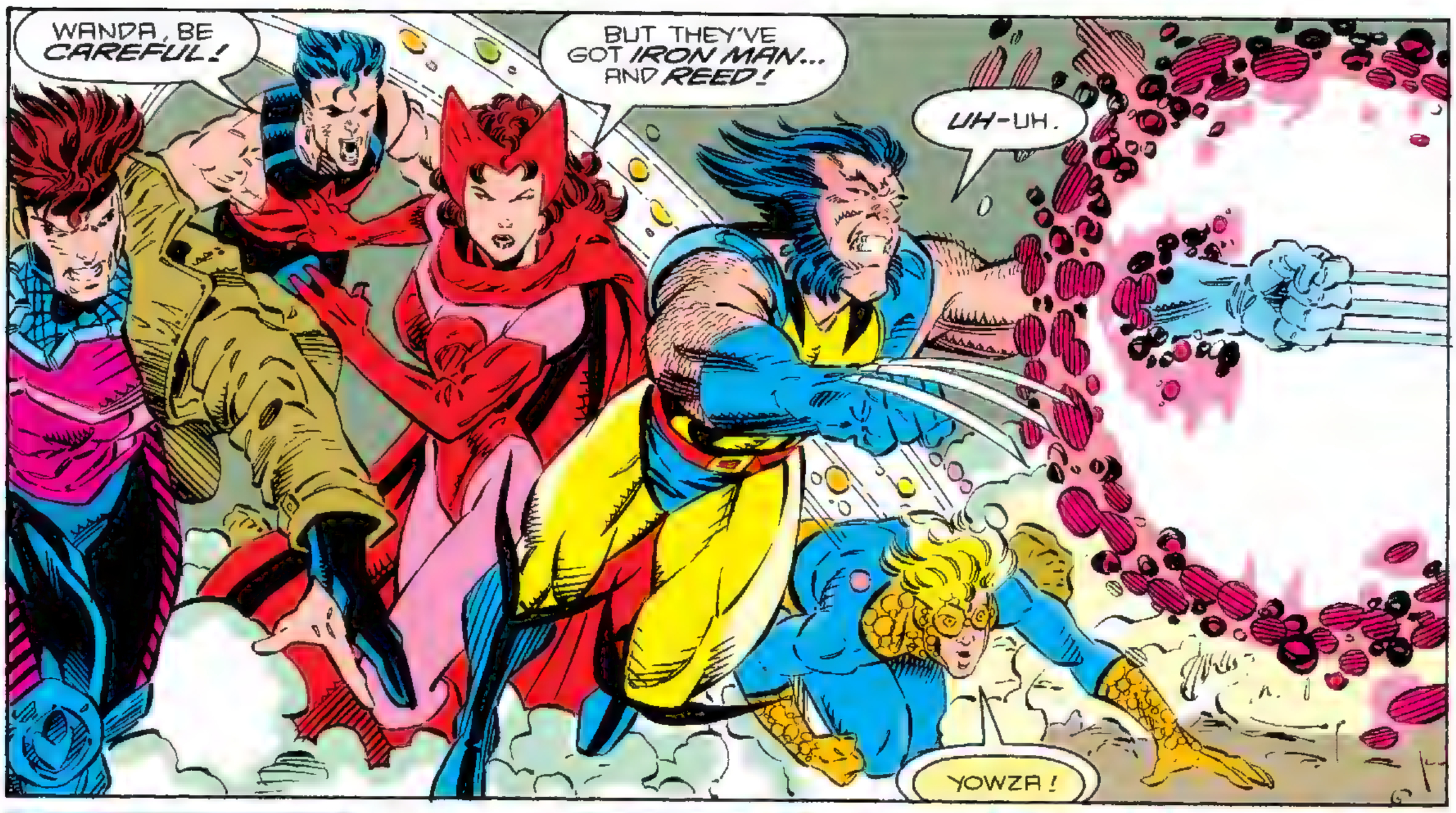
NO!

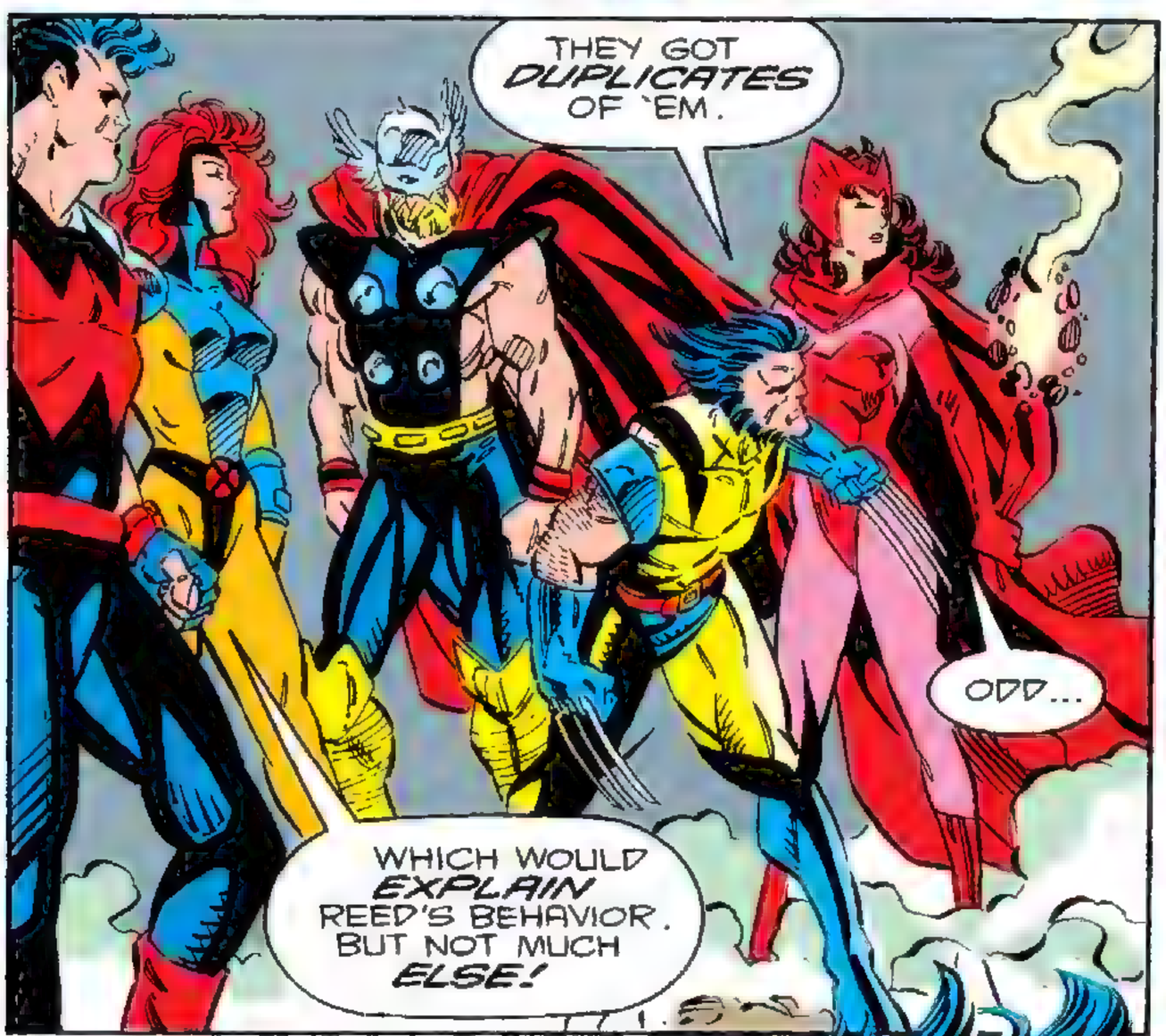
WANDA? YOU OKAY? WANDA!
OH, JEEZ... YOU SCARED ME!
MM?

YOU SCARED ME.


IT'S THANOS!
LOOK OUT!
WITH REED RICHARDS--?!

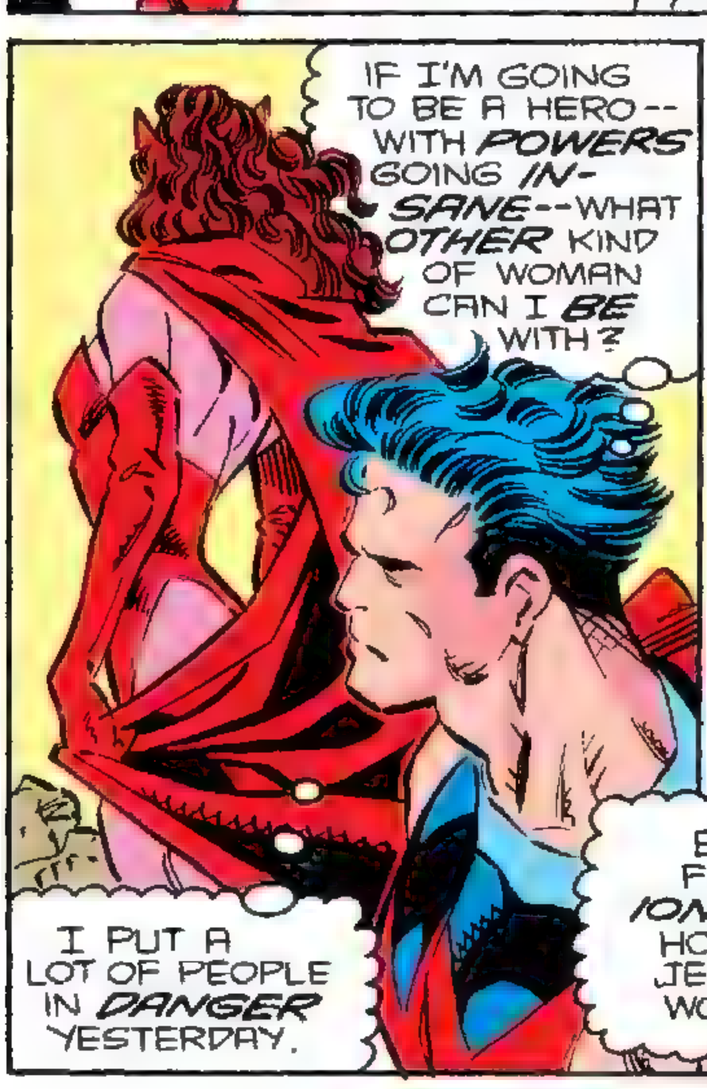



WANDA, BE CAREFUL!
BUT THEY'VE GOT IRON MAN... AND REED!
UH-UH.
YOWZA!


THEY GOT DUPLICATES OF 'EM.
ODD...
WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN REED'S BEHAVIOR. BUT NOT MUCH ELSE!

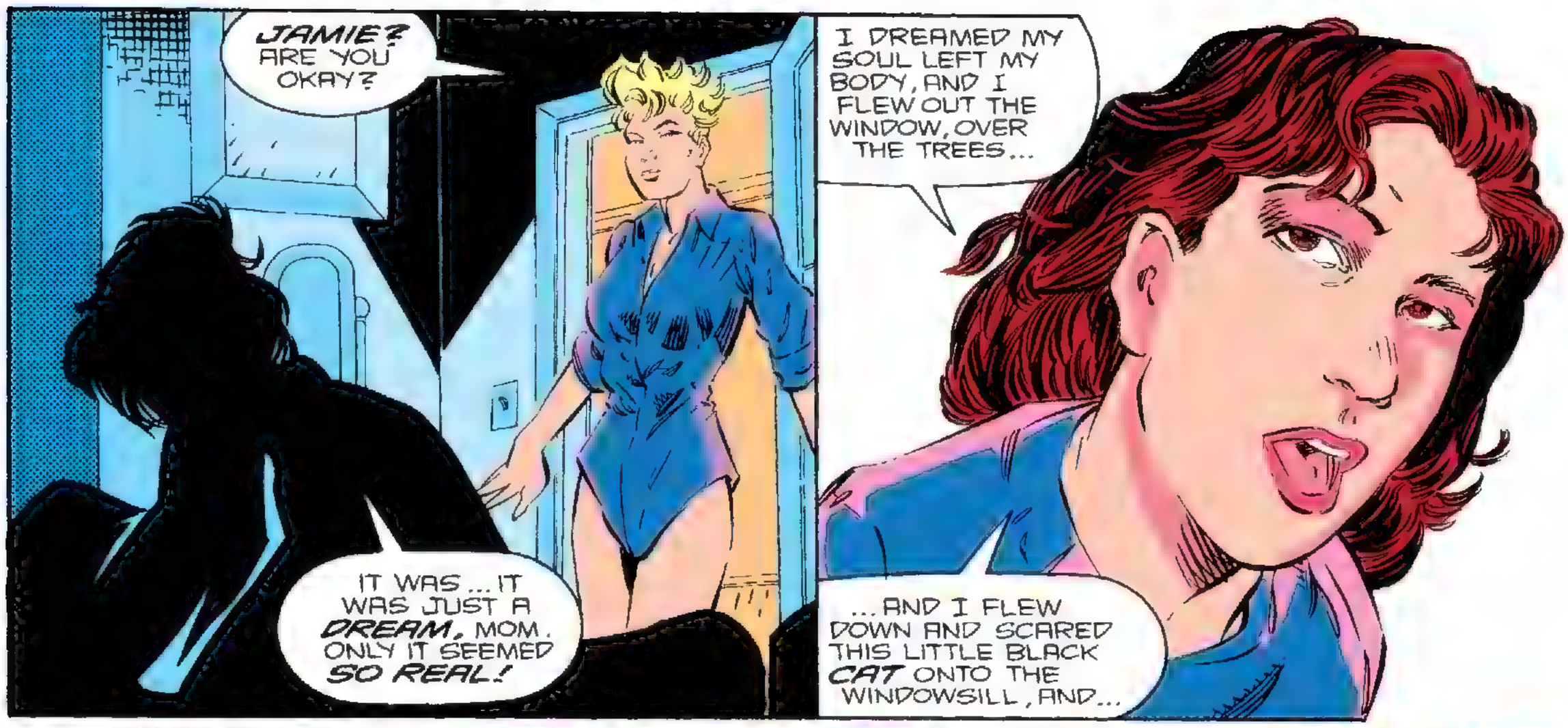
THE TITAN'S COMPANION LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE ADAM WARLOCK!
"WANDA, BE CAREFUL," HE SAYS.

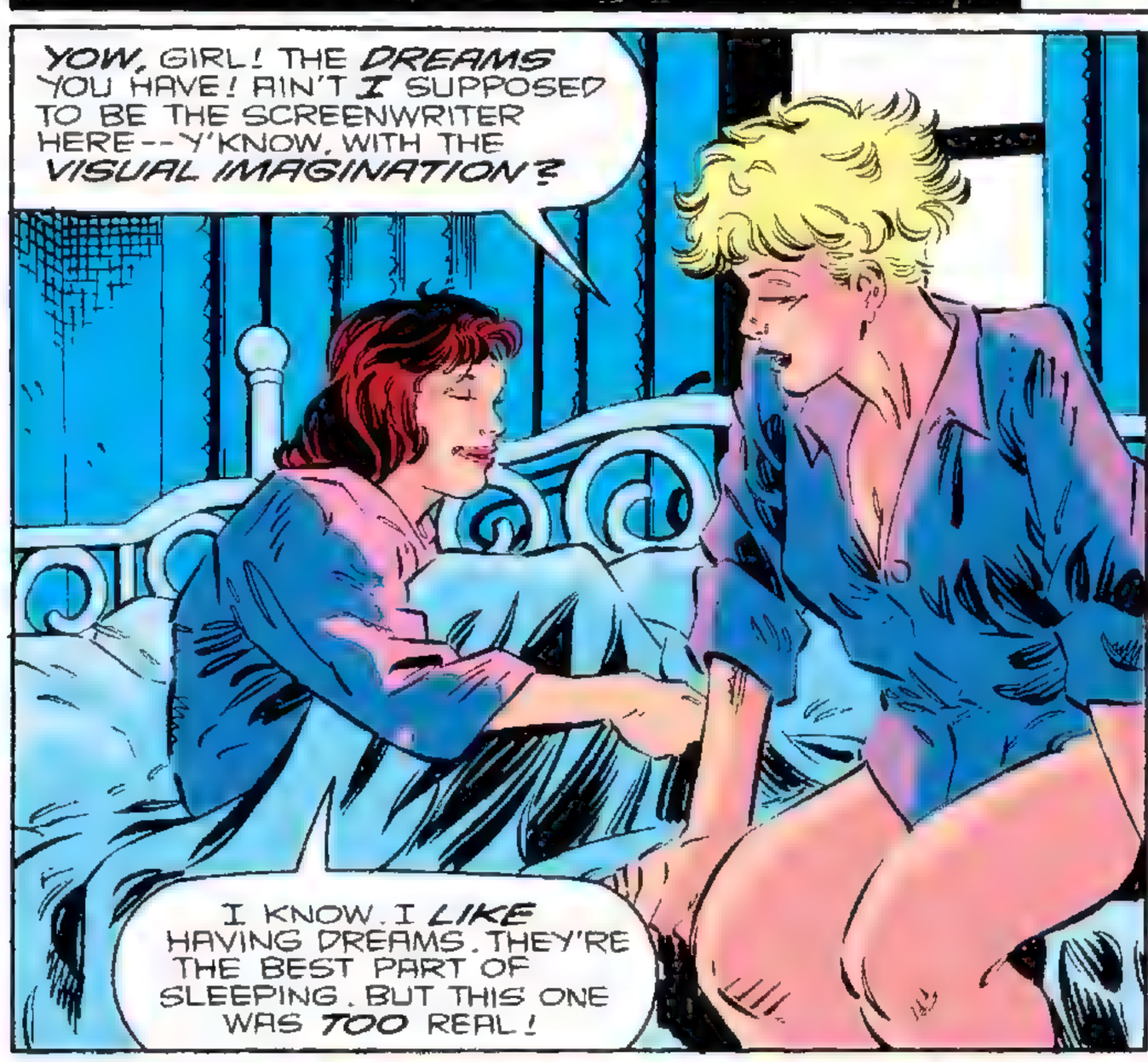
WANDA'S NO DAMSEL IN DISTRESS--SHE'S A SUPER HERO--MORE EXPERIENCED THAN I AM!


IF I'M GOING TO BE A HERO--WITH POWERS GOING INSANE--WHAT OTHER KIND OF WOMAN CAN I BE WITH?
I PUT A LOT OF PEOPLE IN DANGER YESTERDAY.

BLASTED MY FRIENDS WITH IONIC ENERGY.* HOW CAN I SUBJECT A NORMAL WOMAN TO THAT?
ESPECIALLY A WOMAN LIKE ALEX...
*WM #s 11 & 12.

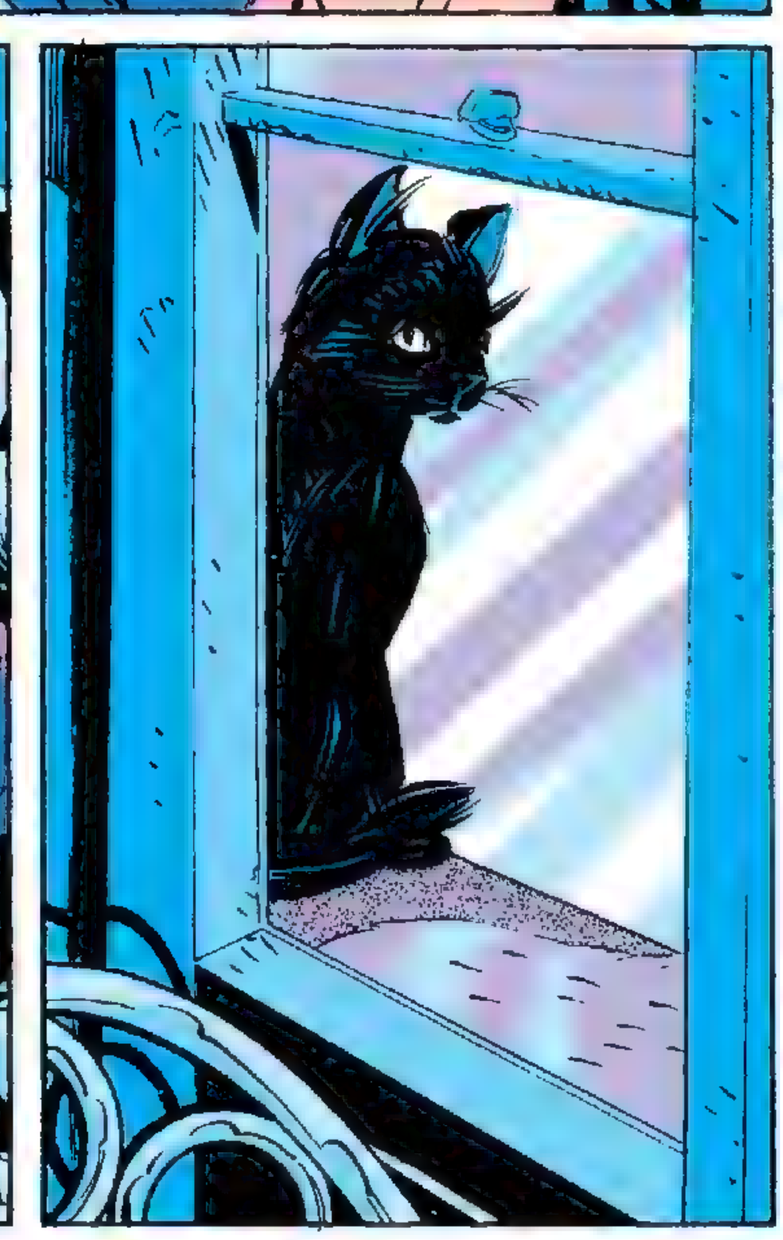
"...WITH A 12-YEAR-OLD KID?"
OH!

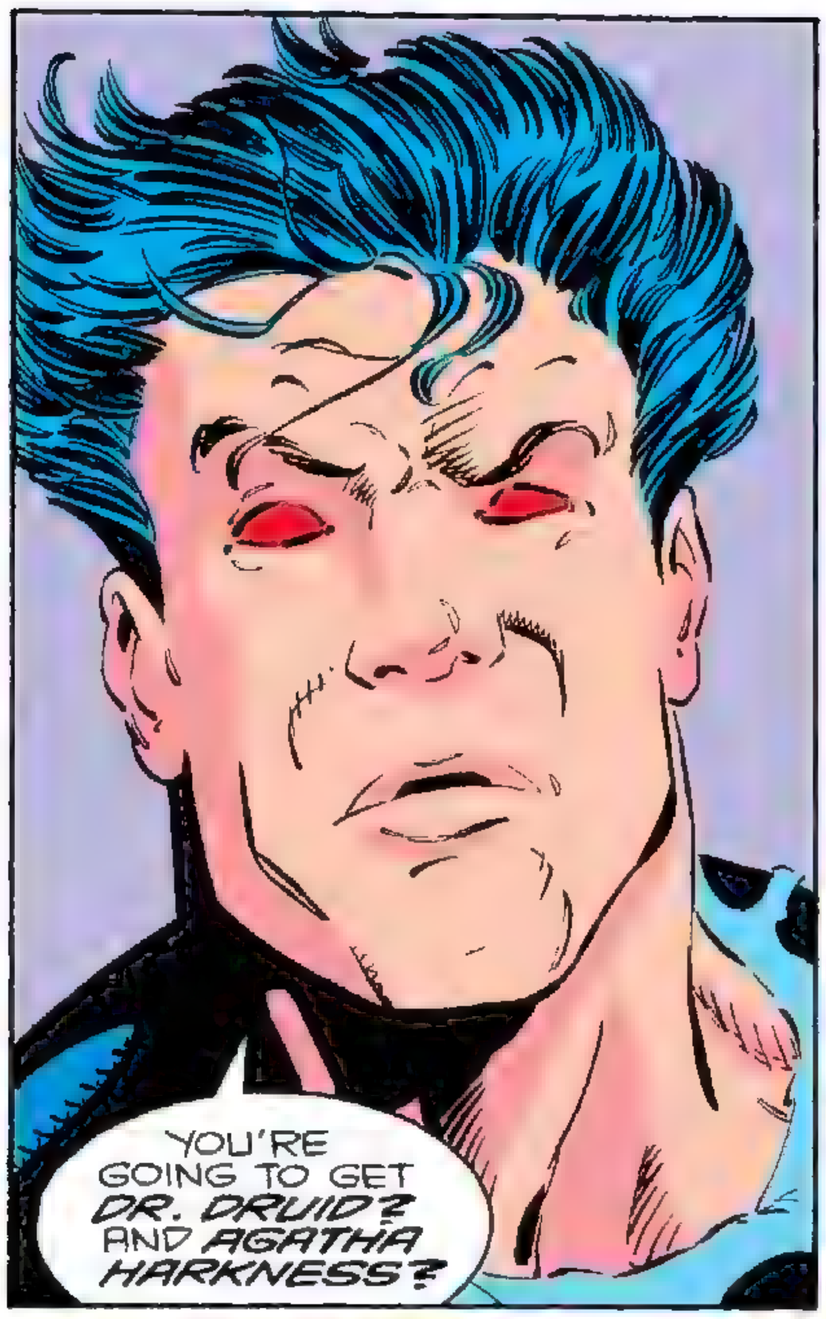

JAMIE? ARE YOU OKAY?
IT WAS ... IT WAS JUST A DREAM, MOM. ONLY IT SEEMED SO REAL!
I DREAMED MY SOUL LEFT MY BODY, AND I FLEW OUT THE WINDOW, OVER THE TREES...
...AND I FLEW DOWN AND SCARED THIS LITTLE BLACK CAT ONTO THE WINDOWSILL, AND...


YOW, GIRL! THE DREAMS YOU HAVE! AIN'T I SUPPOSED TO BE THE SCREENWRITER HERE--Y'KNOW, WITH THE VISUAL IMAGINATION?
I KNOW. I LIKE HAVING DREAMS. THEY'RE THE BEST PART OF SLEEPING. BUT THIS ONE WAS TOO REAL!

WELL, WE'VE HAD A TOUGH COUPLE DAYS, WHAT WITH ANGKOR, AND GETTING ZAPPED BY SIMON'S IONIC WHATEVERS...

...SO YOU SLEEP, AND DREAM ABOUT SOMETHING BORING, LIKE BOYS, MAYBE.
'KAY. I LOVE YOU.
LOVE YOU, BABES.

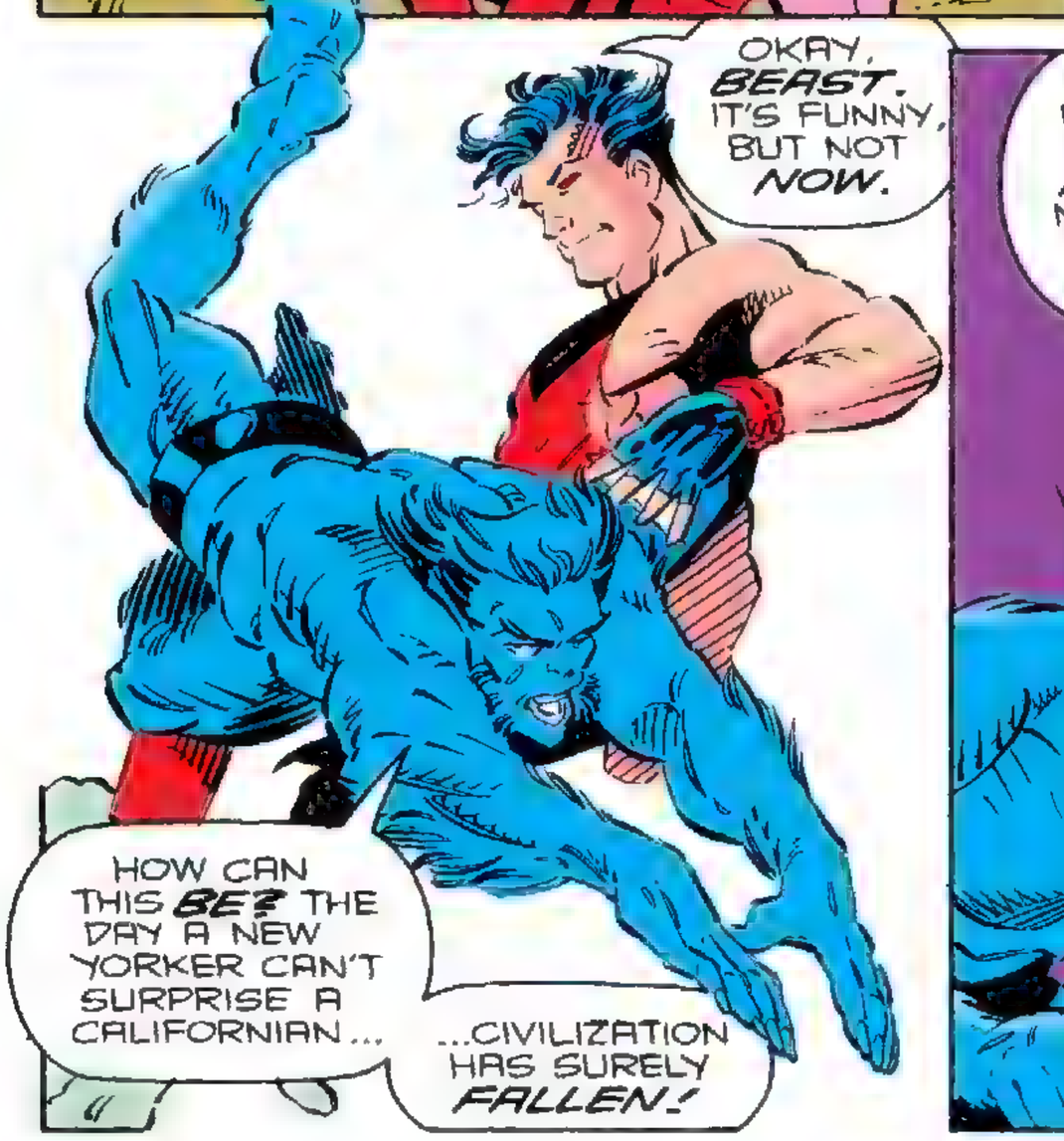



YOU'RE GOING TO GET DR. DRUID? AND AGATHA HARKNESS?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THOSE MYSTIC SCREW-BALLS?
THANOS AND WARLOCK LEFT A MYSTIC TRAIL. IF WE'RE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE PLOTTING, AND WHY THEY WANT EARTH'S HEROES DEAD...
...IF WE'RE TO FIND THE REAL IRON MAN AND REED... WE'LL NEED MYSTICS TO TRACE THEM.

ALL RIGHT. BUT WHEN YOU COME BACK WE'RE GOING TO TALK. I NEED TO MAKE YOU UN-DERSTAND--
WHEN WE CAN, SIMON. BUT FOR NOW... WE MUST DO WHAT WE MUST.

HUH. WAS THAT A BRUSH-OFF OR--
WHAT?!

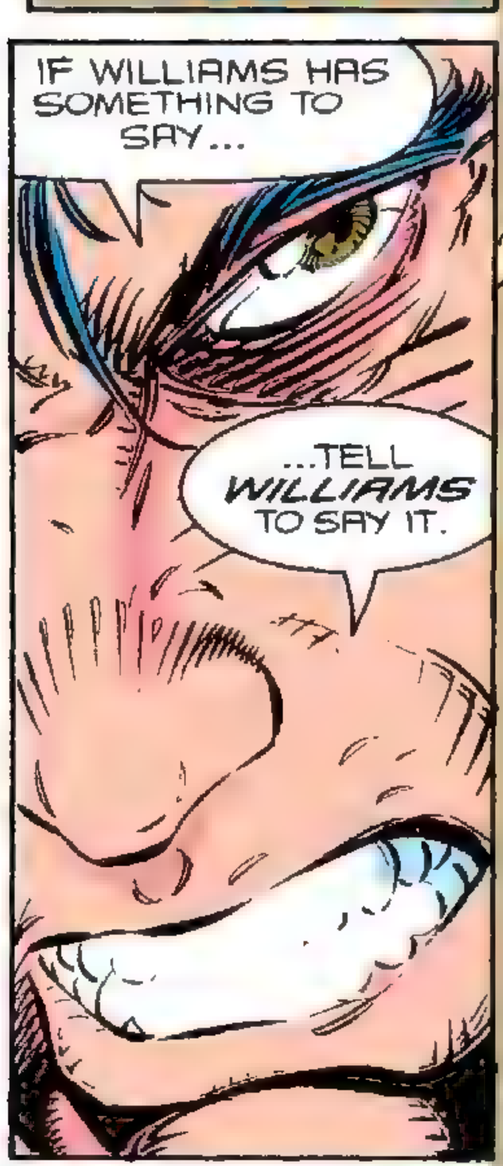

OKAY, BEAST. IT'S FUNNY, BUT NOT NOW.
HOW CAN THIS BE? THE DAY A NEW YORKER CAN'T SURPRISE A CALIFORNIAN...
...CIVILIZATION HAS SURELY FALLEN!

NO JOKES, HANK. I NEED YOUR HELP. HAWKEYE NEVER SHOWED FOR THIS MEETING...
...AND WOLVERINE ACTED LIKE HE KNOWS SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
BUT RIGHT NOW, WOLVIE AND I AIN'T THE BEST OF FRIENDS, GET ME?

WELL, WELL, WELL! HOW TEMPERS DO FLARE, EH, LOGAN?
SNIKT

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE MILD-MANNERED SIMON WILLIAMS FLY OFF THE PROVERBIAL HANDLE!
BUT WHEN YOU CALL AN AVENGER AN IMPOSTOR...WELL... HEH-HEH...EVEN THE BEST OF MEN CAN ...

...CAN ...
PFFFFFF


IF WILLIAMS HAS SOMETHING TO SAY...
...TELL WILLIAMS TO SAY IT.

ALL RIGHT, LOGAN. HOPE THERE ARE NO HARD--
YOU STUCK UP FOR ONE O' YOUR OWN.

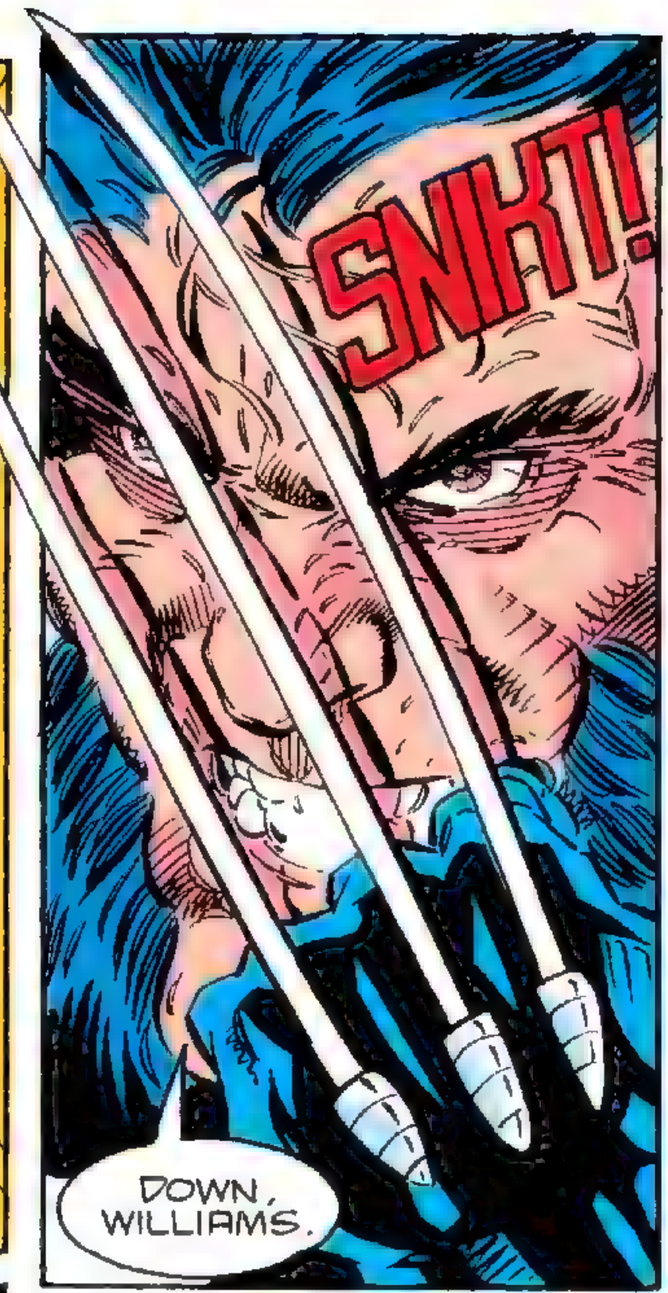
I'D HAVE DONE THE SAME.
WELL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT ANOTHER OF "MY OWN" NOW. YOU KNEW HAWKEYE AND SPIDER-MAN WOULDN'T BE AT THIS MEETING. *
HOW?
* INFINITY WARS #2.

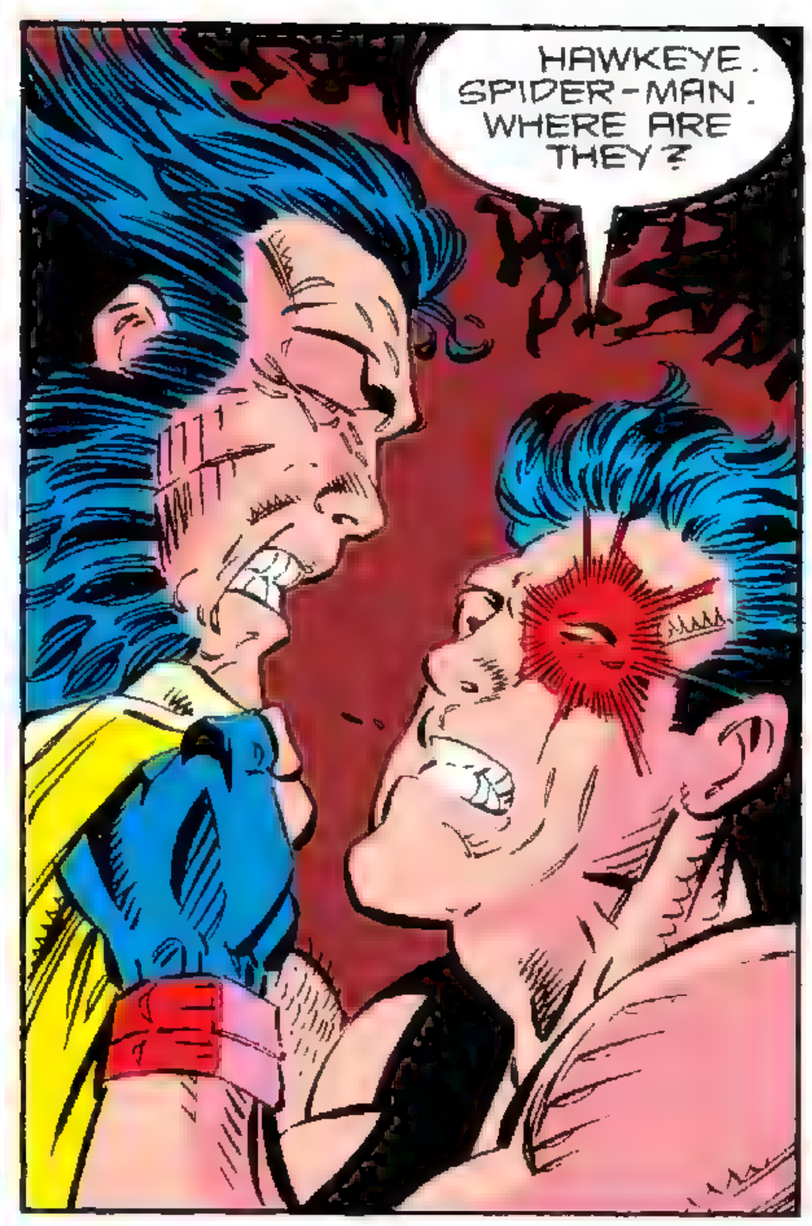
I SAW SOMETHIN' THAT GAVE ME A FUNNY FEELIN' THEY MIGHT BE DELAYED.
WHAT?

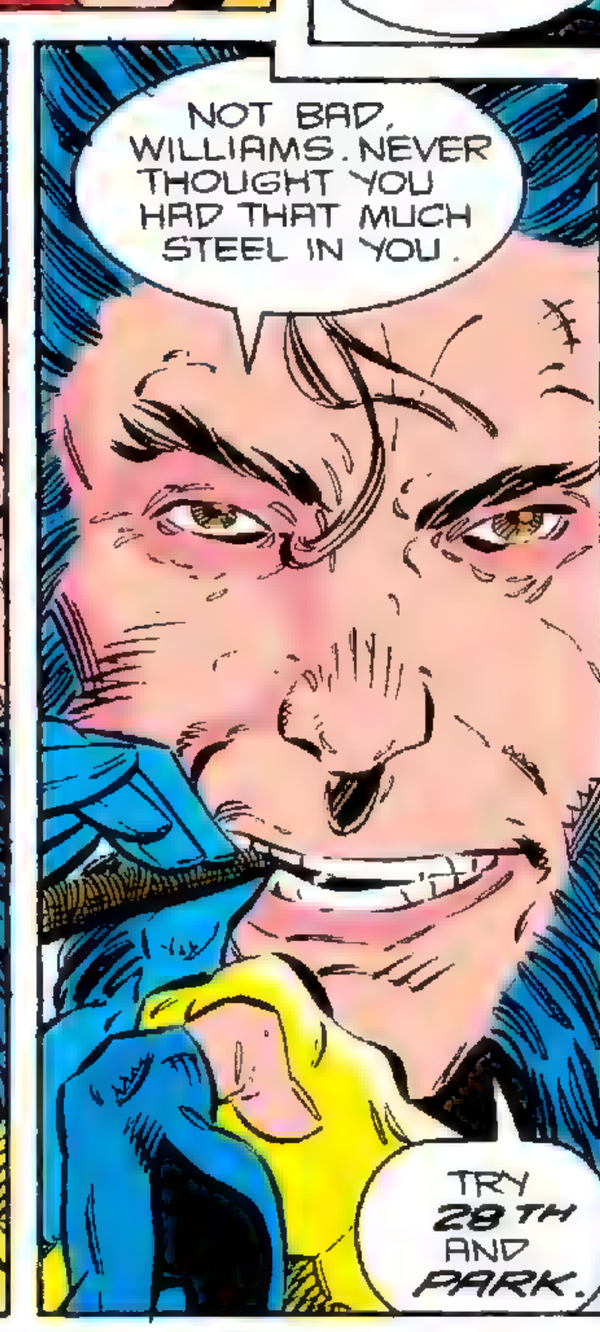
WOLVERINE-- WHAT DID YOU SEE?

SAW OUR PHONY IRON MAN BLASTIN' THE CRUD OUT OF 'EM.

WHERE?!


SNIKT!
DOWN, WILLIAMS.


HAWKEYE. SPIDER-MAN. WHERE ARE THEY?

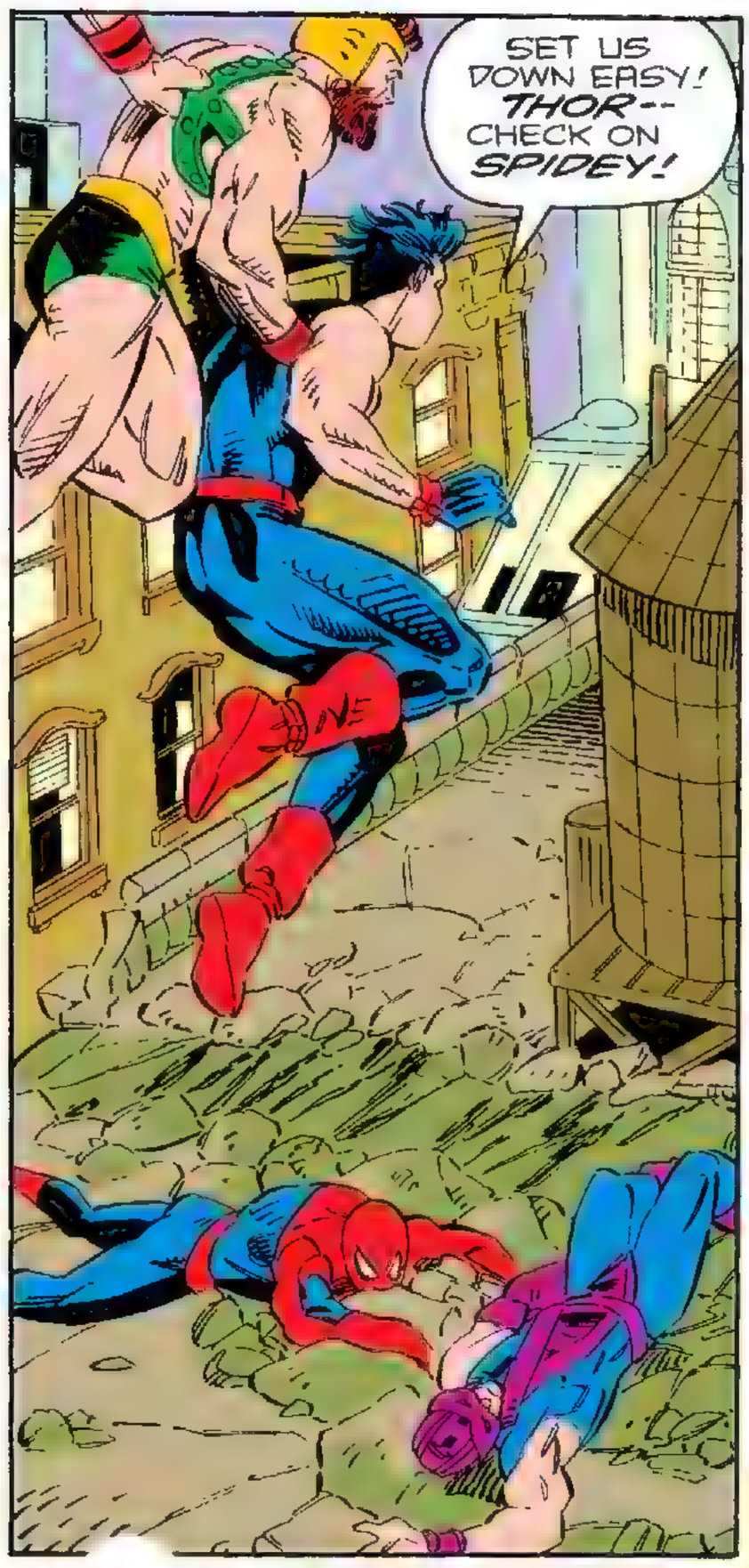

NOT BAD, WILLIAMS. NEVER THOUGHT YOU HAD THAT MUCH STEEL IN YOU.
TRY 28TH AND PARK.

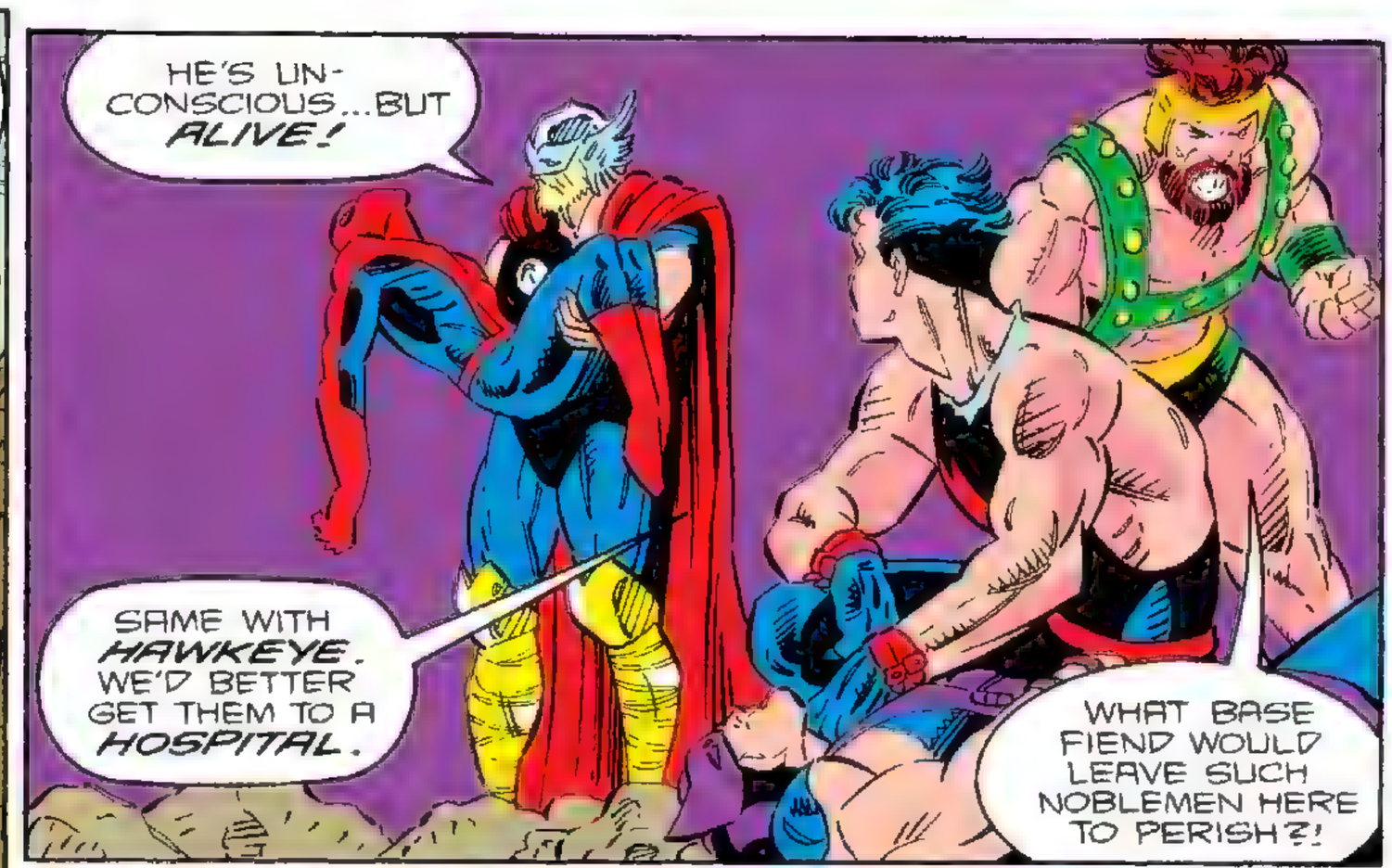
AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE DUPLICATES. SOMETHIN' TELLS ME IT AIN'T JUST RICHARDS AND IRON MAN.
DON'T FRET YOUR FURRY LITTLE HEAD OVER ME, LOGAN.

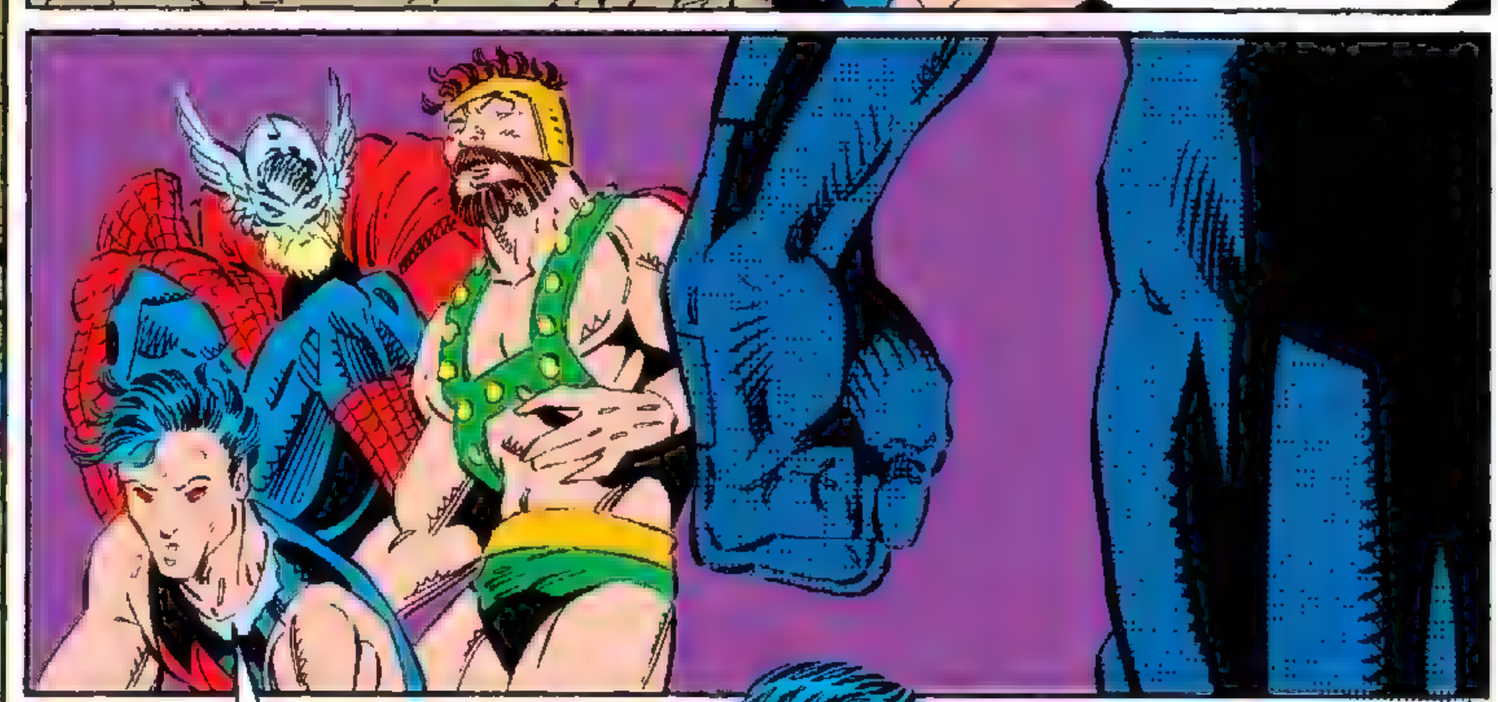
YOU WITH ME, HANK?
ALAS, THE ANTI-MUTANT SENTIMENTS STILL BRISTLE HEREA-BOUTS...

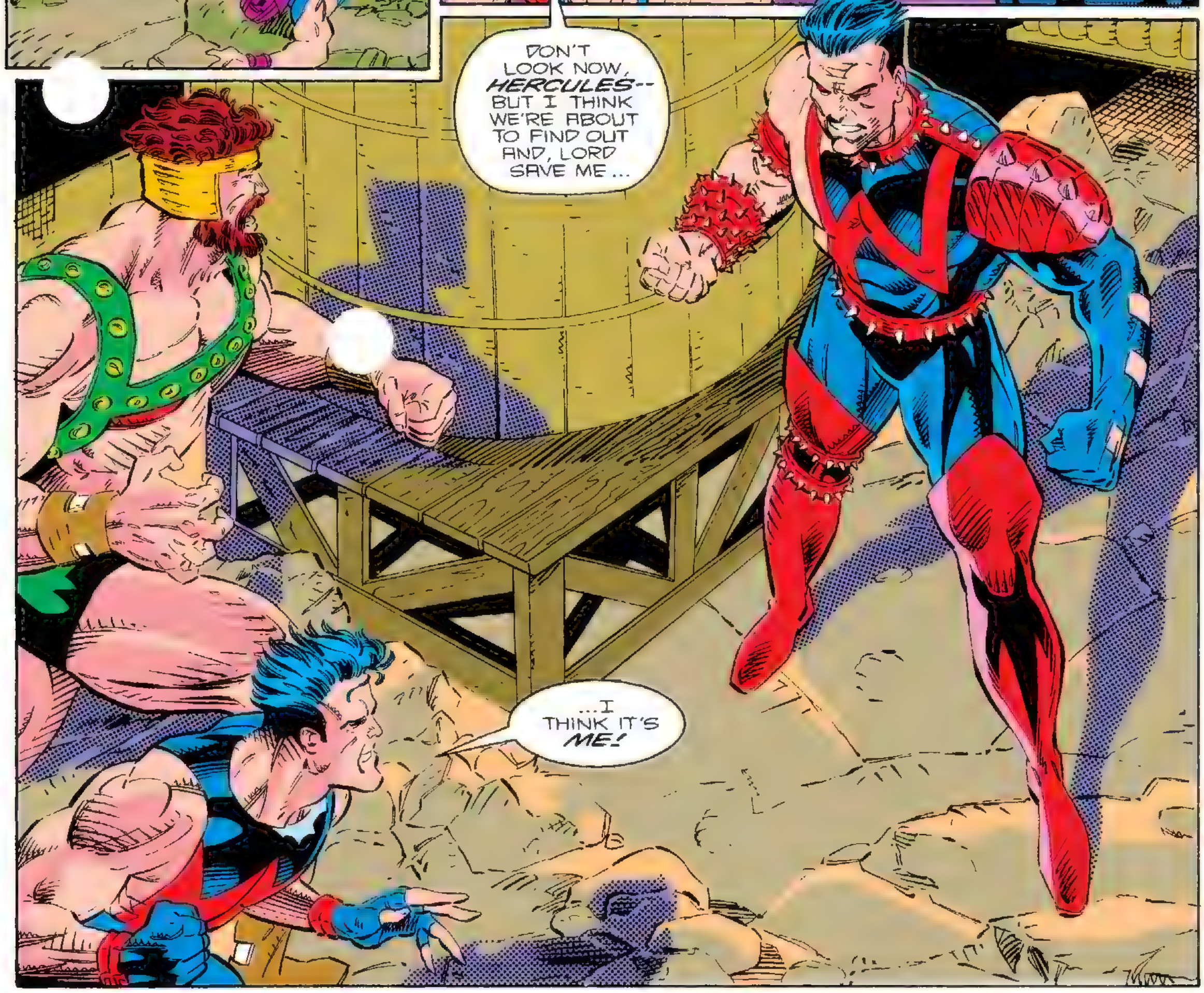
...AND I WON'T LEAVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS 'TIL THEY EBB. BUT YOU KNOW I WISH I COULD--
FORGET IT. IF EVERYBODY'S SO INTO THEIR OWN KIND...

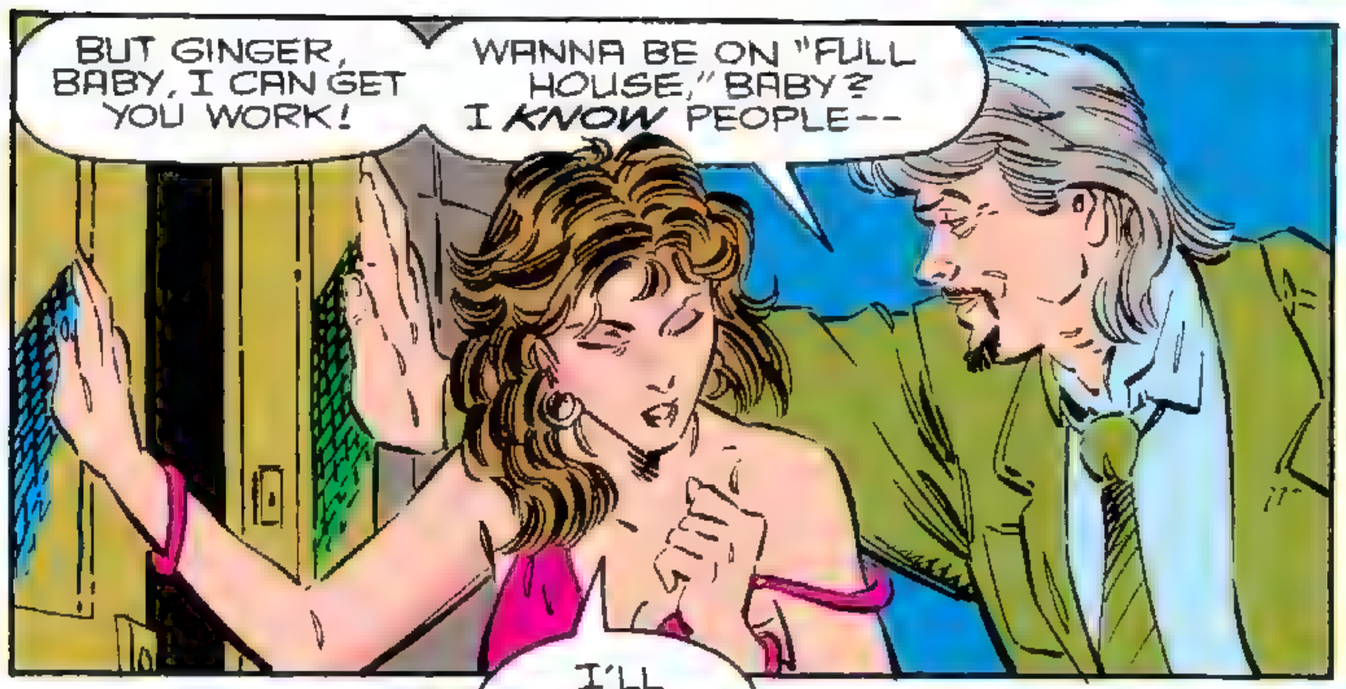
"...I'LL GET MY OWN KIND TO HELP ME!"
SCAN THE ROOFTOPS AS I CARRY US UP! IF WE DON'T SEE--
THERE! IT'S THEM!
"AND THEY'RE HURT!"


SET US DOWN EASY! THOR-- CHECK ON SPIDEY!

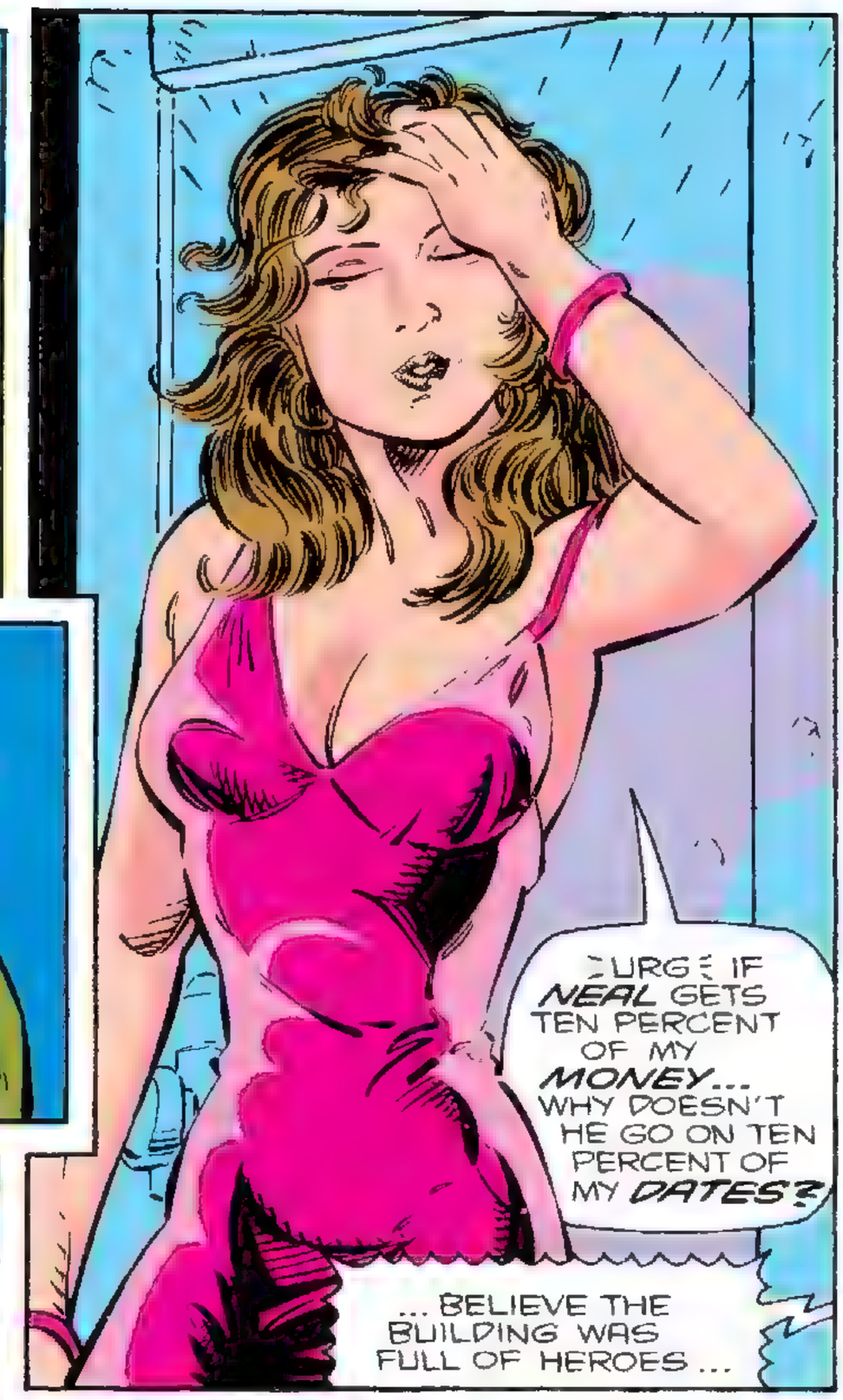

HE'S UN-CONSCIOUS...BUT ALIVE!
SAME WITH HAWKEYE. WE'D BETTER GET THEM TO A HOSPITAL.
WHAT BASE FIEND WOULD LEAVE SUCH NOBLEMEN HERE TO PERISH?!

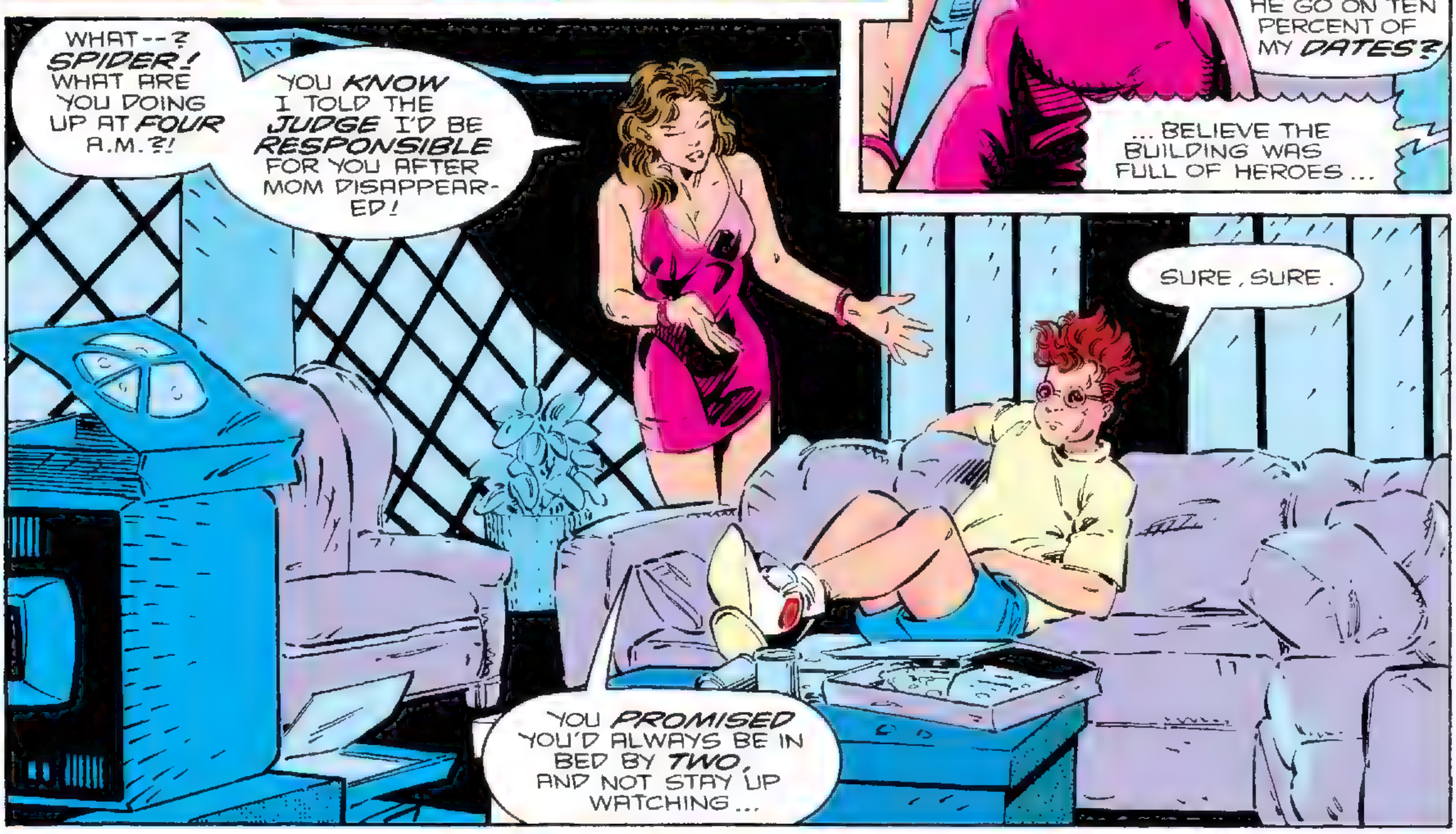


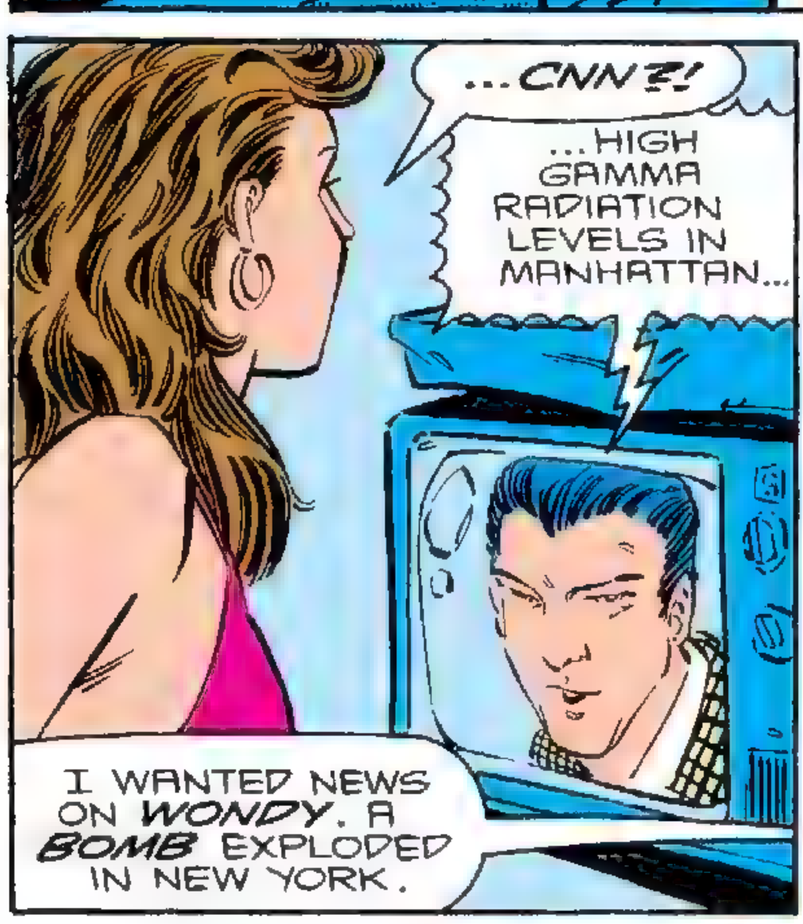

DON'T LOOK NOW, HERCULES-- BUT I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT AND, LORD SAVE ME...
...I THINK IT'S ME!

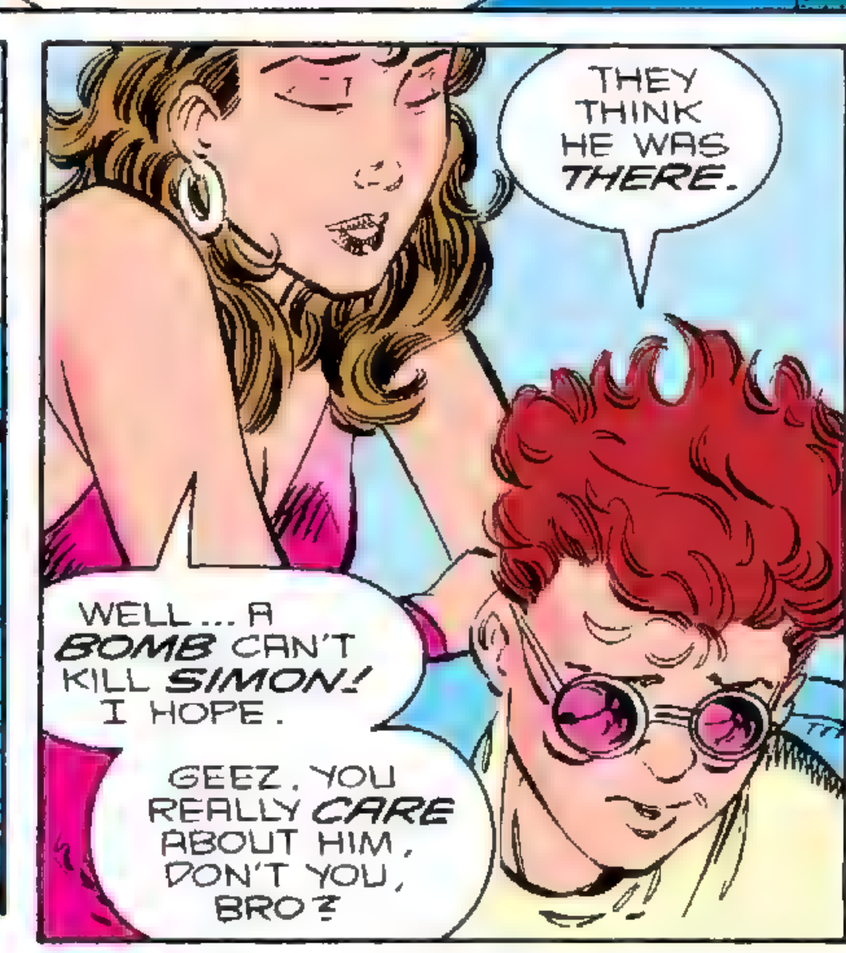

BUT GINGER, BABY, I CAN GET YOU WORK!
WANNA BE ON "FULL HOUSE," BABY? I KNOW PEOPLE--

I'LL BET YOU DO.
GIVE THEIR NAMES TO MY AGENT!
SLAM!

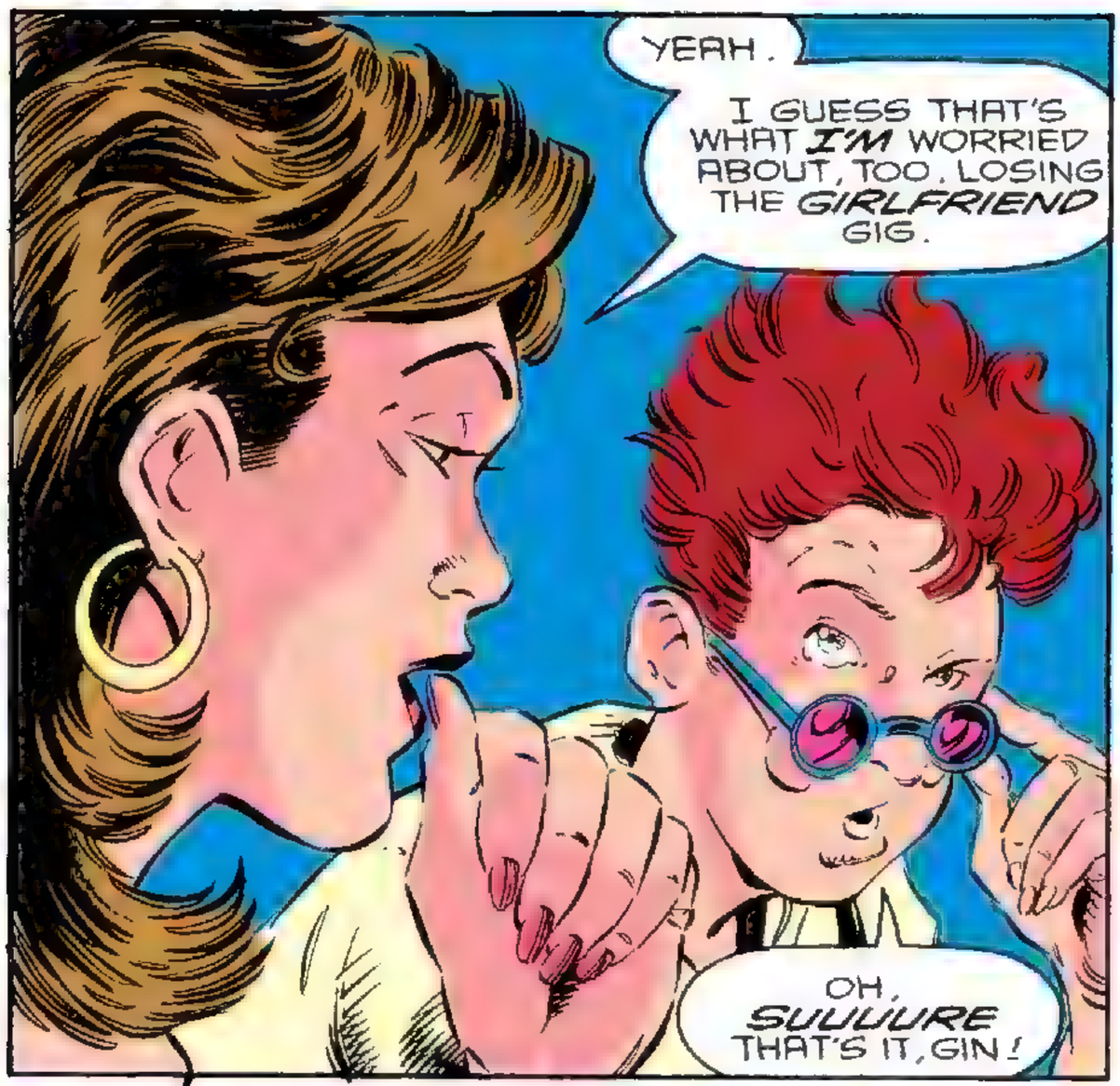

SURG: IF NEAL GETS TEN PERCENT OF MY MONEY... WHY DOESN'T HE GO ON TEN PERCENT OF MY DATES?
... BELIEVE THE BUILDING WAS FULL OF HEROES ...

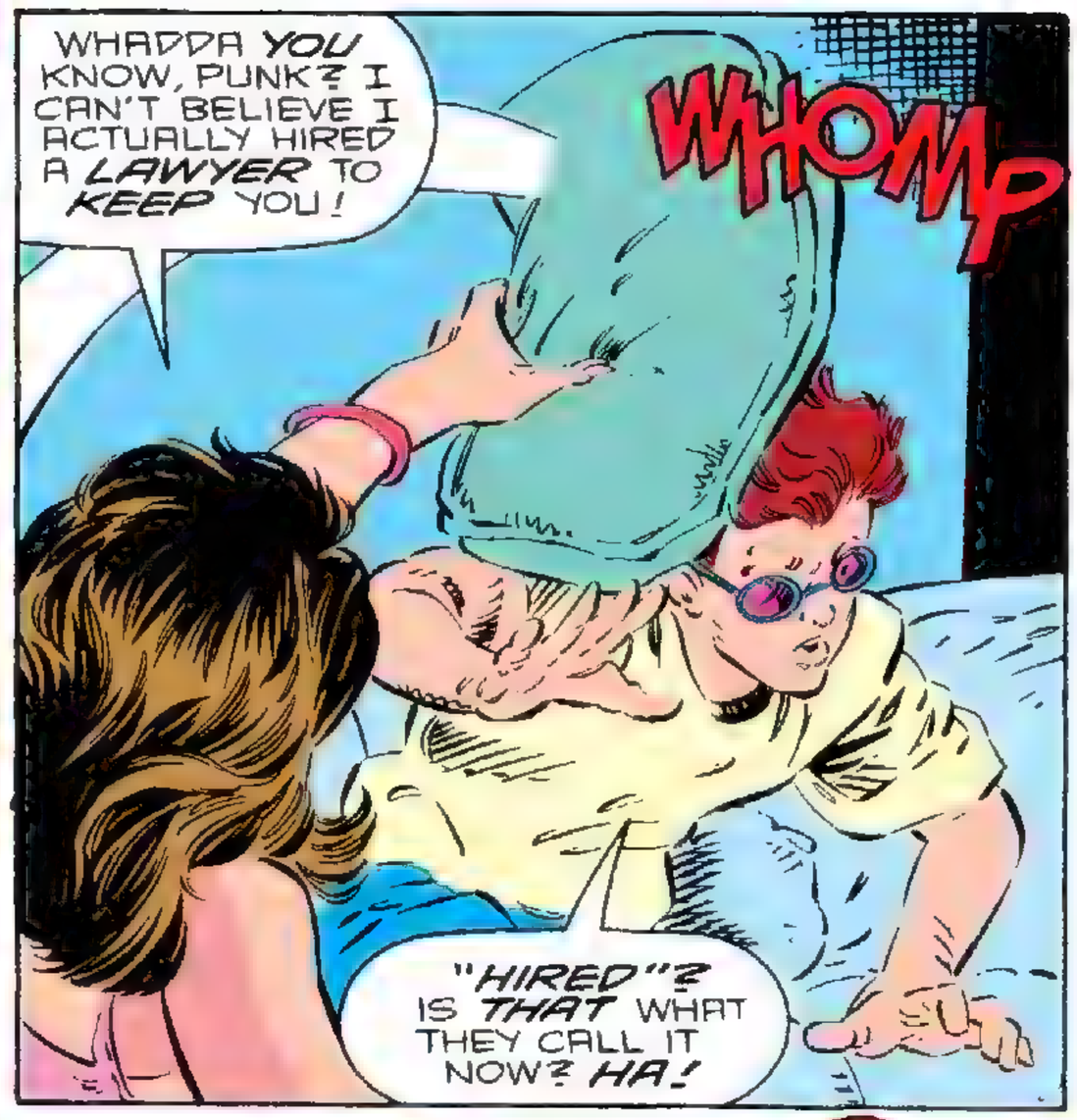

WHAT--? SPIDER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT FOUR A.M.?!
YOU KNOW I TOLD THE JUDGE I'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU AFTER MOM DISAPPEARED!
SURE, SURE.
YOU PROMISED YOU'D ALWAYS BE IN BED BY TWO, AND NOT STAY UP WATCHING...

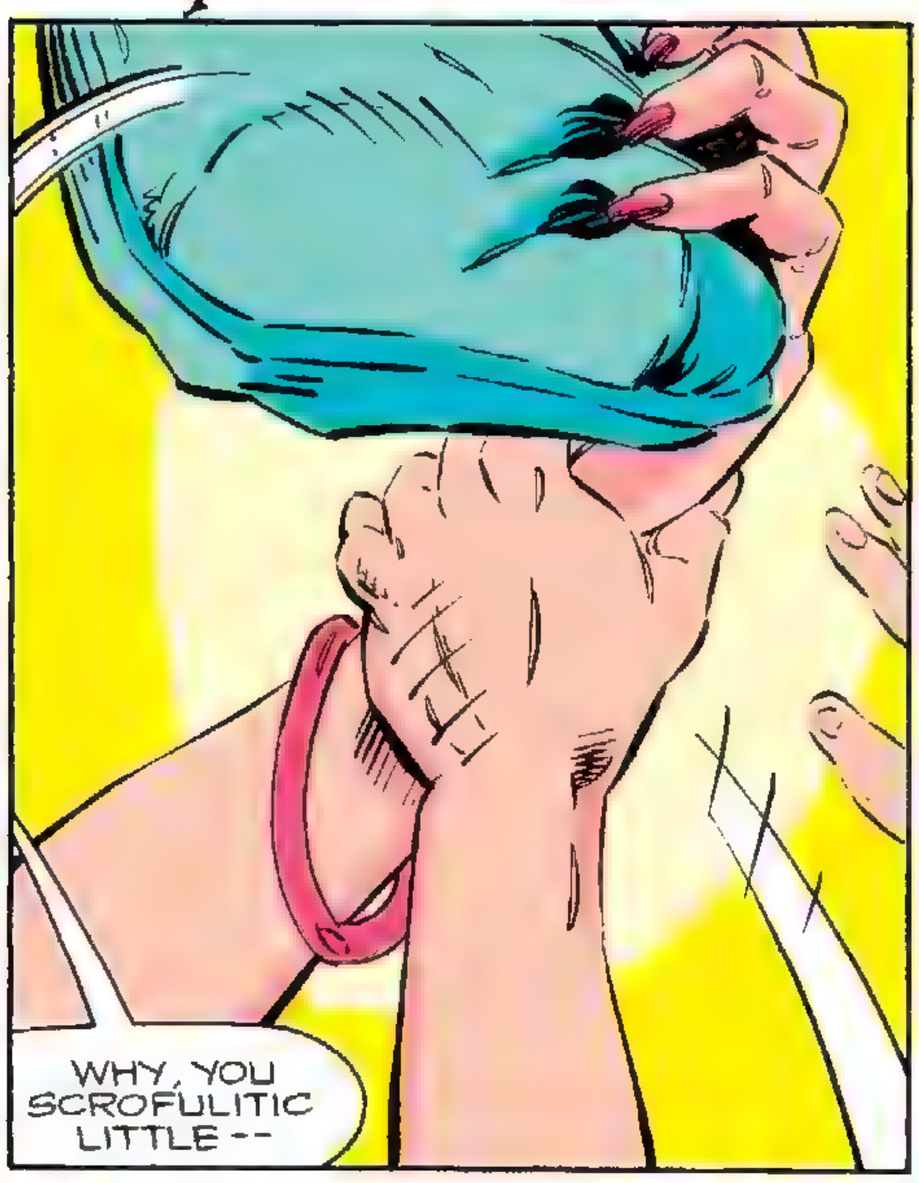

...CNN?!
...HIGH GAMMA RADIATION LEVELS IN MANHATTAN...
I WANTED NEWS ON WONDY. A BOMB EXPLODED IN NEW YORK.

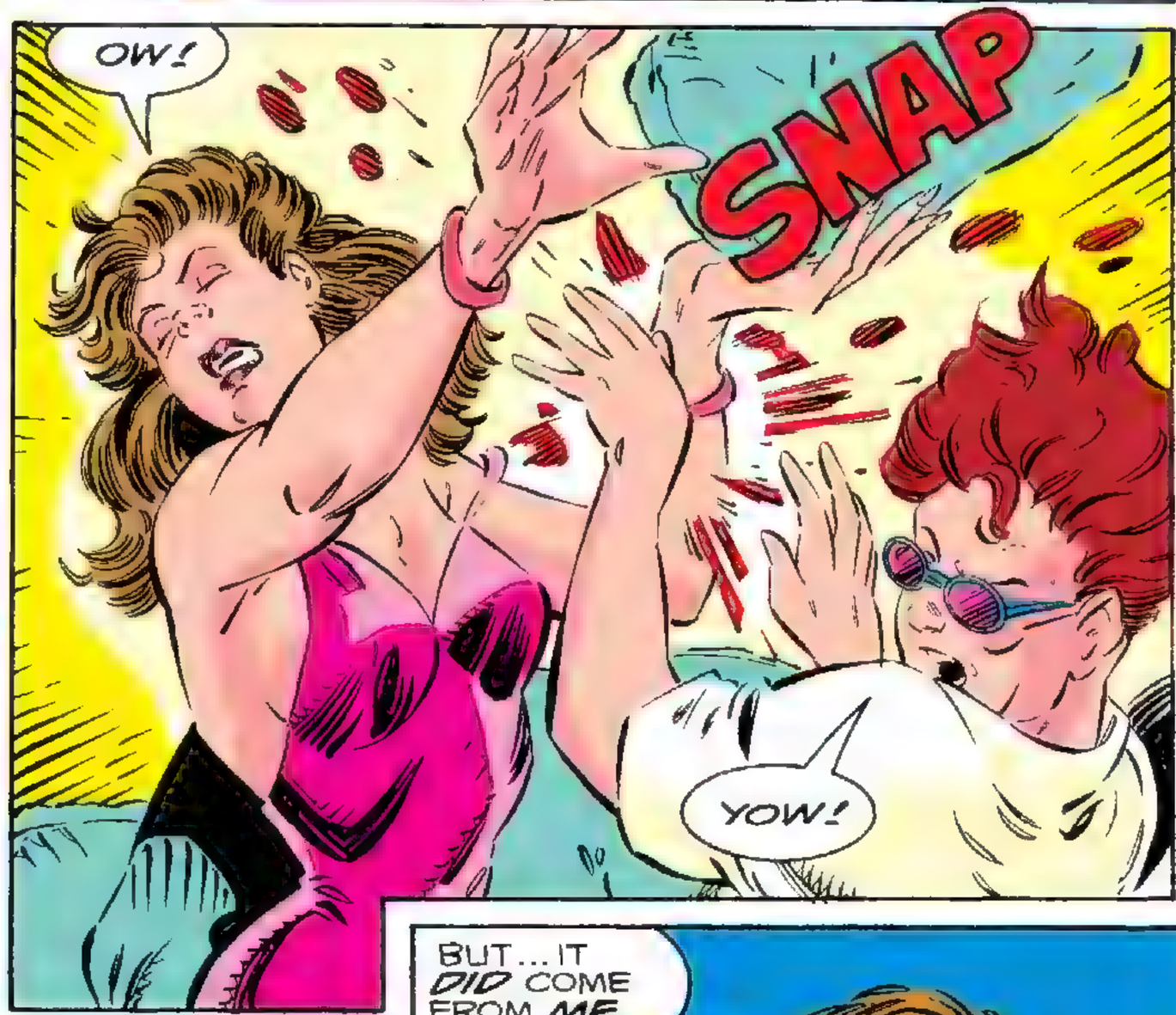

THEY THINK HE WAS THERE.
WELL... A BOMB CAN'T KILL SIMON! I HOPE.
GEEZ, YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT HIM, DON'T YOU, BRO?

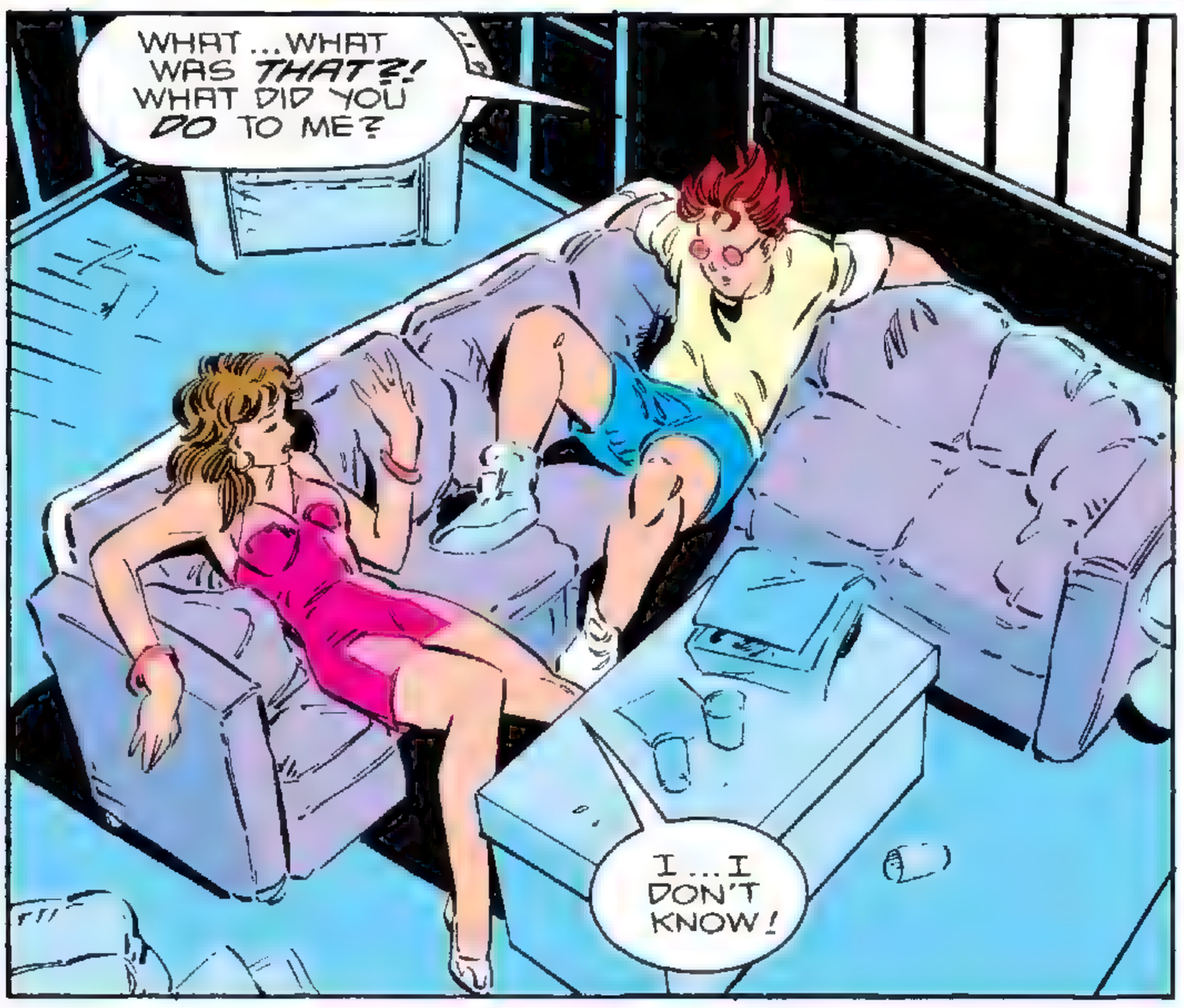
NOT PARTICULARLY. BUT BEIN' HIS SIDE-KICK IS SURE A FUN GIG!


YEAH.
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, TOO. LOSING THE GIRLFRIEND GIG.
OH, SUUUURE THAT'S IT, GIN!

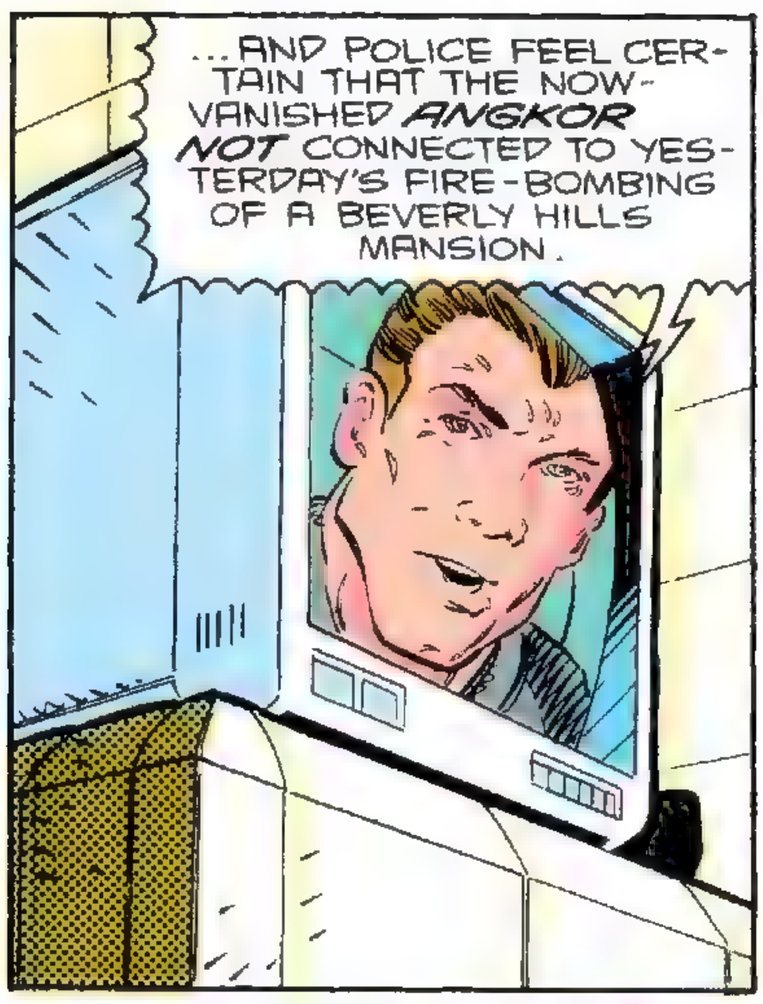

WHADDA YOU KNOW, PUNK? I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY HIRED A LAWYER TO KEEP YOU!
WHOMP
"HIRED"? IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL IT NOW? HA!

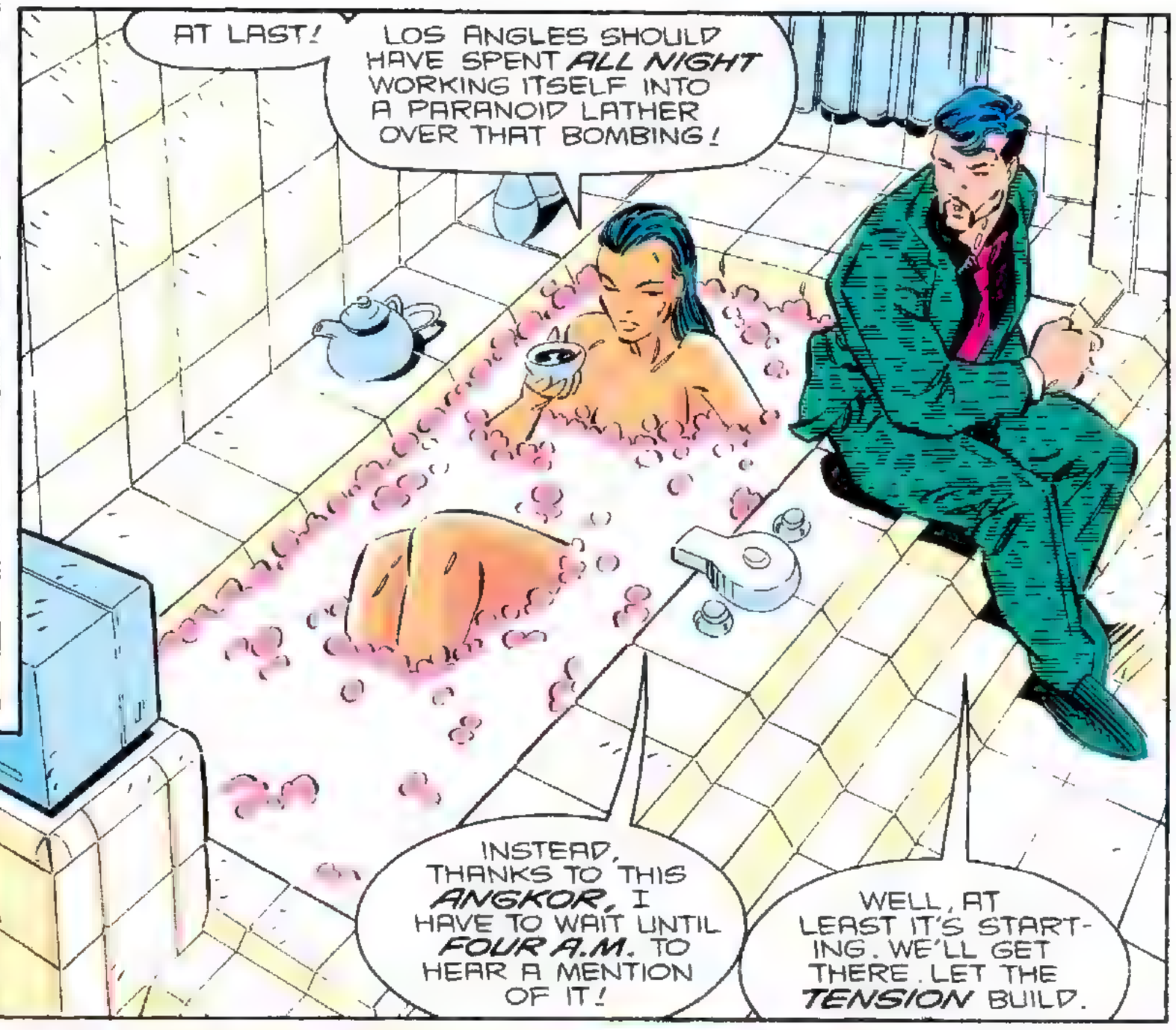

WHY, YOU SCROFULITIC LITTLE--

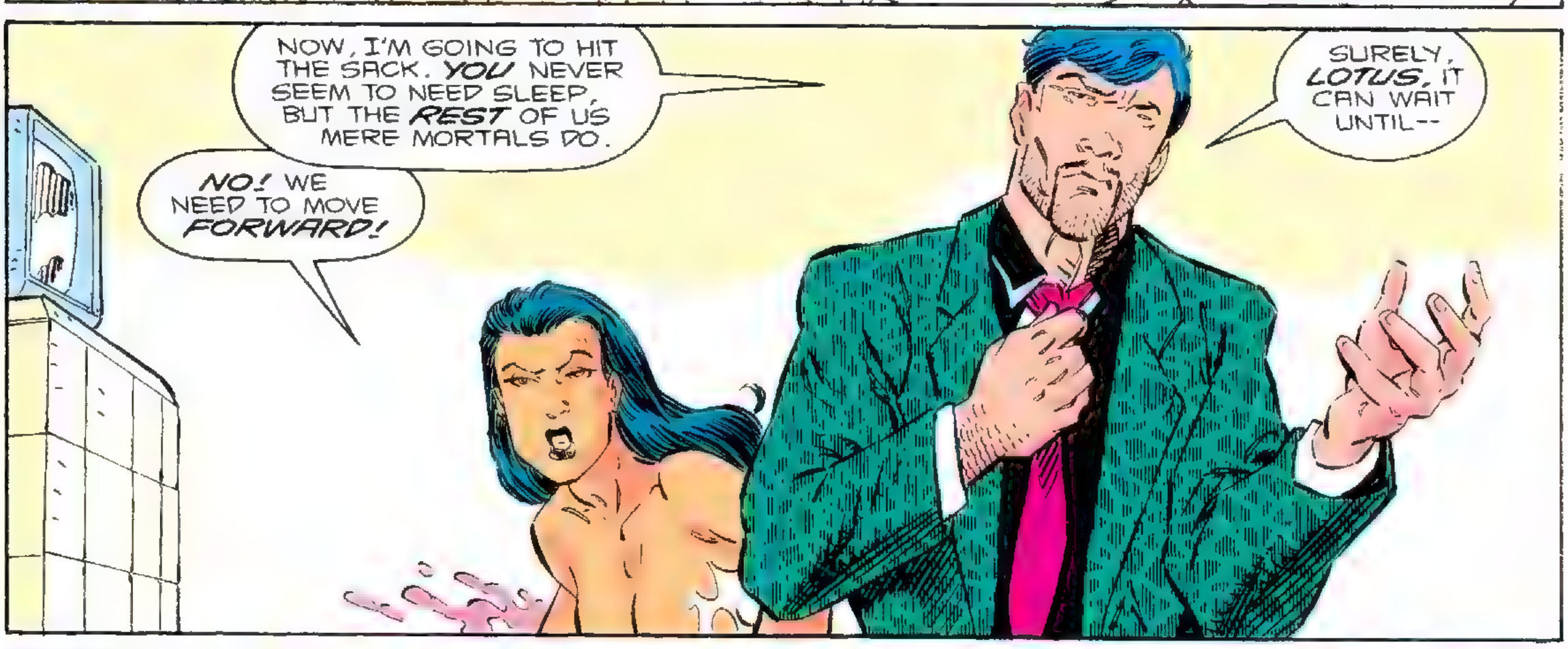

OW!
SNAP
YOW!

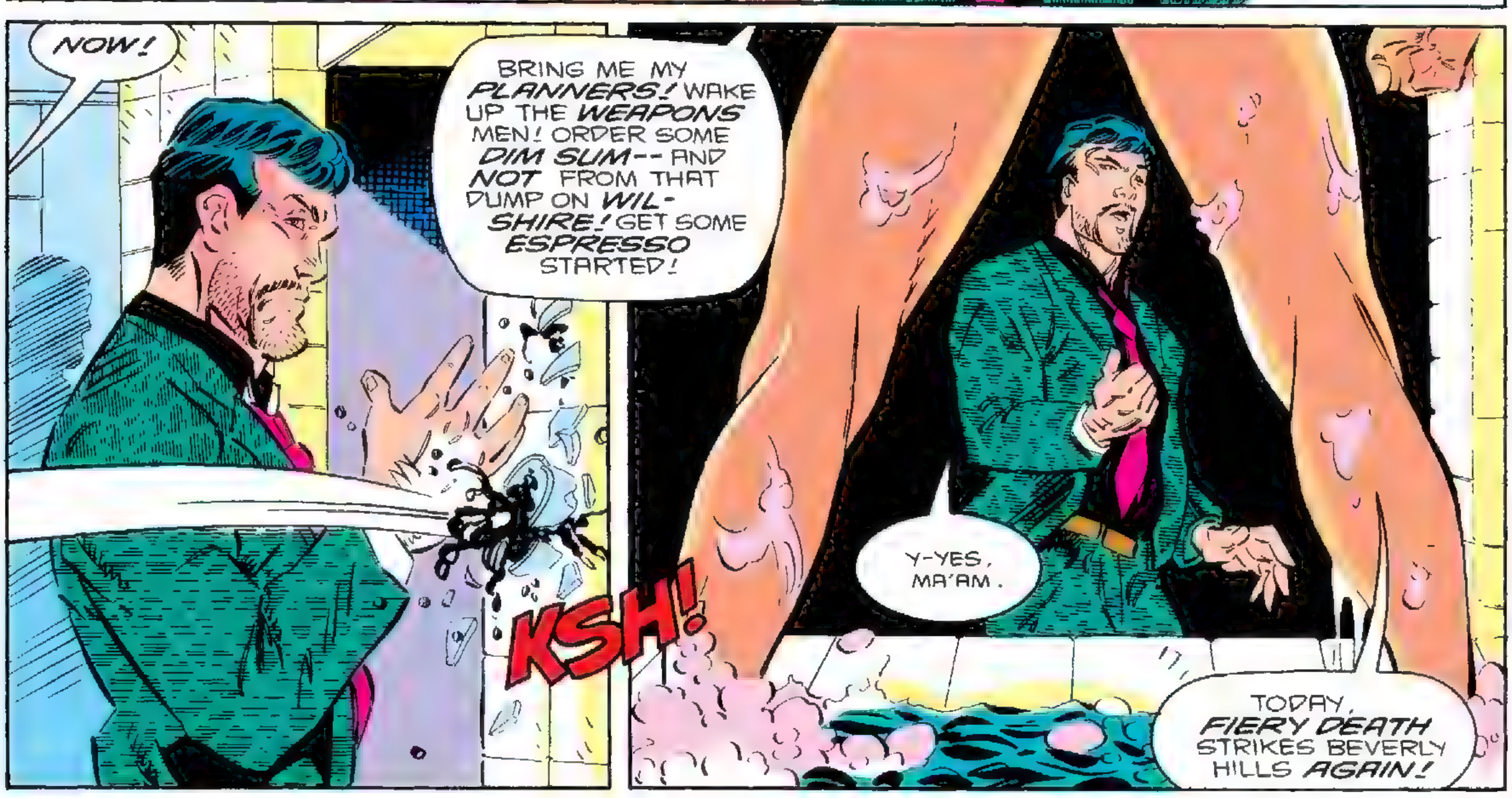

WHAT...WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
I...I DON'T KNOW!

BUT...IT DID COME FROM ME...
...DIDN'T IT?


...AND POLICE FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE NOW-VANISHED ANGKOR NOT CONNECTED TO YESTERDAY'S FIRE-BOMBING OF A BEVERLY HILLS MANSION.

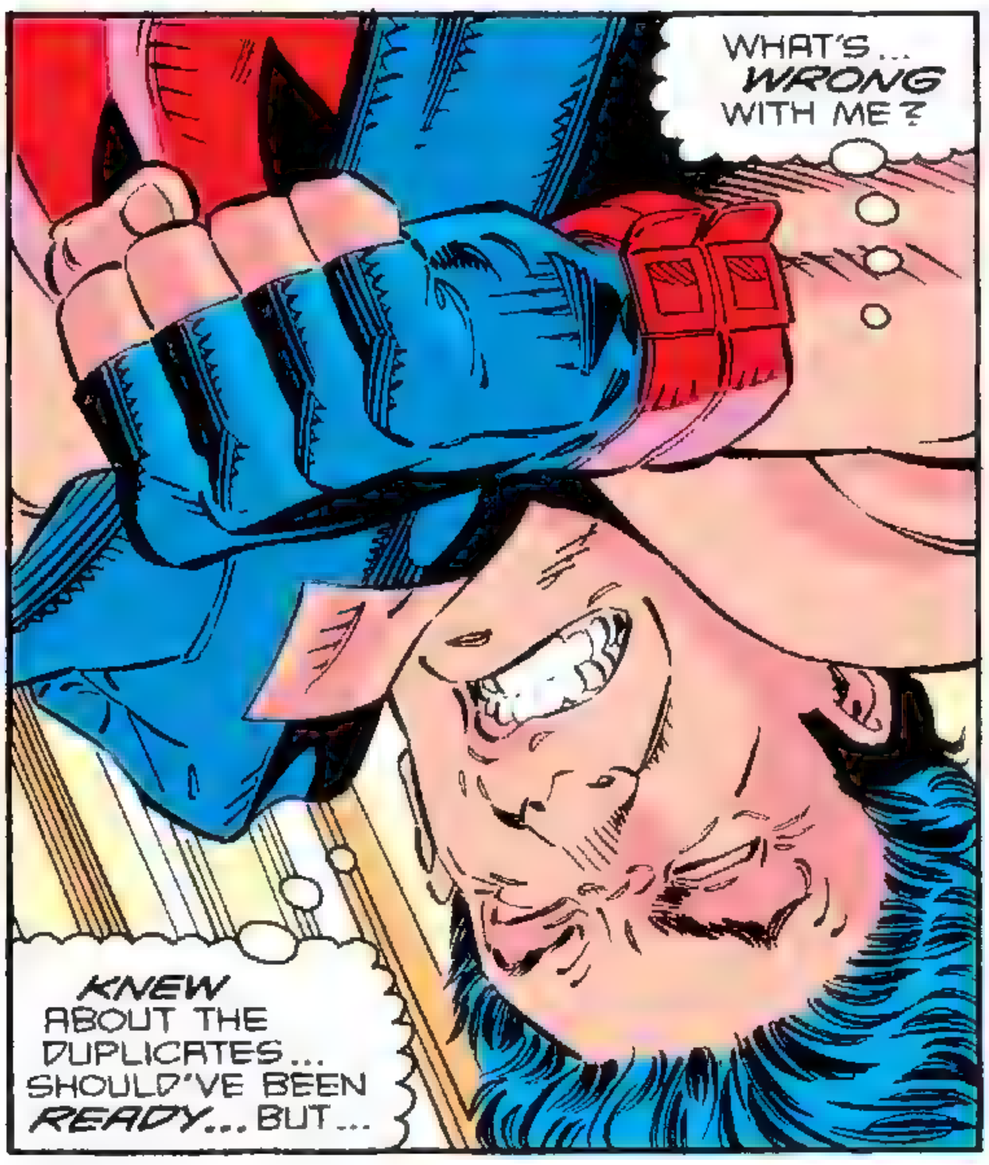

AT LAST!
LOS ANGLES SHOULD HAVE SPENT ALL NIGHT WORKING ITSELF INTO A PARANOID LATHER OVER THAT BOMBING!
INSTEAD, THANKS TO THIS ANGKOR, I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FOUR A.M. TO HEAR A MENTION OF IT!
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STARTING. WE'LL GET THERE. LET THE TENSION BUILD.

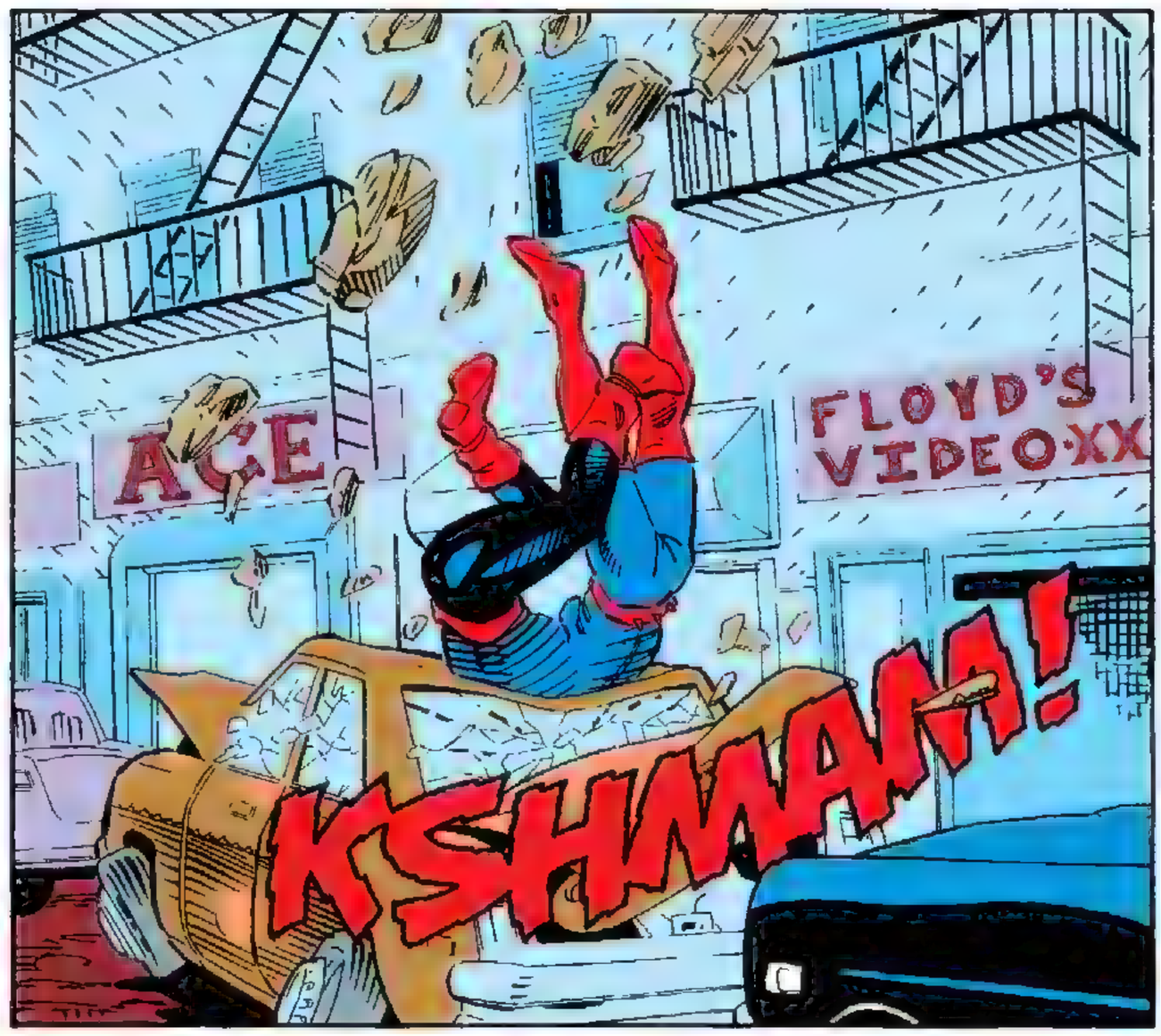

NOW, I'M GOING TO HIT THE SACK. YOU NEVER SEEM TO NEED SLEEP, BUT THE REST OF US MERE MORTALS DO.
NO! WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD!
SURELY, LOTUS, IT CAN WAIT UNTIL--

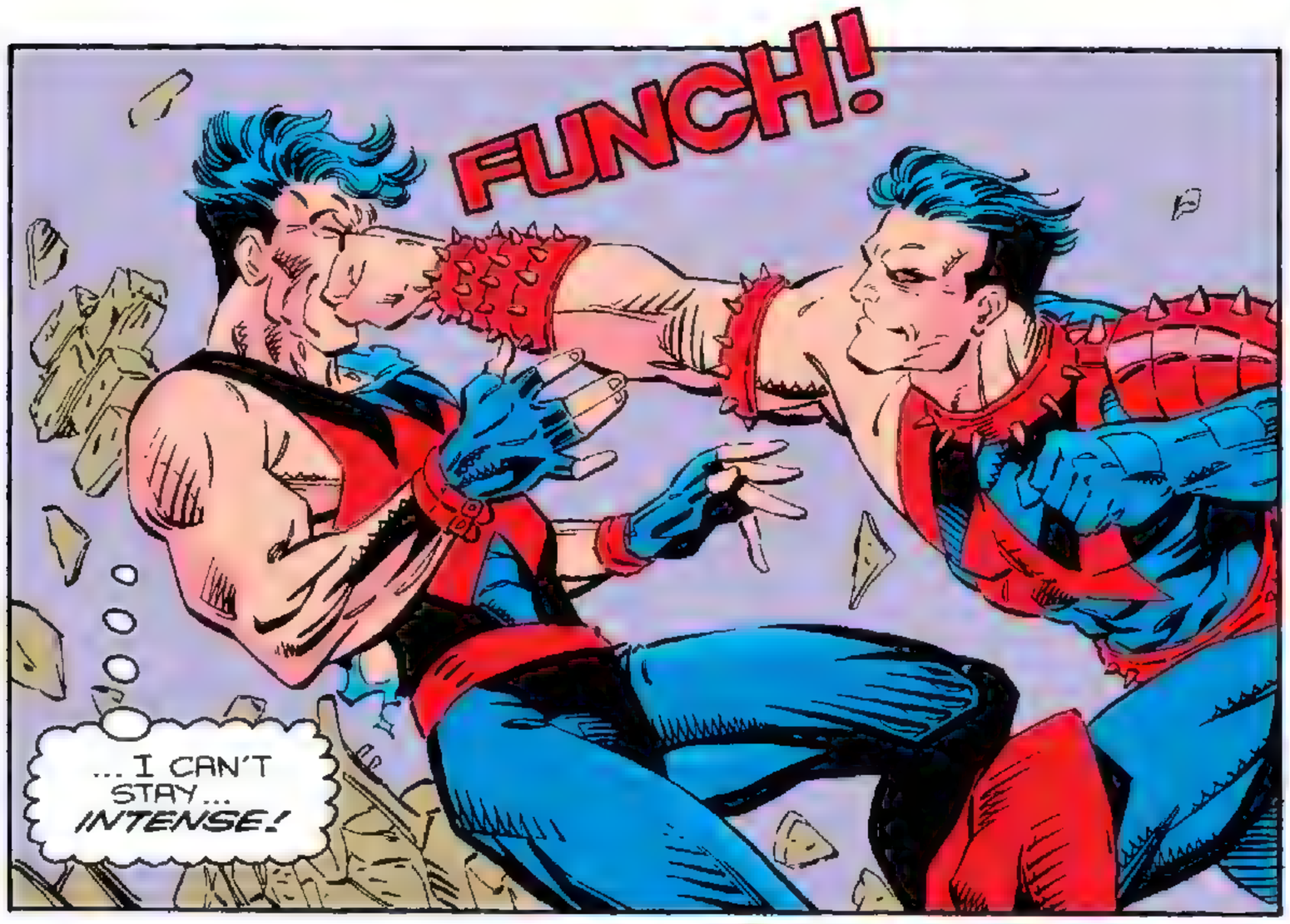

NOW!
BRING ME MY PLANNERS! WAKE UP THE WEAPONS MEN! ORDER SOME DIM SUM-- AND NOT FROM THAT DUMP ON WILSHIRE! GET SOME ESPRESSO STARTED!
KSH!
Y-YES, MA'AM.
TODAY, FIERY DEATH STRIKES BEVERLY HILLS AGAIN!

YOUR -- TIME -- IS --FINISHED-- WONDER -- MAN!

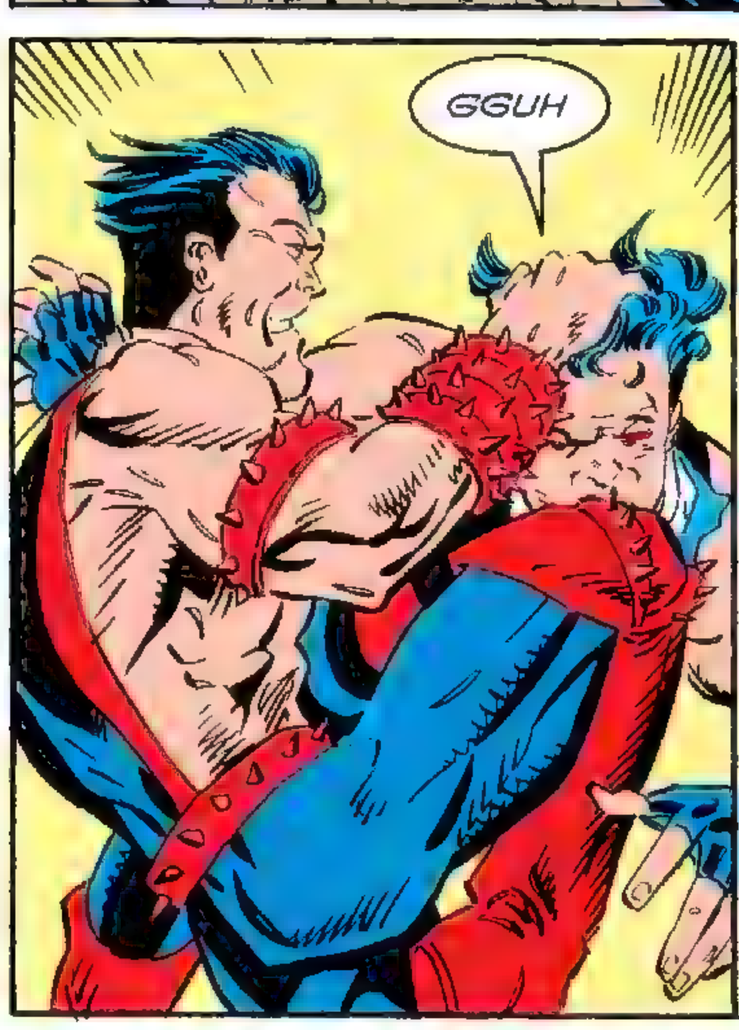
BTHOOM



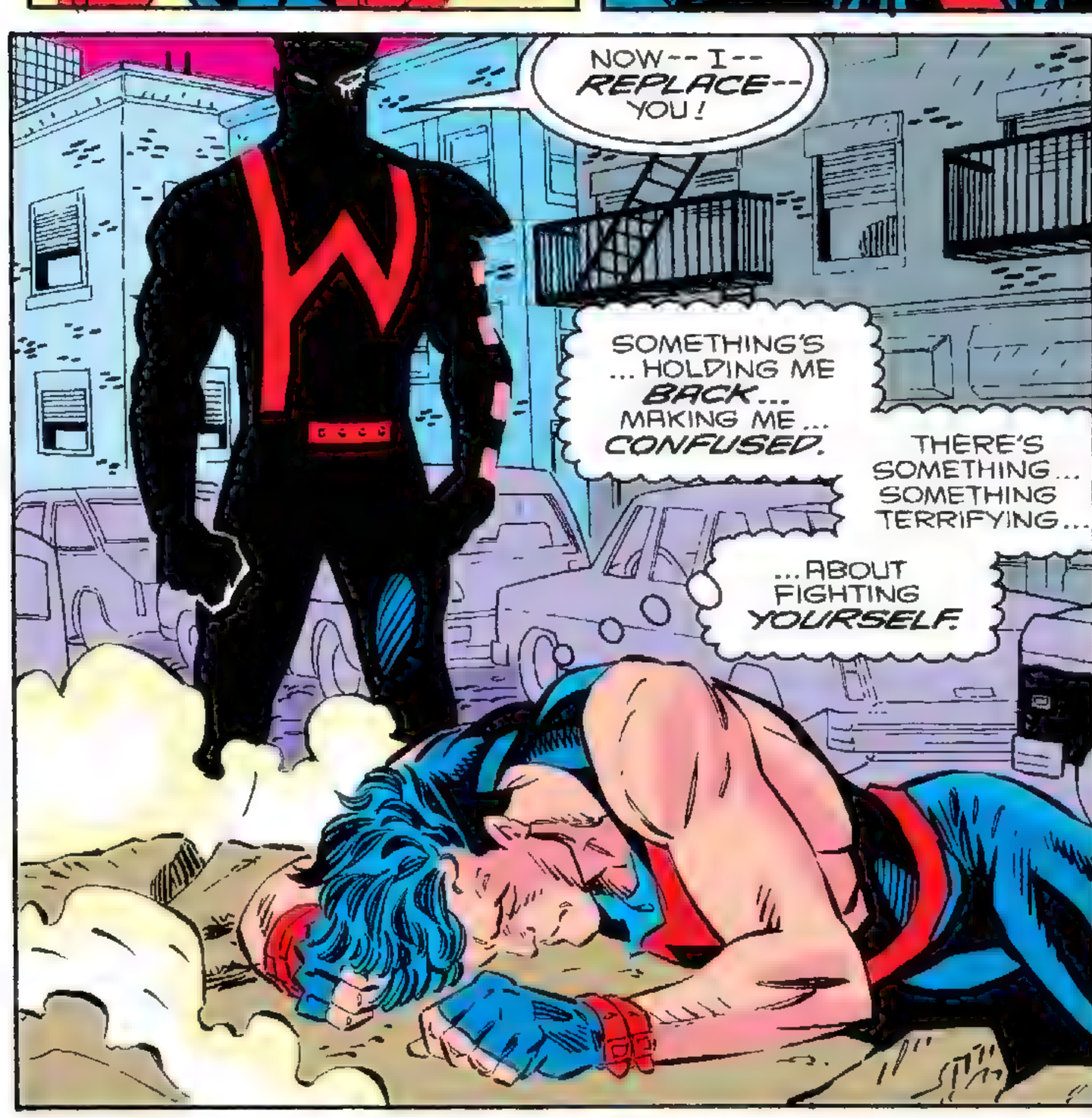


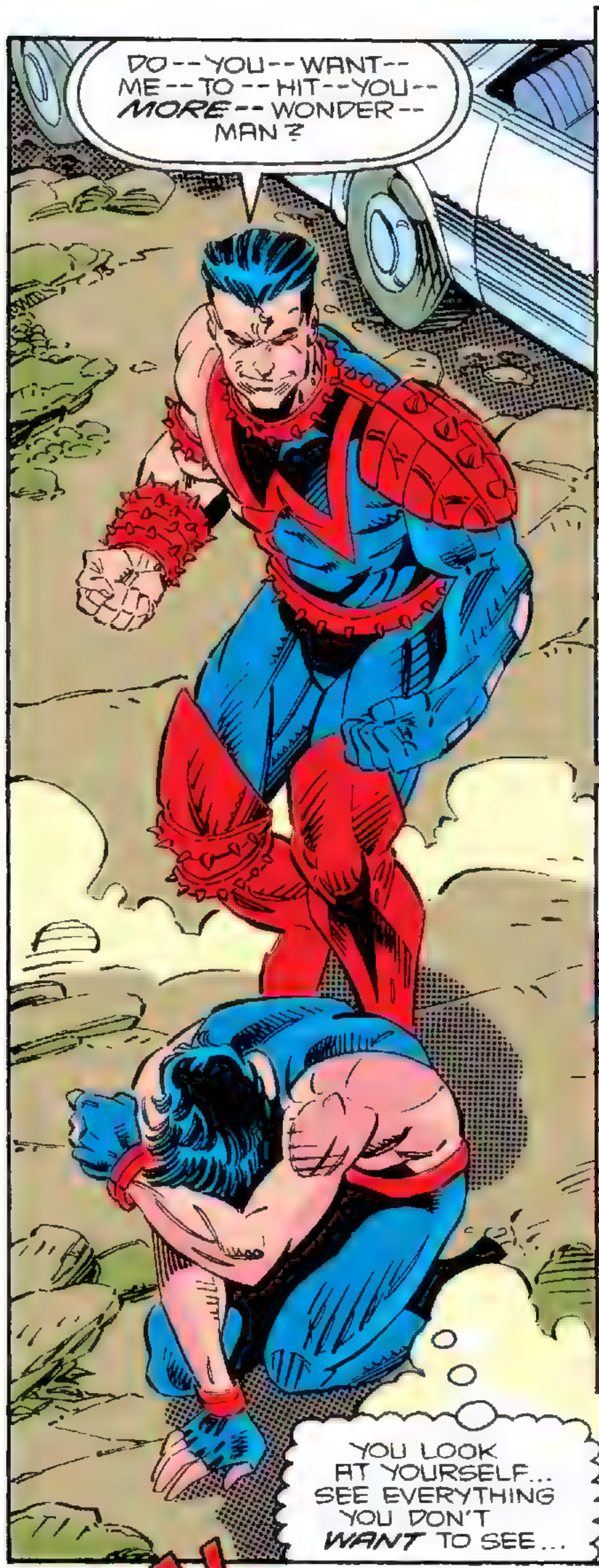

FUNCH!
... I CAN'T STAY... INTENSE!

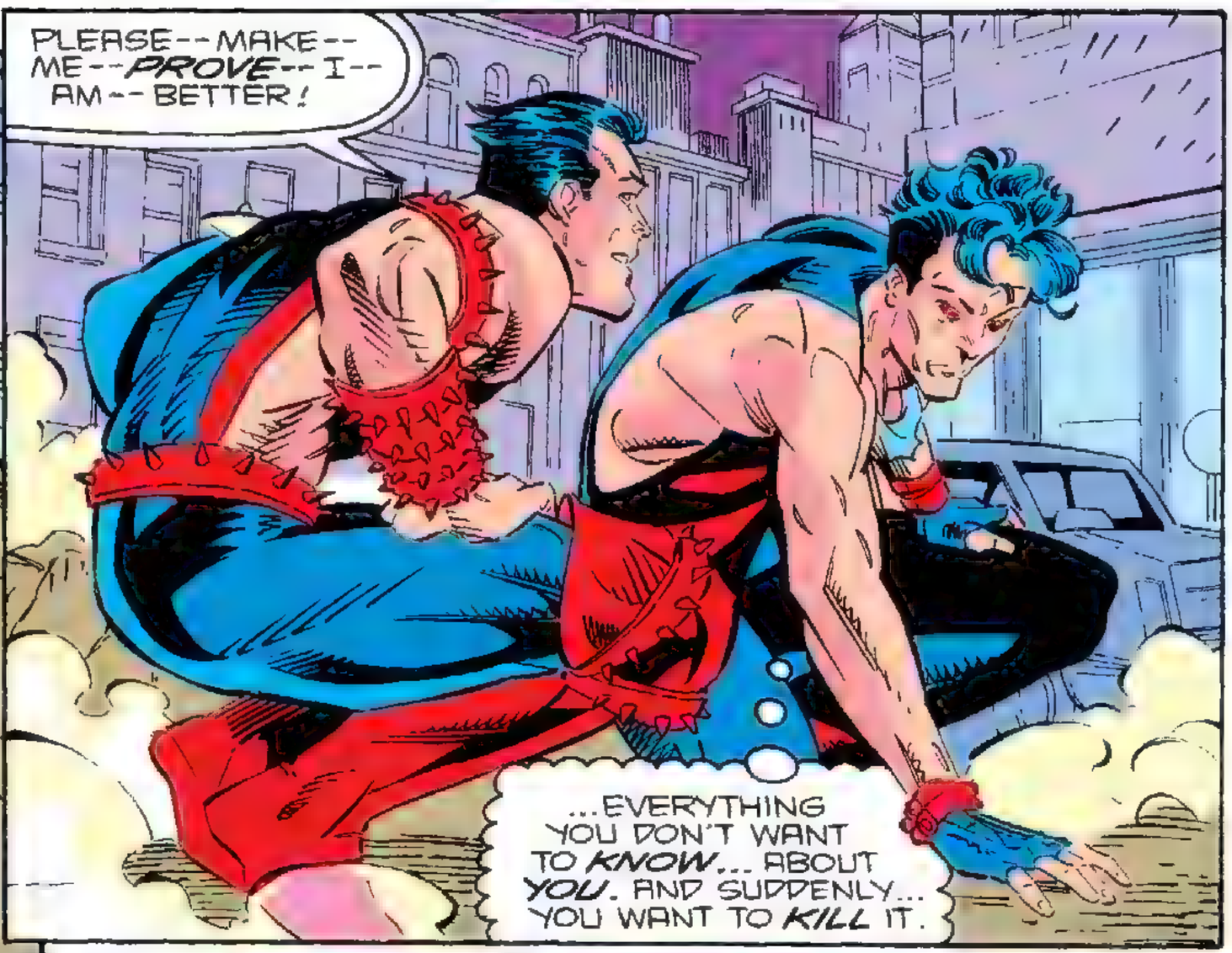
YOU -- SEE?
KWOK
POWERS CUTTING OUT...

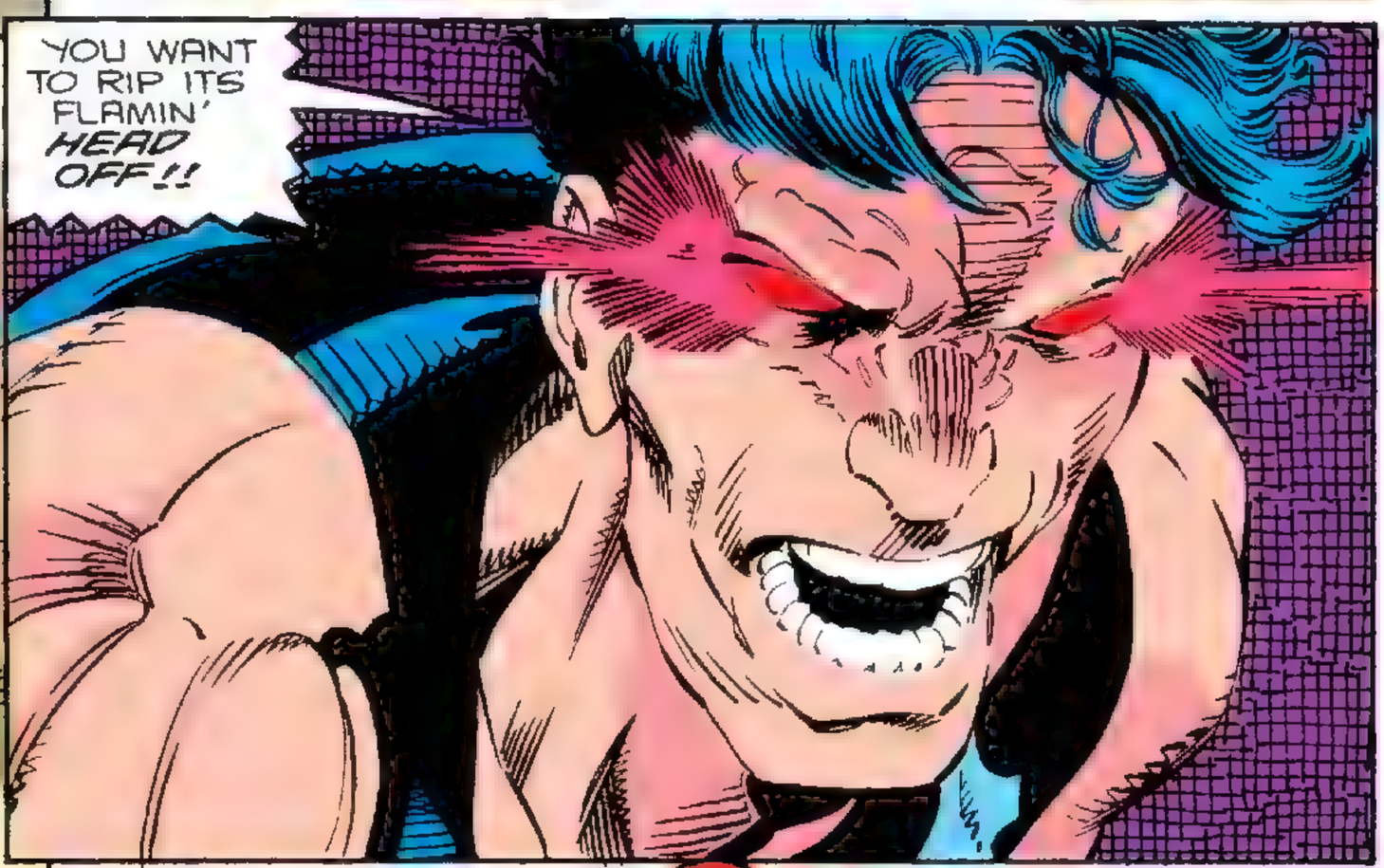

GGUH

NOW -- MY -- TIME -- BEGINS!
BLACH
...BODY DEFLATING...

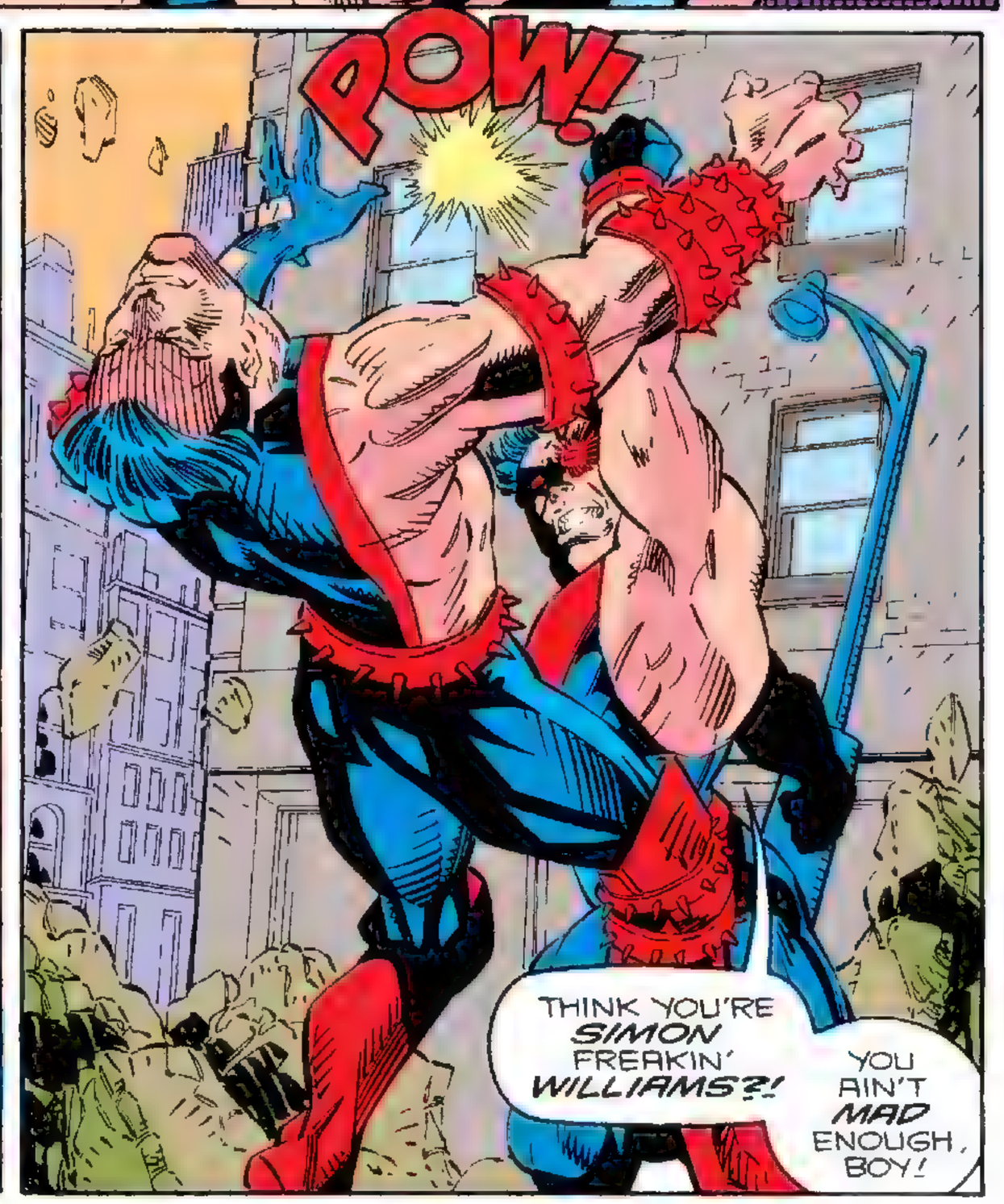

NOW -- I -- REPLACE -- YOU!
SOMETHING'S ... HOLDING ME BACK... MAKING ME ... CONFUSED.
THERE'S SOMETHING... SOMETHING TERRIFYING...
...ABOUT FIGHTING YOURSELF.

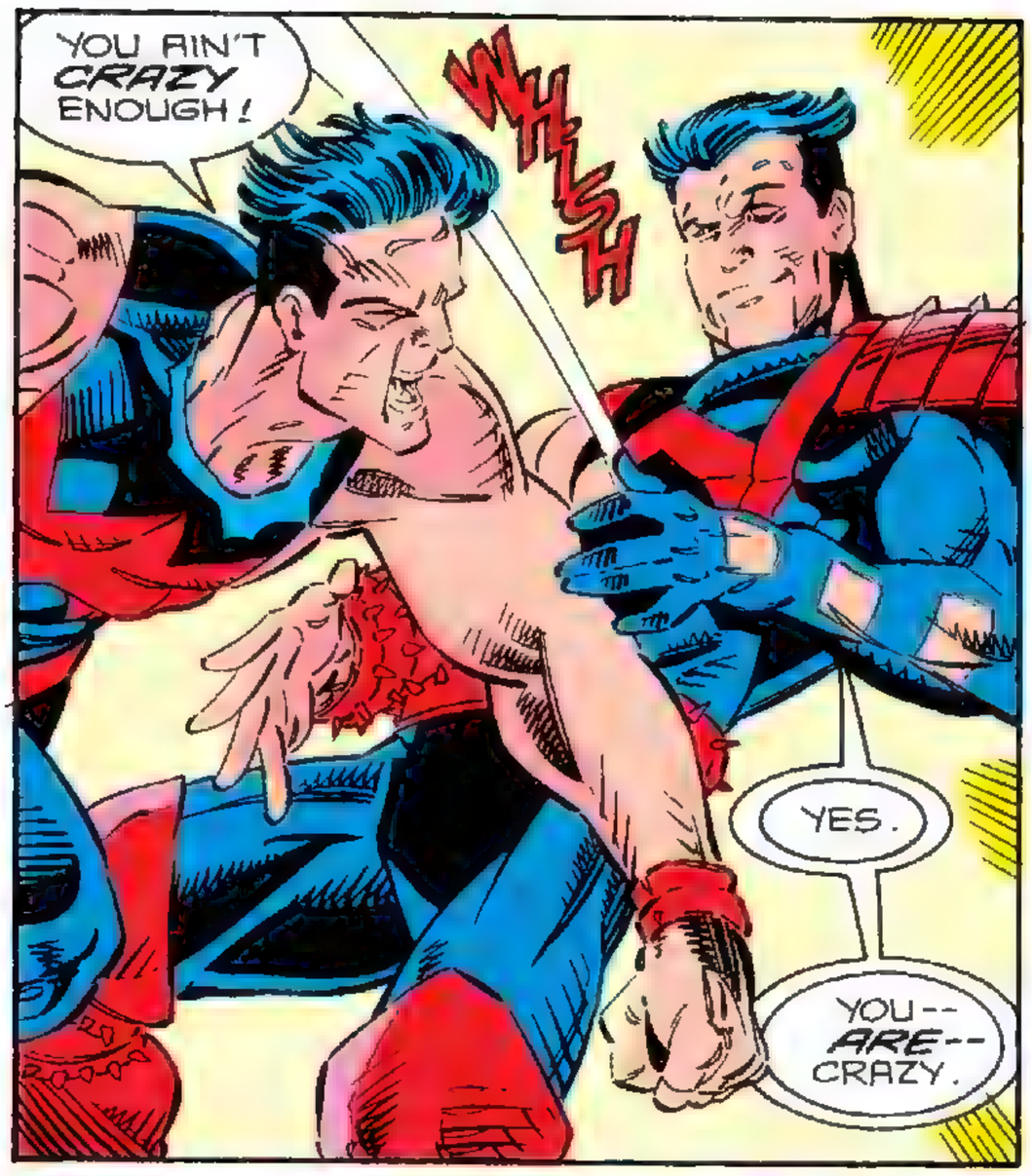

DO--YOU--WANT--ME--TO--HIT--YOU--MORE--WONDER--MAN?


PLEASE--MAKE--ME--PROVE--I--AM--BETTER!
...EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW... ABOUT YOU. AND SUDDENLY... YOU WANT TO KILL IT.


YOU WANT TO RIP ITS FLAMIN' HEAD OFF!!

YOU LOOK AT YOURSELF... SEE EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE...
BLAM!
THINK YOU'RE ME, HUH?!


POW!
THINK YOU'RE SIMON FREAKIN' WILLIAMS?!
YOU AIN'T MAD ENOUGH, BOY!

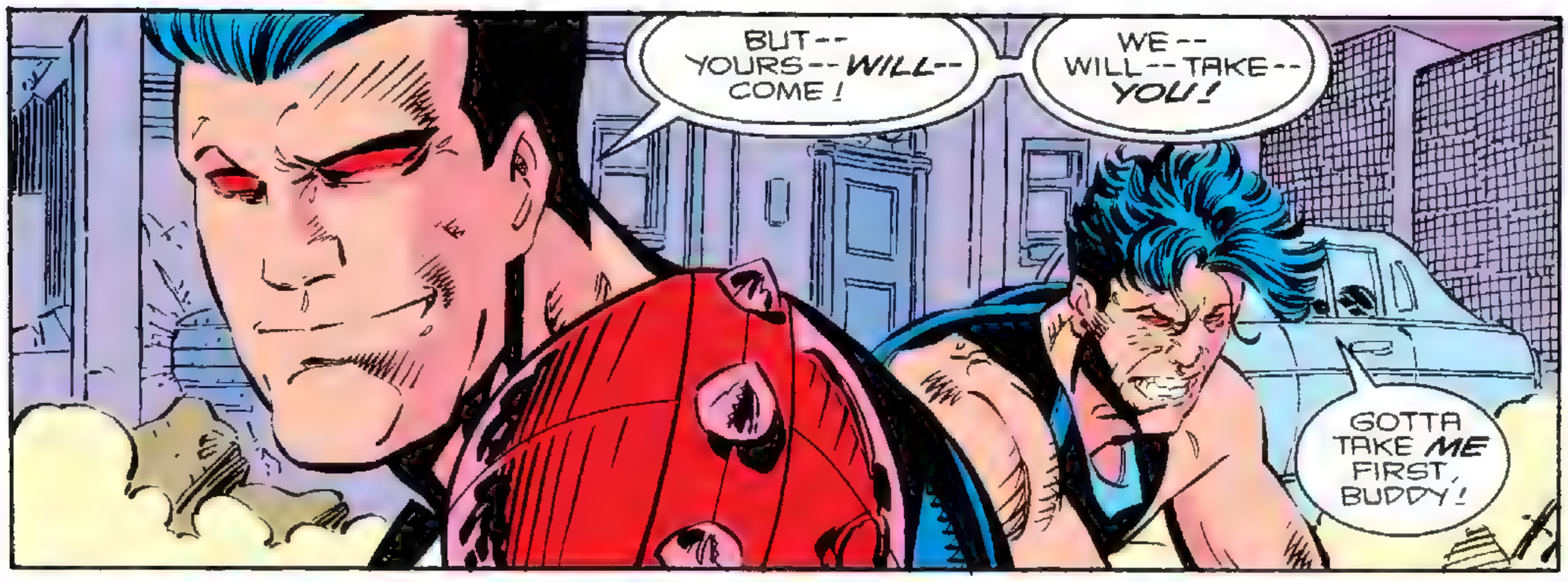


SHONG

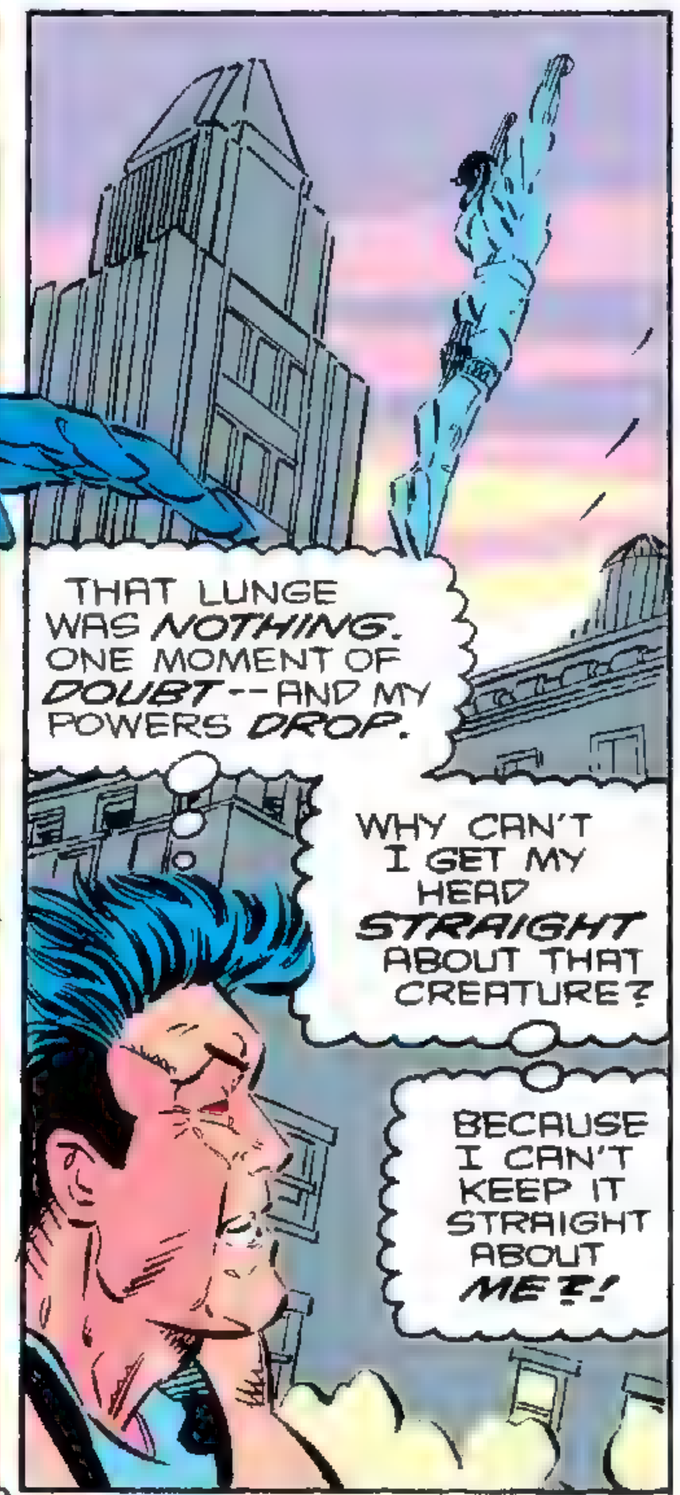
ASSAIL A SOLE AVENGER, TREACHEROUS IMPOSTOR--AND, VERILY, THOU ASSAILEST US ALL!

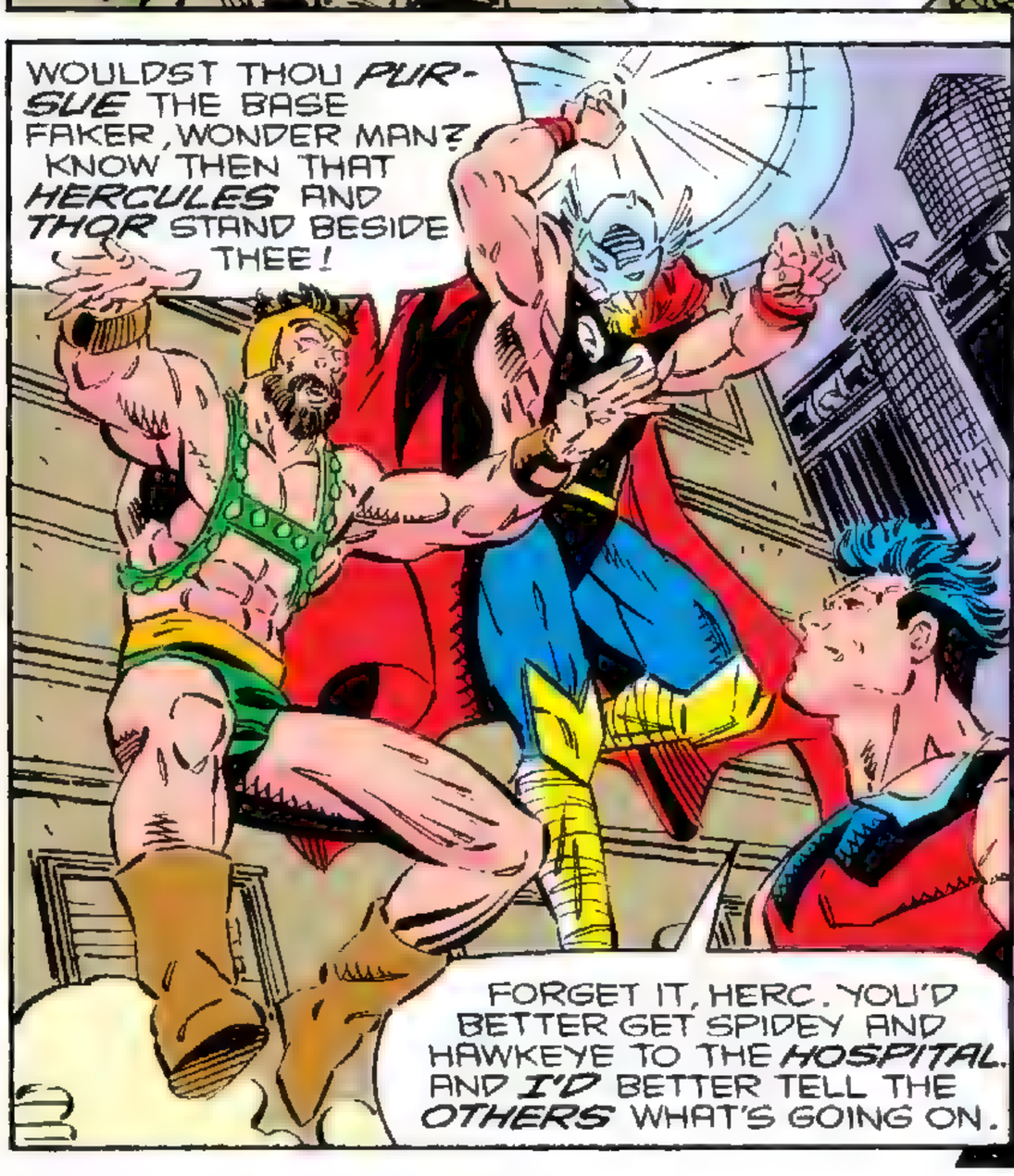
GOT THAT?

NO--YOU-- ARE--NOT-- MINE!


BUT -- YOURS -- WILL -- COME!
WE -- WILL -- TAKE -- YOU!
GOTTA TAKE ME FIRST, BUDDY!

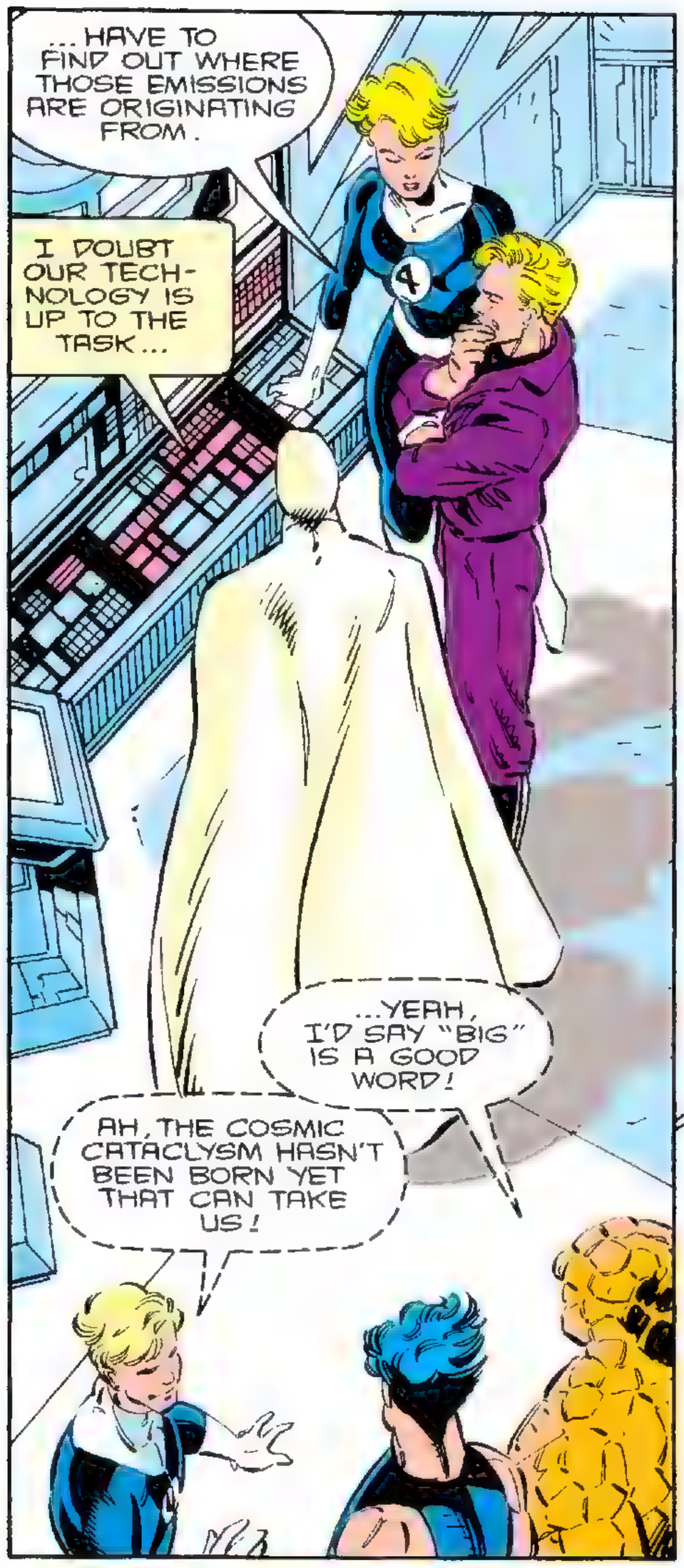
GOTTA TAKE --
THUOM
NOTHING.


THAT LUNGE WAS NOTHING. ONE MOMENT OF DOUBT -- AND MY POWERS DROP.
WHY CAN'T I GET MY HEAD STRAIGHT ABOUT THAT CREATURE?
BECAUSE I CAN'T KEEP IT STRAIGHT ABOUT ME?!


WOULDST THOU PURSUE THE BASE FAKER, WONDER MAN? KNOW THEN THAT HERCULES AND THOR STAND BESIDE THEE!
FORGET IT, HERC. YOU'D BETTER GET SPIDEY AND HAWKEYE TO THE HOSPITAL. AND I'D BETTER TELL THE OTHERS WHAT'S GOING ON.

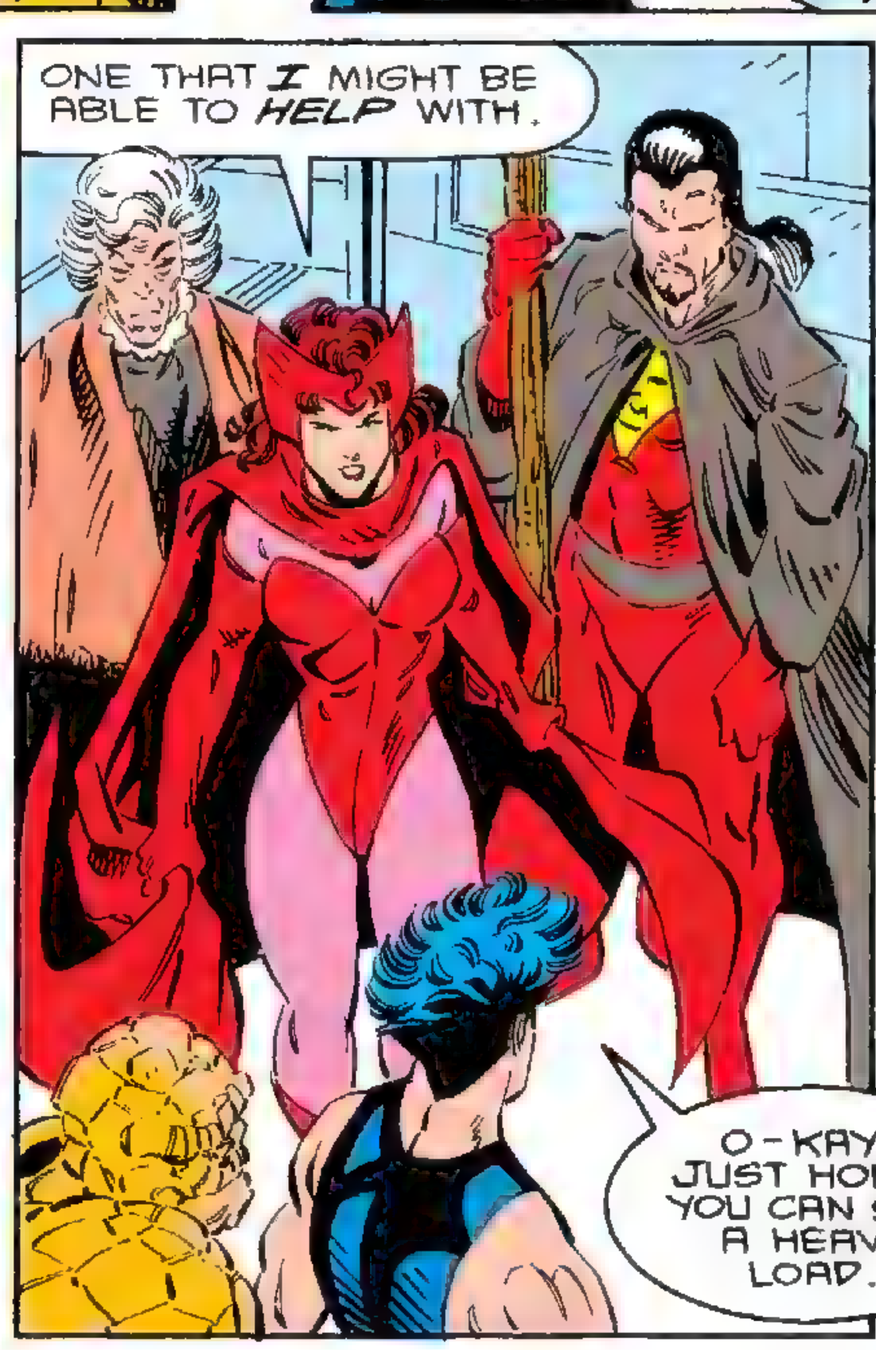
SOUNDS CONVINCING. AT LEAST, IT'S BETTER THAN TELLING THEM THAT WONDER MAN CAN'T TRUST HIS OWN POWERS, OR HIS OWN MIND.
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHY THAT DUPLICATE SCARES ME LIKE THIS -- AND I HOPE I GET ONE MORE SHOT AT IT!

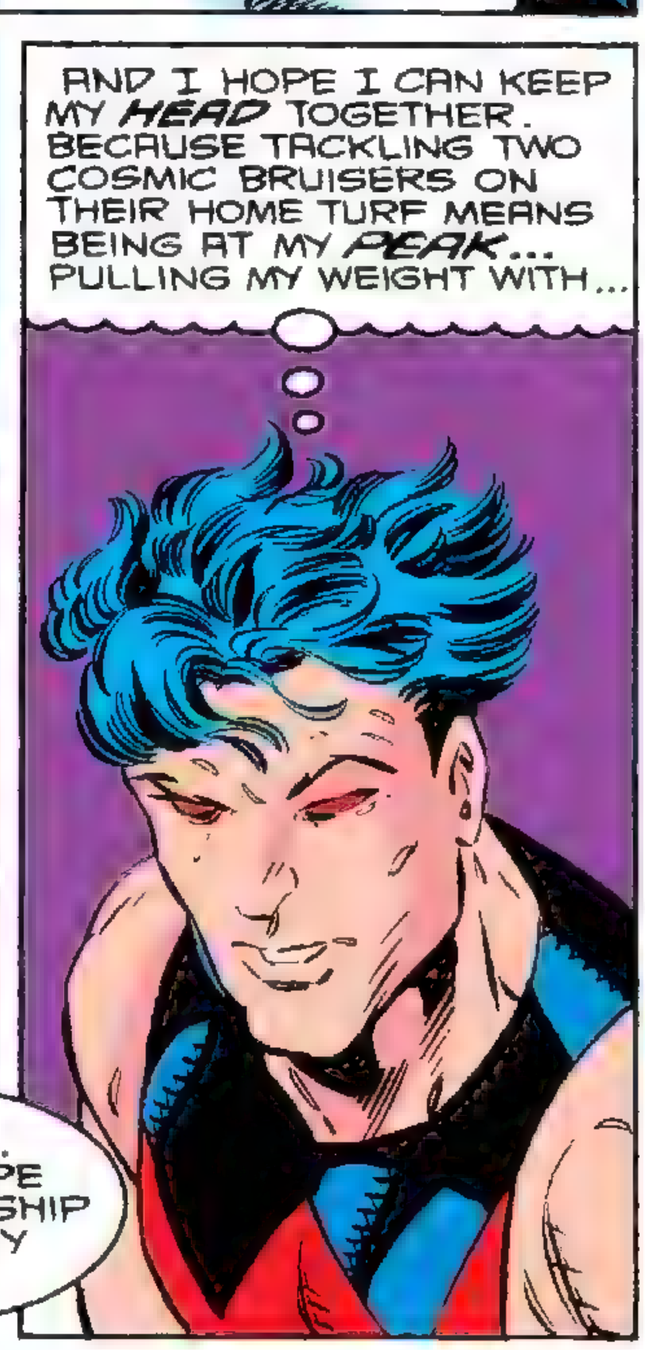
"...HAVE THOR AND HERCULES RETURN AS SOON AS THEY FINISH."
GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO SORELY NEED THEIR RAW POWER.
BUT SPIDER-MAN AND HAWKEYE ARE GOING TO NEED--
I KNOW, GUARDS.
CAP, YOU'VE GOT A VOLUNTEER.
THE JOB'S YOURS, CAT.
HM? WHAT'S UP WITH THE BRAIN TRUST?
WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS! MASSIVE ENERGY RECEPTORS ON EACH PLANET AND STAR.
BUT, HANK, WHAT'S THEIR PURPOSE?
WHADDYA FIGGER, WONDY?
DUNNO, BEN. BUT IF A BRIGHT BOY LIKE PYM IS THAT FREAKED, WE MUST BE UP AGAINST SOMETHING BIG.
A GOOD-GUY LIKE WARLOCK TEAMIN' WITH A TYRANT-TYPE LIKE THANOS... EVIL DUPLICATES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION... COSMIC ENERGY GOIN' NUTTY...


...HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THOSE EMISSIONS ARE ORIGINATING FROM.
I DOUBT OUR TECHNOLOGY IS UP TO THE TASK...
...YEAH, I'D SAY "BIG" IS A GOOD WORD!
AH, THE COSMIC CATACLYSM HASN'T BEEN BORN YET THAT CAN TAKE US!

OH YEAH? LISTEN, SPARK-PLUG -- THANOS AN' WARLOCK ON THEIR LONESOME HAVE NEARLY ATTAINED GOD-HOOD ONCE OR TWICE.
STICK 'EM TOGETHER AN' YA GOT ENOUGH COSMIC HOO-HAH TA TURN REALITY ON ITS POINTY PINK HEAD!
OH, WOW. EXCUSE ME WHILE I DO MY "WE'RE LIKE ANTS" SPEECH.
WE'VE GOT--
SHHH!
WE'VE GOT MORE POWER IN THIS ROOM THAN ANY WANNABEE "GOD" CAN HANDLE. IF PYM AND THE GANG CAN TRACK THANOS AND SEND US THERE --

SEND US WHERE? TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, IT SOUNDS LIKE. AND THAT KIND OF CHALLENGE IS ...


ONE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH.
O-KAY. JUST HOPE YOU CAN SHIP A HEAVY LOAD.


AND I HOPE I CAN KEEP MY HEAD TOGETHER. BECAUSE TACKLING TWO COSMIC BRUISERS ON THEIR HOME TURF MEANS BEING AT MY PEAK... PULLING MY WEIGHT WITH...

...THE BIGGEST, BADDEST BUNCH OF *HEROES* THIS BOY'S EVER SEEN!
NEXT: WARLOCK, THANOS AND GALACTUS!

IN 1992, COSMIC DREAMS UNLIMITED SOLD AN AUTOGRAPHED SET OF *INFINITY WAR #1-6*, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED THIS LIMITED-EDITION PRINT BY RON LIM.

MARVEL COMICS

MEET THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DEADLY

ALPHA FLIGHT

AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

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110 JULY

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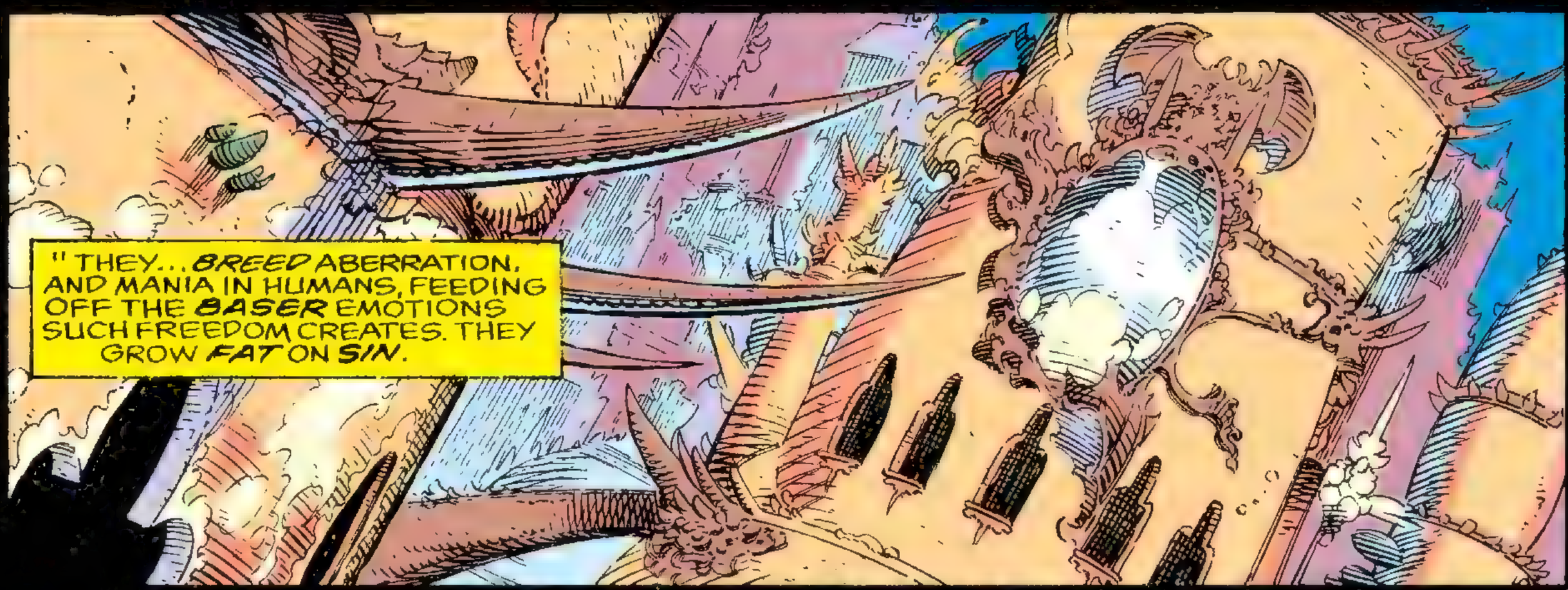
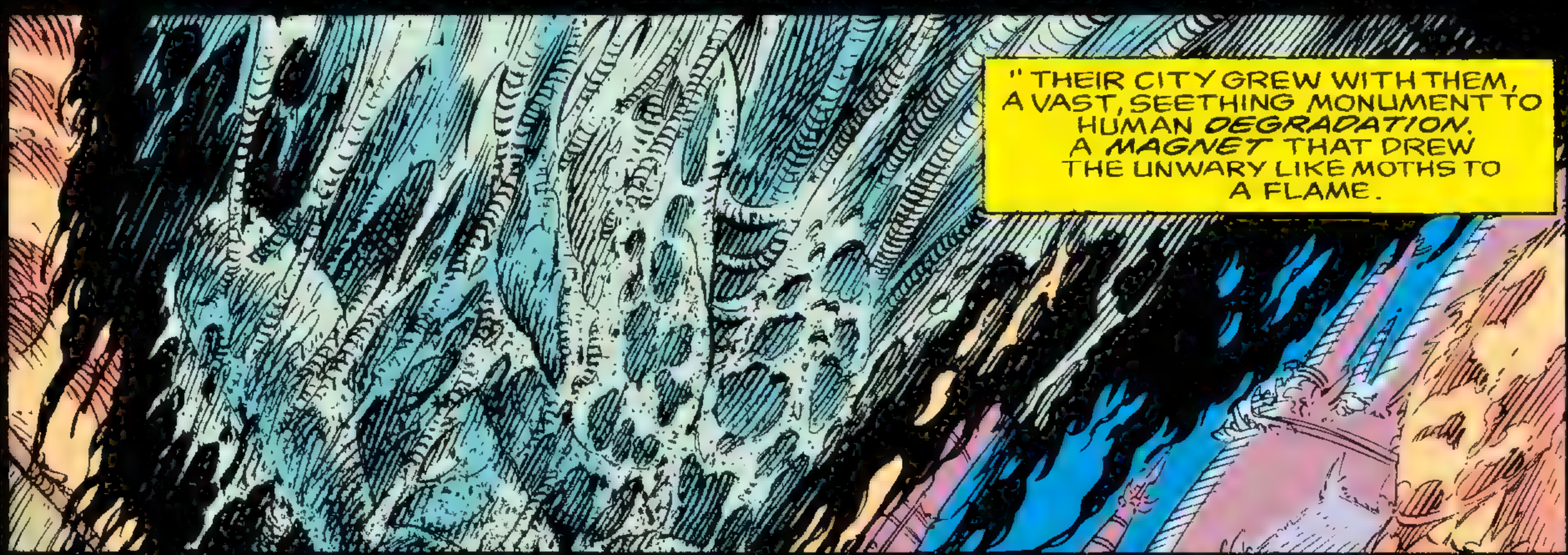
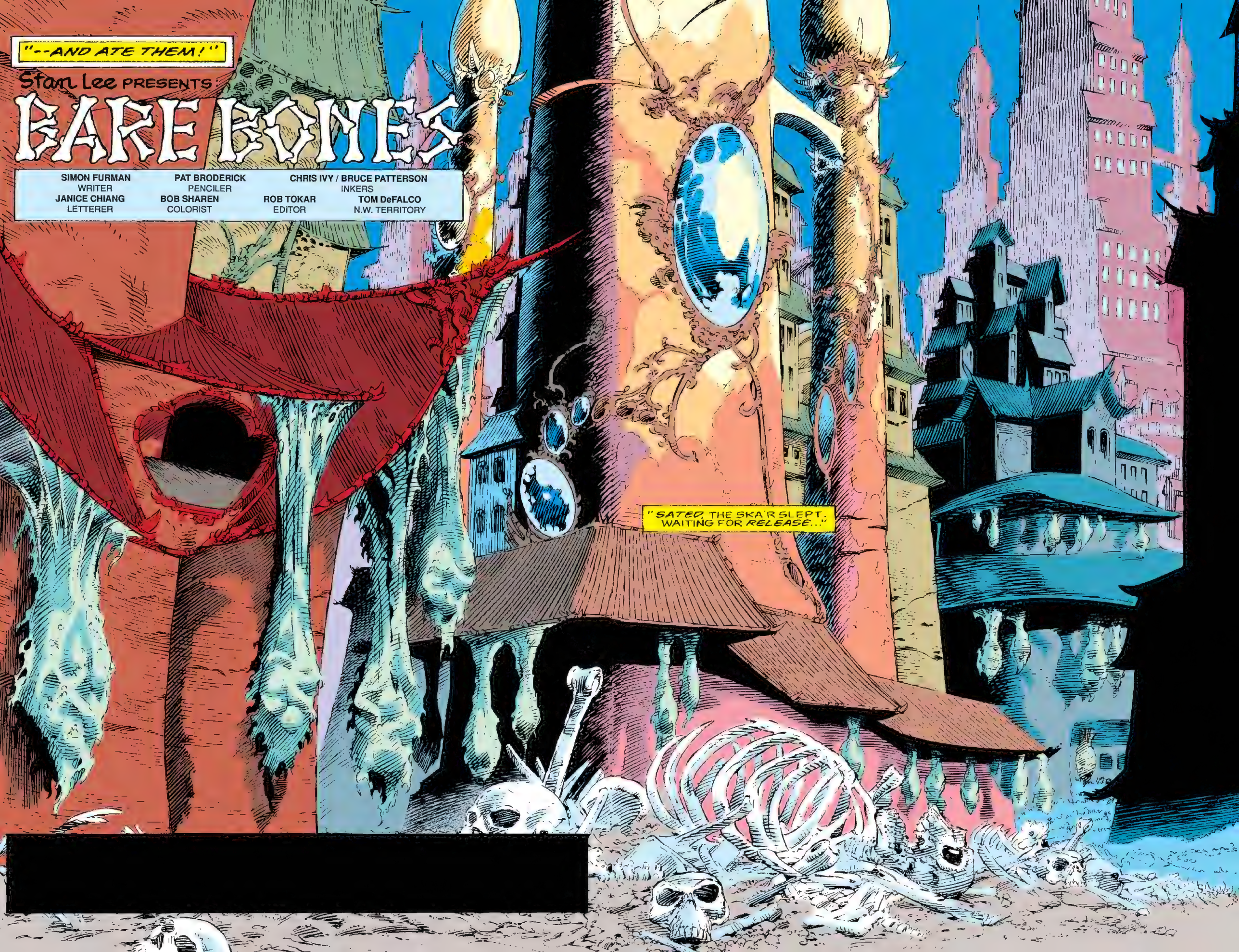
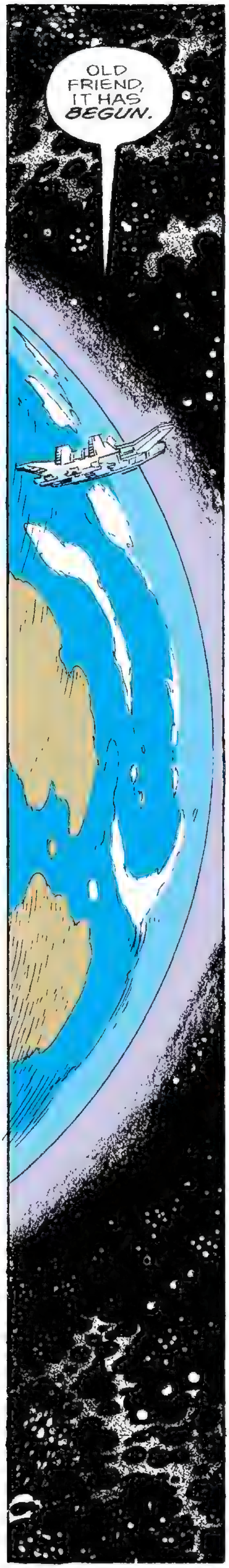
"LET ME TELL YOU OF THE SKA'R.
"OF ALL THE MYRIAD OFFSHOOTS OF HUMANITY RECORDED BY THE PLODEX SHIP, LONG AFTER YOU AND I PARTED COMPANY, THEY ARE AMONG THE MOST FASCINATING.

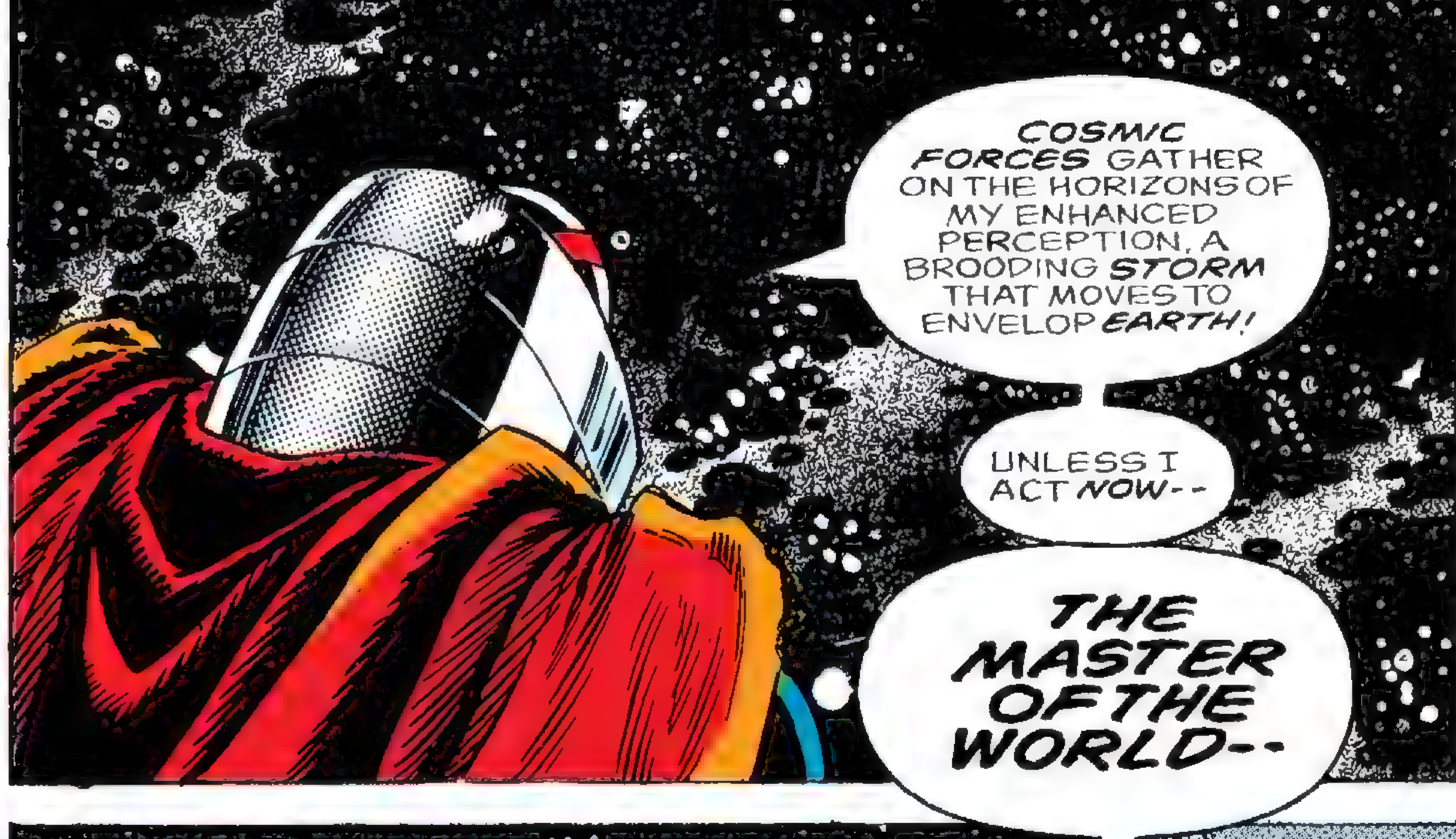

"THEY... BREED ABERRATION, AND MANIA IN HUMANS, FEEDING OFF THE BASER EMOTIONS SUCH FREEDOM CREATES. THEY GROW FAT ON SIN.

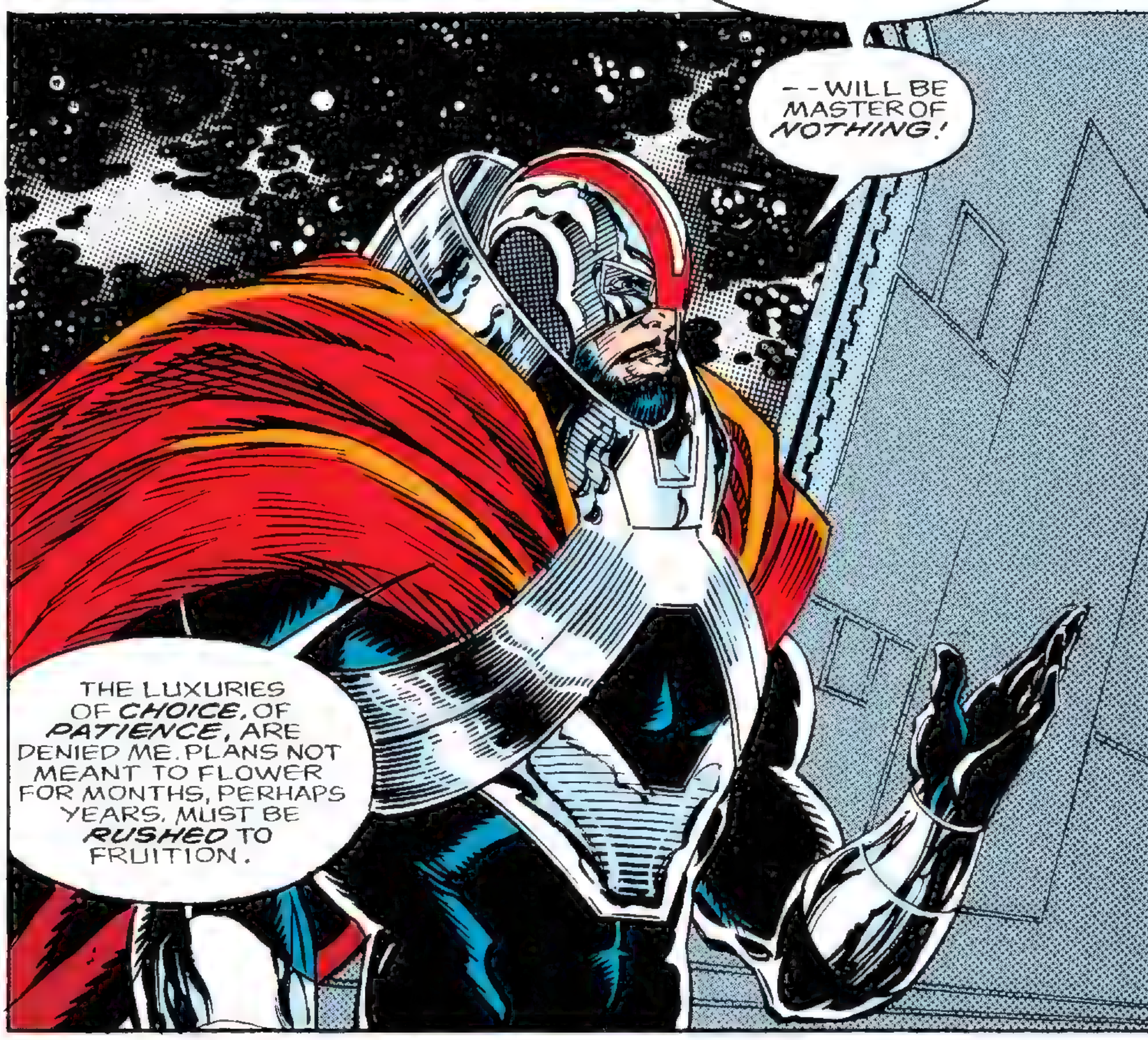

"THEIR CITY GREW WITH THEM, A VAST, SEETHING MONUMENT TO HUMAN DEGRADATION, A MAGNET THAT DREW THE UNWARY LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME.

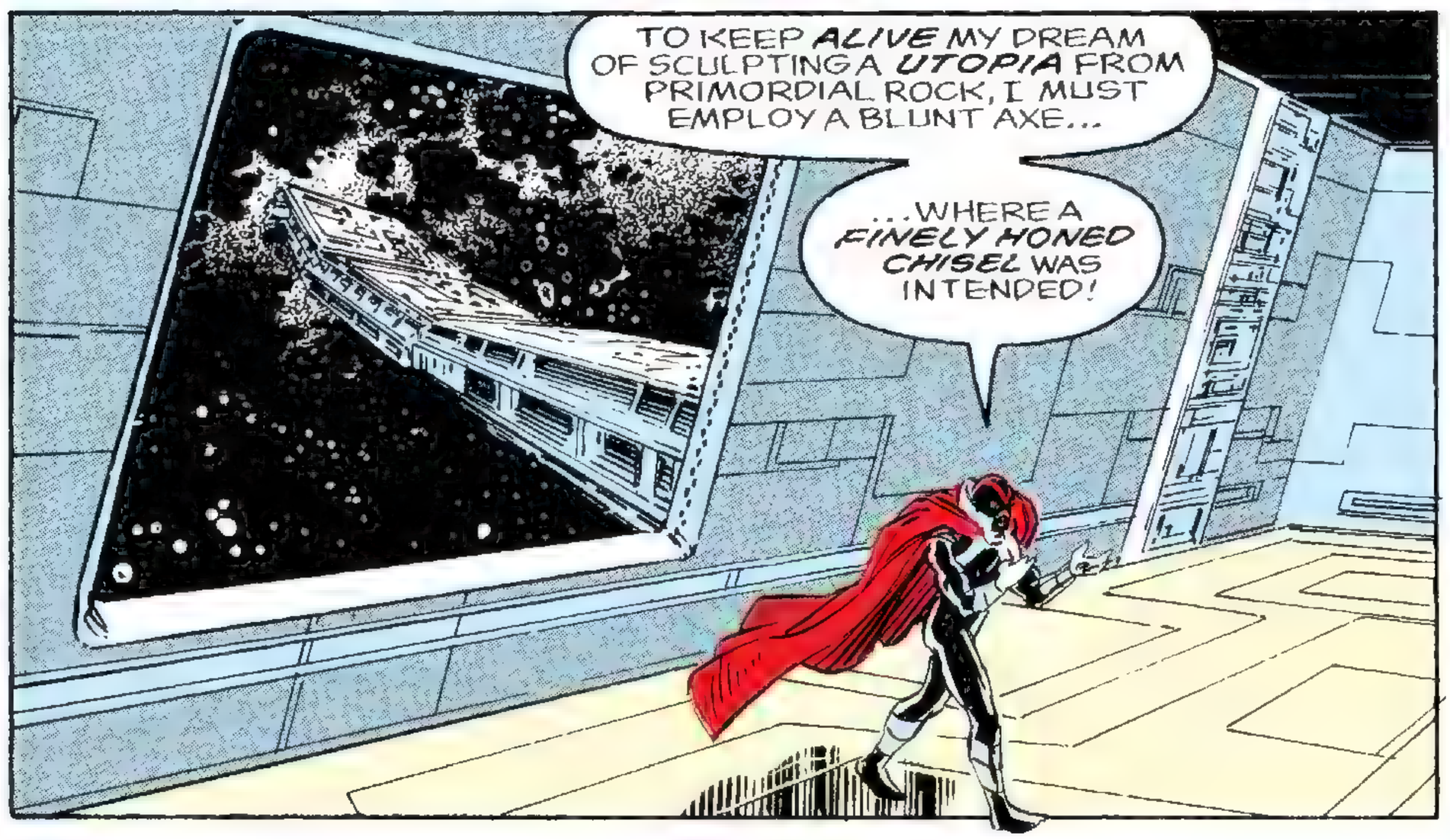
"UNTIL FINALLY THEY WERE CAST OUT FROM THIS REALITY! CUT OFF FROM A FRESH SOURCE OF MINDS TO CORRUPT. THE SKA'R TURNED ON THE MORTALS UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SHARE THEIR EXILE --


"--AND ATE THEM!"
Stan Lee PRESENTS
FARE FOMES
SIMON FURMAN
WRITER
PAT BRODERICK
PENCILER
CHRIS IVY / BRUCE PATTERSON
INKERS
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST
ROB TOKAR
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
N.W. TERRITORY
"SATED, THE SKA'R SLEPT. WAITING FOR RELEASE..."


OLD FRIEND, IT HAS *BEGUN.*


COSMIC FORCES GATHER ON THE HORIZONS OF MY ENHANCED PERCEPTION, A BROODING *STORM* THAT MOVES TO ENVELOP *EARTH!*
UNLESS I ACT *NOW*--
THE MASTER OF THE WORLD--


--WILL BE MASTER OF *NOTHING!*
THE LUXURIES OF *CHOICE*, OF *PATIENCE*, ARE DENIED ME. PLANS NOT MEANT TO FLOWER FOR MONTHS, PERHAPS YEARS, MUST BE *RUSHED* TO FRUITION.

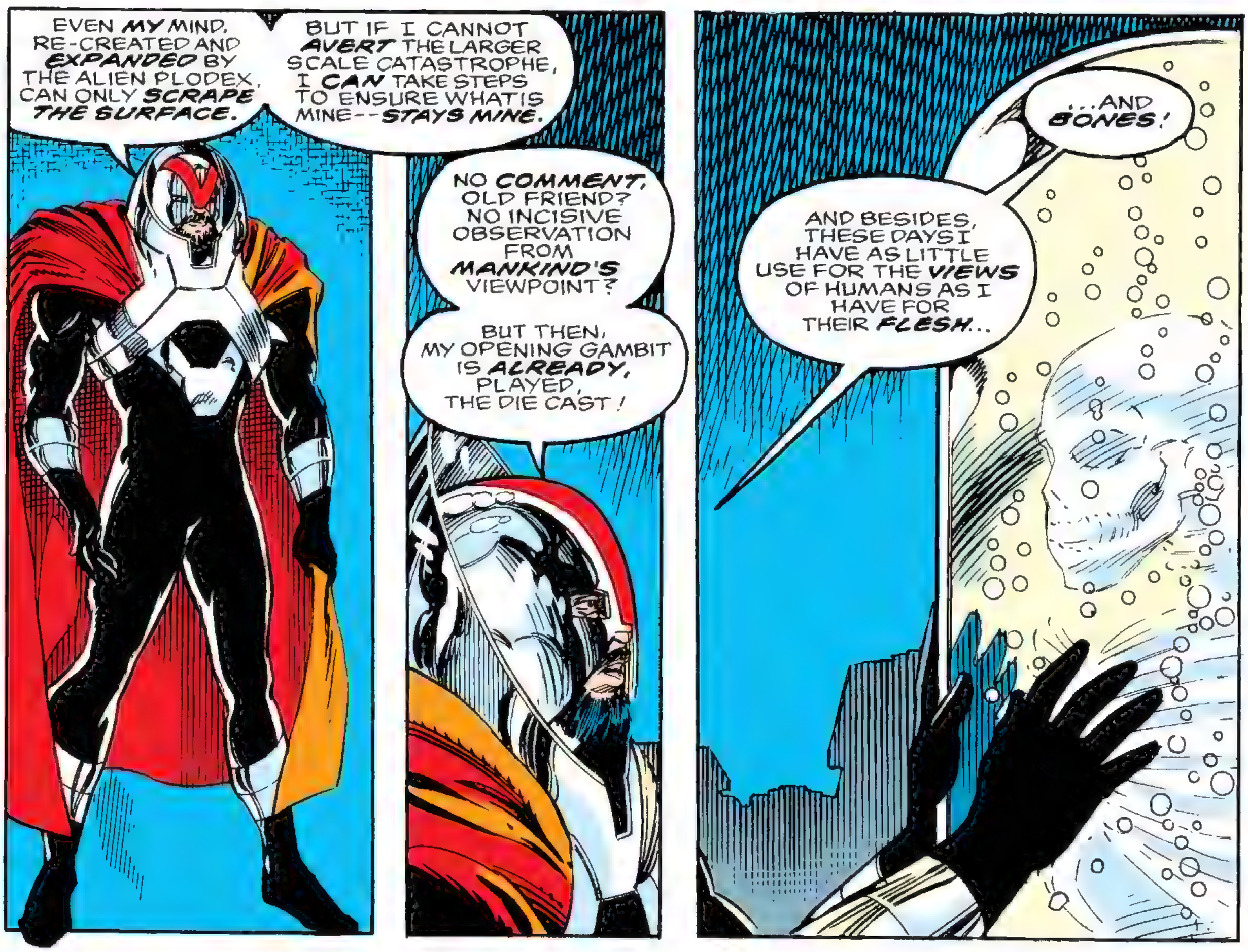

TO KEEP *ALIVE* MY DREAM OF SCULPTING A *UTOPIA* FROM PRIMORDIAL ROCK, I MUST EMPLOY A BLUNT AXE...
...WHERE A *FINELY HONED CHISEL* WAS INTENDED!

"IN MANHATTAN, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST ***ANTS*** GATHER* IN A ***WASTED*** ATTEMPT TO STAVE OFF THE COMING CATACLYSM.

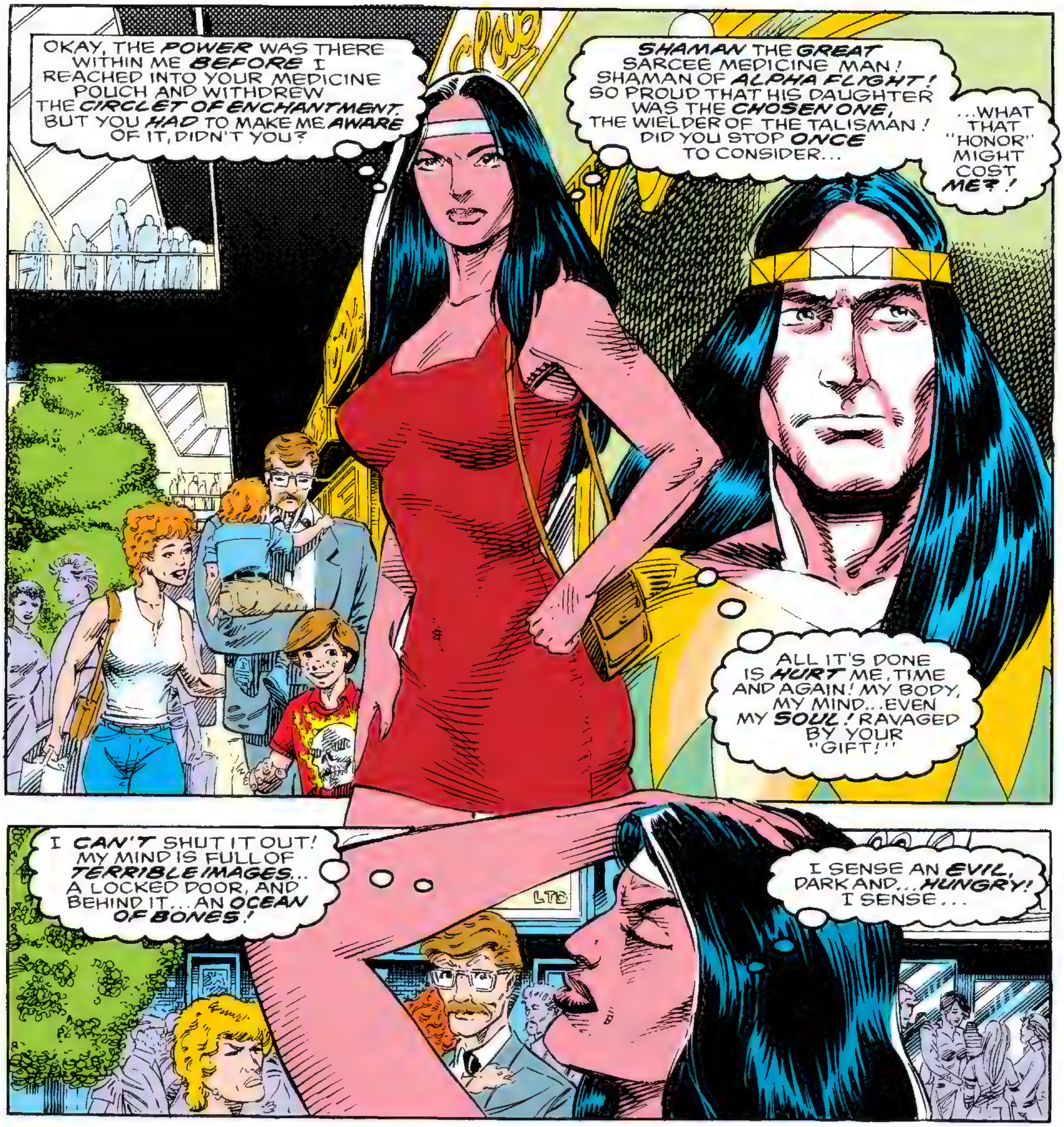
" LIKE BIRDS, SUCKED INTO THE ENGINE OF A PASSING JET, THEY CANNOT ***COMPREHEND*** THEIR FATE...

"...ONLY ***ACCEPT IT!***"

*SEE *INFINITY WAR* #2.



...SOME HELP? THEY'RE GREAT, AREN'T THEY? VERY POPULAR.
WHY NOT JUST TRY THEM ON? THEY'D SUIT YOU, I'M SURE THEY'D LOOK JUST...
MISS?
HEM-HEM
HUH?
THE EARRINGS-- YOU WANT THEM?
ER... NO. NO THANKS. NO... NOT TO MY TASTE.
TOO MORBID.
OH ELIZABETH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH SOMETHING AS VACANTLY ORDINARY AS A SHOPPING TRIP? IT'S SOMETHING NORMAL PEOPLE DO--SANE, HAPPY, NORMAL PEOPLE!
THANKS TO YOU, FATHER-- I AM NONE OF THOSE THINGS!
NOT SINCE I BECAME TALISMAN!


OKAY, THE POWER WAS THERE WITHIN ME BEFORE I REACHED INTO YOUR MEDICINE POUCH AND WITHDREW THE CIRCLET OF ENCHANTMENT. BUT YOU HAD TO MAKE ME AWARE OF IT, DIDN'T YOU?
SHAMAN THE GREAT SARCEE MEDICINE MAN! SHAMAN OF ALPHA FLIGHT! SO PROUD THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS THE CHOSEN ONE, THE WIELDER OF THE TALISMAN! DID YOU STOP ONCE TO CONSIDER...
...WHAT THAT "HONOR" MIGHT COST ME?!
ALL IT'S DONE IS HURT ME, TIME AND AGAIN! MY BODY, MY MIND...EVEN MY SOUL! RAVAGED BY YOUR "GIFT!"
I CAN'T SHUT IT OUT! MY MIND IS FULL OF TERRIBLE IMAGES... A LOCKED DOOR, AND BEHIND IT...AN OCEAN OF BONES!
I SENSE AN EVIL, DARK AND...HUNGRY! I SENSE...
...DEATH.
SHE IS THE ONE. TECH-NOIR, IF YOU PLEASE...

"...GET THE WOMAN'S *ATTENTION.*"

BADOOM!

BADOOM!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?

YOU HAVE SOMETHING WE REQUIRE.

AND WHAT THE NEW *OMEGA FLIGHT* WANT--

--WE TAKE!

OMEGA FLIGHT? IN A *MALL?*

TALK ABOUT *DÉJA VU!*

FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, HOME TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

...AND (RIGHT NOW) JUST ABOUT EVERY OTHER HERO ON THE BLOCK!

THAT MANY, HUH? ANY IDEA YET WHAT'S GOING DOWN? GOT TO BE MAJOR LEAGUE!

NO WORD YET, WINDSHEAR. RICHARDS HAS PROMISED US A FULL BRIEFING JUST AS SOON AS SPIDER-MAN AND A COUPLE OF OTHER STRAGGLERS SHOW UP. CAN'T BE TOO SOON IN MY BOOK!

PATIENCE IS HARDLY A FORTE HEREABOUTS.

HEH. I CAN JUST PICTURE 'EM... ALL DRESSED UP AND NO BAD GUY TO LAY LOW!

TWITCH-EEEE!

PAF!

NYAH HAH HA!

WAUGGH!

NOW, WHATEVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?

HOW ARE THINGS AT DEPARTMENT H?

QUIET, GUARDIAN...

"...QUIET AS A TOMB!"

SKIN

AND

BONES!

HAVEN'T YOU *HEARD*, GIRL? THESE DAYS, IT'S *LARGE AND LOVELY!* AND THERE'S NO ONE LOVELIER...

...THAN *MISS MASS!*

PITY *MOUTH!* LOVELY, TOO! JOB, *DO IT*-- NO CHATTER.

THKRNNCH!

ALEG!

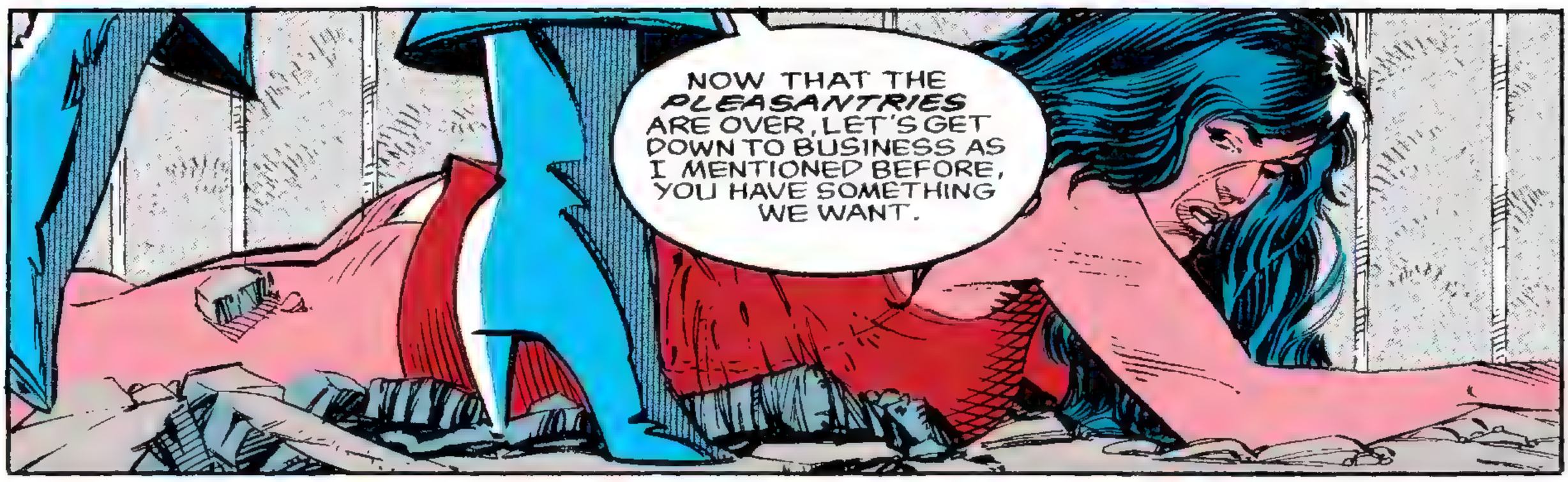
UGH!

DUMB ANIMAL! SUPPOSED TO *INTRODUCE* YOURSELF, SAY "HI, BABE--I'M SINEW!" OR SOMESUCH! SOCIAL NICETIES *NOT* YOUR STRONG POINT, ARE THEY?

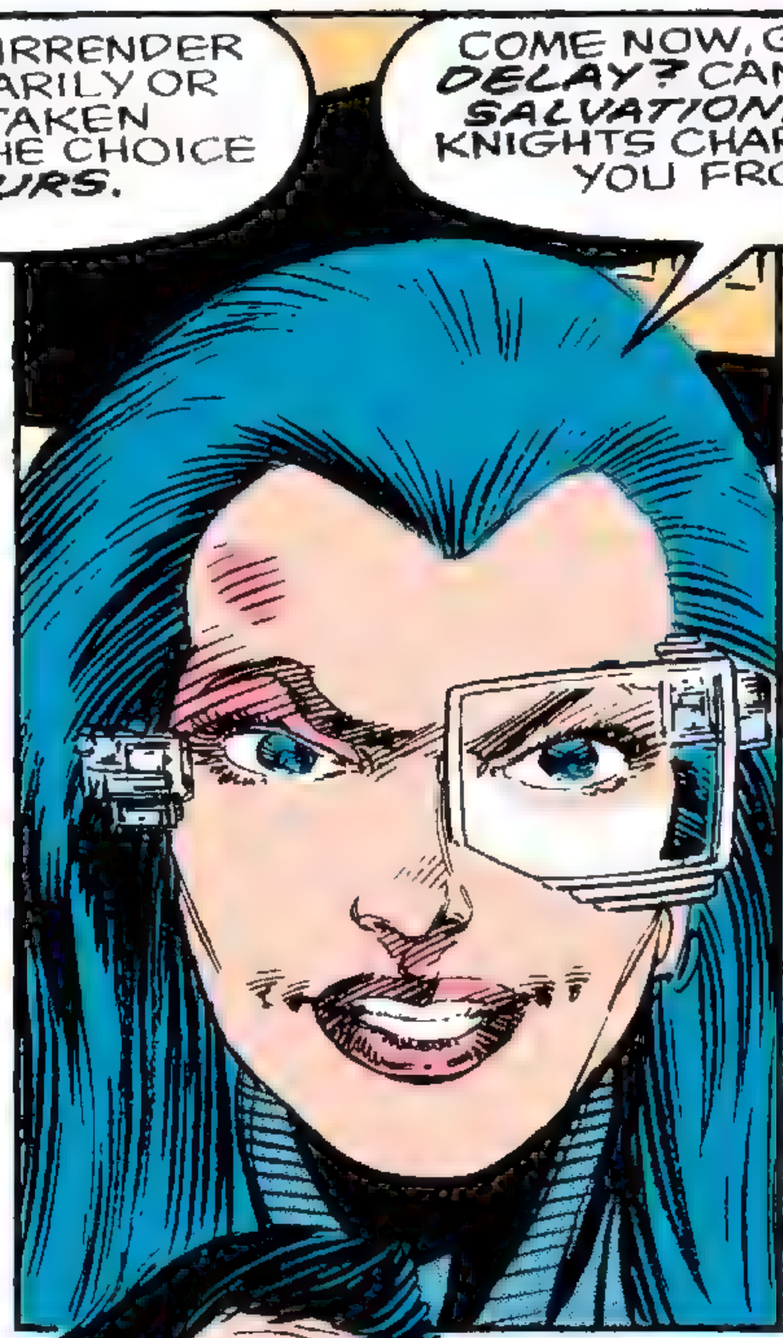
PERSONAL HYGIENE BEIN' A CASE IN POINT!

OH, 'SCUSE ME. ALMOST FORGOT *MESELF!* HI, BABE--I'M *STRONGARM!*

HSS!


NOW THAT THE *PLEASANTRIES* ARE OVER, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, YOU HAVE SOMETHING WE WANT.

YOU CAN SURRENDER IT VOLUNTARILY OR HAVE IT TAKEN BY FORCE. THE CHOICE IS *YOURS*.


COME NOW, GIRL. WHY DO YOU *DELAY?* CAN IT BE YOU SEE *SALVATION*, SHINING WHITE KNIGHTS CHARGING TO RESCUE YOU FROM DRAGONS?

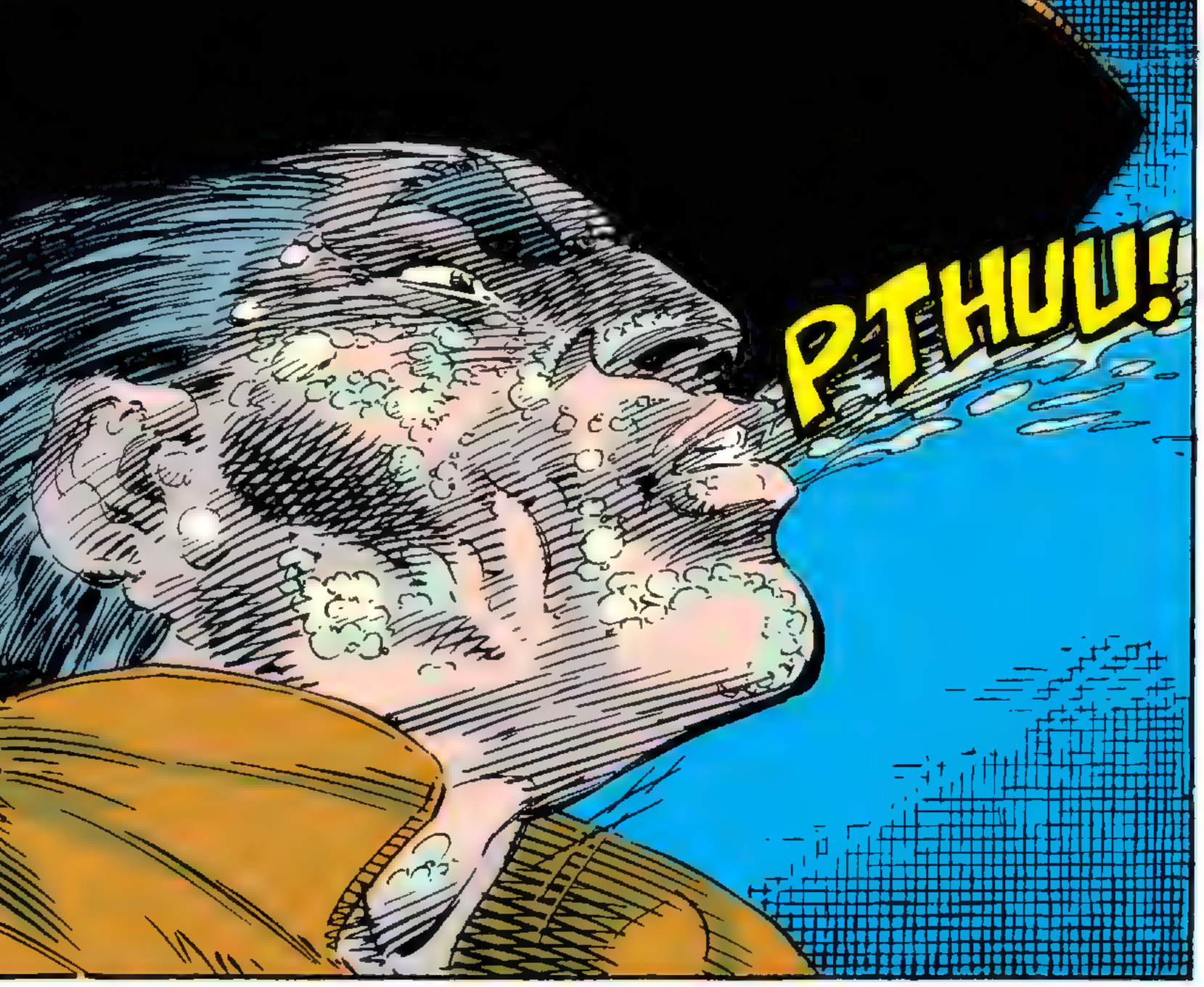
THERE ARE *NONE*. NOT FOR YOU...
CENTRAL, COME IN!

WE'VE A SITUATION HERE! REQUEST
AAUGHK!

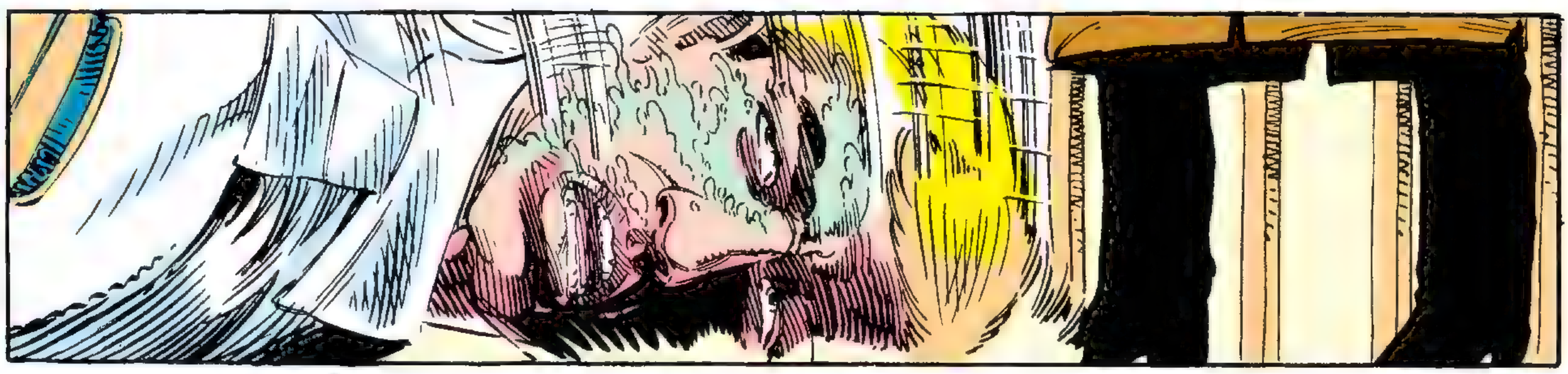
AK--
A--

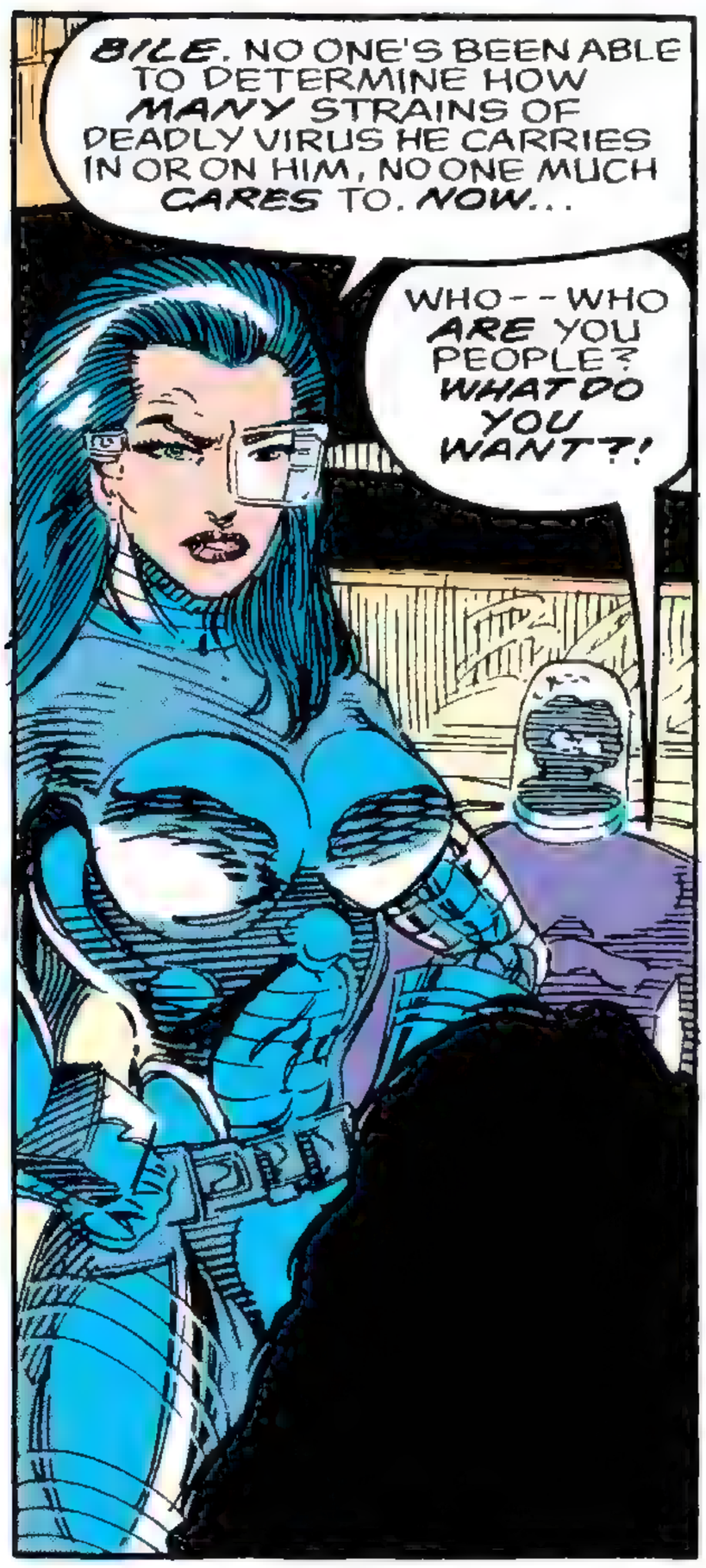
CHAR-
CHARLIE?
OH-OH--

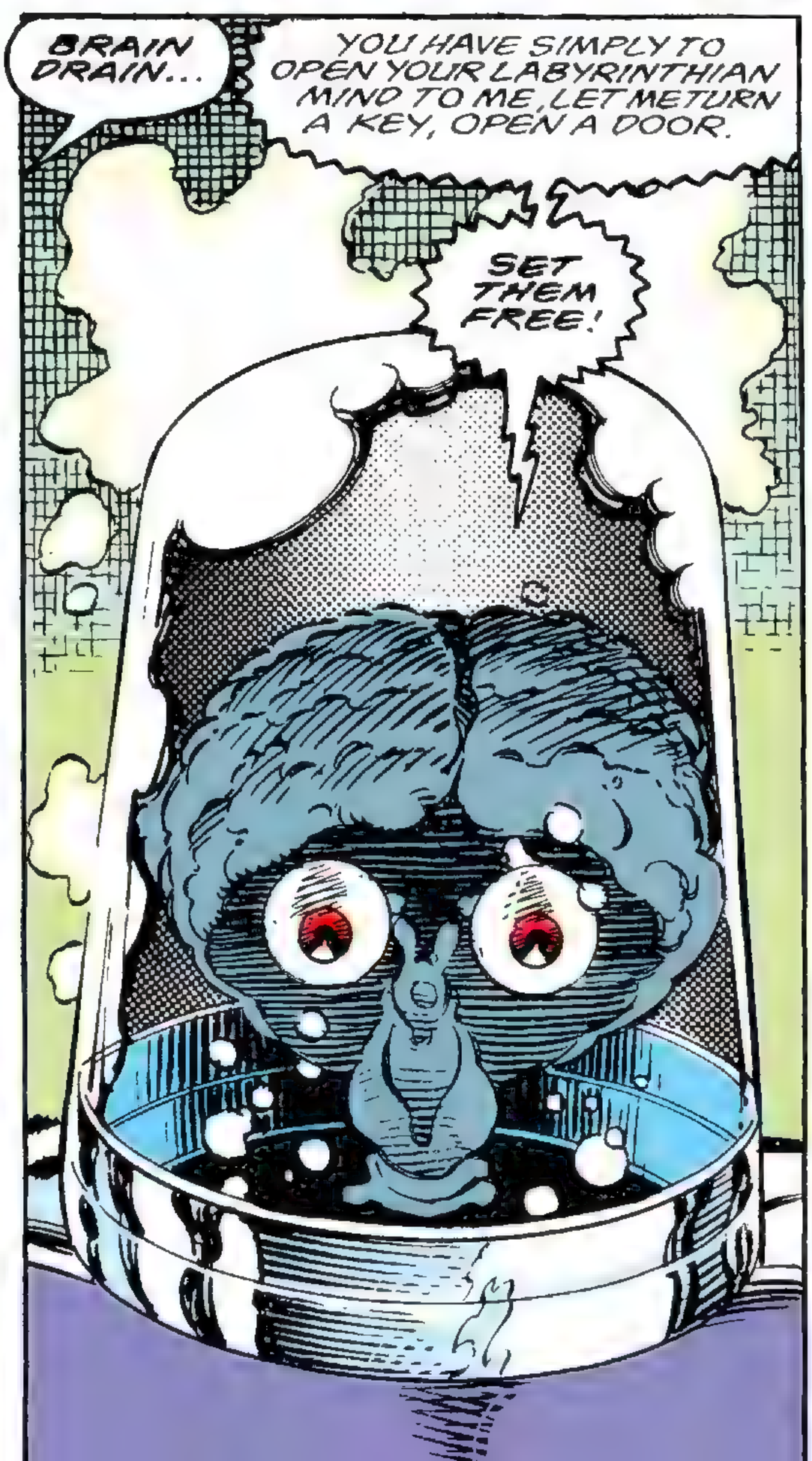
OH, GOD...


PTHUU!

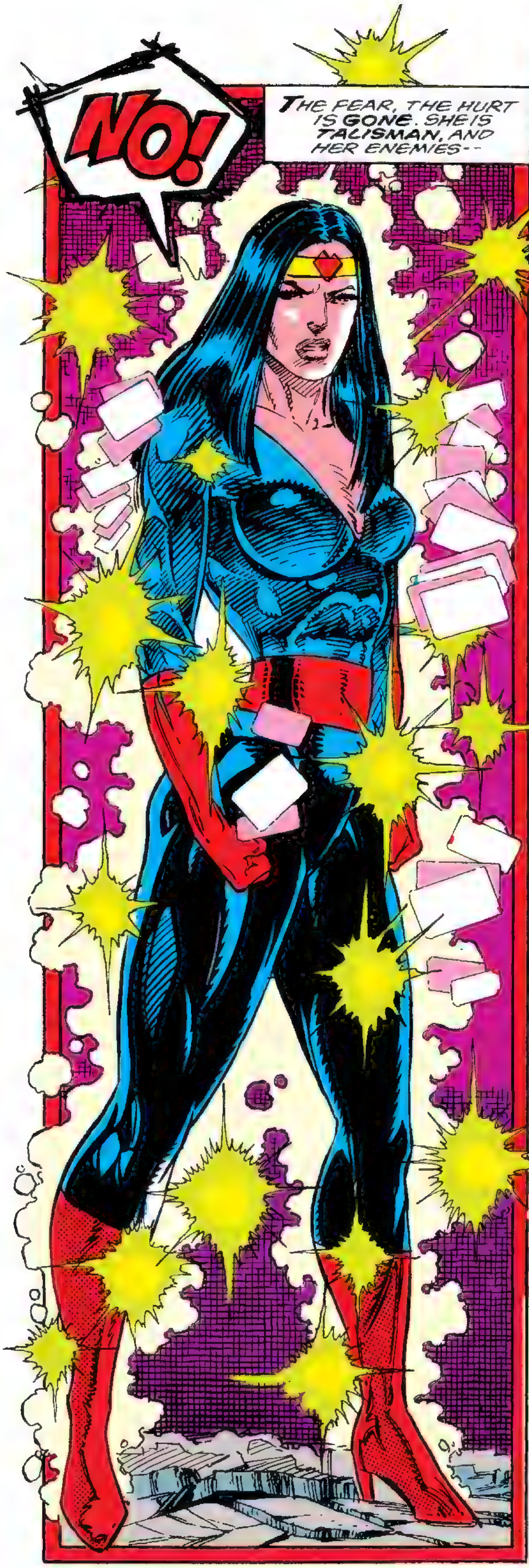
UUUA--
A--




BILE. NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY STRAINS OF DEADLY VIRUS HE CARRIES IN OR ON HIM, NO ONE MUCH CARES TO. NOW...
WHO--WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?!


BRAIN DRAIN...
YOU HAVE SIMPLY TO OPEN YOUR LABYRINTHIAN MIND TO ME, LET ME TURN A KEY, OPEN A DOOR.
SET THEM FREE!

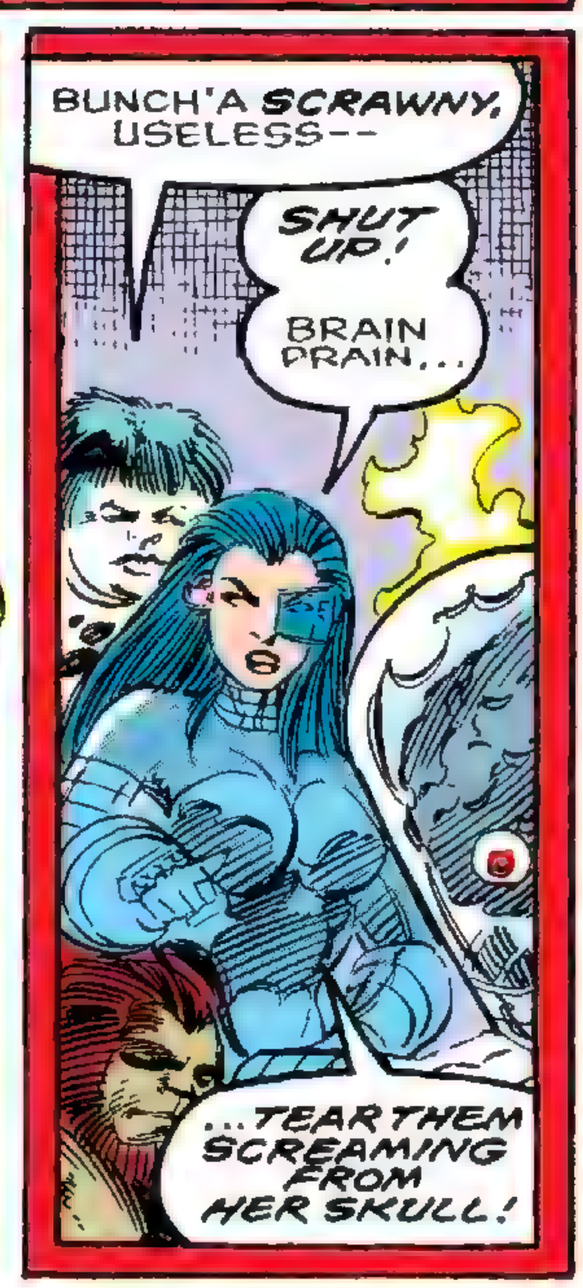
WHA--? I DON'T--
YES. I DO. AND--
NO.

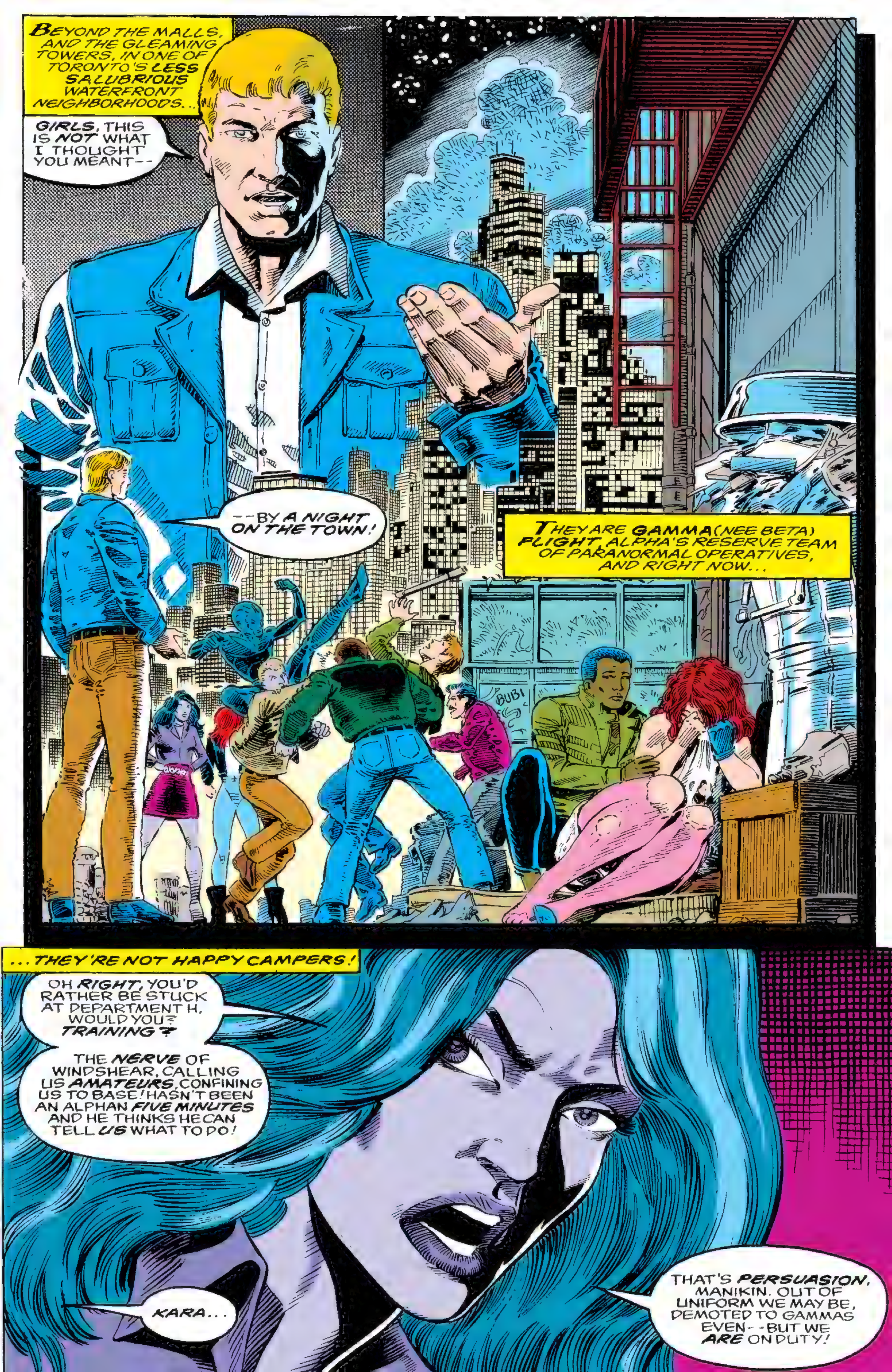

NO!
THE FEAR, THE HURT IS GONE. SHE IS TALISMAN, AND HER ENEMIES--

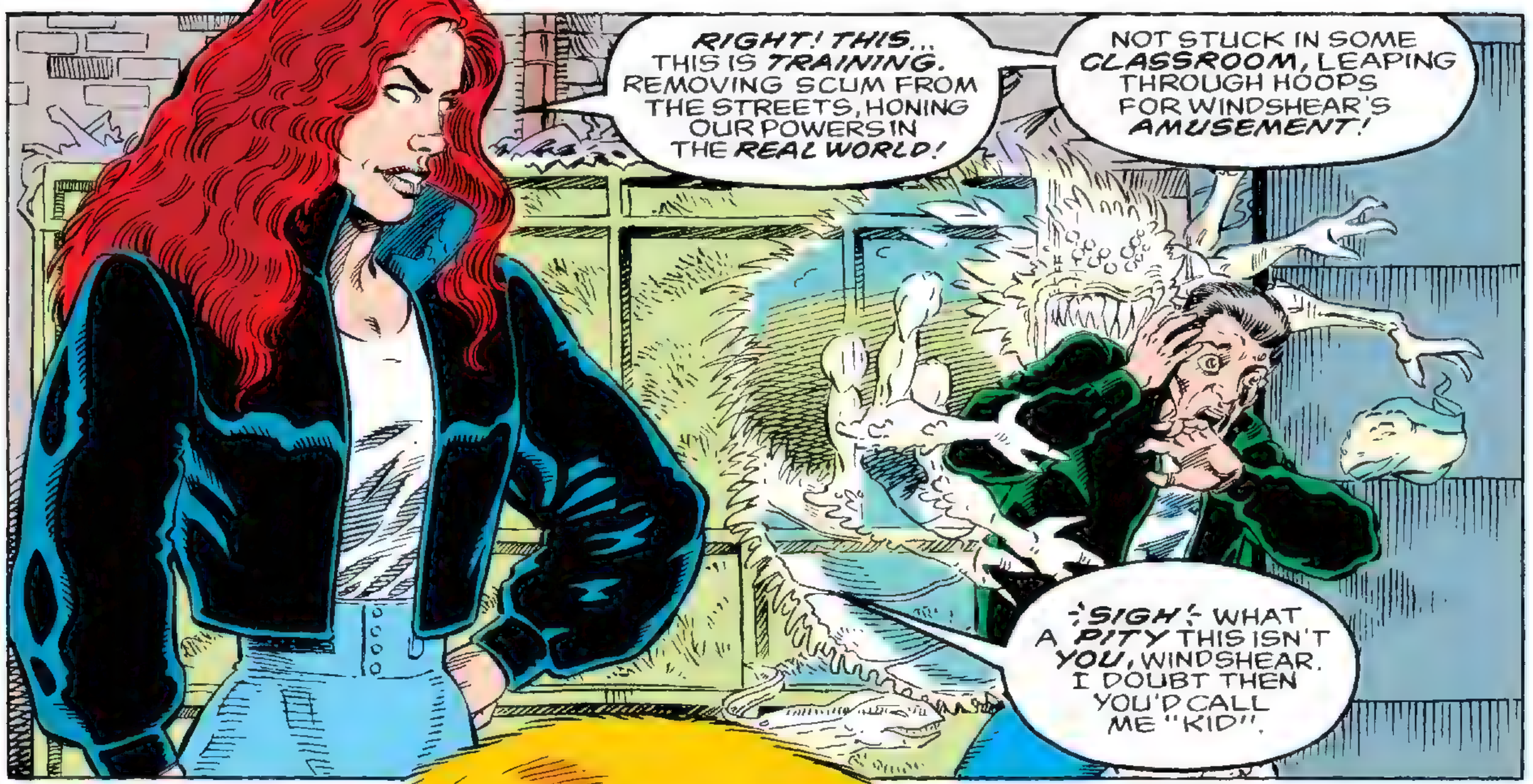
--THEY'RE GONE, TOO!
AT LEAST, THAT'S THE THEORY...

NICE TRY, SKINNY. A LITTLE HARDER, YOUR LITTLE STORM MIGHT EVEN HAVE BUDGED ME.
Y'SEE, WE WERE BRIEFED. I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING DEEP DOWN. JUST AS I KNOW THIS EFFORT MUST BE TAKING ALL YOU GOT IN RESERVE. AN' AGAINST ME--

--IT AIN'T ENOUGH!
THRAK!

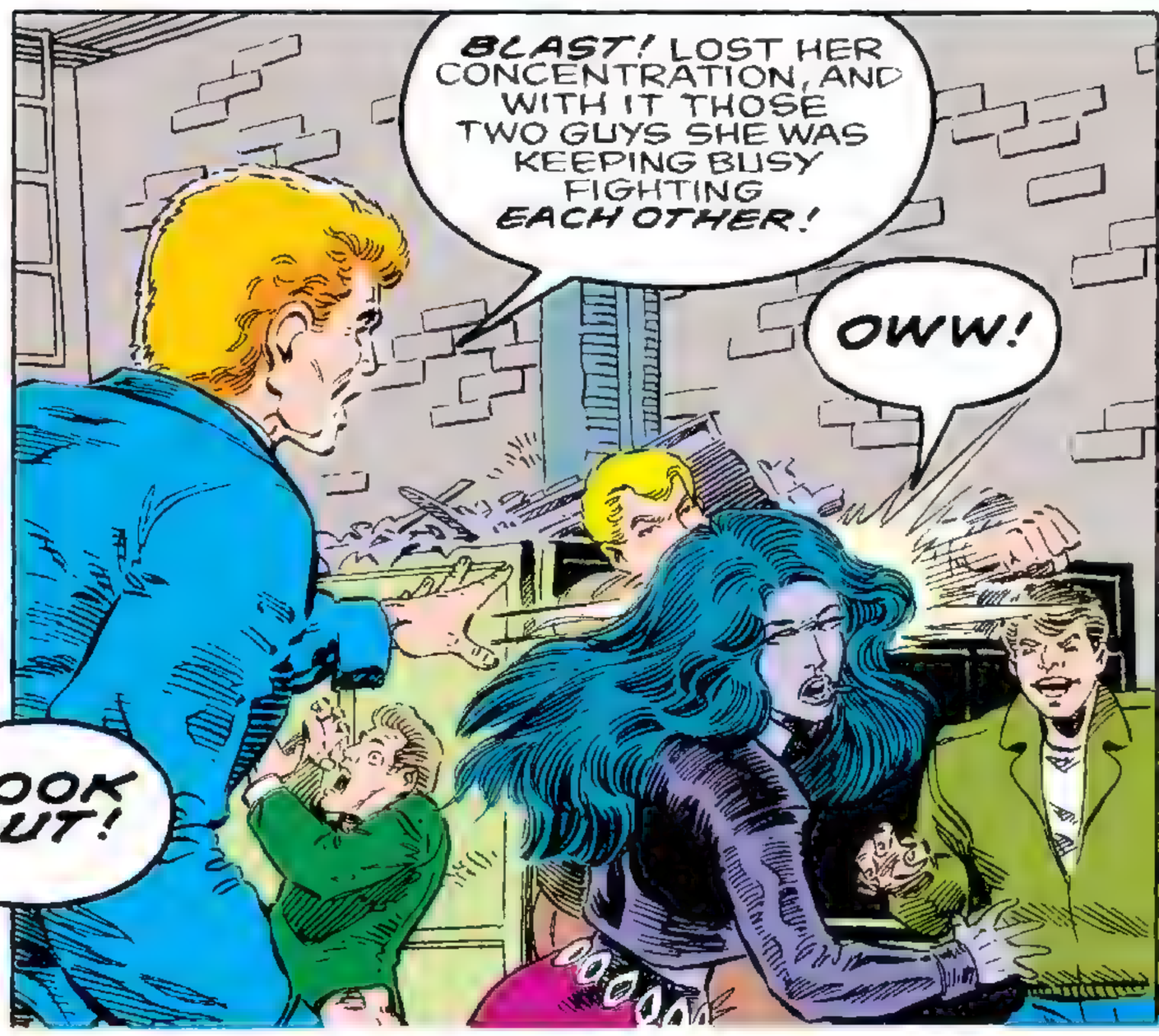

BUNCH'A SCRAWNY, USELESS--
SHUT UP!
BRAIN PRAIN...
...TEAR THEM SCREAMING FROM HER SKULL!


BEYOND THE MALLS, AND THE GLEAMING TOWERS, IN ONE OF TORONTO'S LESS SALUBRIOUS WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOODS...
GIRLS, THIS IS NOT WHAT I THOUGHT YOU MEANT--
--BY A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!
THEY ARE GAMMA (NEE BETA) FLIGHT, ALPHA'S RESERVE TEAM OF PARANORMAL OPERATIVES, AND RIGHT NOW...
BUBI
...THEY'RE NOT HAPPY CAMPERS!
OH RIGHT, YOU'D RATHER BE STUCK AT DEPARTMENT H, WOULD YOU? TRAINING?
THE NERVE OF WINDSHEAR, CALLING US AMATEURS, CONFINING US TO BASE! HASN'T BEEN AN ALPHAN FIVE MINUTES AND HE THINKS HE CAN TELL US WHAT TO DO!
KARA...
THAT'S PERSUASION, MANIKIN. OUT OF UNIFORM WE MAY BE, DEMOTED TO GAMMAS EVEN--BUT WE ARE ON DUTY!


RIGHT! THIS... THIS IS TRAINING. REMOVING SCUM FROM THE STREETS, HONING OUR POWERS IN THE REAL WORLD!
NOT STUCK IN SOME CLASSROOM, LEAPING THROUGH HOOPS FOR WINDSHEAR'S AMUSEMENT!
-SIGH- WHAT A PITY THIS ISN'T YOU, WINDSHEAR. I DOUBT THEN YOU'D CALL ME "KID".

WITCHFIRE, LOOK--
LOOK AT IT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW...
ALL WINDSHEAR SAW WAS A PANICKED RETREAT FROM AN ENEMY* HE MANAGED-- LUCKILY, GRANTED--TO BLOW AWAY WITH ONE BLAST OF SOLID AIR.
IT DIDN'T LOOK... WELL, TOO PROFESSIONAL--
* THE DREAM QUEEN'S DREAM DEMONS, AS SEEN LAST ISSUE.

OH RIGHT! SIDE WITH HIM! DIDN'T REALIZE YOU TWO HAD GOT QUITE SO PALLY WHILE WE WERE AWAY FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES IN LIVEWORLD--
KA-KARA...


BLAST! LOST HER CONCENTRATION, AND WITH IT THOSE TWO GUYS SHE WAS KEEPING BUSY FIGHTING EACH OTHER!
OWW!
LOOK OUT!

THAT, GUYS... WAS NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!

FROM A COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS SPANNING **PRE-HISTORY** TO **FAR FUTURE**, WHITMAN KNAPP SUMMONS FORTH VERSIONS OF HIMSELF...

HIGHBROW...

APEMAN, PROTO...

...THE REST IS **INSTINCT**, HALF FORMED THOUGHTS TRANSFORMED INSTANTLY AND UNQUESTIONINGLY...

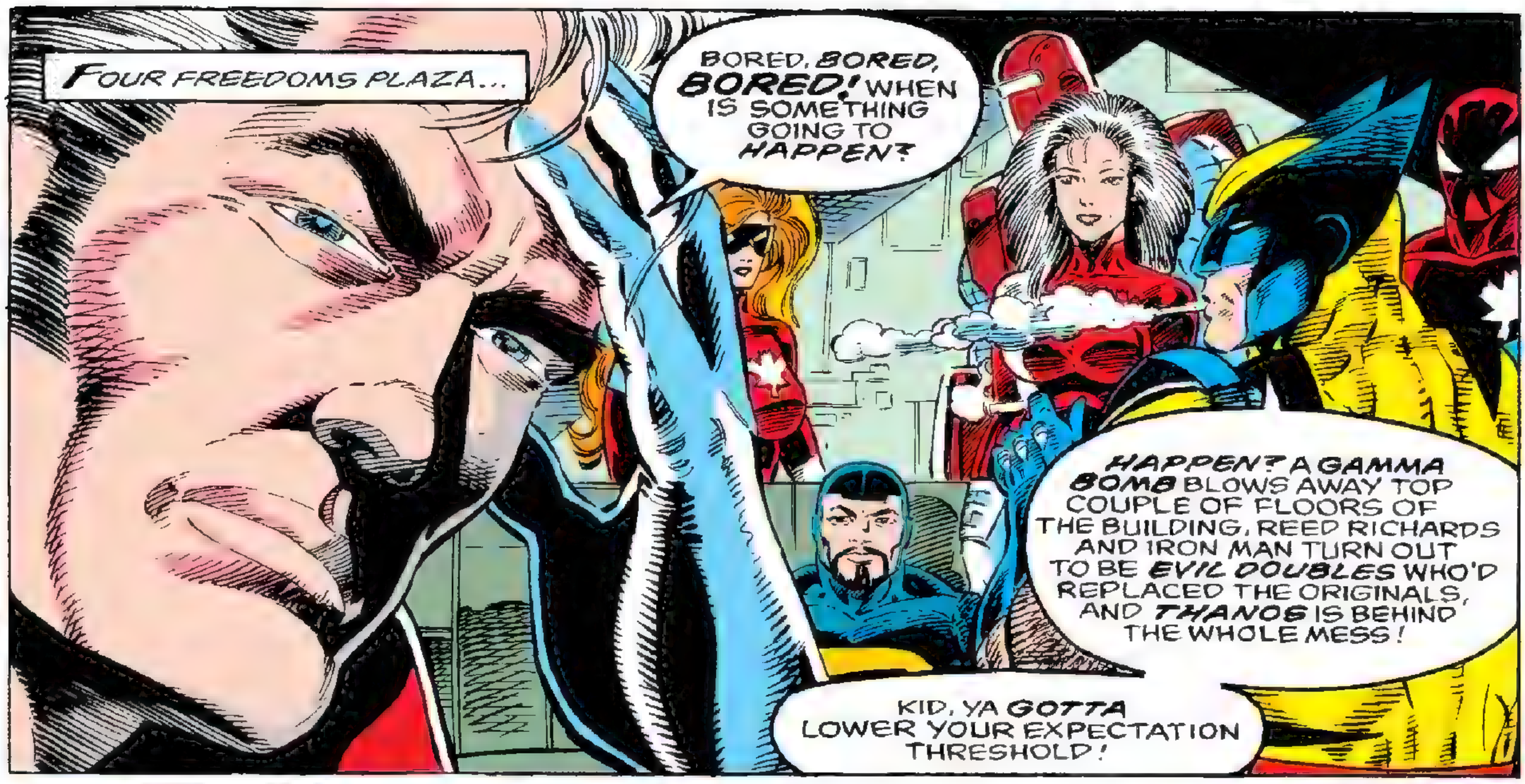
...INTO ACTION!

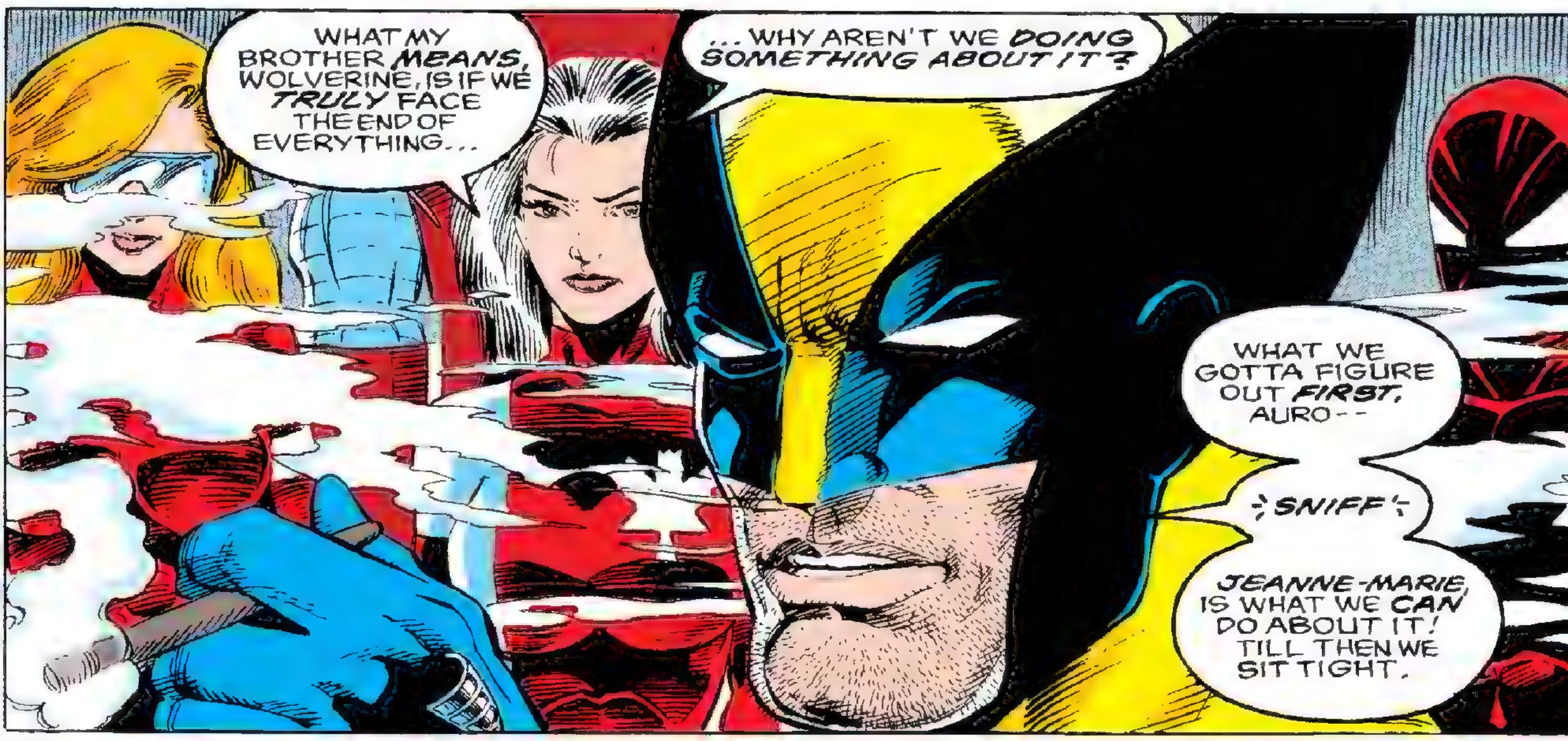
THERE NOW. WASN'T SO **PAINFUL**, WAS IT? ADMIT IT, MANIKIN -- YOU **ENJOYED** THAT!

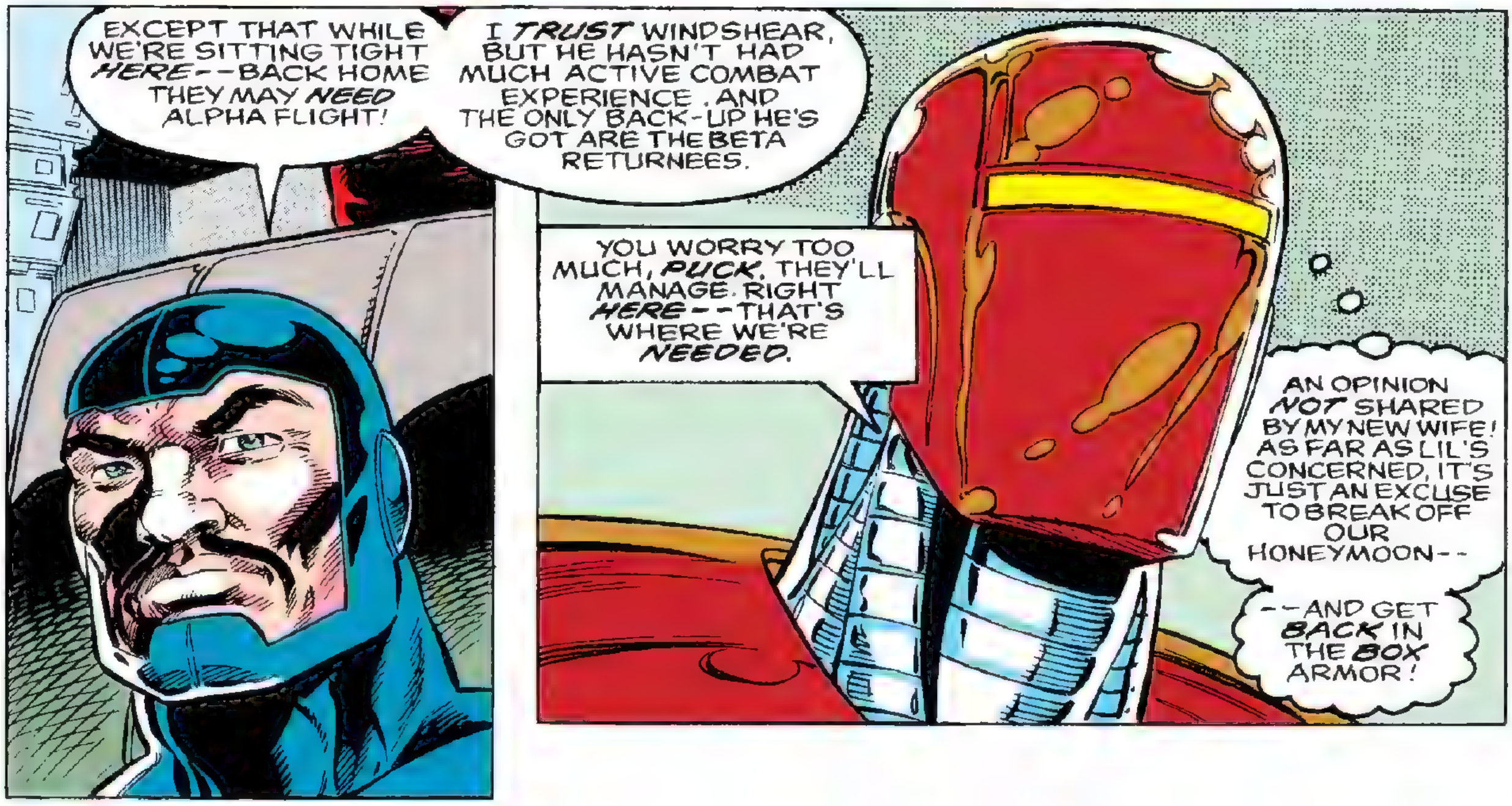
SURE BUT, WINDSHEAR -- OR ANY OF THE CORE TEAM FOR THAT MATTER -- WOULD STILL **BUST A GUT** IF THEY KNEW WE WERE OUT HERE **WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION**.

I KNOW. MAKES IT **ALL THE BETTER** SOMEHOW. ANYWAY...

...WHY SHOULD THE CORE TEAM HAVE ALL THE **FUN**?


FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
BORED, BORED, BORED! WHEN IS SOMETHING GOING TO HAPPEN?
HAPPEN? A GAMMA BOMB BLOWS AWAY TOP COUPLE OF FLOORS OF THE BUILDING, REED RICHARDS AND IRON MAN TURN OUT TO BE EVIL DOUBLES WHO'D REPLACED THE ORIGINALS, AND THANOS IS BEHIND THE WHOLE MESS!
KID, YA GOTTA LOWER YOUR EXPECTATION THRESHOLD!


WHAT MY BROTHER MEANS, WOLVERINE, IS IF WE TRULY FACE THE END OF EVERYTHING...
...WHY AREN'T WE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
WHAT WE GOTTA FIGURE OUT FIRST, AURO--
:SNIFF:
JEANNE-MARIE, IS WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT! TILL THEN WE SIT TIGHT.


EXCEPT THAT WHILE WE'RE SITTING TIGHT HERE--BACK HOME THEY MAY NEED ALPHA FLIGHT!
I TRUST WINDSHEAR, BUT HE HASN'T HAD MUCH ACTIVE COMBAT EXPERIENCE, AND THE ONLY BACK-UP HE'S GOT ARE THE BETA RETURNEES.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, PUCK. THEY'LL MANAGE. RIGHT HERE--THAT'S WHERE WE'RE NEEDED.
AN OPINION NOT SHARED BY MY NEW WIFE! AS FAR AS LIL'S CONCERNED, IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO BREAK OFF OUR HONEYMOON--
--AND GET BACK IN THE BOX ARMOR!

WAY I FIGURE IT, WE LOSE *THIS* ONE, WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW--

--AIN'T GONNA MAKE A *BLIND BIT 'A DIFFERENCE!*

HN! IN MY OPINION, JUST WHEN YOU START THINKING THINGS *CAN'T* GET ANY WORSE...

THEY *DO.*

THANKS, EUGENE. I REALLY *NEEDED* THAT. JUST WHEN I FINALLY CONVINCE MYSELF WE CAN REALLY *CUT IT* AS A TEAM, STAND TALL WITH THE OTHERS AGAINST JUST ABOUT *ANY* THREAT...

YOU GO AND MAKE ME START *DOUBTING* AGAIN!

NO. THAT'S NOT FAIR. IT'S *YOU*, MICHAEL-- *YOU WORRY ME!*

THREE WEEKS ON THE MISSING LIST AND SUDDENLY YOU TURN UP *HERE!* NO EXPLANATIONS, NO *NOTHING!* WE USED TO BE SO *CLOSE*, AND *NOW*--NOW YOU'RE LIKE A *STRANGER!*

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

HEADS UP, PEOPLE. WE'RE READYING AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO SEND AFTER THANOS.

AND?

YOU'RE ON IT. YOU TOO, SASQUATCH. AND YOU, WOLVERINE. SHAMAN--YOU'RE NEEDED WITH THE OTHER MYSTICS.

WORD OF WARNING BEFORE I GO. THERE'S NOT A MASK IN THE WORLD CAN HIDE A SCENT FROM ME. I KNOW WHO AND WHAT ARE! OTHERS TRUST YOU, THAT'S FINE.

ME, I'M GOING TO BE KEEPING A VERY CLOSE EYE ON YOU...

TORONTO...

SOME SATURDAY NIGHT THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE! IT'S LIKE A GHOST TOWN!

SOMETHING...

BAR

...IS WRONG HERE. VERY WRONG!

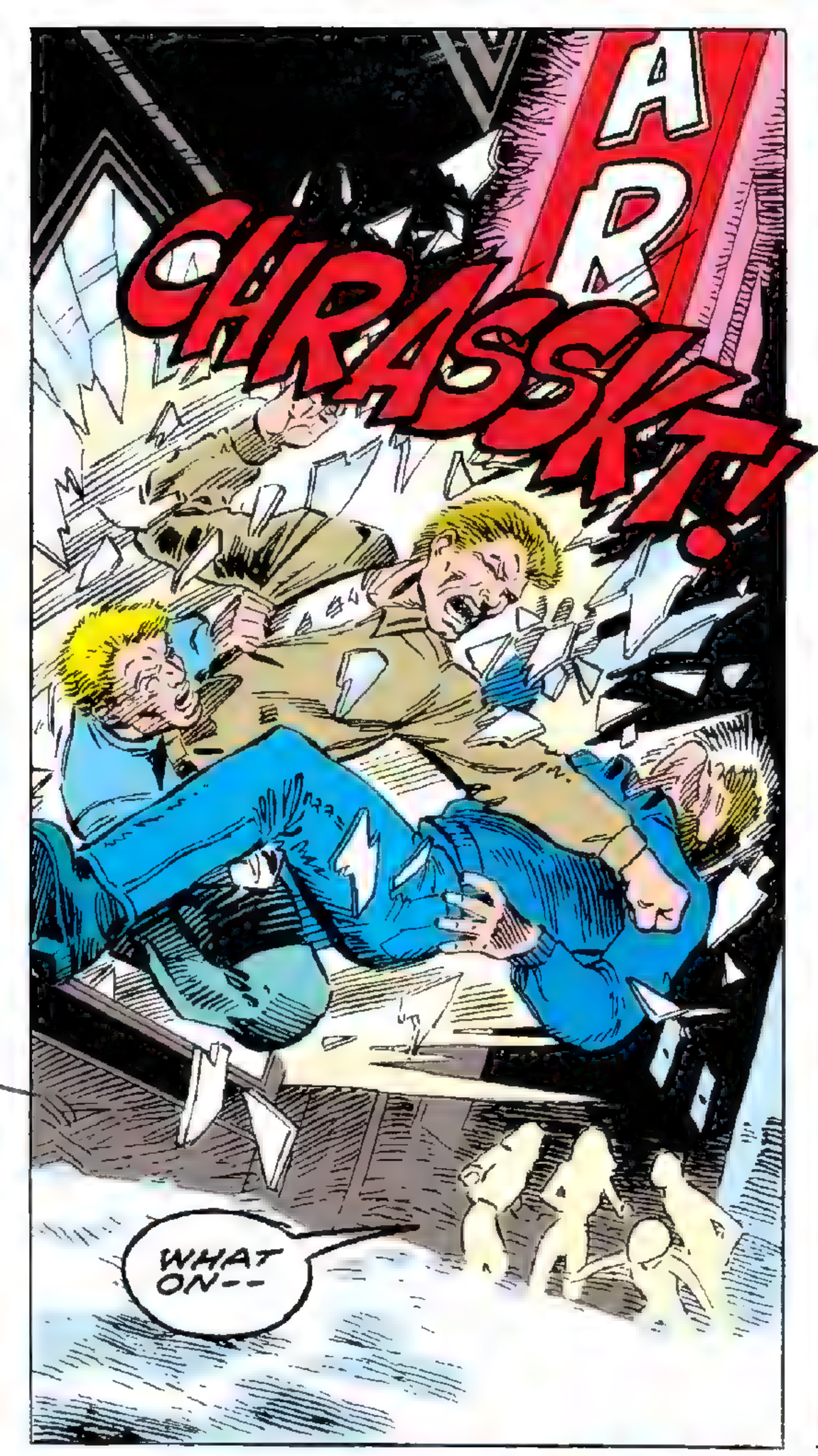
GOBLYN, SHE SENSES...

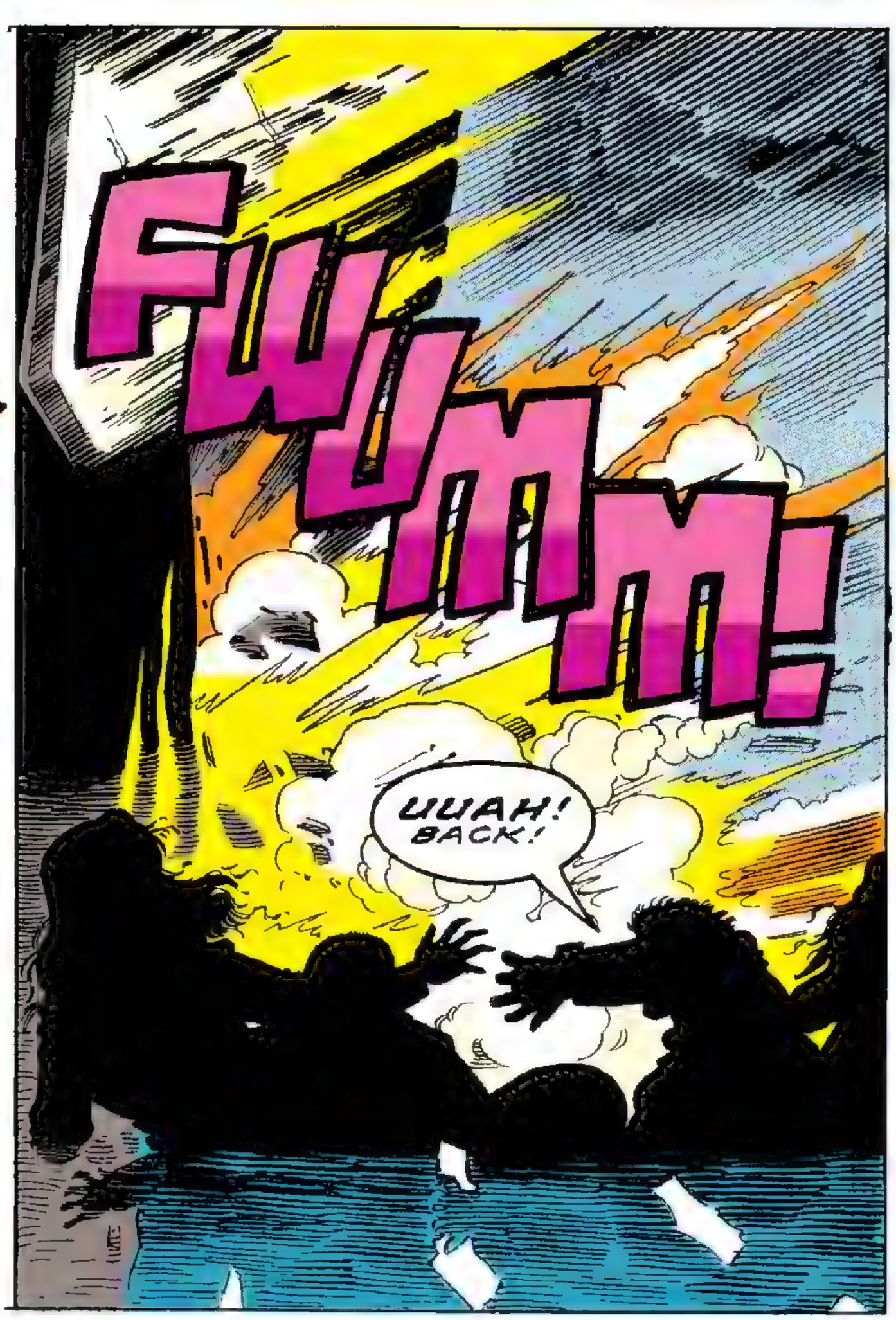
RRRR!

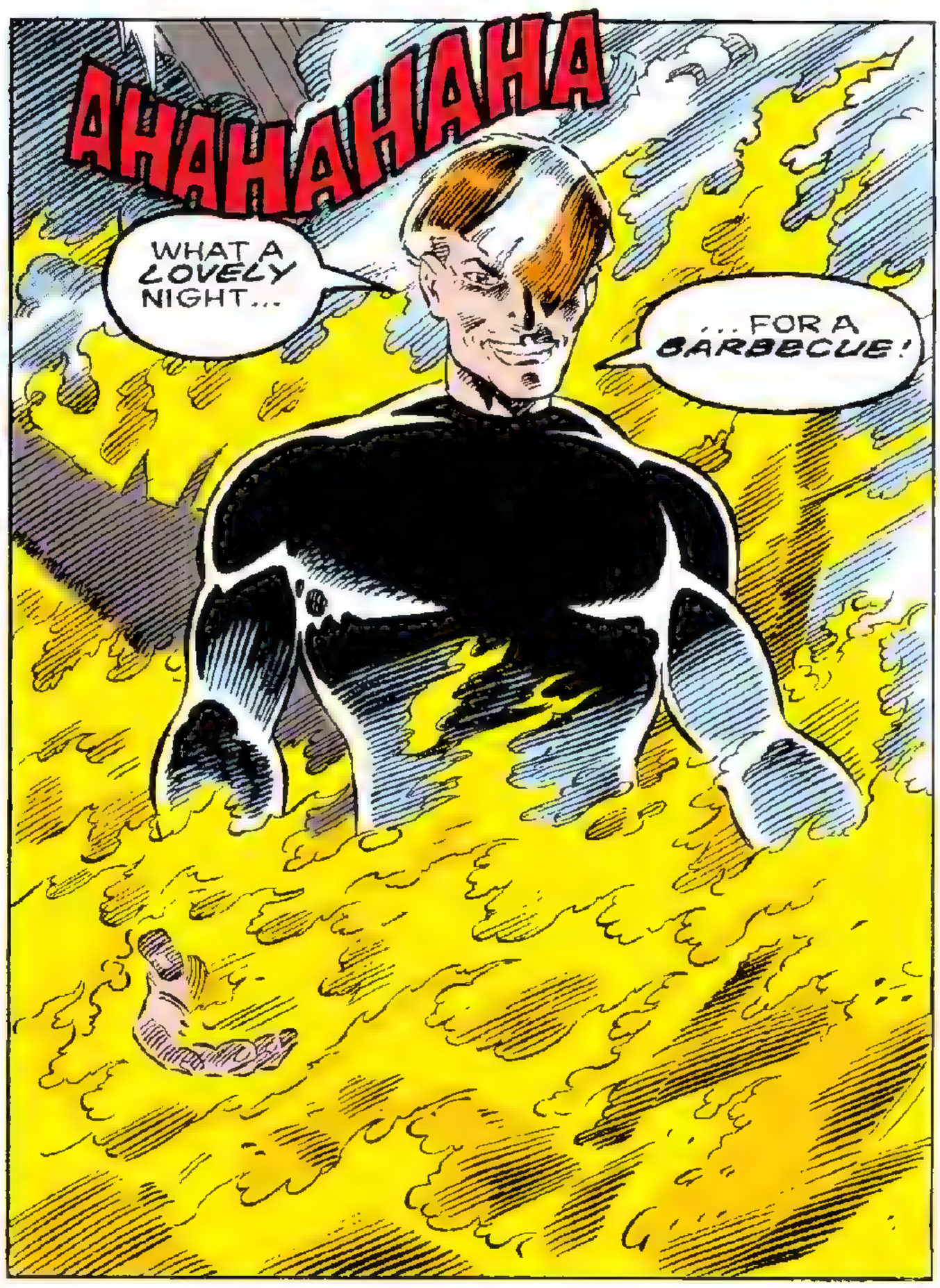
SENSES WHAT, LAURA? WHAT DOES YOUR SISTER--

A SMELL. LIKE...LIKE A FRESHLY OPENED CRYPT...

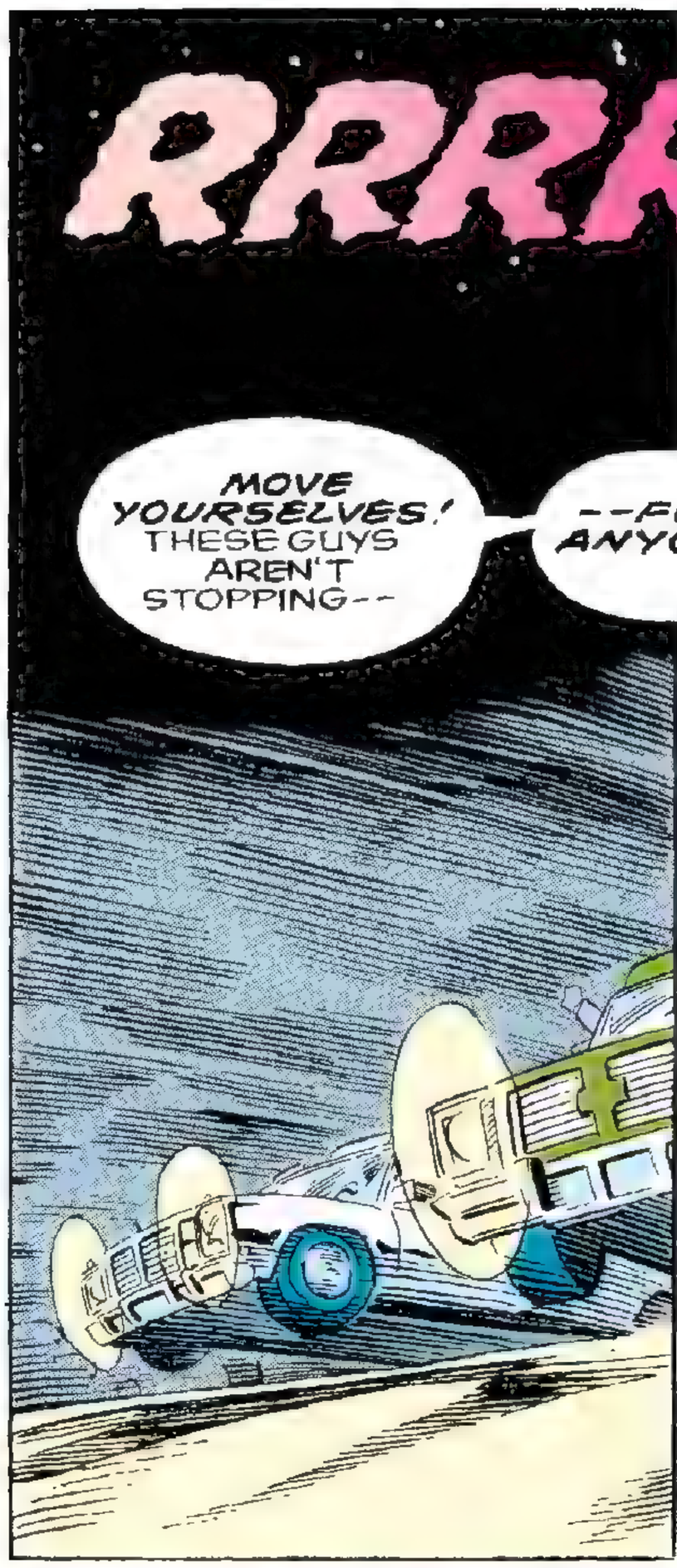
RRRA!

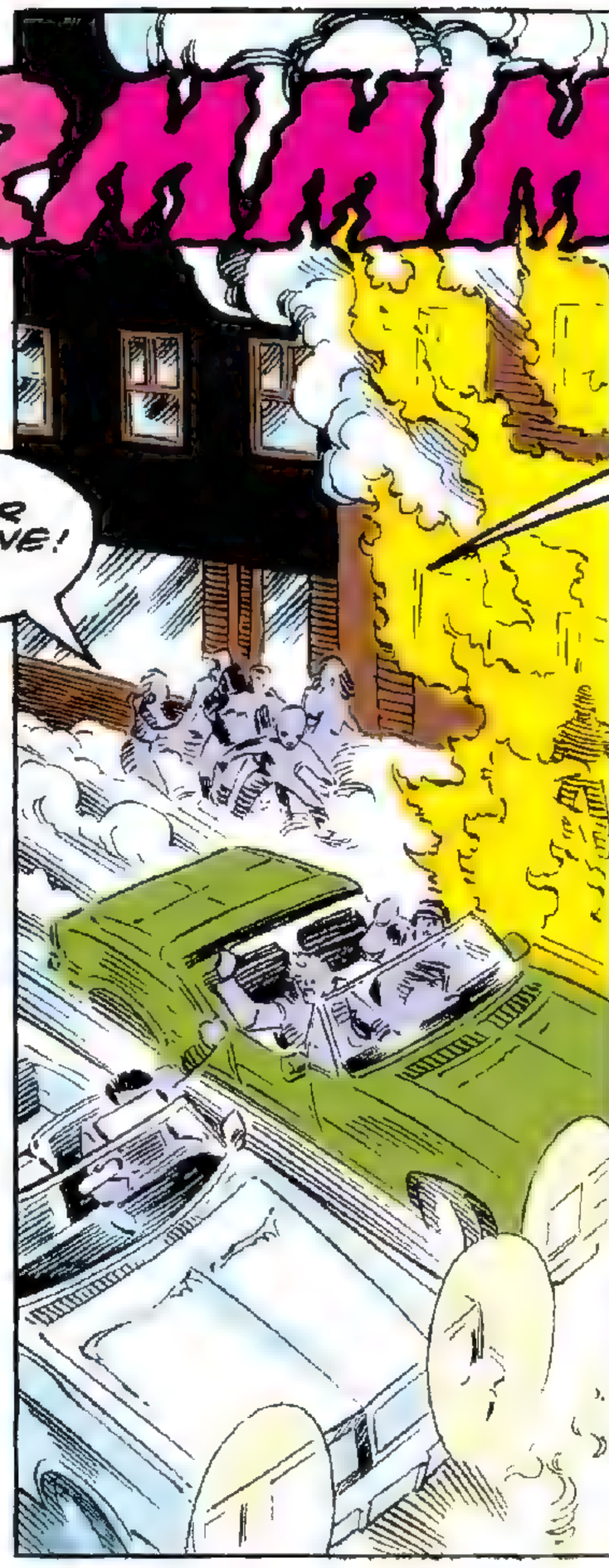

ARRCHRASSK!!
WHAT ON--


FWUMM!
UUAH! BACK!

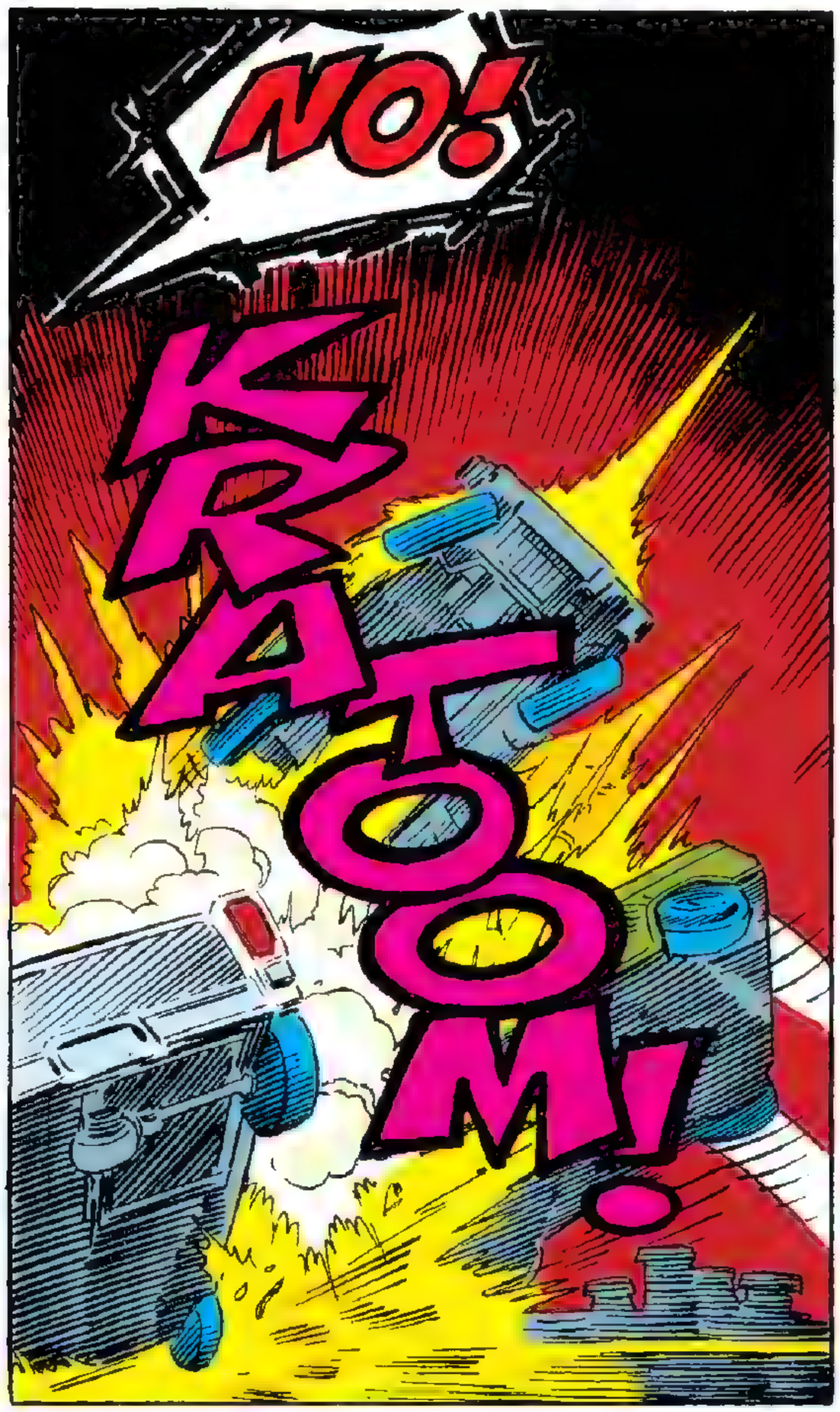

AHAHAHAHA
WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT...
...FOR A BARBECUE!

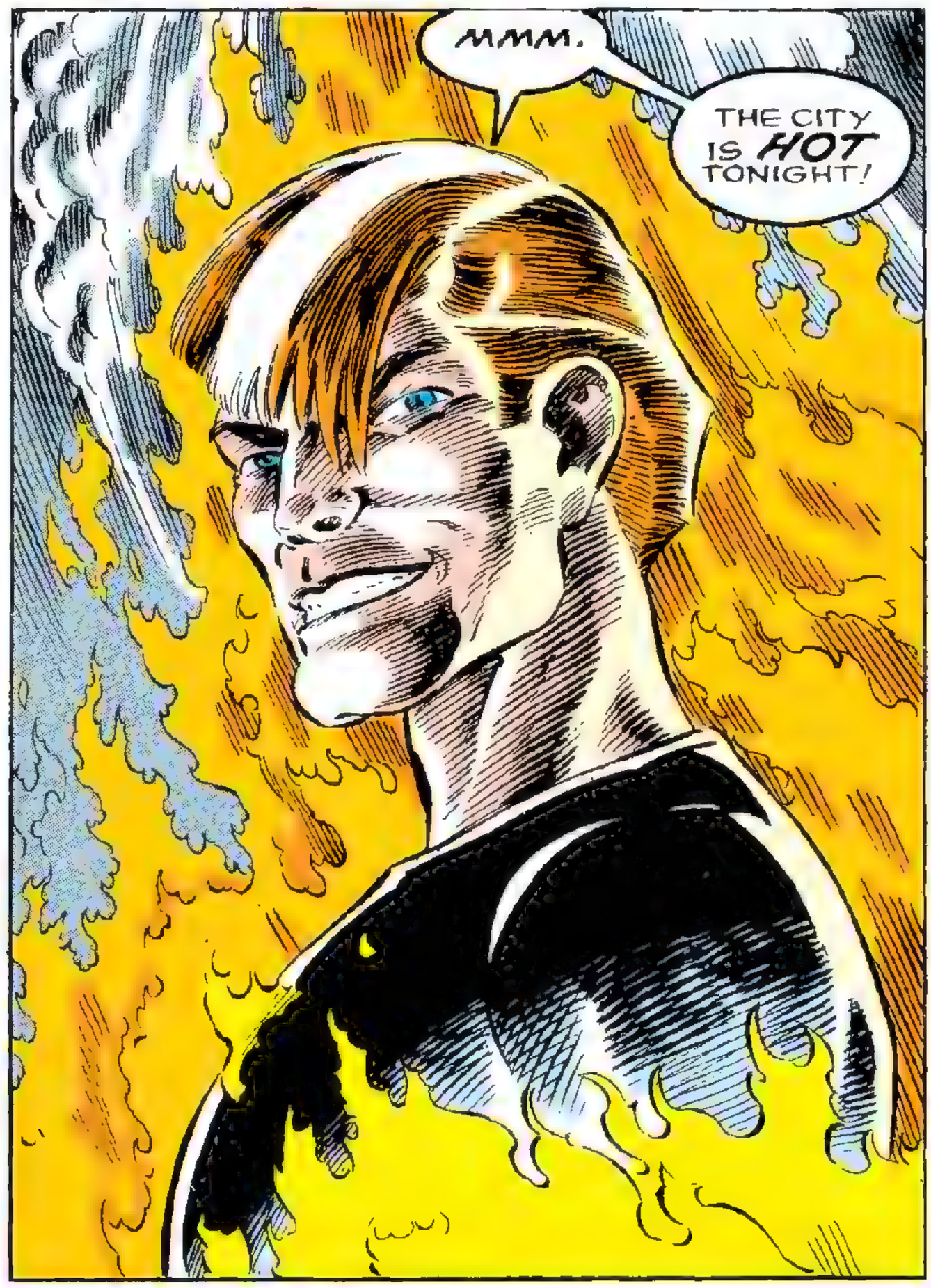
WHAT
IS
THAT?
HE'S JUST STANDING THERE, BURNING...?
NO, THE FLAMES... THEY'RE HIS!
BAR
AWRRRR


MOVE YOURSELVES! THESE GUYS AREN'T STOPPING--


RRRRMMM!
--FOR ANYONE!

DID YOU SEE THEM? THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL, NOT EVEN LOOKING WHERE--
OH NO...


NO!
KRATOOM!


MMM.
THE CITY IS HOT TONIGHT!

WHAT... WHAT IS *HAPPENING?* ONE MOMENT IT'S DEATHLY QUIET, THE NEXT--

--IT'S A *MADHOUSE!*

HSSSA!

THERE'S SOMETHING *MORE* HERE! THIS...*ISN'T NATURAL!*

MAYBE. BUT RIGHT NOW, WE DEAL WITH WHAT WE CAN *SEE!*

LIKE THIS... *FIREBUG* HERE.

LAURA'S RIGHT BEHIND THE MADNESS, A *PRESENCE*... MALEVOLENT, *TWISTED*. BUT WHO...OR *WHAT?*

MOI?

NEARBY...

THANKS FOR CALLING ME IN. HOW *IS* SHE?

PHYSICALLY...CONTUSIONS, BRUISING, A FEW BROKEN BONES. *MENTALLY*... YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE!

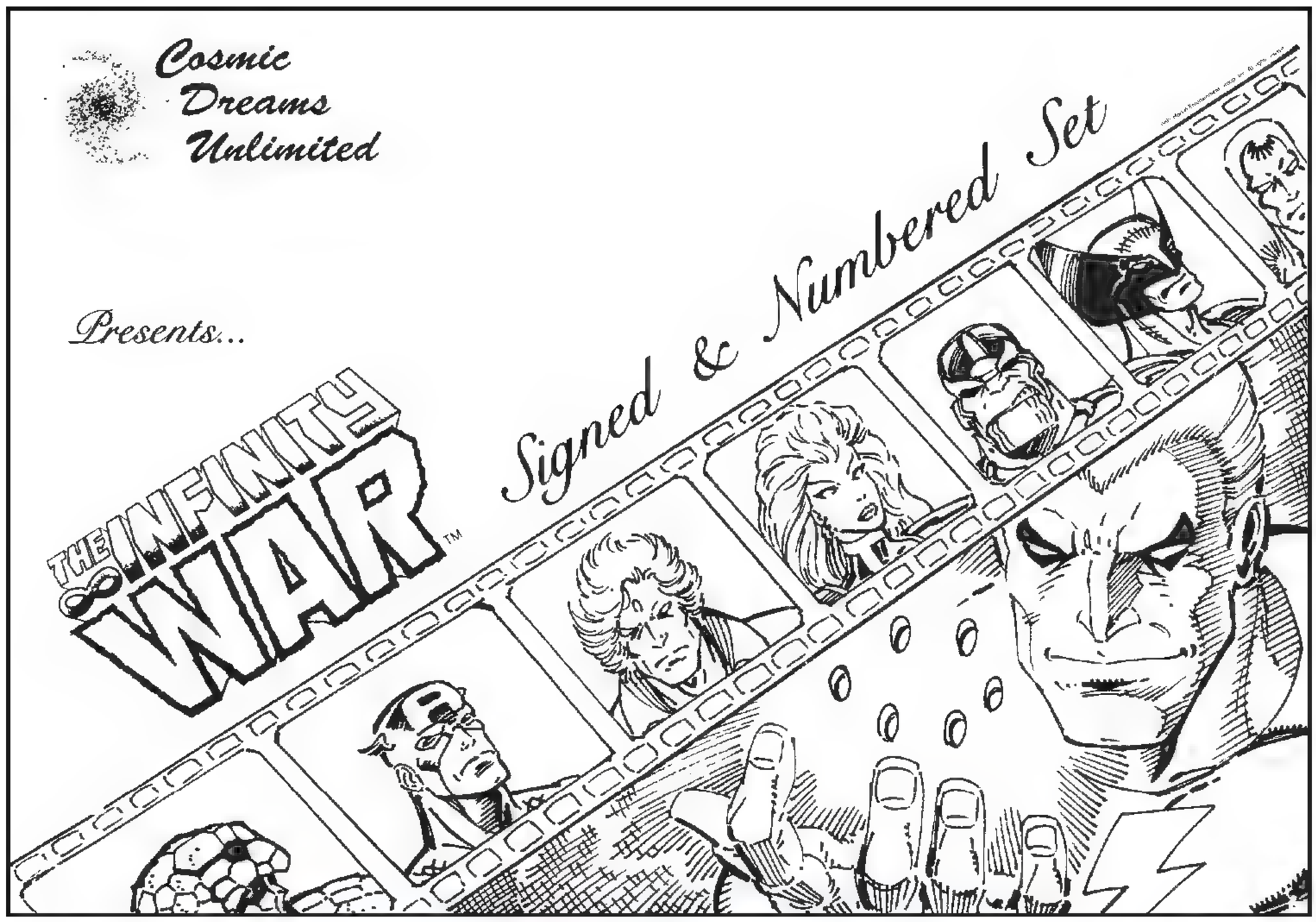
TALISMAN! CAN YOU *HEAR* ME? IT'S WIND--

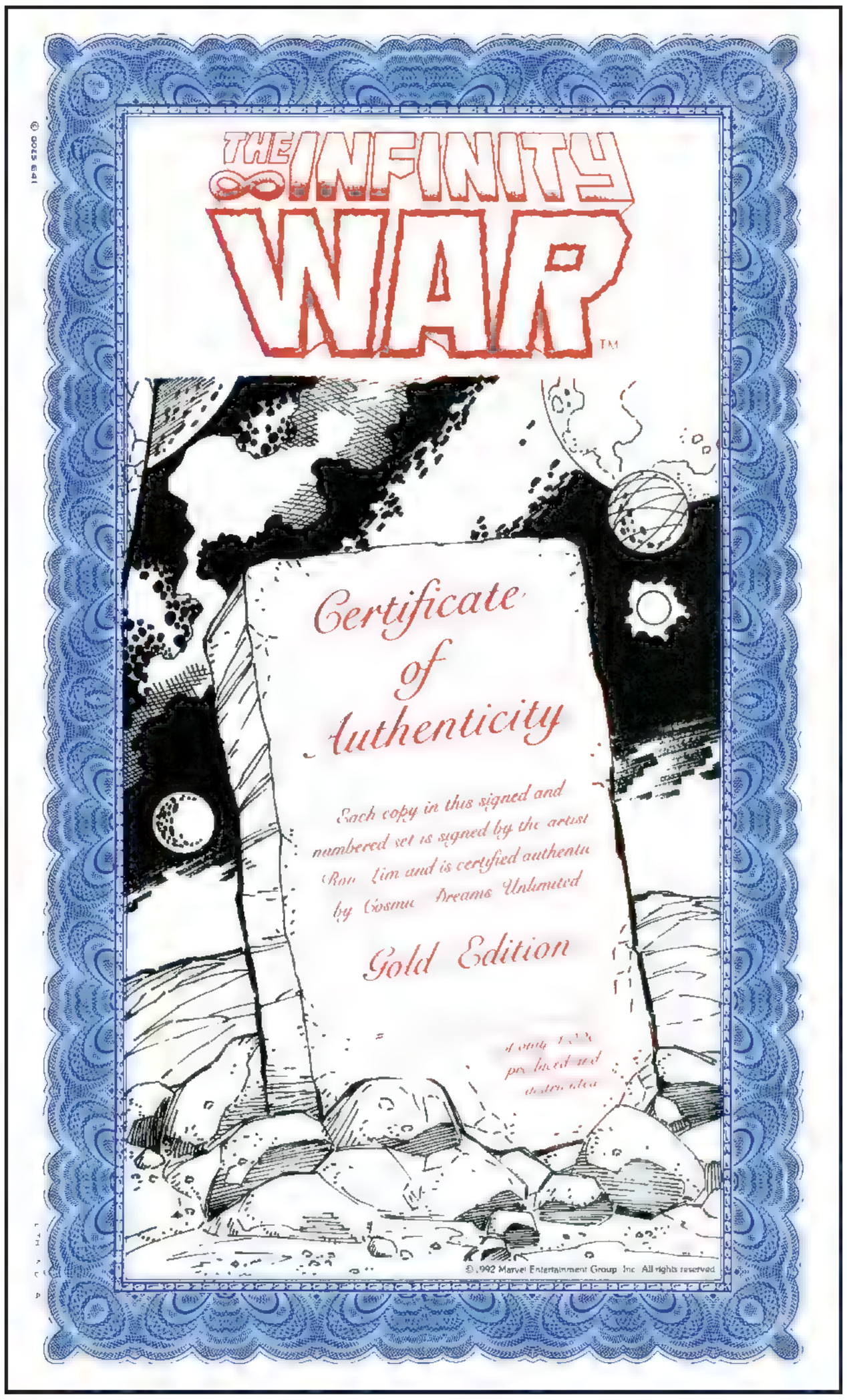
WUH-WIND *SHEAR?* LI-*LISTEN*... THEY'RE *OUT*...

GOD HELP US ALL--

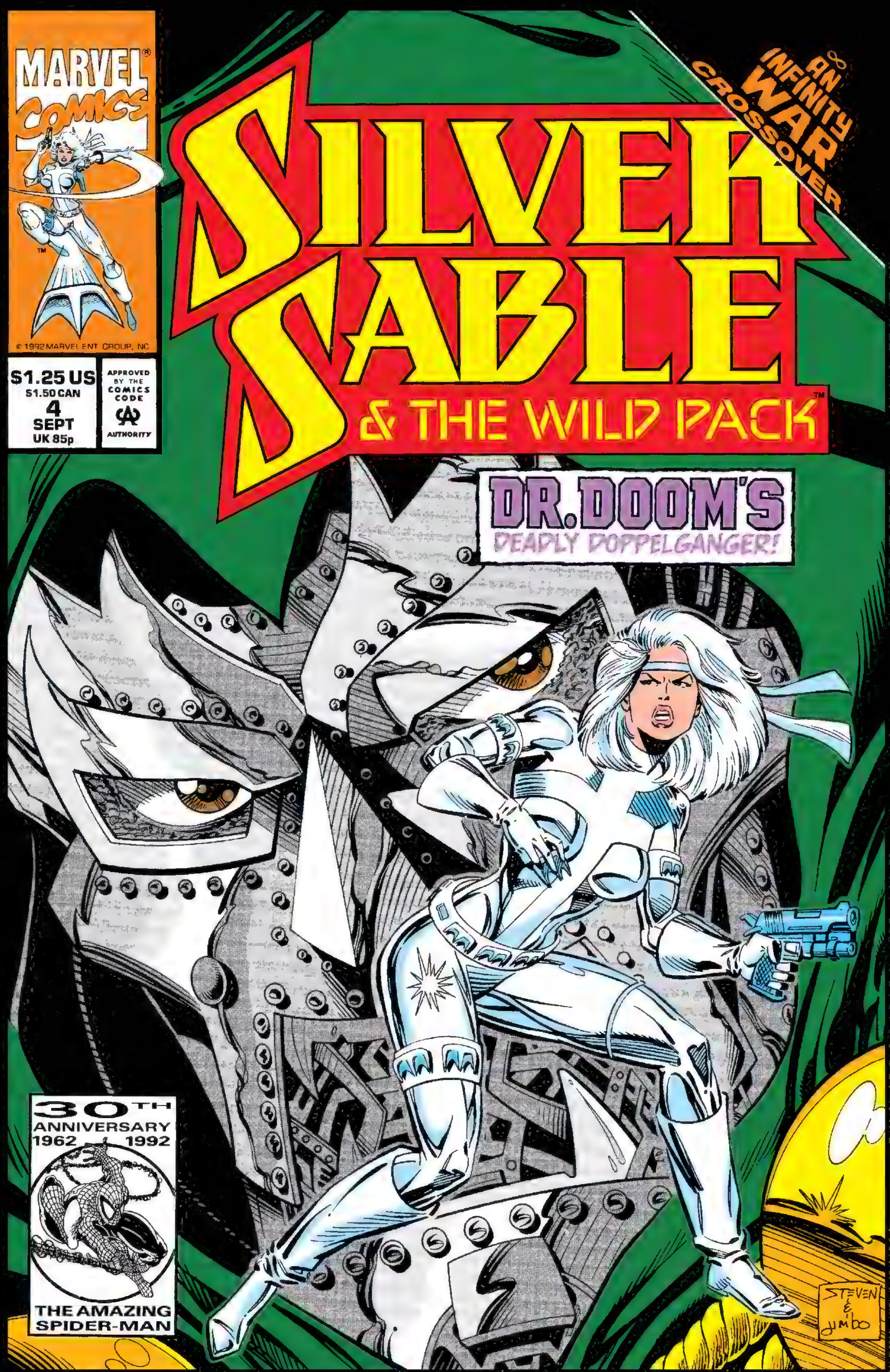
--*THEY'RE OUT!*

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!





COSMIC DREAMS UNLIMITED *INFINITY WAR* SET ENVELOPE & CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY, BOTH WITH ART BY RON LIM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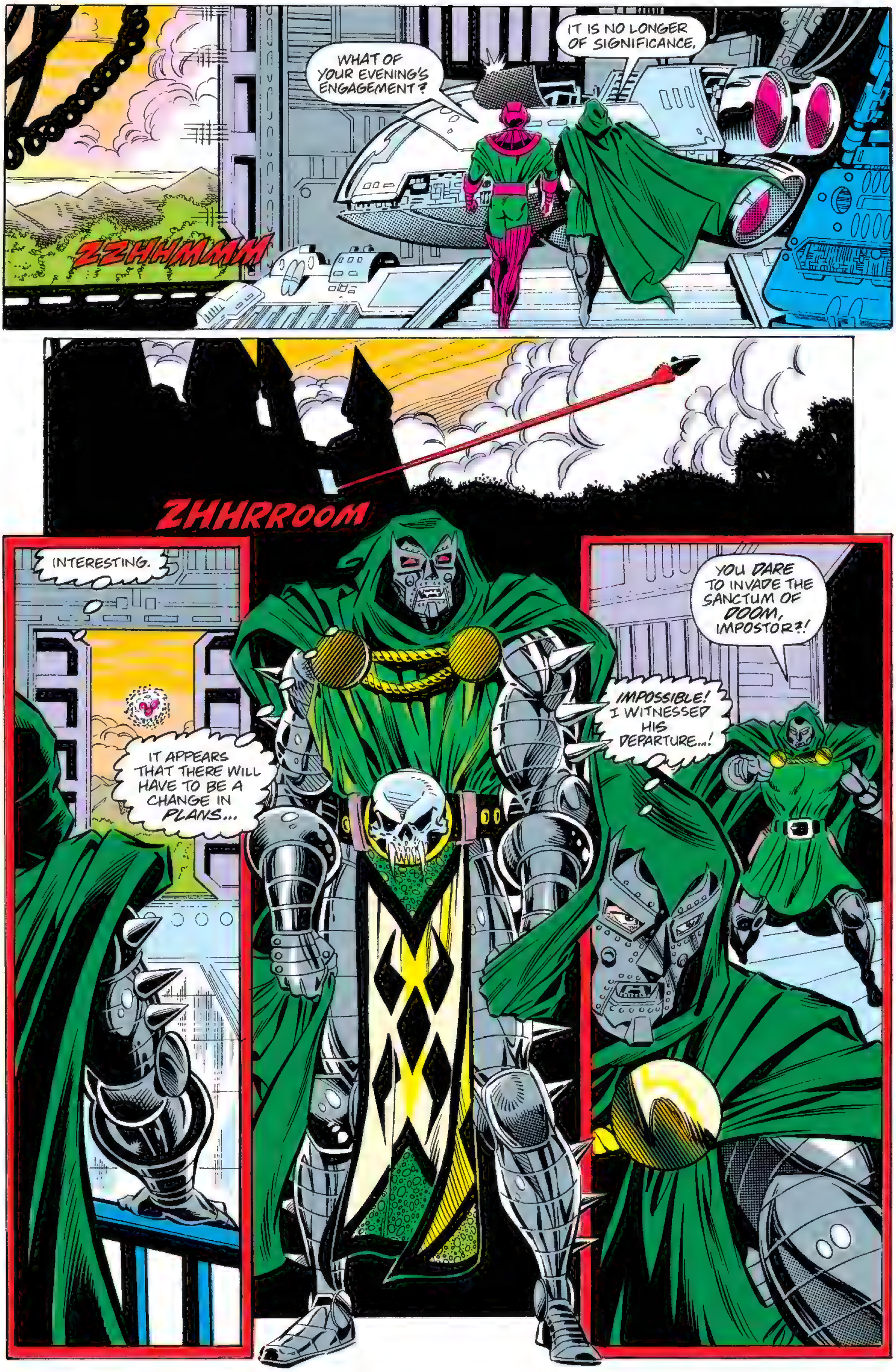
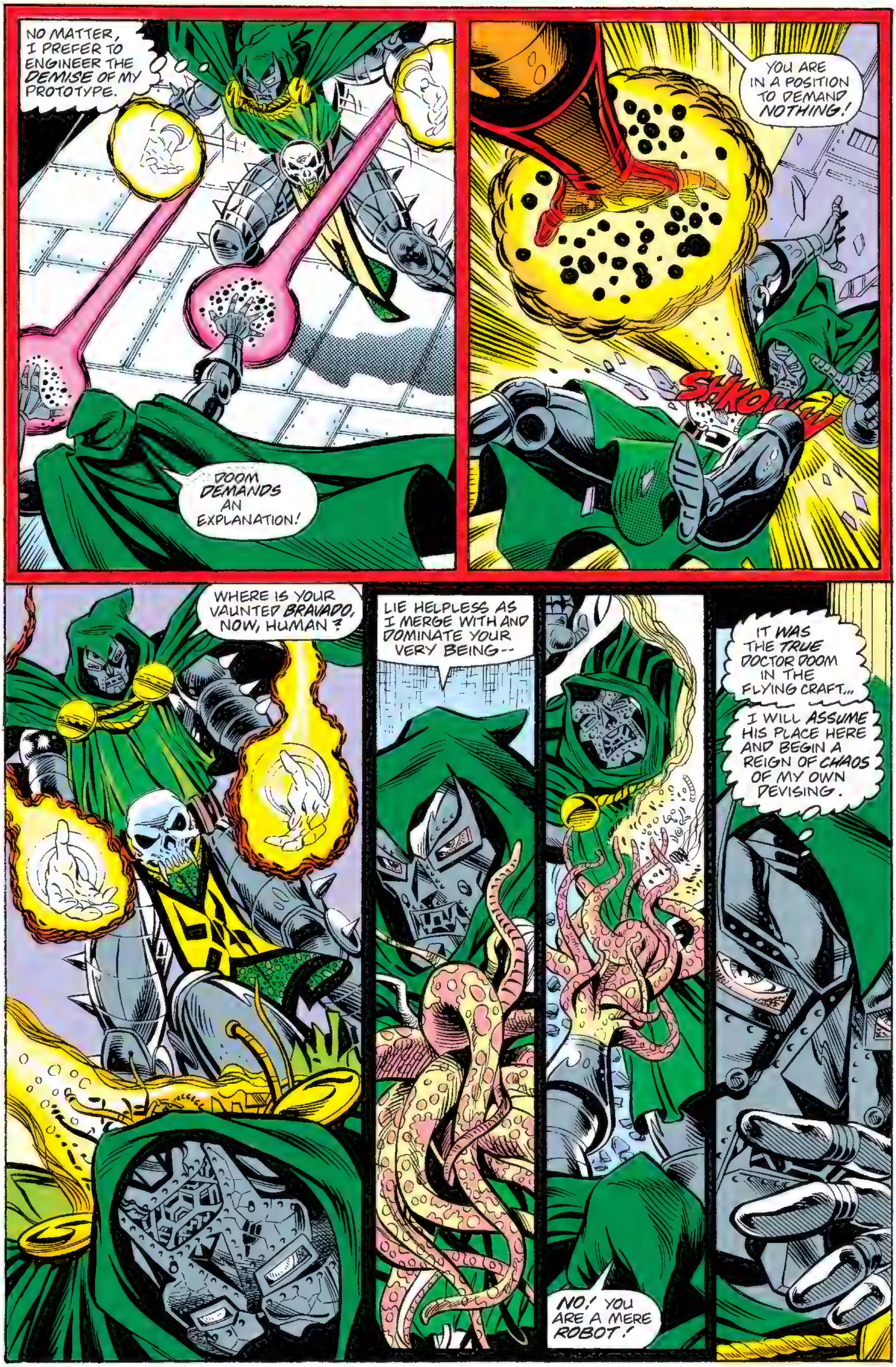
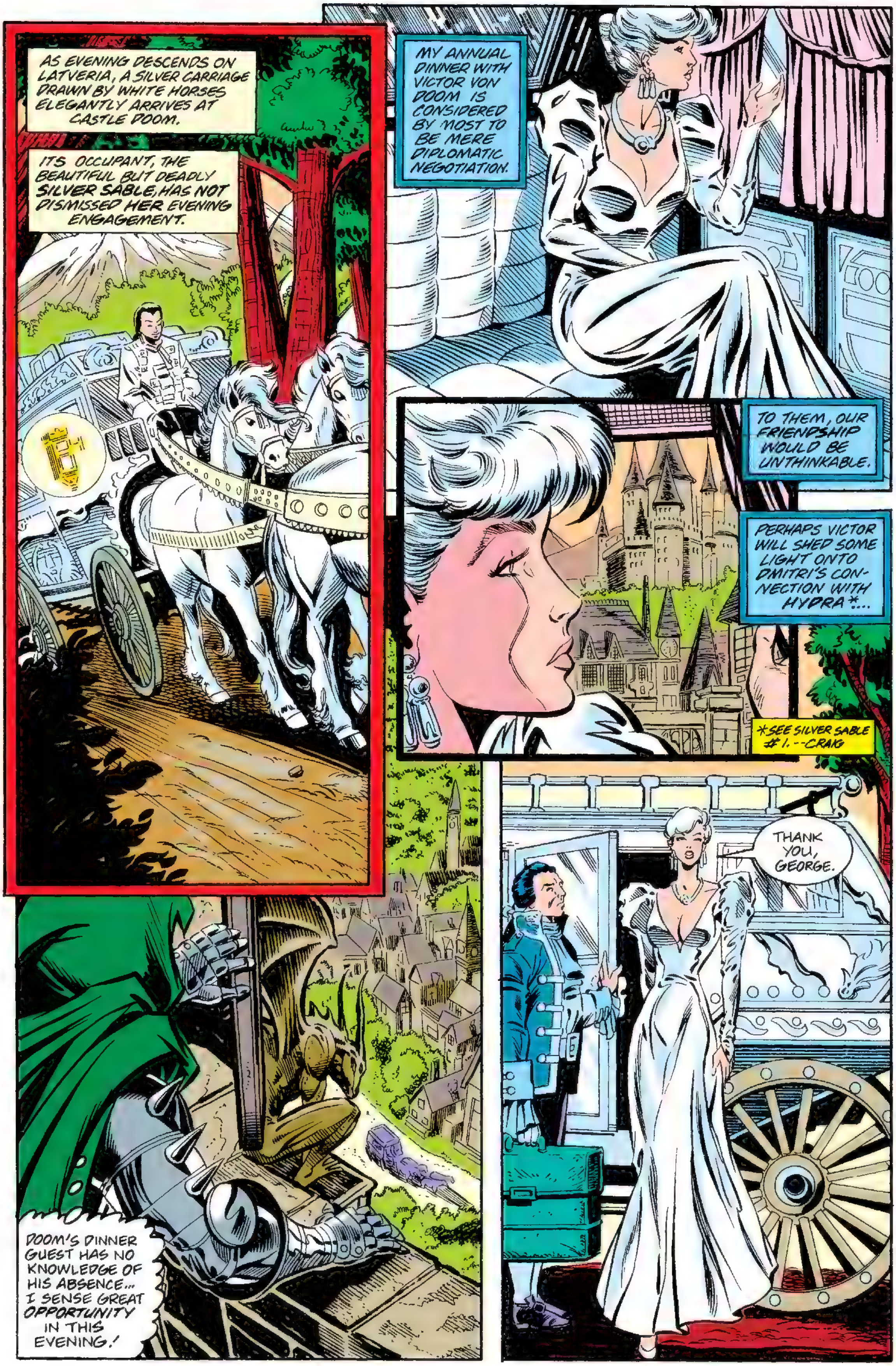
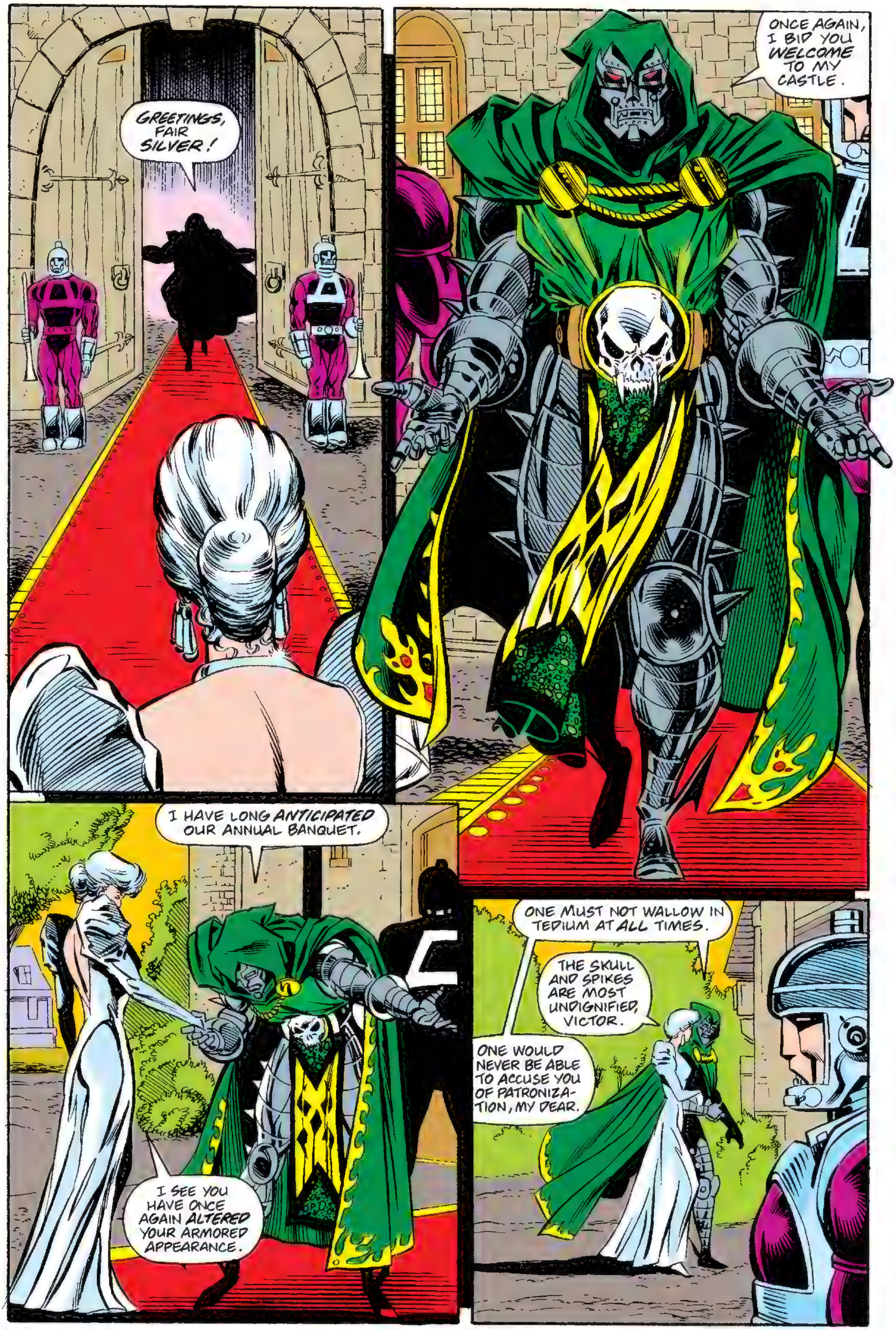
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
SILVER SABLE & THE WILD PACK
DR. DOOM'S DEADLY DOPPELGANGER!
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STEVEN & JIMBO

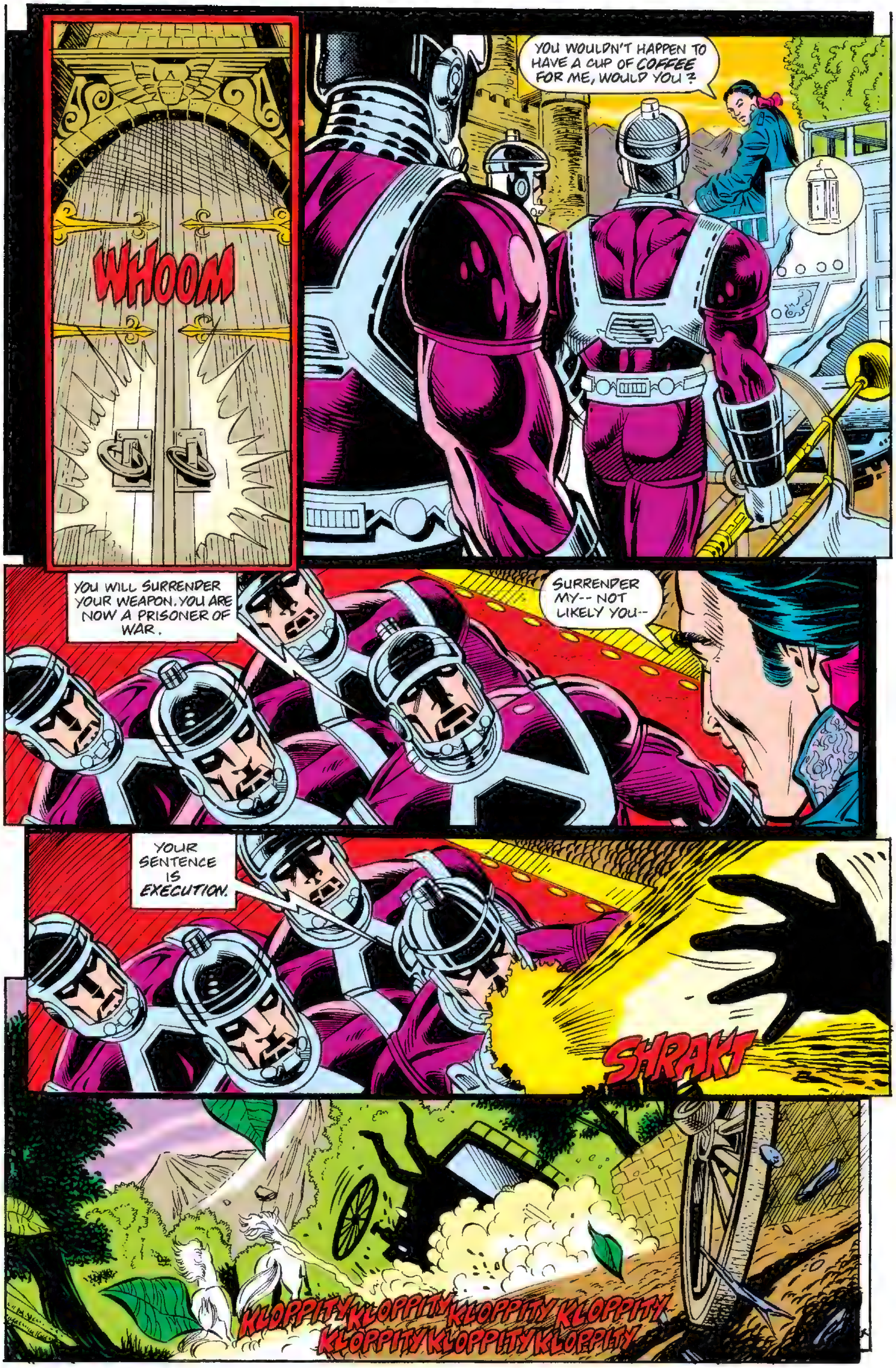
RELENTLESSLY TRAINED IN MULTIPLE FORMS OF HAND-TO-HAND AND ARMED COMBAT, **SILVER SABLE** WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE COMMAND OF HER FATHER'S PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER UNIT, THE **WILDPACK.** UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, SHE HAS SINCE TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THE ULTIMATE MERCENARY COMBAT FORCE, NOW THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF HER BELOVED HOMELAND, SYMKARIA. STAN LEE PRESENTS. . .**SILVER SABLE AND THE WILDPACK**

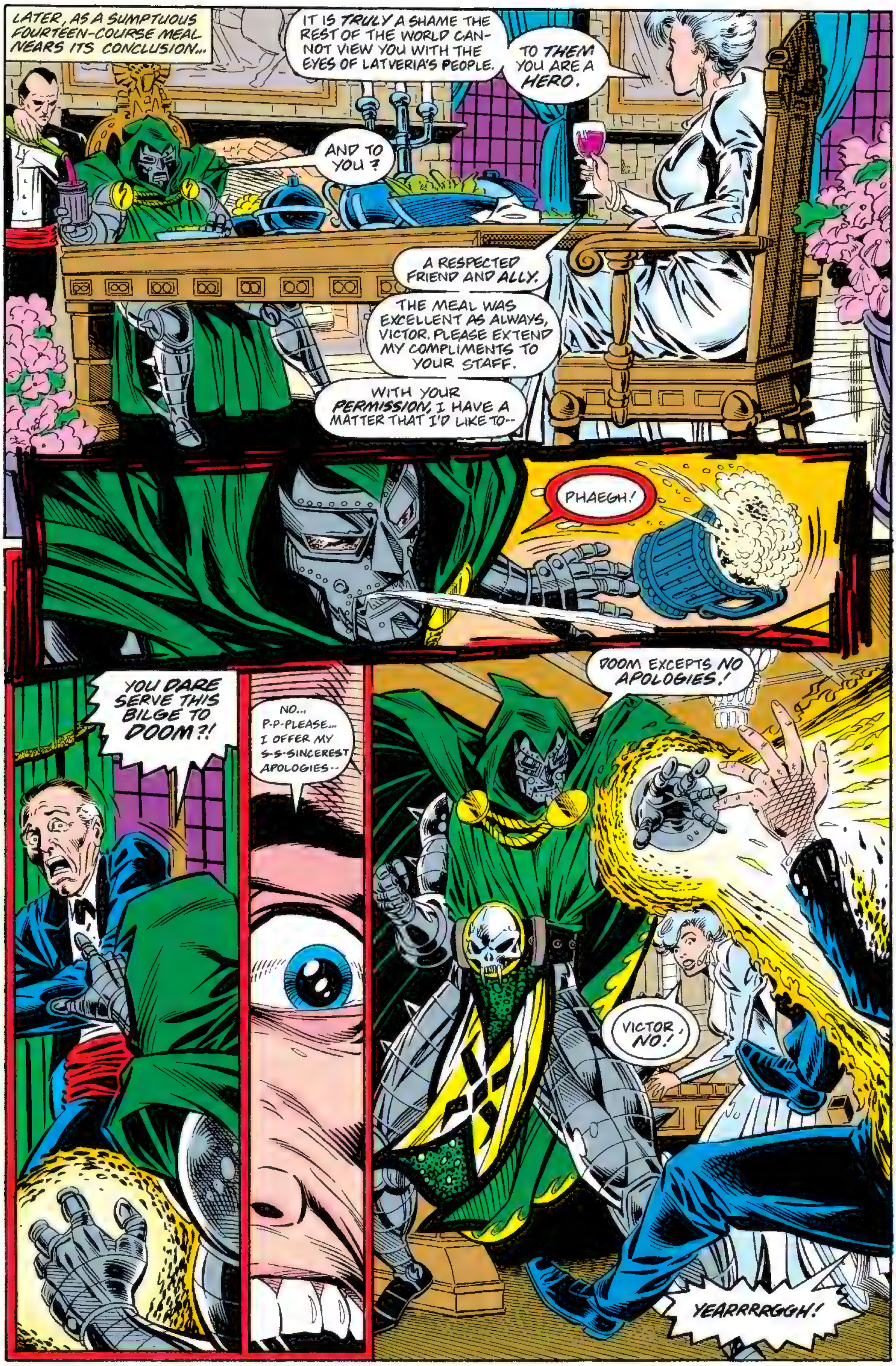

WHAT OF YOUR EVENING'S ENGAGEMENT?
IT IS NO LONGER OF SIGNIFICANCE.
ZZHHMMM
ZHHRROOM
INTERESTING.
IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A CHANGE IN PLANS...
YOU DARE TO INVADE THE SANCTUM OF DOOM, IMPOSTOR?!
IMPOSSIBLE! I WITNESSED HIS DEPARTURE...!

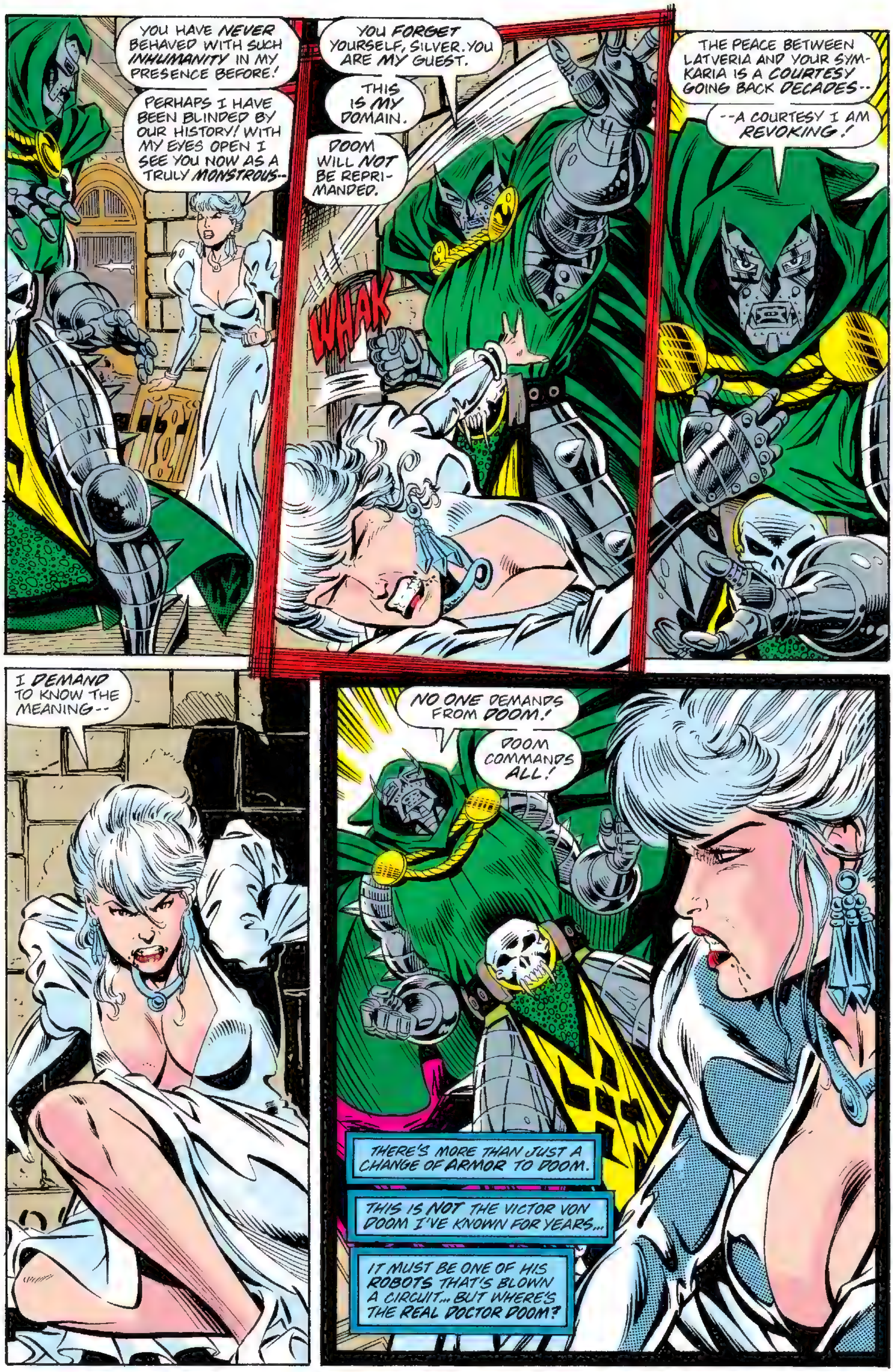

NO MATTER, I PREFER TO ENGINEER THE DEMISE OF MY PROTOTYPE.
DOOM DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION!
YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO DEMAND NOTHING!
SHKOWW!
WHERE IS YOUR VAUNTED BRAVADO, NOW, HUMAN?
LIE HELPLESS AS I MERGE WITH AND DOMINATE YOUR VERY BEING--
IT WAS THE TRUE DOCTOR DOOM IN THE FLYING CRAFT...
I WILL ASSUME HIS PLACE HERE AND BEGIN A REIGN OF CHAOS OF MY OWN DEVISING.
NO! YOU ARE A MERE ROBOT!

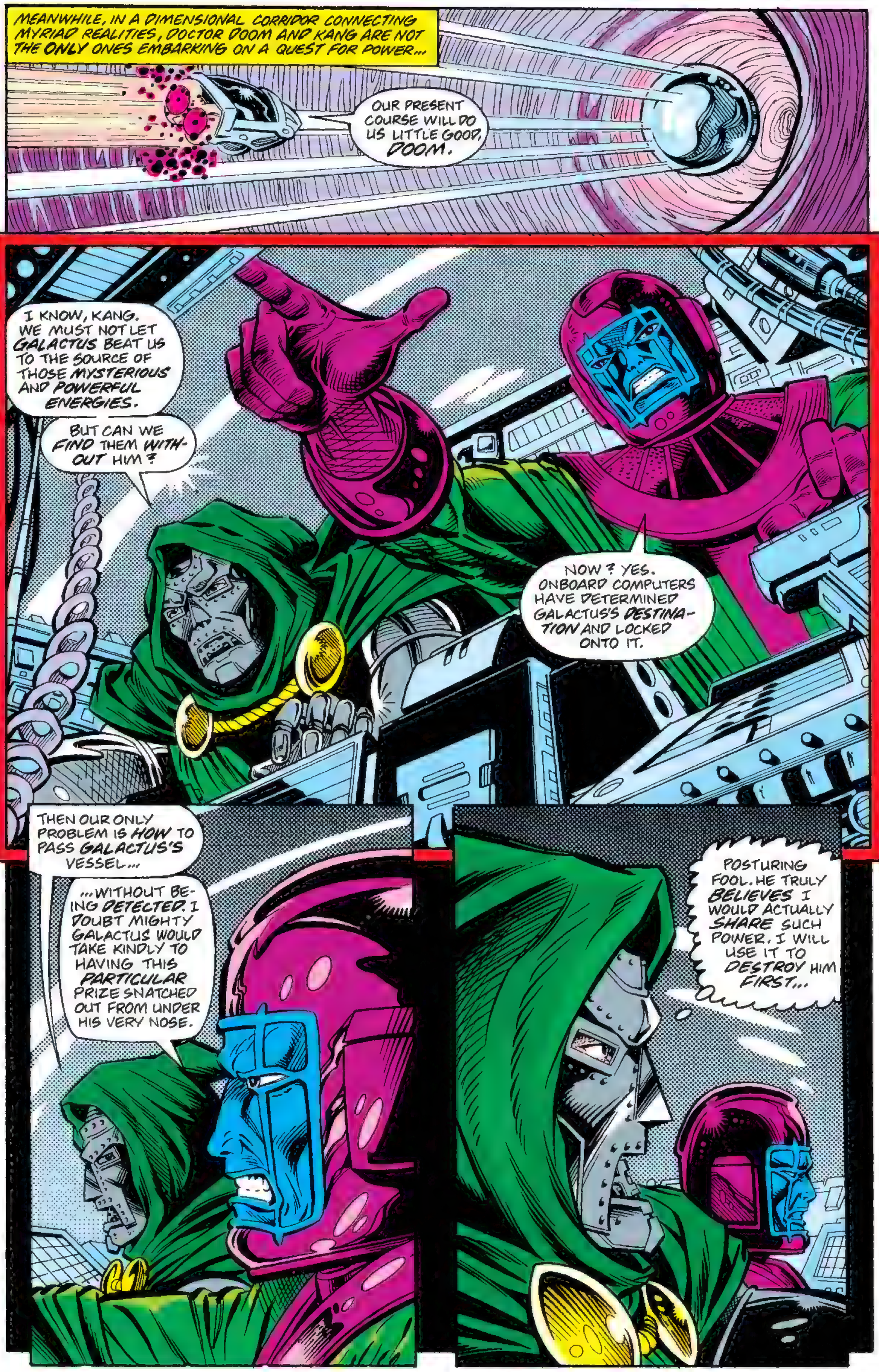

AS EVENING DESCENDS ON LATVERIA, A SILVER CARRIAGE DRAWN BY WHITE HORSES ELEGANTLY ARRIVES AT CASTLE DOOM.
ITS OCCUPANT, THE BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY SILVER SABLE, HAS NOT DISMISSED HER EVENING ENGAGEMENT.
MY ANNUAL DINNER WITH VICTOR VON DOOM IS CONSIDERED BY MOST TO BE MERE DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION.
TO THEM, OUR FRIENDSHIP WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE.
PERHAPS VICTOR WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ONTO DMITRI'S CONNECTION WITH HYDRA*...
*SEE SILVER SABLE #1.--CRAIG
DOOM'S DINNER GUEST HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ABSENCE... I SENSE GREAT OPPORTUNITY IN THIS EVENING!
THANK YOU, GEORGE.

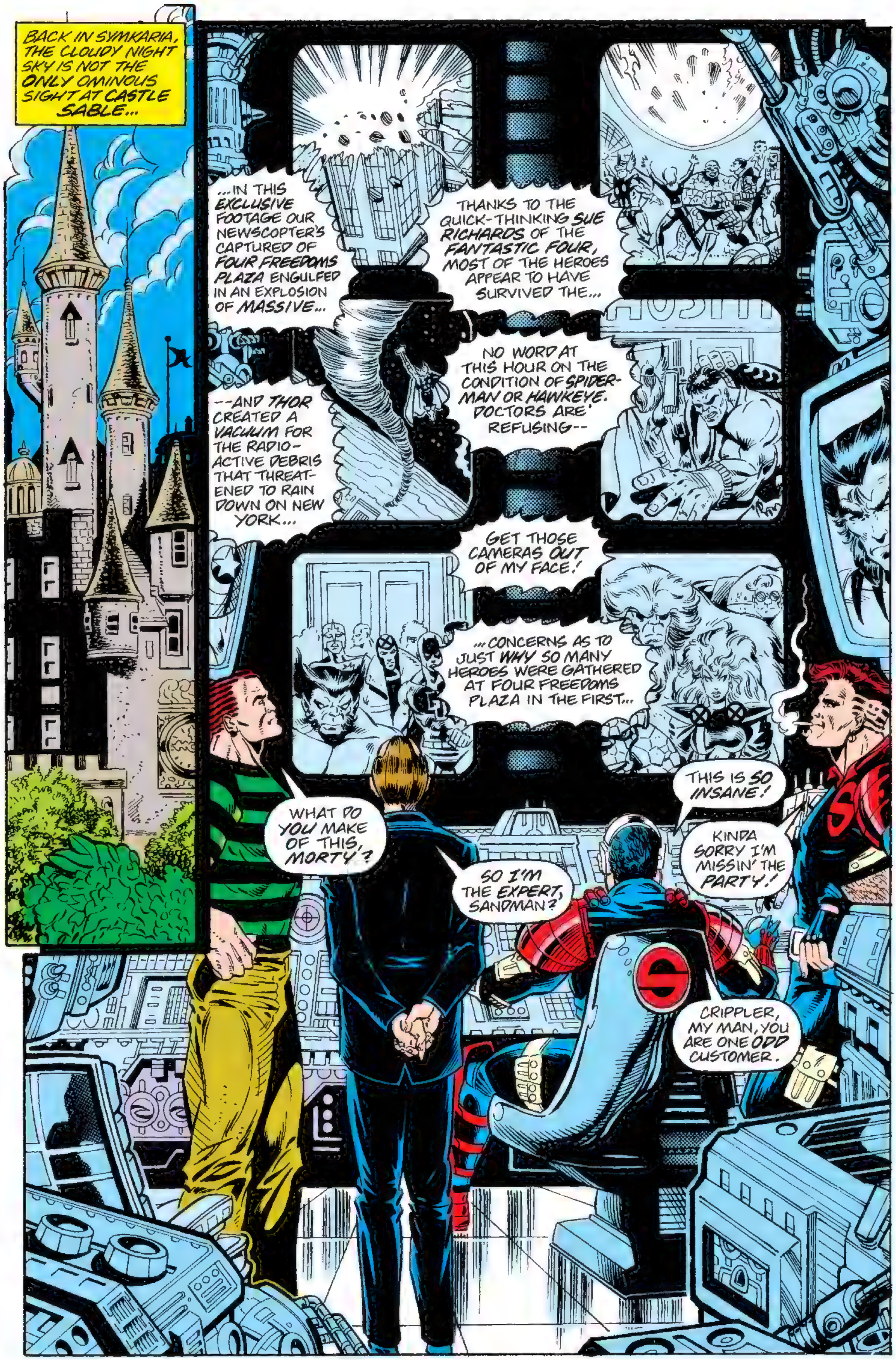

GREETINGS, FAIR SILVER!
ONCE AGAIN, I BID YOU WELCOME TO MY CASTLE.
I HAVE LONG ANTICIPATED OUR ANNUAL BANQUET.
I SEE YOU HAVE ONCE AGAIN ALTERED YOUR ARMORED APPEARANCE.
ONE MUST NOT WALLOW IN TEDIUM AT ALL TIMES.
THE SKULL AND SPIKES ARE MOST UNDIGNIFIED, VICTOR.
ONE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ACCUSE YOU OF PATRONIZATION, MY DEAR.


WHOOM
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE FOR ME, WOULD YOU?
YOU WILL SURRENDER YOUR WEAPON. YOU ARE NOW A PRISONER OF WAR.
SURRENDER MY-- NOT LIKELY YOU--
YOUR SENTENCE IS EXECUTION.
SHRAKT
KLOPPITY KLOPPITY KLOPPITY KLOPPITY KLOPPITY KLOPPITY KLOPPITY


LATER, AS A SUMPTUOUS FOURTEEN-COURSE MEAL NEARS ITS CONCLUSION...
IT IS TRULY A SHAME THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT VIEW YOU WITH THE EYES OF LATVERIA'S PEOPLE.
TO THEM YOU ARE A HERO.
AND TO YOU?
A RESPECTED FRIEND AND ALLY.
THE MEAL WAS EXCELLENT AS ALWAYS, VICTOR. PLEASE EXTEND MY COMPLIMENTS TO YOUR STAFF.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I HAVE A MATTER THAT I'D LIKE TO--
PHAEGH!
YOU DARE SERVE THIS BILGE TO DOOM?!
NO... P-P-PLEASE... I OFFER MY S-S-SINCEREST APOLOGIES--
DOOM EXCEPTS NO APOLOGIES!
VICTOR, NO!
YEARRRRGGH!

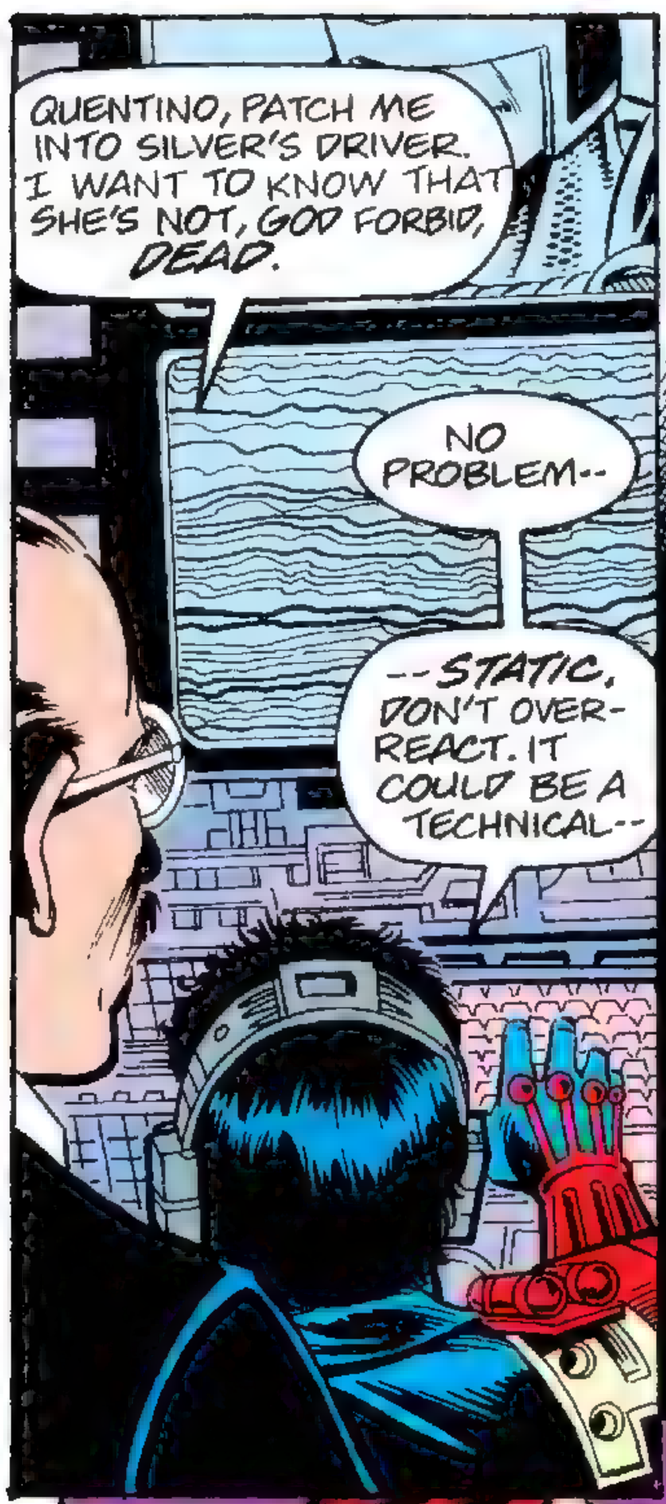

YOU HAVE NEVER BEHAVED WITH SUCH INHUMANITY IN MY PRESENCE BEFORE!
PERHAPS I HAVE BEEN BLINDED BY OUR HISTORY! WITH MY EYES OPEN I SEE YOU NOW AS A TRULY MONSTROUS--
YOU FORGET YOURSELF, SILVER. YOU ARE MY GUEST.
THIS IS MY DOMAIN.
DOOM WILL NOT BE REPRIMANDED.
WHAK
THE PEACE BETWEEN LATVERIA AND YOUR SYMKARIA IS A COURTESY GOING BACK DECADES--
--A COURTESY I AM REVOKING!
I DEMAND TO KNOW THE MEANING--
NO ONE DEMANDS FROM DOOM!
DOOM COMMANDS ALL!
THERE'S MORE THAN JUST A CHANGE OF ARMOR TO DOOM.
THIS IS NOT THE VICTOR VON DOOM I'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS...
IT MUST BE ONE OF HIS ROBOTS THAT'S BLOWN A CIRCUIT... BUT WHERE'S THE REAL DOCTOR DOOM?


MEANWHILE, IN A DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR CONNECTING MYRIAD REALITIES, DOCTOR DOOM AND KANG ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES EMBARKING ON A QUEST FOR POWER...
OUR PRESENT COURSE WILL DO US LITTLE GOOD, DOOM.
I KNOW, KANG. WE MUST NOT LET GALACTUS BEAT US TO THE SOURCE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS AND POWERFUL ENERGIES.
BUT CAN WE FIND THEM WITHOUT HIM?
NOW? YES. ONBOARD COMPUTERS HAVE DETERMINED GALACTUS'S DESTINATION AND LOCKED ONTO IT.
THEN OUR ONLY PROBLEM IS HOW TO PASS GALACTUS'S VESSEL...
...WITHOUT BEING DETECTED. I DOUBT MIGHTY GALACTUS WOULD TAKE KINDLY TO HAVING THIS PARTICULAR PRIZE SNATCHED OUT FROM UNDER HIS VERY NOSE.
POSTURING FOOL. HE TRULY BELIEVES I WOULD ACTUALLY SHARE SUCH POWER. I WILL USE IT TO DESTROY HIM FIRST...


BACK IN SYMKARIA, THE CLOUDY NIGHT SKY IS NOT THE ONLY OMINOUS SIGHT AT CASTLE SABLE...
...IN THIS EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OUR NEWSCOPTER'S CAPTURED OF FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA ENGULFED IN AN EXPLOSION OF MASSIVE...
--AND THOR CREATED A VACUUM FOR THE RADIO-ACTIVE DEBRIS THAT THREATENED TO RAIN DOWN ON NEW YORK...
THANKS TO THE QUICK-THINKING SUE RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, MOST OF THE HEROES APPEAR TO HAVE SURVIVED THE...
NO WORD AT THIS HOUR ON THE CONDITION OF SPIDER-MAN OR HAWKEYE. DOCTORS ARE REFUSING--
GET THOSE CAMERAS OUT OF MY FACE!
...CONCERNS AS TO JUST WHY SO MANY HEROES WERE GATHERED AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA IN THE FIRST...
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS, MORTY?
SO I'M THE EXPERT, SANDMAN?
THIS IS SO INSANE!
KINDA SORRY I'M MISSIN' THE PARTY!
CRIPPLER, MY MAN, YOU ARE ONE ODD CUSTOMER.

THIS IS NONE OF THE MEDIA'S CONCERN. WE HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL!

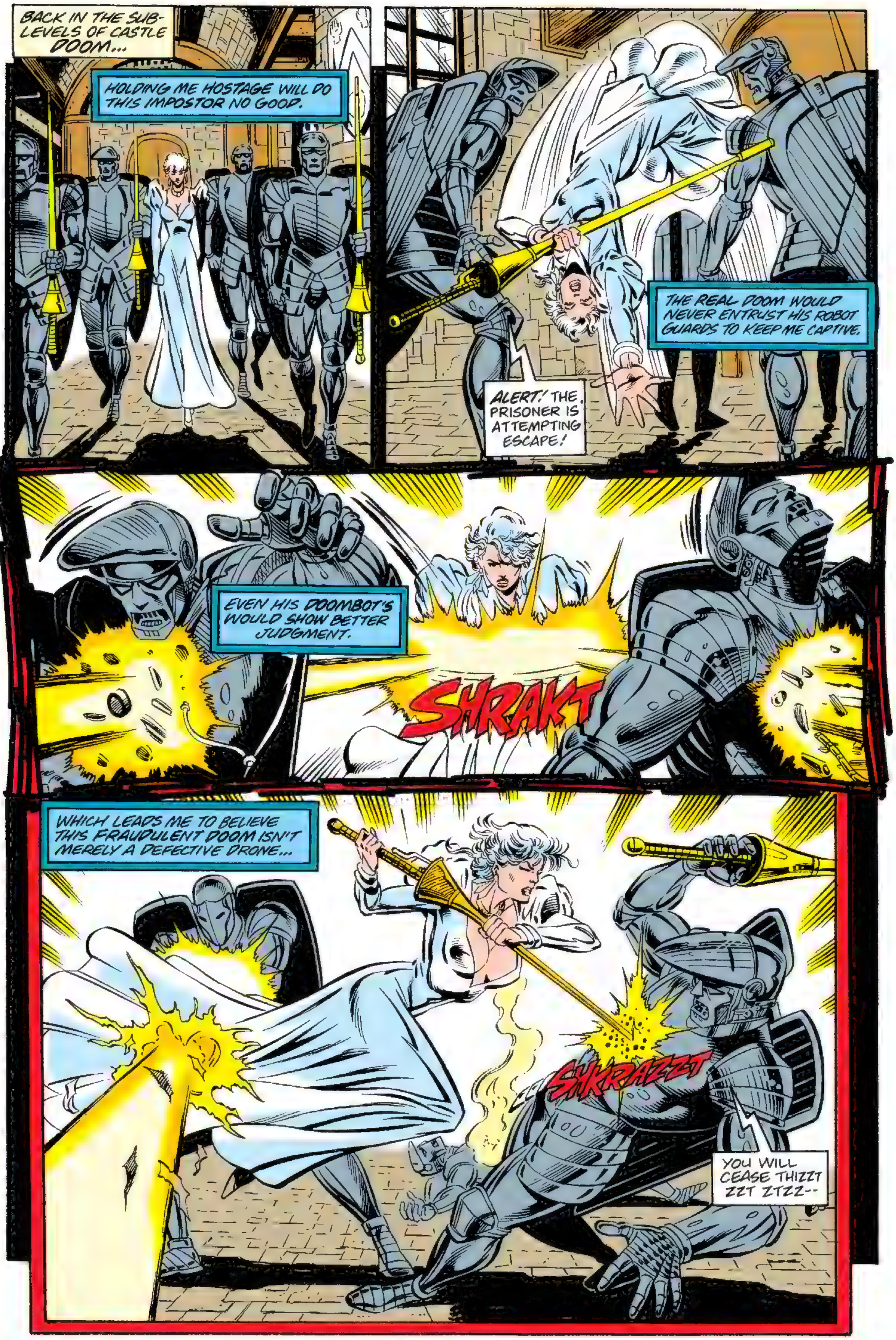
IT KEEPS GETTING WORSE! I'VE GOT REPORTS FROM ALL OVER, SOME KIND OF SHOWDOWN BETWEEN EVERY KNOWN AMERICAN SUPER HERO AND THEIR--DOUBLES!
I DON'T GET IT...

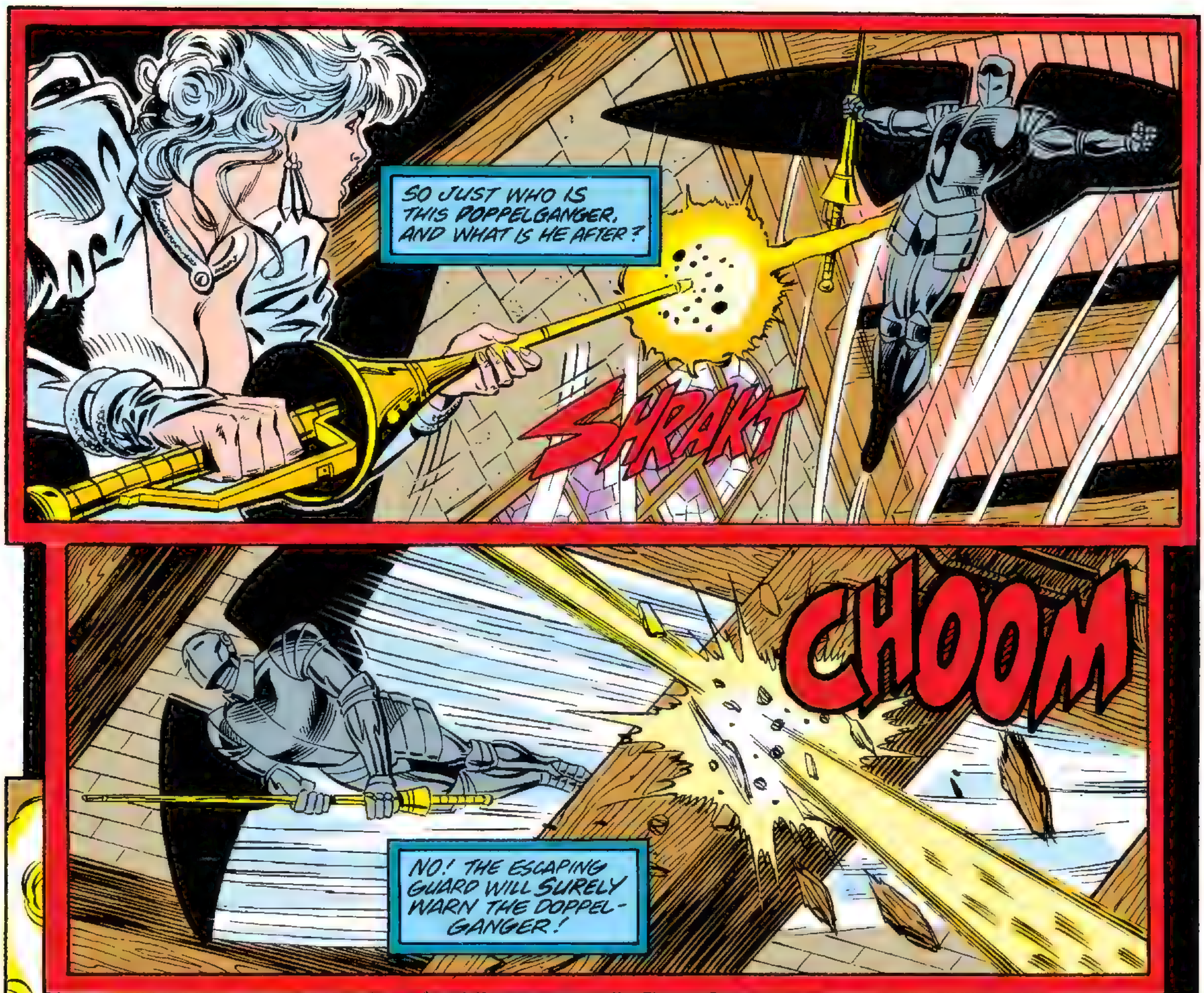

QUENTINO, PATCH ME INTO SILVER'S DRIVER. I WANT TO KNOW THAT SHE'S NOT, GOD FORBID, DEAD.
NO PROBLEM--
--STATIC. DON'T OVER-REACT. IT COULD BE A TECHNICAL--

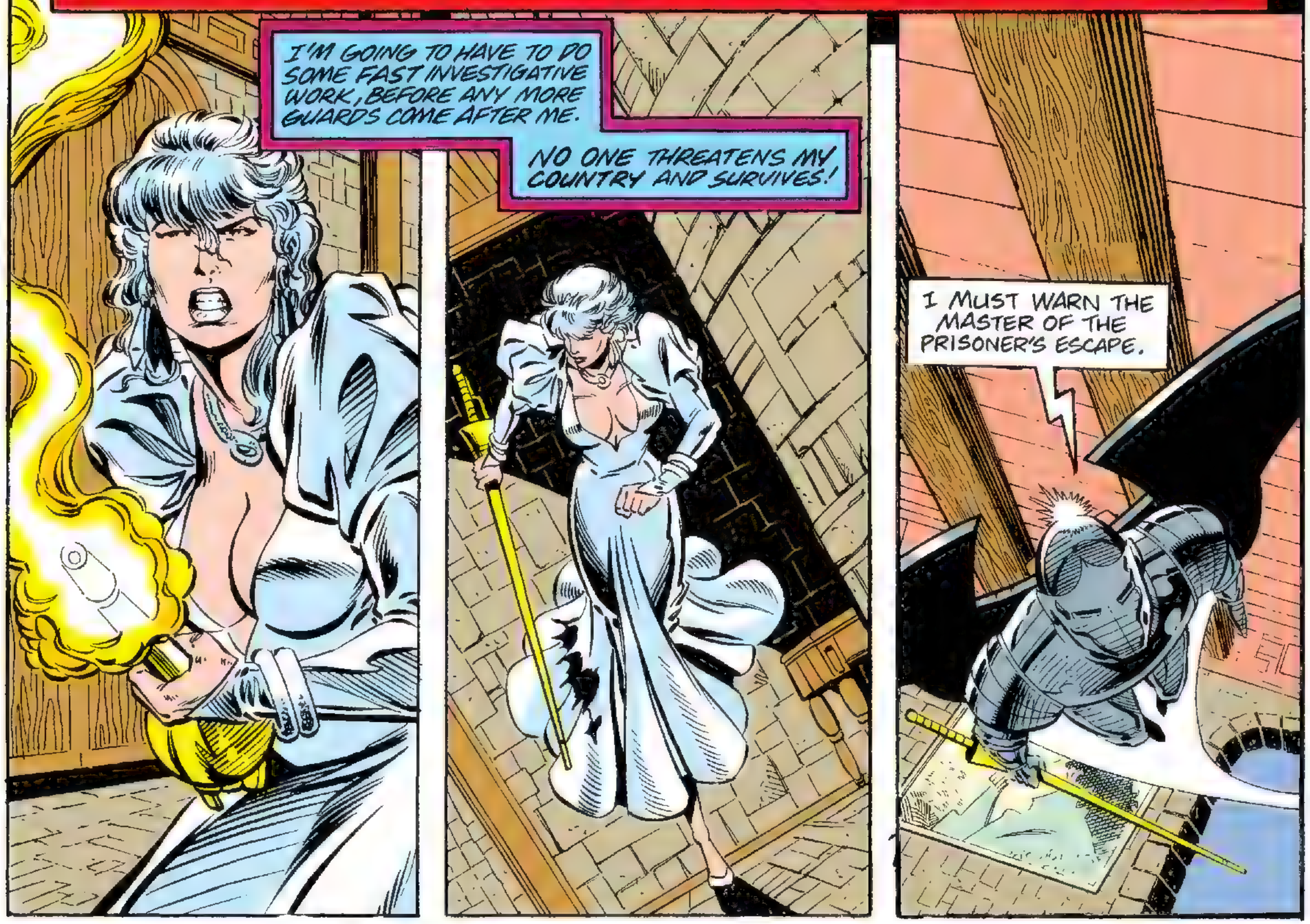
YEAH, I'M SURE THAT'S IT, MORTY, DON'T--
YOU'RE A PUTZ, SANDBAGS... SABLE NEVER WOULD PERMIT A TECHNICAL MALFUNCTION.
I SAY WE GO GET HER.
:KOF: :KOF: IT'S NOT THAT :KOFF: EASY. SHE'LL HAVE A FIT :KOFF: I'M NOT GONNA BE THE ONE TO--

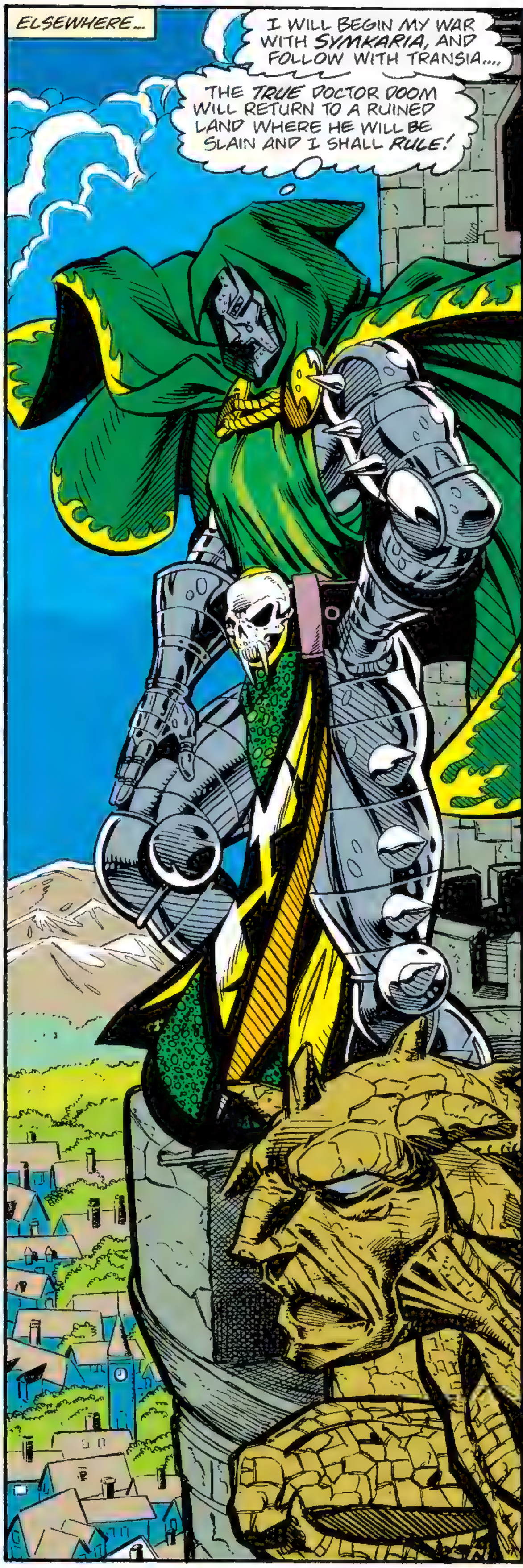
HEY, MORTY, WHAT GIVES?
PASH
SILVER IS MY NIECE!

YOU WILL GO AND GET HER. I'LL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY, YOU COWARD!
HEY, DOES IT HURT WHEN YOU GET HIT IN THE SAND?
I-I'M SORRY...

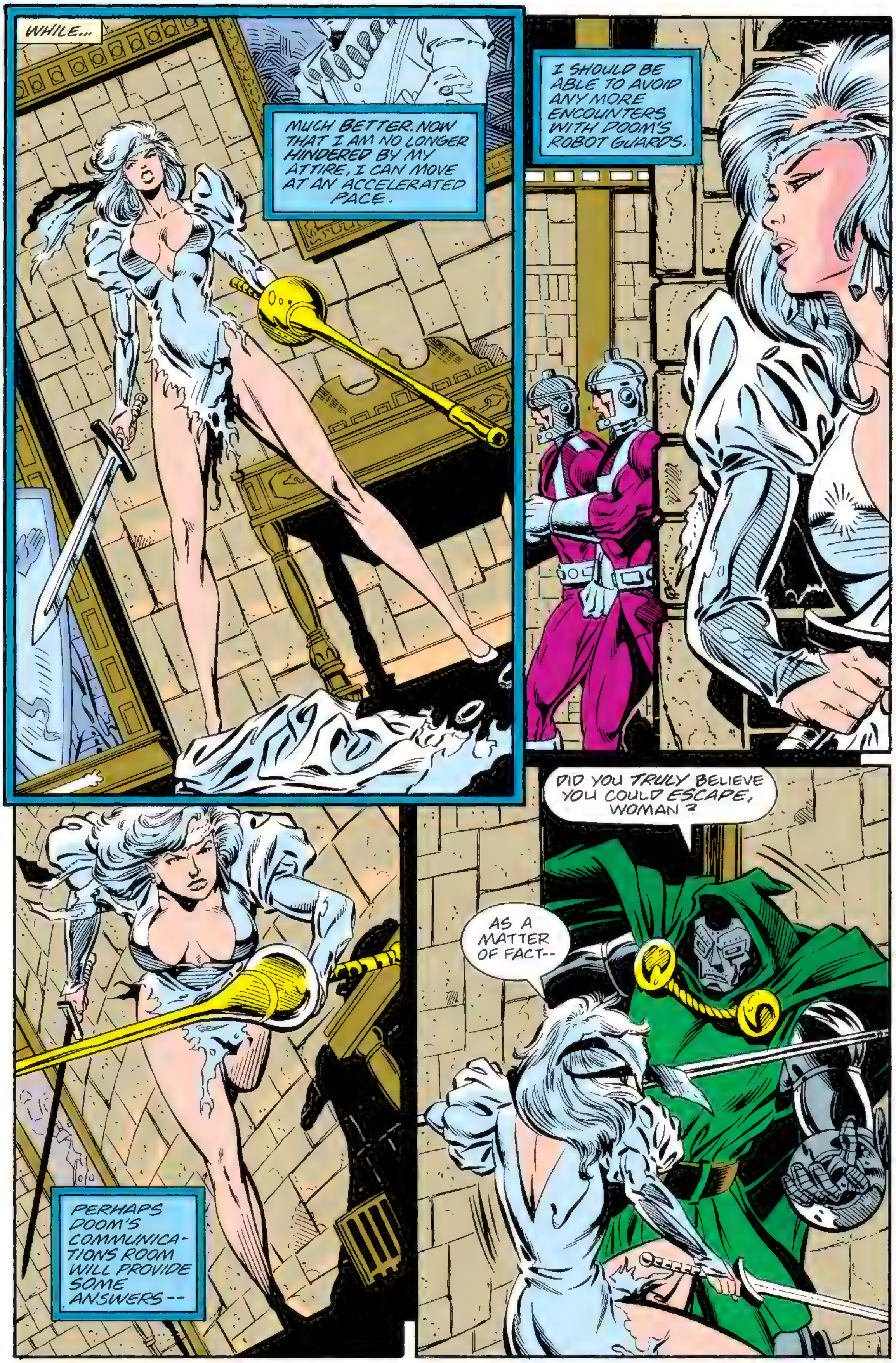

BACK IN THE SUB-LEVELS OF CASTLE DOOM...
HOLDING ME HOSTAGE WILL DO THIS IMPOSTOR NO GOOD.
THE REAL DOOM WOULD NEVER ENTRUST HIS ROBOT GUARDS TO KEEP ME CAPTIVE.
ALERT! THE PRISONER IS ATTEMPTING ESCAPE!
EVEN HIS DOOMBOT'S WOULD SHOW BETTER JUDGMENT.
SHRAKT
WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THIS FRAUDULENT DOOM ISN'T MERELY A DEFECTIVE DRONE...
SKRAZZT
YOU WILL CEASE THIZZT ZZT ZTZZ--


SO JUST WHO IS THIS DOPPELGANGER, AND WHAT IS HE AFTER?
SKRAKT
CHOOM
NO! THE ESCAPING GUARD WILL SURELY WARN THE DOPPEL-GANGER!


I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME FAST INVESTIGATIVE WORK, BEFORE ANY MORE GUARDS COME AFTER ME.
NO ONE THREATENS MY COUNTRY AND SURVIVES!
I MUST WARN THE MASTER OF THE PRISONER'S ESCAPE.

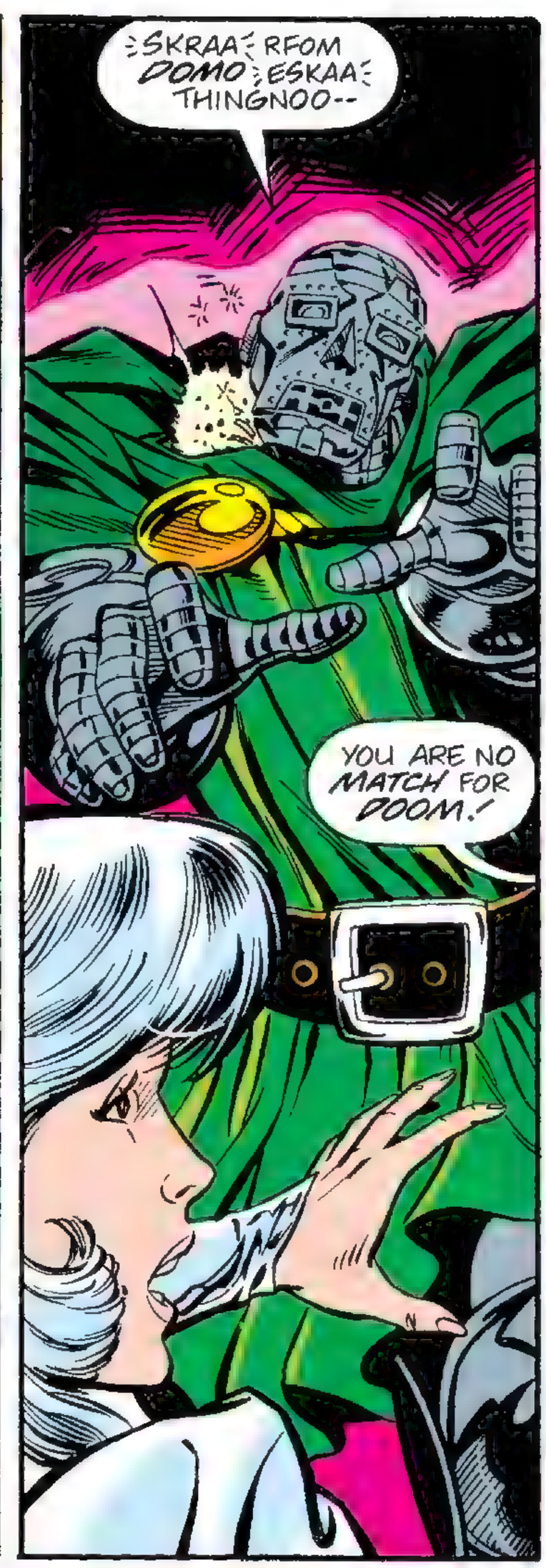

ELSEWHERE...
I WILL BEGIN MY WAR WITH SYMKARIA, AND FOLLOW WITH TRANSIA....
THE TRUE DOCTOR DOOM WILL RETURN TO A RUINED LAND WHERE HE WILL BE SLAIN AND I SHALL RULE!

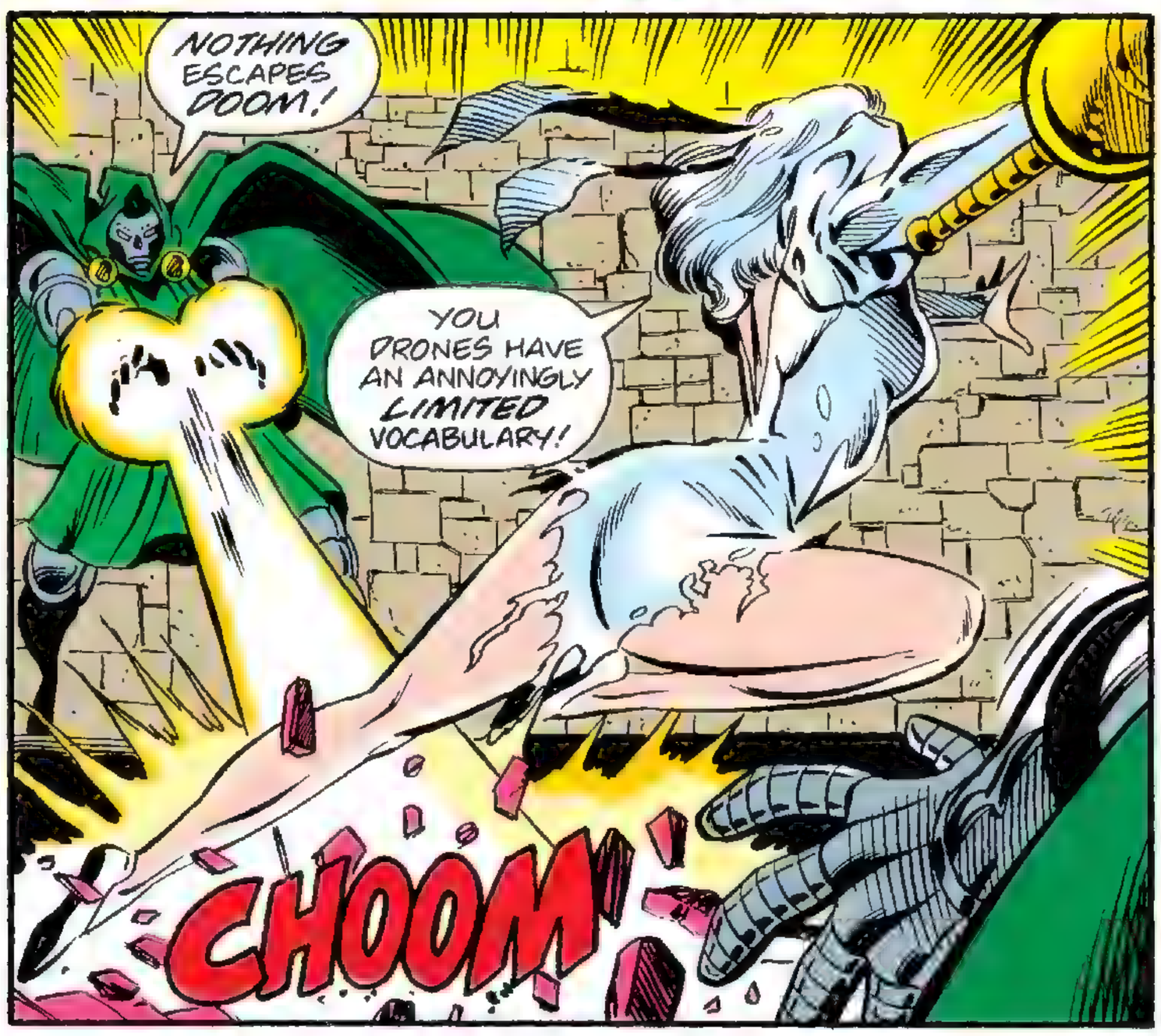
THE PRISONER HAS ESCAPED AND RUNS LOOSE IN THE CASTLE, MASTER!
WHAT?!
DOOM DETESTS INCOMPETENCE!
THE WOMAN IS TOO DANGEROUS TO USE AS A HOSTAGE--
--I WILL SEE HER DEATH BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS THROUGH!


WHILE...
MUCH BETTER. NOW THAT I AM NO LONGER HINDERED BY MY ATTIRE, I CAN MOVE AT AN ACCELERATED PACE.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID ANY MORE ENCOUNTERS WITH DOOM'S ROBOT GUARDS.
DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU COULD ESCAPE, WOMAN?
AS A MATTER OF FACT--
PERHAPS DOOM'S COMMUNICATIONS ROOM WILL PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS--

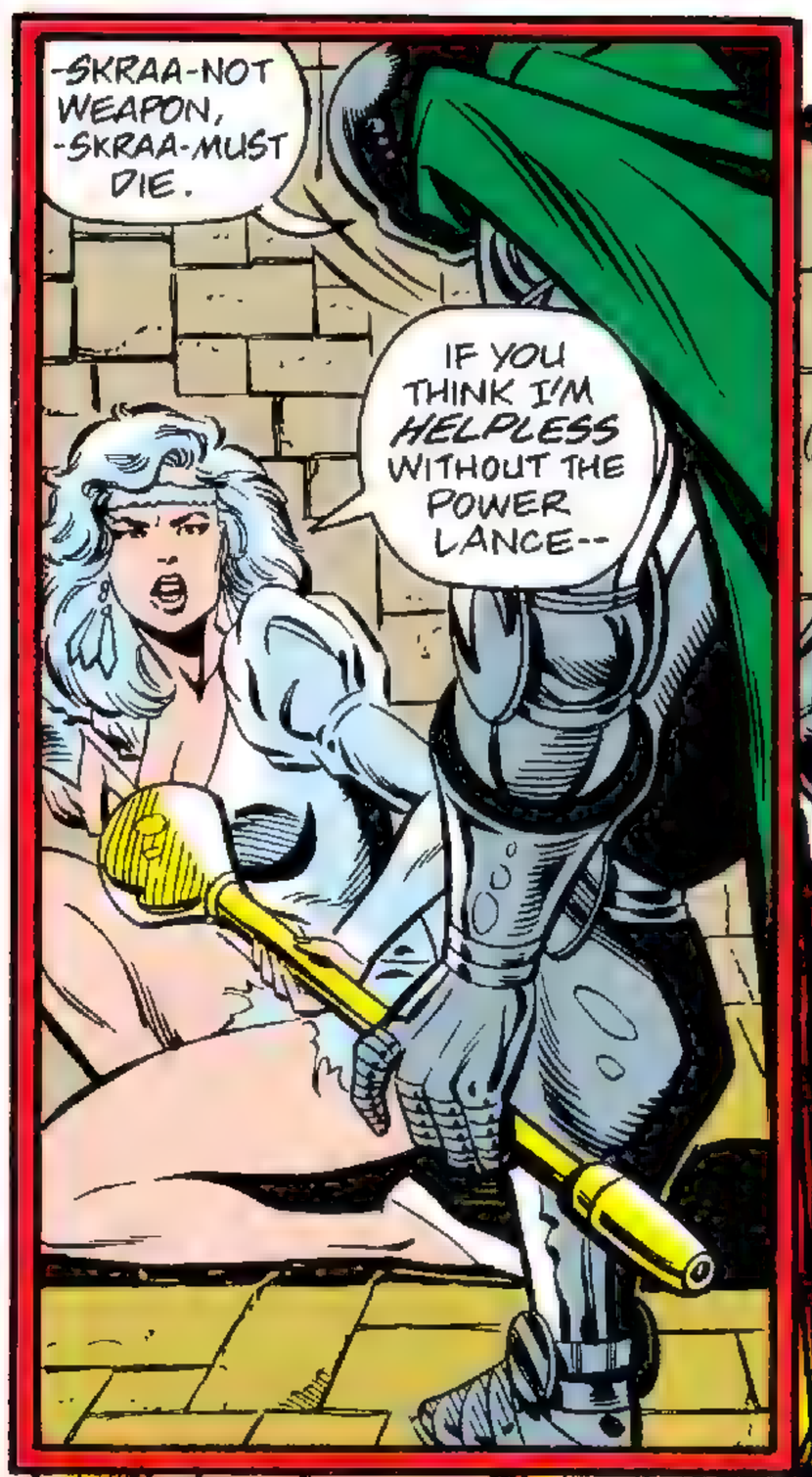
--THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO!
FOOLISH WOMAN, NO ONE ESCAPES DOOM!

KRANNG
YOU ARE NOT DOOM, HOWEVER.


SKRAA RFOM DOMO ESKAA THINGNOO--
YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR DOOM!


NOTHING ESCAPES DOOM!
YOU DRONES HAVE AN ANNOYINGLY LIMITED VOCABULARY!
CHOOM!

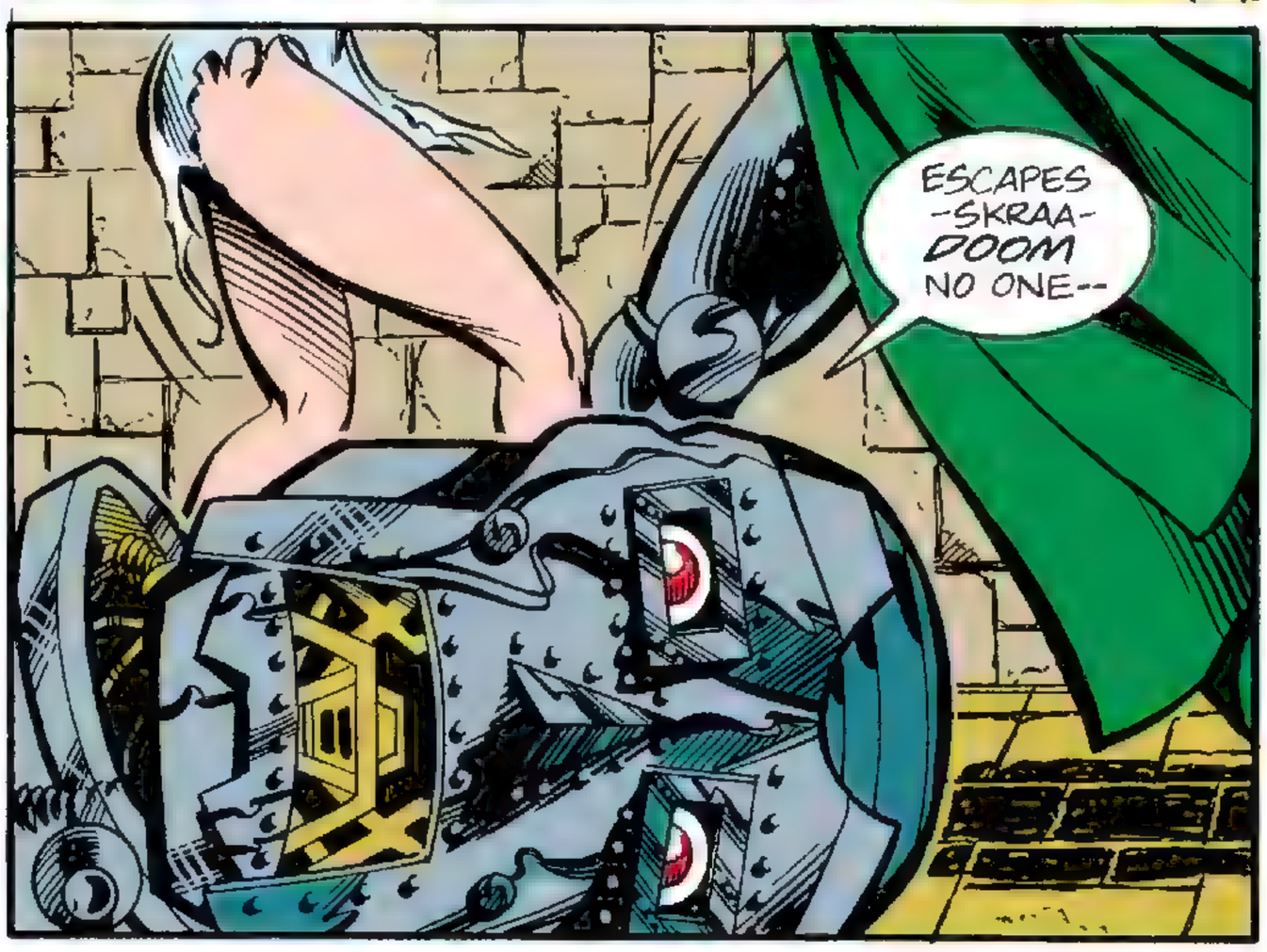
DOOM HAS HUNDREDS OF SUCH REPLICAS OF HIMSELF--
I MUST FIND A WAY OF AVOIDING ANY MORE OF THEM.

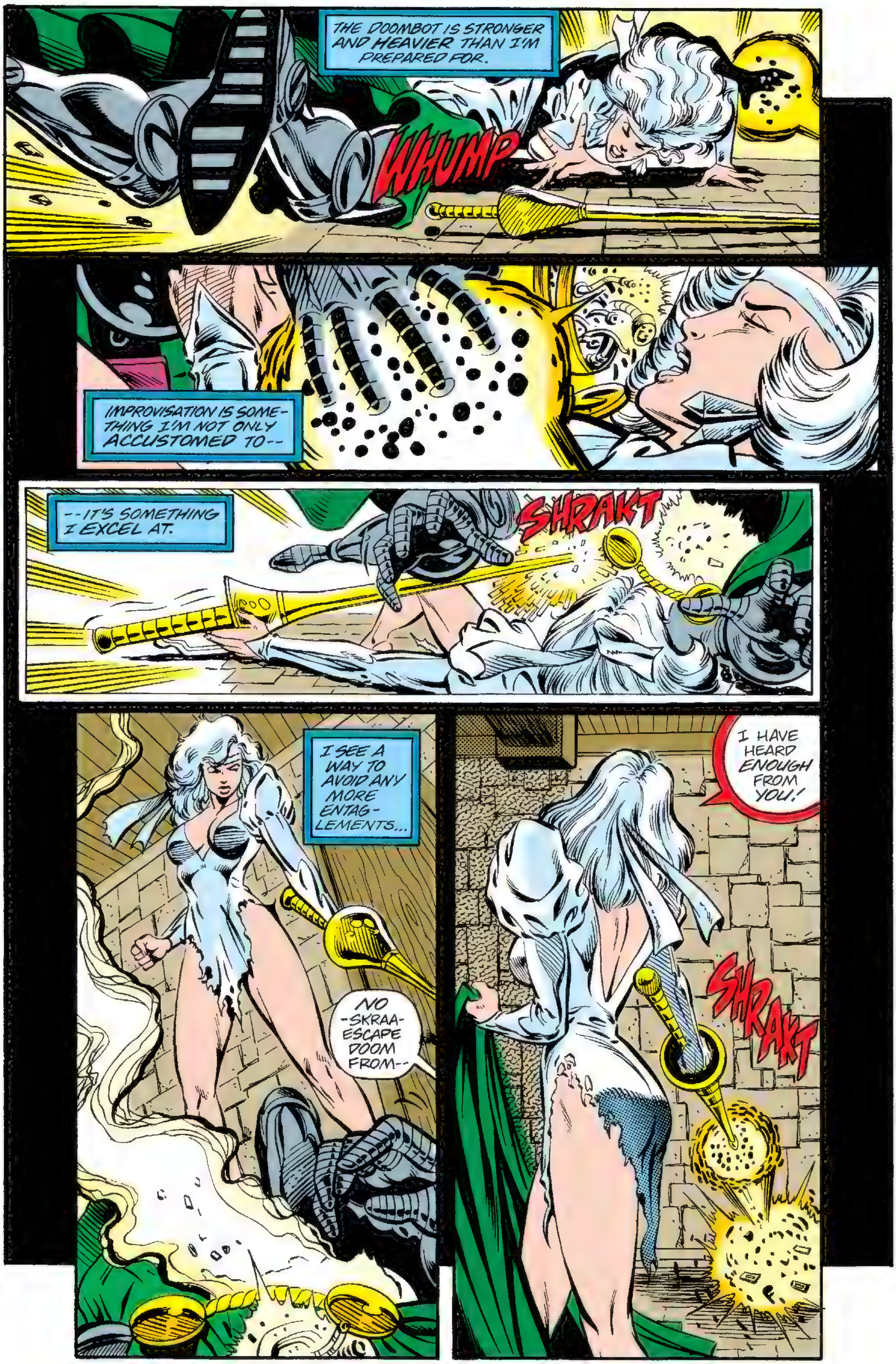

-SKRAA-NOT WEAPON, -SKRAA-MUST DIE.
IF YOU THINK I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT THE POWER LANCE--

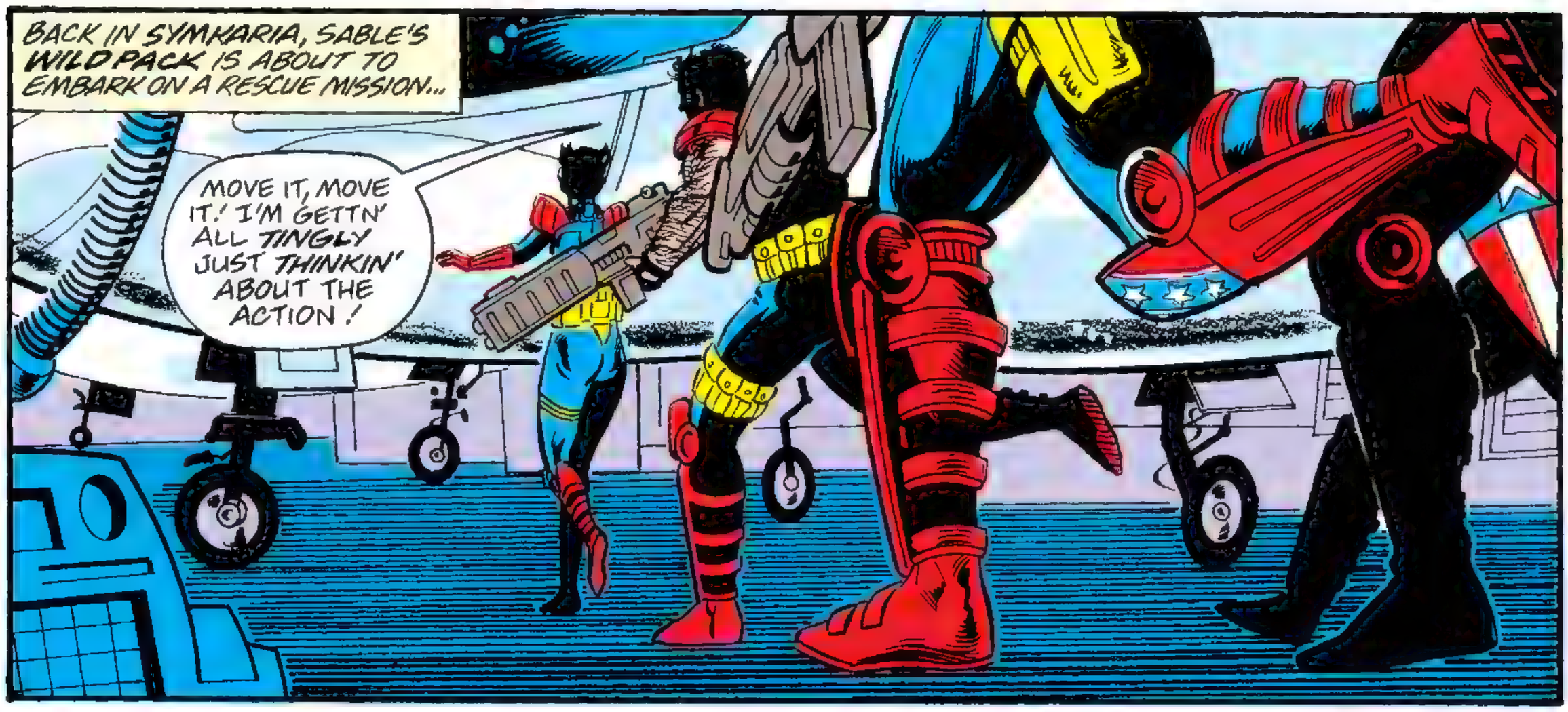
--YOU HAVE YOUR HEAD SCREWED ON IMPROPERLY!
KLANK

BUT I WON'T REFUSE THE USE OF YOUR GAUNTLETS--

SHRAM
--WHEN I CAN USE THEM TO MY ADVANTAGE!


ESCAPES -SKRAA- DOOM NO ONE--


THE DOOMBOT IS STRONGER AND HEAVIER THAN I'M PREPARED FOR.
WHUMP
IMPROVISATION IS SOMETHING I'M NOT ONLY ACCUSTOMED TO--
--IT'S SOMETHING I EXCEL AT.
SHRAKT
I SEE A WAY TO AVOID ANY MORE ENTAGLEMENTS...
NO -SKRAA- ESCAPE DOOM FROM--
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH FROM YOU!
SHRAKT


BACK IN SYMKARIA, SABLE'S WILDPACK IS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A RESCUE MISSION...
MOVE IT, MOVE IT! I'M GETTN' ALL TINGLY JUST THINKIN' ABOUT THE ACTION!

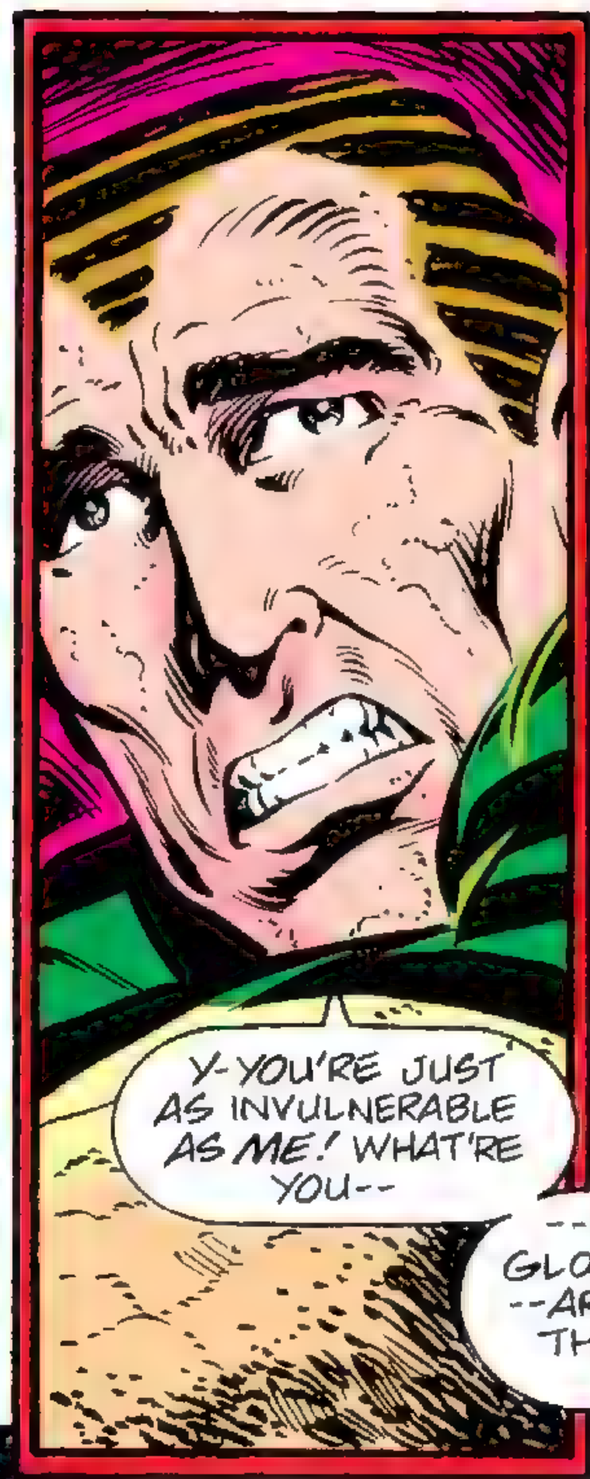
AH MUST ADMIT, AH'M FEELIN' IN TOP FORM MAHSELF--
LET'S JUST SEE IF YOU PERFORM AS WELL AS YOU FEEL, POWELL!
YOU WILL NOT SMOKE IN THE STEALTHCRAFT, CRIPPLER!
YOU KNOW, CHEN, YOU'RE GETTIN' TO BE ALMOST AS BOSSY AS SABLE!

AH WANT TA KNOW WHUT WE'RE WAITIN' FOR--
SANDMAN. WE'LL NEED HIM, IF THERE'S "DOUBLE TROUBLE" AT DOCTOR DOOM'S!

WE WEREN'T TOLD NOT TO GO TO LATVERIA, SO SHE CAN'T SAY WE DISOBEYED--
--BUT SABLE SEEMS TO OBJECT TO ANY GAME PLAN SHE DIDN'T DEVISE--

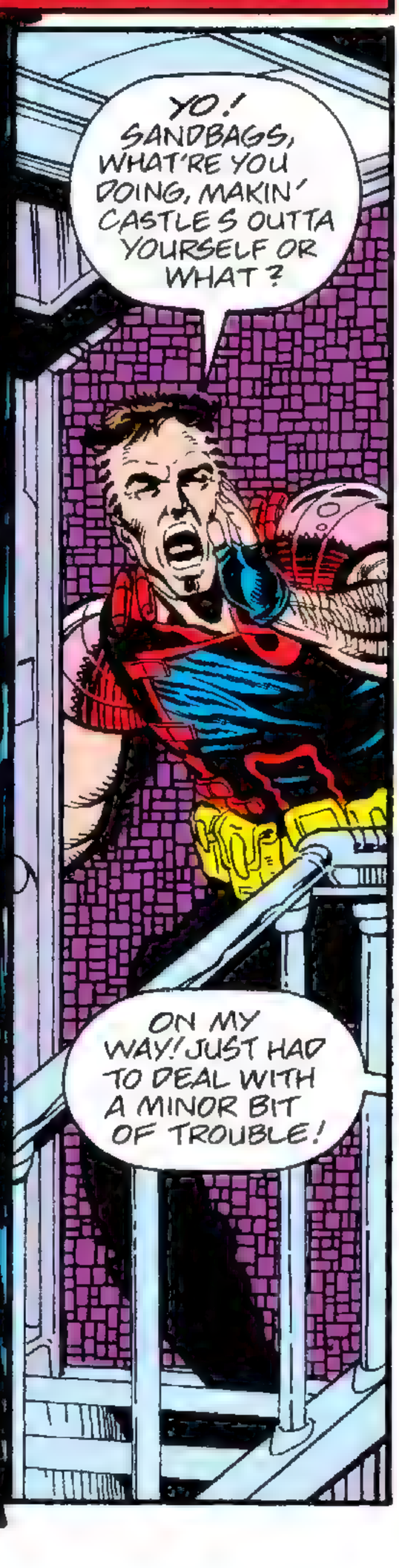
--AND THE LAST TIME WE TRIED TO SAVE HER LIFE WE GOT DOCKED SALARY--
HUH?
HOLY MACARONI, WHERE DID--
YOU MUST DIE!
WHUMP
ARRGGH!

THAT ACTUALLY HURT! I DON'T LIKE BEIN' SUCKER PUNCHED!
YOU BETTER GIVE OUT YOUR NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER BEFORE I REALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
PASH


Y-YOU'RE JUST AS INVULNERABLE AS ME! WHAT'RE YOU--

--YOUR HAND, GLOWING RED HOT --ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE SKRULLS OR--

YIEEEEE!
DON'T... MAKE... ME ...HAFTA... KILL... YOU...


YO! SANDBAGS, WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MAKIN' CASTLES OUTTA YOURSELF OR WHAT?
ON MY WAY! JUST HAD TO DEAL WITH A MINOR BIT OF TROUBLE!

LET'S GO GET THE BOSS LADY, AND GET US A MAJOR LEAGUE BONUS CHECK!

NEXT: NO ONE IS SAFE FROM--

DOUBLE JEOPARDY..

MARVEL COMICS

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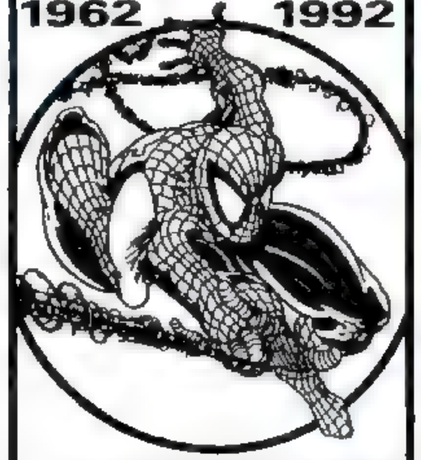
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY™

AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

CO-STARRING THE INHUMANS®

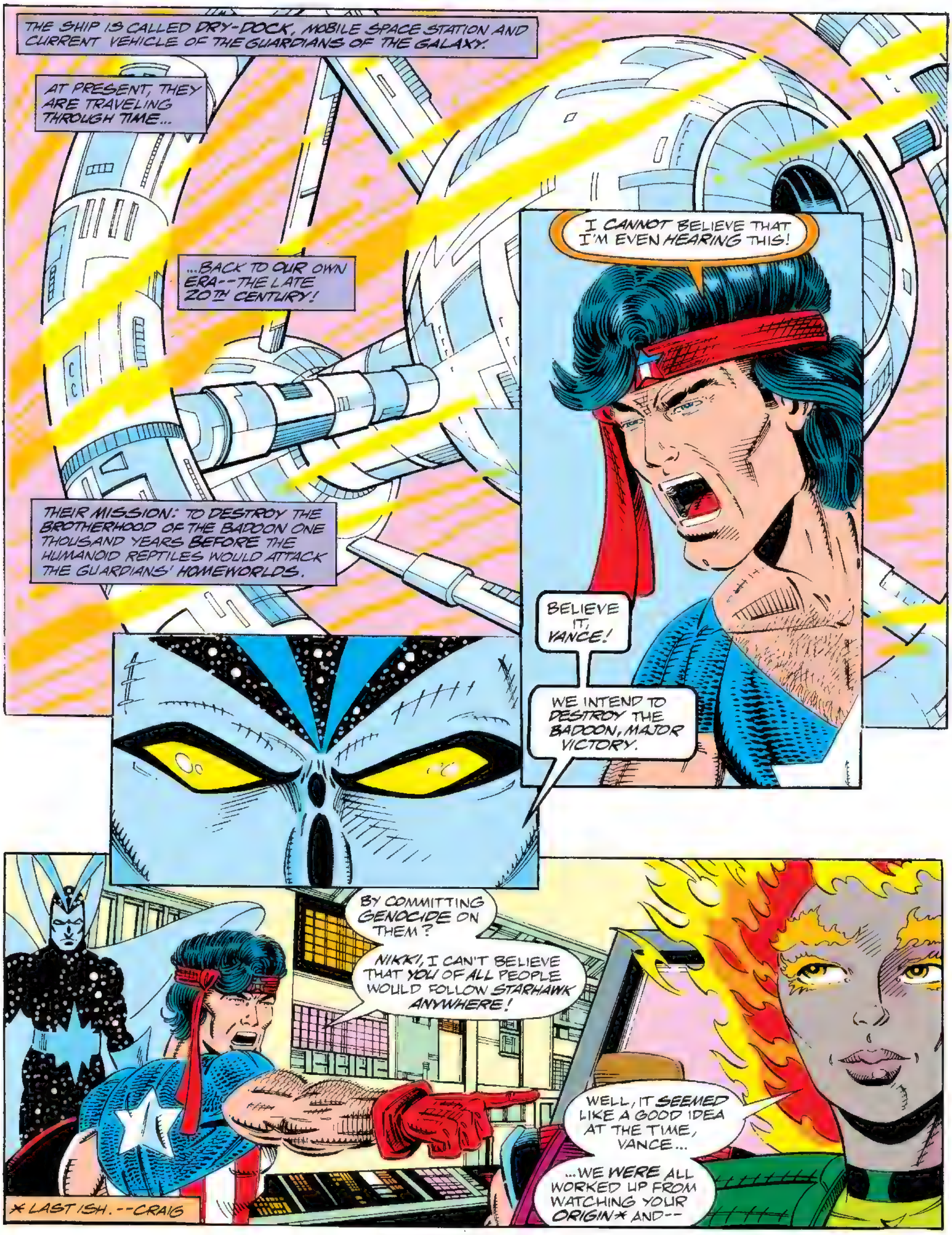
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992



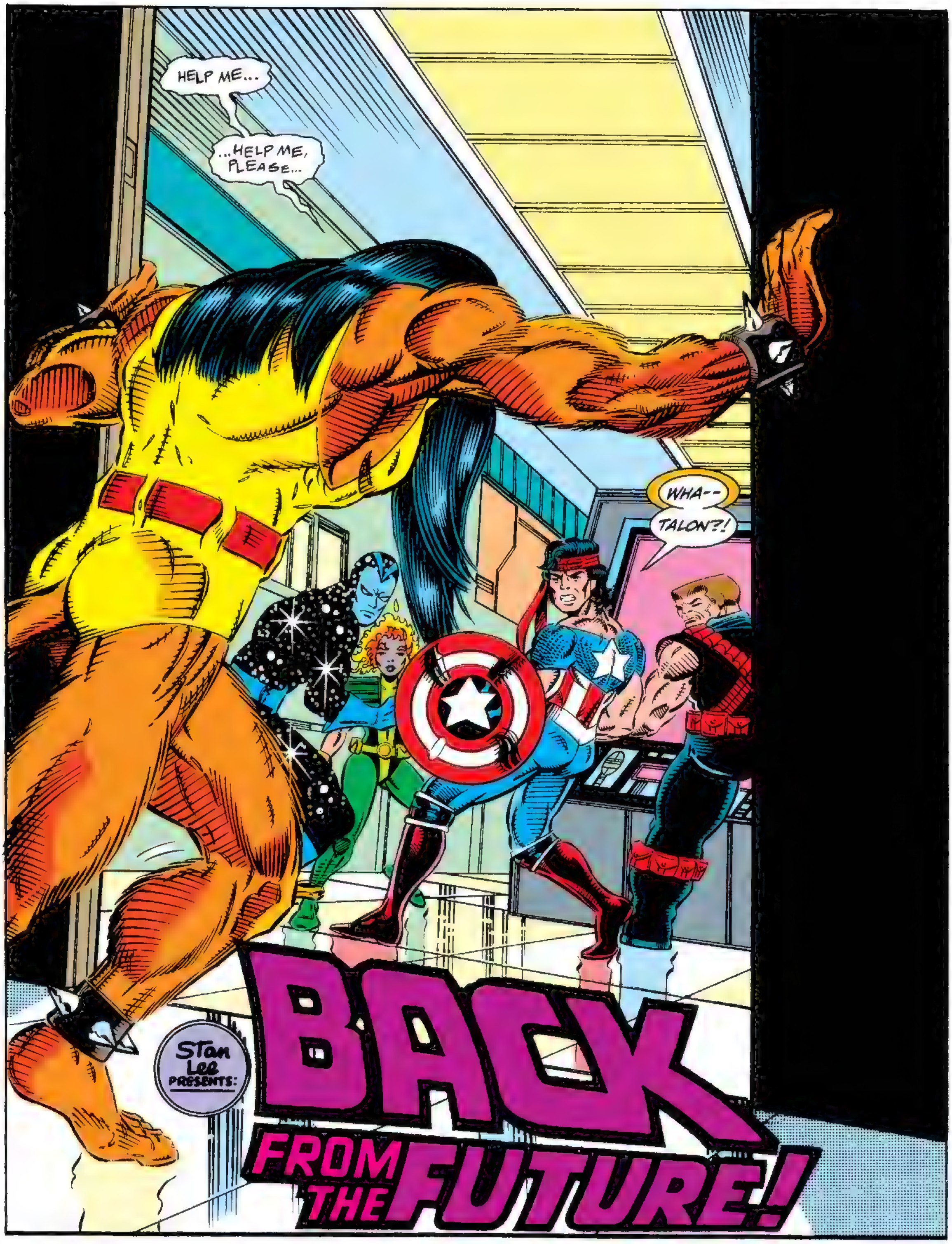
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

LEARN THE SECRET OF TALON™ IN BACK FROM THE FUTURE!

MAJOR VANCE ASTRO! CHARLIE 27! NIKKI! YONDU! FOUR EXTRAORDINARY SUPER-BEINGS, ALL SURVIVORS OF INTERSTELLAR WAR. NOW THEY ROAM THE COSMOS OF THE 31ST CENTURY ABOARD THE STARSHIP CAPTAIN AMERICA. THEIR MISSION—TO SAFEGUARD THE MILKY WAY!
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!

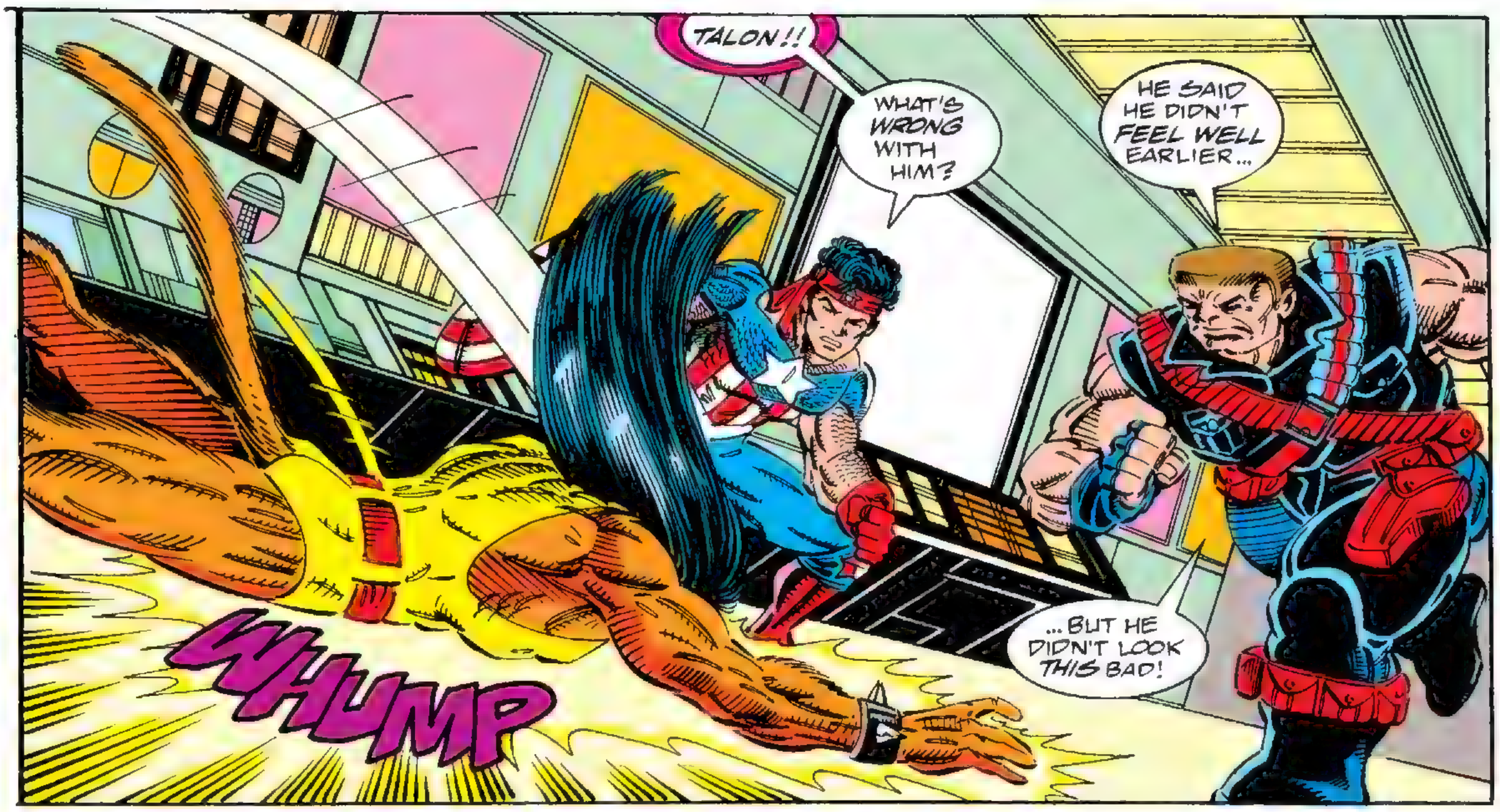


A "GOOD IDEA"? AND YOU, CAPTAIN 27, DID YOU THINK IT WAS A "GOOD IDEA", TOO?
WELL, YES SIR, MAJOR, I--
A GOOD IDEA TO BREECH CHAIN-OF-COMMAND?
WELL I--
A GOOD IDEA TO IGNORE A LIFETIME OF TRAINING, CAPTAIN?
I JUST THOUGHT--
I WILL ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, MAJOR.
YOU?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS ANYMORE, STARHAWK!*
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN THIS MATTER WHATSOEVER!
* HE WAS EXPELLED IN ISSUE #17.--CRAIG
I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM IN ALL OF YOU.
UNGGHH...
I MEAN, REALLY, PEOPLE... A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST THE BADOON A THOUSAND YEARS IN THE PAST!
OF ALL THE HAIR-BRAINED...!
WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE OUR COURSE NOW. I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO--



ANOTHER MARVEL MASTERWORK-IN-THE-MAKING BROUGHT TO YOU BY

JIM VALENTINO WRITER/ARTIST	STEVE MONTANO INKER	CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER	EVELYN STEIN COLORIST	TOM DEFALCO (DON'T CALL HIM) CHIEF

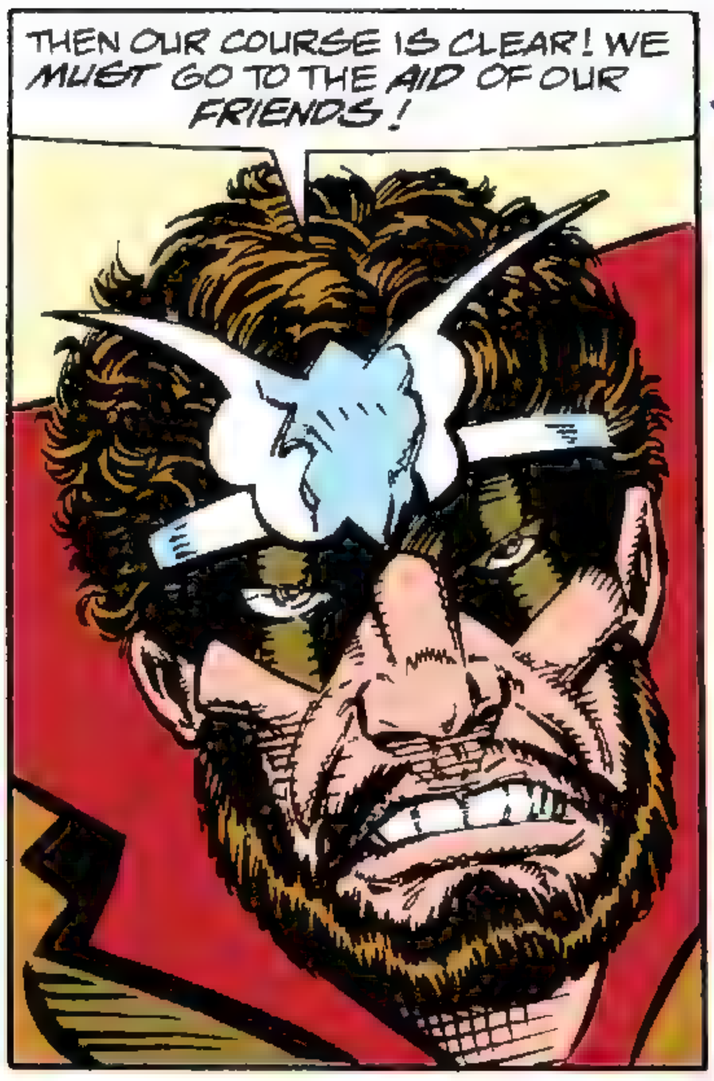

TALON!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE SAID HE DIDN'T FEEL WELL EARLIER...
...BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK THIS BAD!
WHUMP

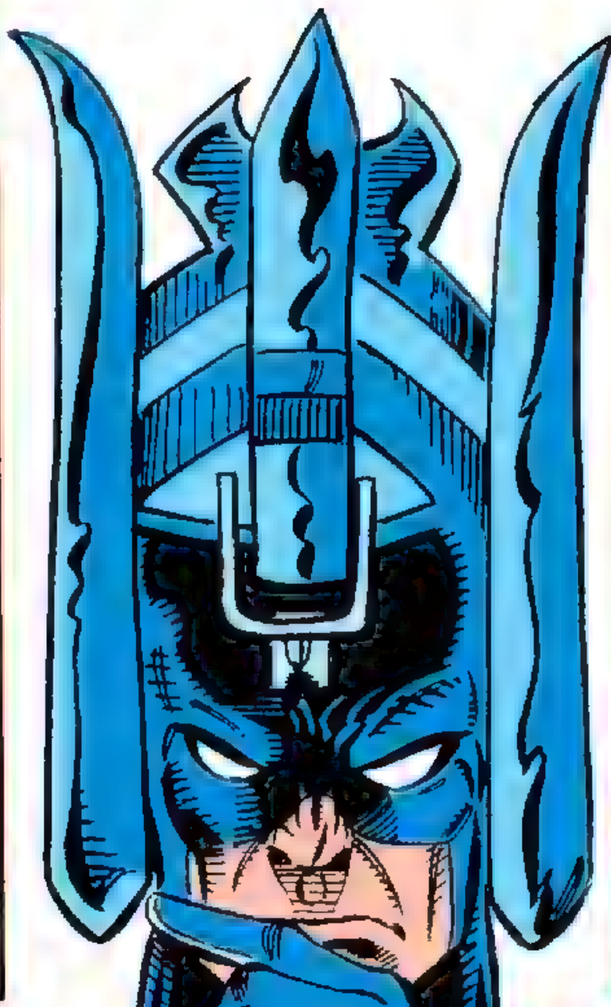
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S DYING!
CHARLIE, GET HIM OVER TO SICK BAY NOW!
YES, SIR.
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO, VANCE?
WITH MARTY GONE, WE NO LONGER HAVE A DOCTOR!

TRUE, BUT WE CAN STILL RUN A DIAGNOSTIC ON HIM...
...AND TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM!
GOT... GRAL'S DISEASE... IT'S HEREDITARY...
...TAKE ME TO ATTILAN, MAJOR...
...GET ME TO THE MOON.

* IT HAPPENED IN INFINITY WAR #2.--CRAIG-MEISTER

** MEDUSA WAS A MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR DURING FF #132-159.--RESEARCHIN' ANDERSON

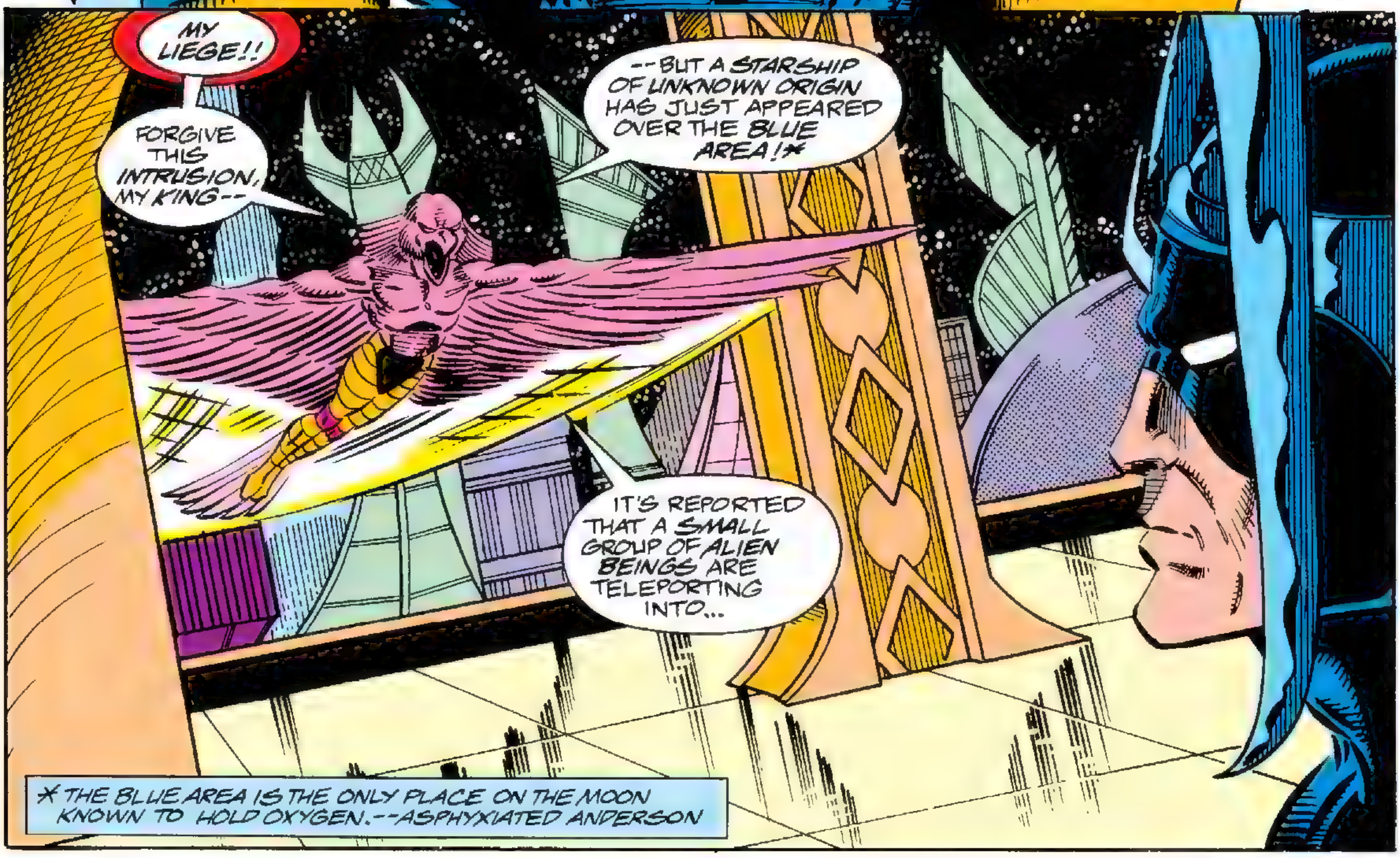

THEN OUR COURSE IS CLEAR! WE MUST GO TO THE AID OF OUR FRIENDS!

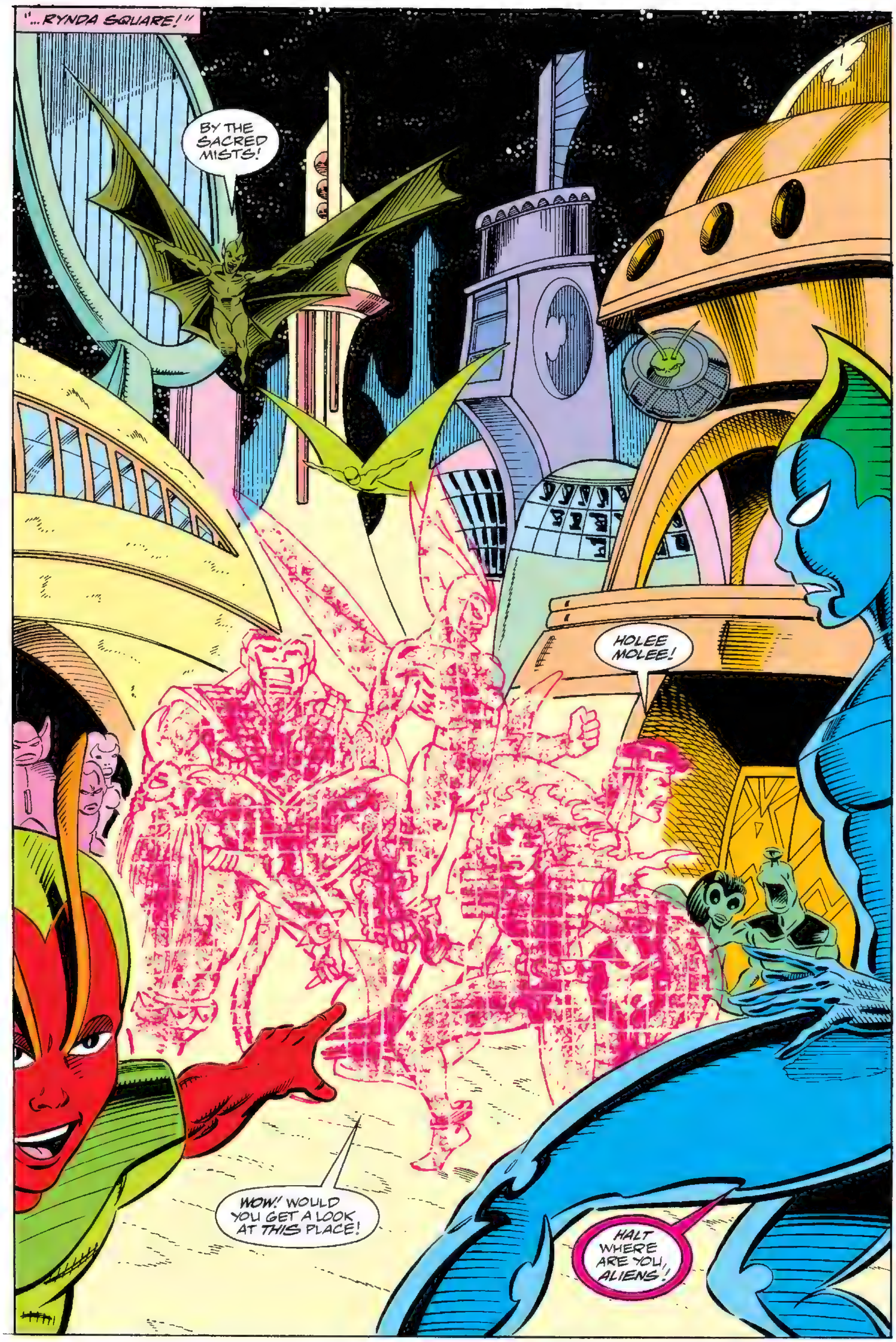


I DISAGREE, GORGON. KARNAK WOULD COUNCIL OUR REMAINING HERE TO PROTECT ATTILAN FROM WHATEVER THREAT THIS MAY BE!

BUT WE CANNOT IGNORE THE CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER...
...OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEFRIENDED US IN THE PAST!

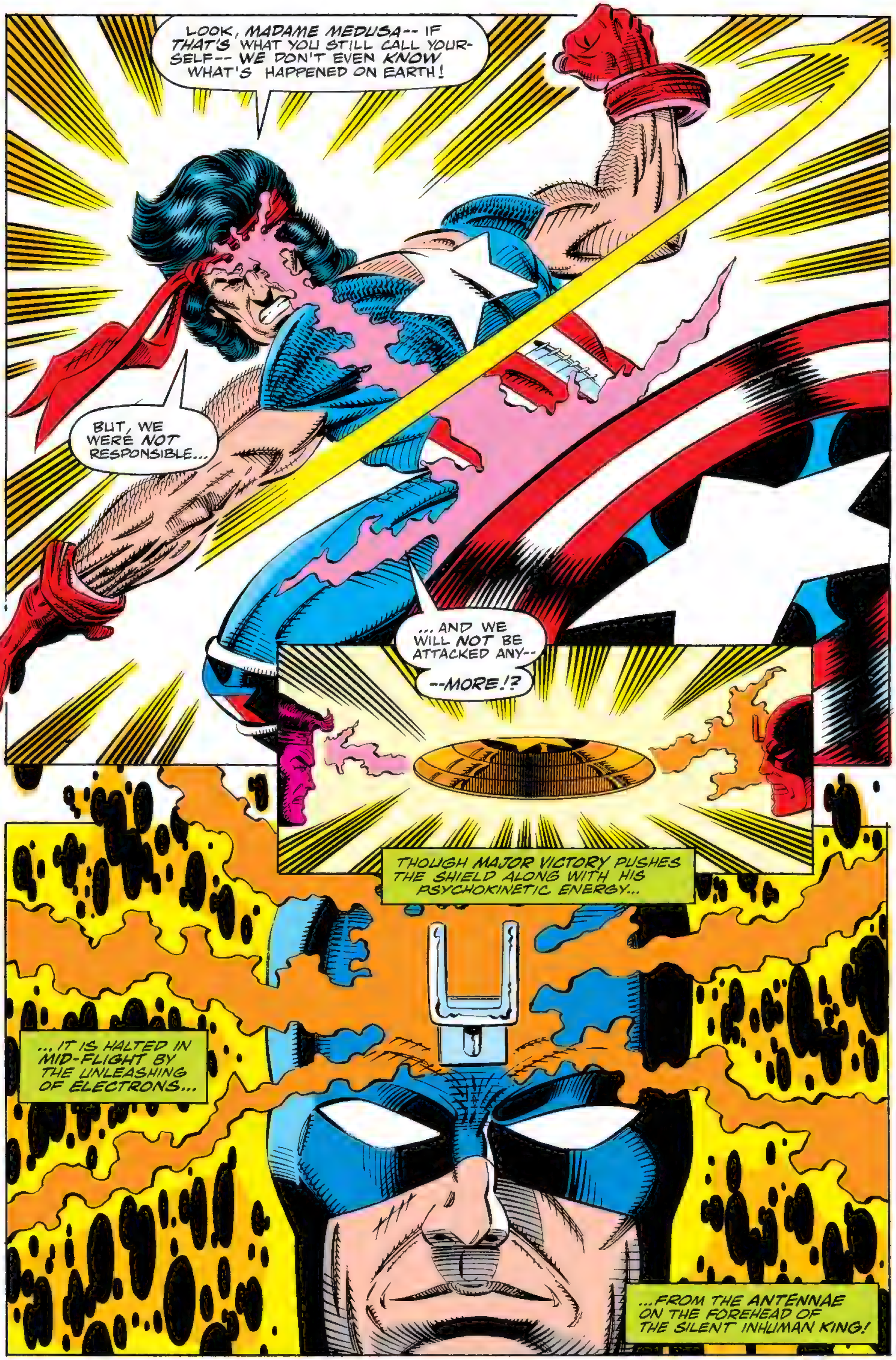
BLACK BOLT MUST MAKE THIS DECISION ALONE!


MY LIEGE!!
FORGIVE THIS INTRUSION, MY KING--
--BUT A STARSHIP OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN HAS JUST APPEARED OVER THE BLUE AREA!*
IT'S REPORTED THAT A SMALL GROUP OF ALIEN BEINGS ARE TELEPORTING INTO...
* THE BLUE AREA IS THE ONLY PLACE ON THE MOON KNOWN TO HOLD OXYGEN.--ASPHYXIATED ANDERSON


"...RYNDA SQUARE!"
BY THE SACRED MISTS!
HOLEE MOLEE!
WOW! WOULD YOU GET A LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
HALT WHERE ARE YOU, ALIENS!

BLACKAGAR*, RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ATTILAN, WOULD KNOW YOUR BUSINESS HERE!
WE HAVE A VERY SICK PERSON HERE WHO NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION FAST! WE BELIEVE HE MAY BE AN INHUMAN--!
AN INHUMAN?! IMPOSSIBLE! ALL INHUMANS ARE CURRENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR--
SIRE, IT COULD BE A RUSE TO GET IN OUR MIDST, ALLOWING THE DOOM THAT BEFELL FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA TO STRIKE HERE!
*BLACK BOLT'S BIRTH NAME. --CRAIGAGON
THEN THEY WILL FIND THEIR TROJAN HORSE PLOY WILL NOT CATCH US UNAWARES!
BY THE SACRED MISTS--
--THEY SHALL KNOW THE UN-FETTERED MIGHT--
--OF THE HOOVES OF GORGON!

KNOW YOU THAT THE INHUMANS WILL NOT EASILY FALL TO BASE TREACHERY!
WAIT--!
WHEN YOU ARE SUBDUED, THEN WE SHALL LEARN THE TRUTH OF YOUR WORDS!
WHOOMP!
LISTEN TO ME!
ACCKK!
THAT'S THE PERFECT THING TO SAY TO PUT US OFF-GUARD!
YET YOUR MEMBERS ARE CLOTHED IN WARRIOR'S GARB--
--YOU YOURSELF CARRY WHAT APPEARS TO BE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD--
--AND YOU MYSTERIOUSLY SHOW UP HERE MOMENTS AFTER THE DISASTER OCCURRED ON EARTH!
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT--WE NEED YOUR HELP!
OUR FRIEND MAY BE DYING--
SURRENDER NOW AND AVOID OUR WRATH!


LOOK, MADAME MEDUSA-- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF-- WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED ON EARTH!
BUT, WE WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE...
... AND WE WILL NOT BE ATTACKED ANY--
--MORE!?
THOUGH MAJOR VICTORY PUSHES THE SHIELD ALONG WITH HIS PSYCHOKINETIC ENERGY...
... IT IS HALTED IN MID-FLIGHT BY THE UNLEASHING OF ELECTRONS...
...FROM THE ANTENNAE ON THE FOREHEAD OF THE SILENT INHUMAN KING!

YOU WILL CAUSE NO HARM TO OUR LIEGE, GARISH ONE--
SO SPEAKS KARNAK!
UNNGHH!
I DRESS LIKE A WARROR BECAUSE I AM--WAS--CAPTAIN CHARLIE-27 OF THE JOVIAN SPACE-MILITIA--
--AND I CAN GIVE AS GOOD AS I GET!
WHAM!
I SURRENDER TO NO ONE WHO ATTACKS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE--
--AND A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY IS NOT A JUST CAUSE!

AND, NEARBY...
SNIFF SNIFF
GRRRRRR
AND WHILE ONE INHUMAN GROWLS HIS DISPLEASURE WITH ANOTHER...
...A SENSELESS BATTLE RAGES...
NO, STOP
THIS FIGHT IS POINTLESS!
WE SEEK ONLY YOUR AID--
--YOU MUST LISTEN!

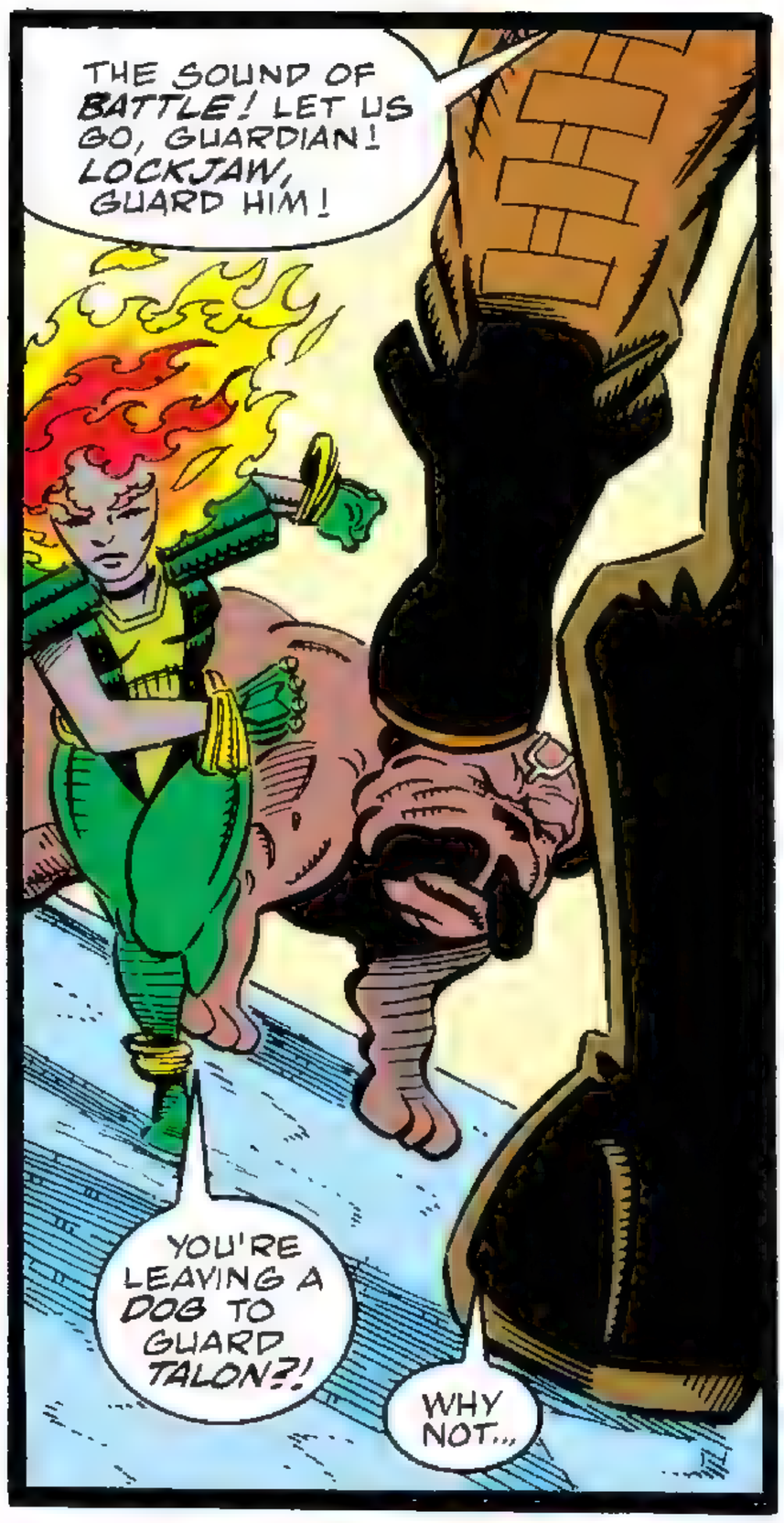
HEARING THE PLEA OF HIS TEAMMATE, MAJOR VICTORY UTILIZES HIS MUTANT POWER OF PSYCHOKINESIS...
STOP!
...PUSHING OUTWARD WITH HIS MIND...
...UNLEASHING A VIRTUAL WALL OF ENERGY WHICH STRIKES ALL THE COMBATANTS AT THE SAME TIME...
...AND CAUSES THE FIGHTING TO CEASE!
EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE HERE, ALIENS!
BLACK BOLT WOULD PETITION FOR PEACE!

AND WHEN THE GUARDIANS HAVE EXPLAINED WHO THEY ARE, WHENCE THEY CAME AND WHY THEY HAVE COME TO ATTILAN THIS DAY...
GORGON, TAKE THE BOY TO THE RANDAC MEDICAL CENTER!
AT ONCE, MEDUSA.
UNGHH! THE LAD IS HEAVIER THAN HE LOOKS!
INDEED, MADAME. BUT FIRST, NIKKI, GO WITH TALON.
NOW, WE CAN DISCUSS THE GUARDIANS' TIMING, MAJOR VICTORY.
YOU DO NOT TRUST US?
WELL, YOU DID JUST ATTACK US WITH LITTLE OR NO PROVOCATION.
YOU TELEPORTED INTO OUR CITY WITH AN INJURED INHUMAN, ON THIS OF ALL DAYS!
FRANKLY, MEDUSA, UNTIL THIS DAY WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW TALON WAS AN INHUMAN!
AND WHAT'S SO DARN RELEVANT ABOUT TODAY, ANYWAY?
COME TO THE PUBLIC MONITOR AND WE SHALL SHOW YOU, MAJOR.

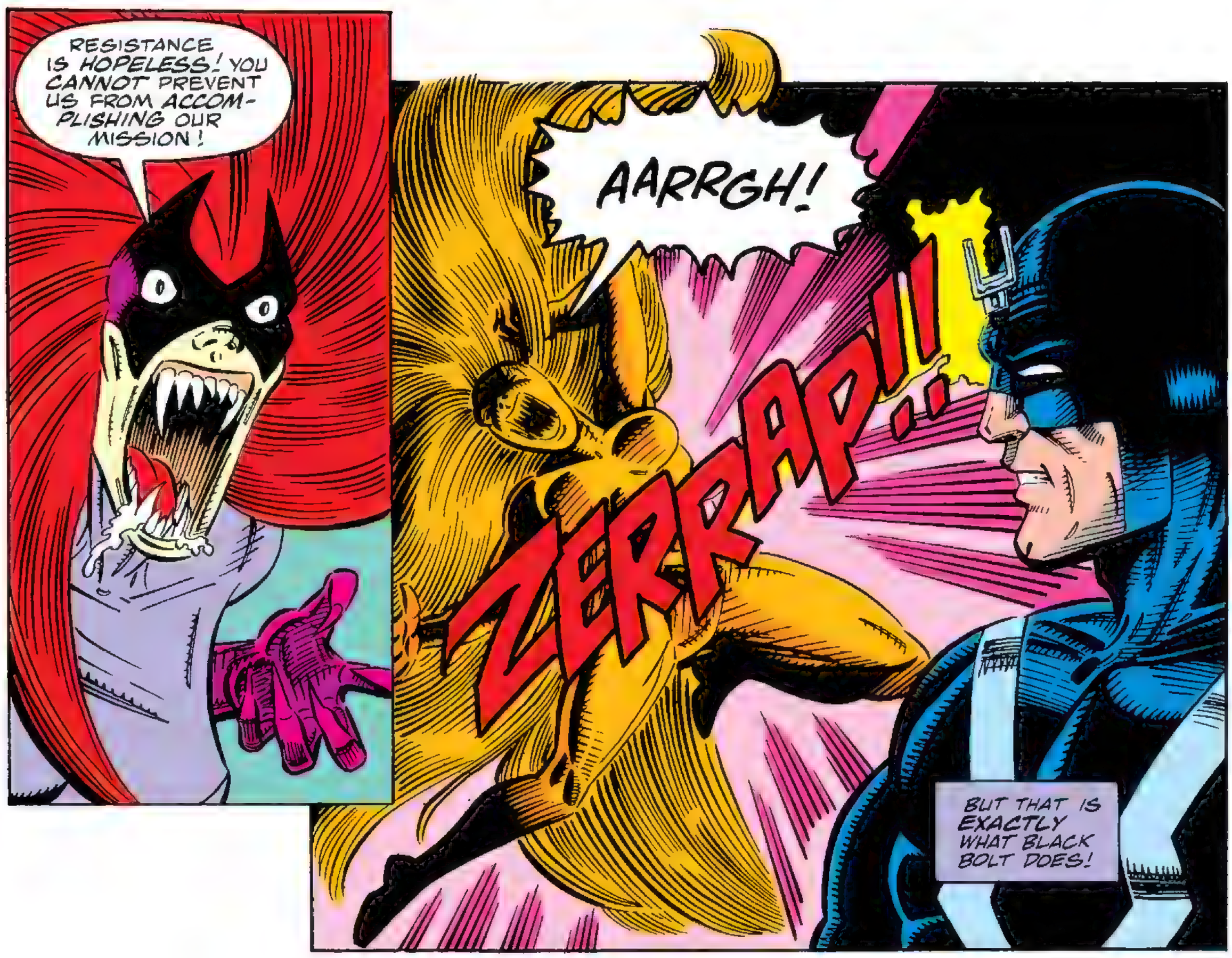
A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN RYNDA SQUARE...
THIS WAS FILMED THIS MORNING* BY LONG-RANGE CAMERAS, MAJOR.
THE BUILDING IS CALLED FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA. IT IS THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF--
--THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
* IT HAPPENED IN INFINITY WAR #2. --EXHAUSTED ANDERSON
BUT WHO, OR MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING SIMILAR HAPPENING IN MY TIME LINE.*
THAT IS THE QUESTION, MAJOR. AND WE DO NOT HAVE AN ANSWER.
* VANCE'S (AND THE GUARDIANS') TIME LINE DIVERGED FROM THE MAINSTREAM MARVEL UNIVERSE IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #69.--CRAIG

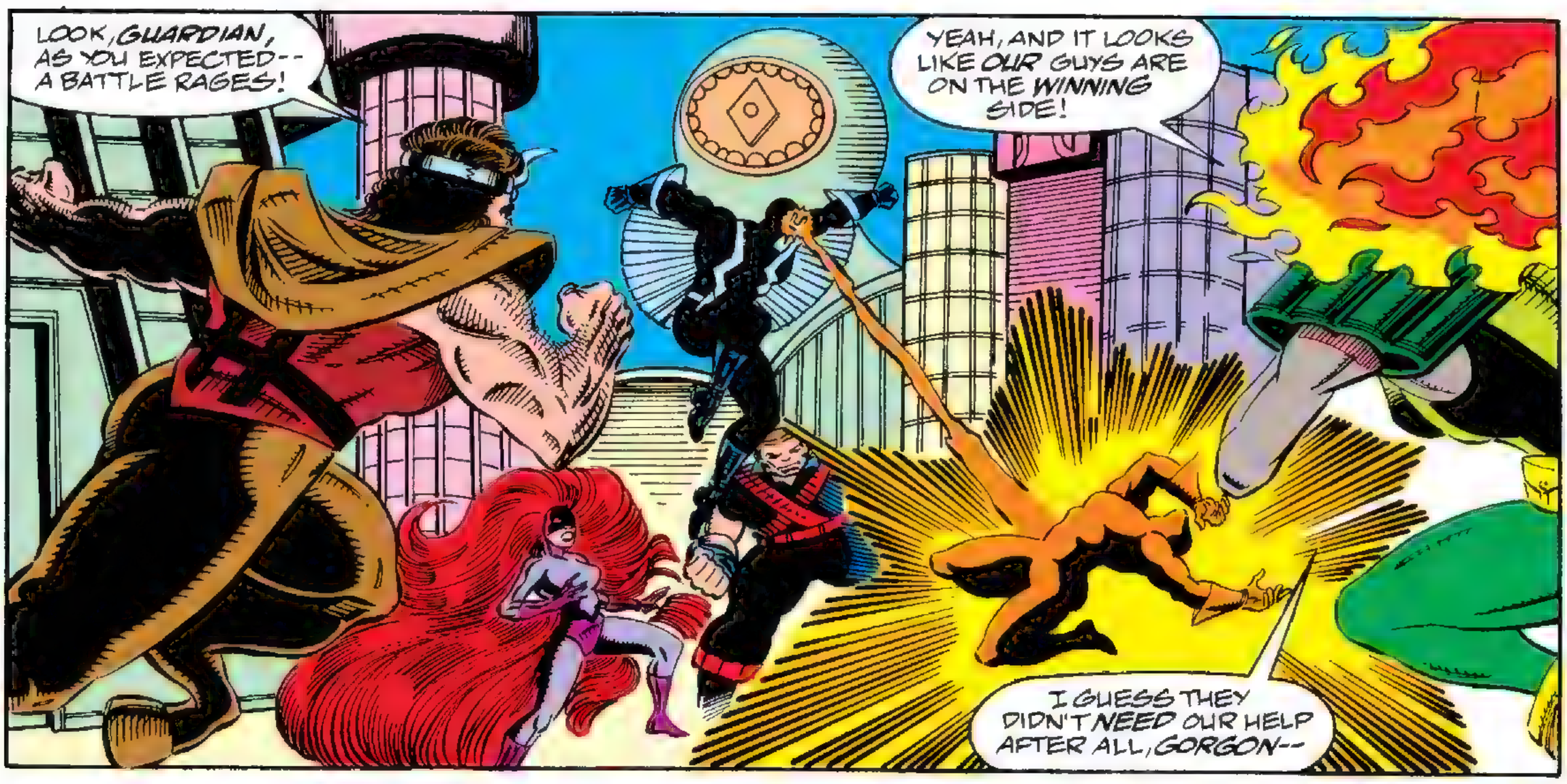
SUDDENLY--
WHAT THE--? THEY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE!
AS DID YOU, VANCE ASTRO. EVIL FORCES ARE AT WORK IN THE UNIVERSE!
BUT, WHO-- OR WHAT ARE THEY?
WE WERE HOPING THAT YOU COULD TELL US!
DOPPEL-GANGERS TRITON!
PERVERTED, DARKER REFLECTIONS OF EACH ONE OF US!

YEAH? WELL, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TOO FAR TO BE MUCH DARKER THAN YOU, STARHAWK!
WHAP
PERHAPS NOT, CAPTAIN 27. BUT, UNLIKE ME, THESE CREATURES WILL REPLACE YOU--
--TURNING YOU INTO A MINDLESS THRALL!
AARGHH!
NOW, HOW IN THE WORLD COULD YOU KNOW THAT, STARHAWK?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE NO LONGER "THE ONE-WHO-KNOWS"!
BAM
YES, I'M SURE YOU DID, MAJOR.
AND...
HOW IS HE, GORGON?
HE IS WELL. GRAL'S DISEASE IS NOT FATAL IF CAUGHT IN TIME.
DO YOU... LOVE HIM?
WE'RE FRIENDS. JUST FRIENDS. BUT HE MEANS A LOT TO ME.
AS MY FRIENDS DO TO ME.
GRRRR
HEY, DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
IT SOUNDS LIKE...


THE SOUND OF BATTLE! LET US GO, GUARDIAN! LOCKJAW, GUARD HIM!
YOU'RE LEAVING A DOG TO GUARD TALON?!
WHY NOT...

"...THEY'RE BOTH INHUMANS, AFTER ALL!"
UNNGH... CAN'T SAY WHEN I'VE FELT SO...
...HUH?
YIPES!


RESISTANCE IS HOPELESS! YOU CANNOT PREVENT US FROM ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION!
AARRGH!
ZERRAP!!
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT BLACK BOLT DOES!


LOOK, GUARDIAN, AS YOU EXPECTED-- A BATTLE RAGES!
YEAH, AND IT LOOKS LIKE OUR GUYS ARE ON THE WINNING SIDE!
I GUESS THEY DIDN'T NEED OUR HELP AFTER ALL, GORGON--

"--I WONDER HOW TALON AND LOCKJAW ARE DOING?"
NICE DOGGY... BACK DOGGY...
GRRRR
HELP, SOMEBODY... ANYBODY? PLEASE?!!
RRRRR

WOOF
WOOF
YIKES!
GANGWAY! MAD DOG! MAD DOG!

AND, IN RYNDA SQUARE...
NOW THAT OUR DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN SETTLED, I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO MEET YOU, BLACK BOLT.
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAVE LONG BEEN--

HALP!
WOOF WOOF
SOMEBODY CALL HIM OFF!
LOCKJAW! BLACK BOLT COMMANDS YOU TO HALT!
WURFF?
WHEW! THANK YOU, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, SIR!
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE IT!
SO, YOU ARE AN INHUMAN?
YES, MA'AM, THIRTY-FIRST CENTURY VARIETY AT YOUR SERVICE!
THIRTY-FIRST--? AMAZING!
WE ARE MOST PLEASED TO LEARN THAT OUR RACE WILL SURVIVE THE COMING MILLENNIUM.
WELL, YOU MAY NOT BE "SO PLEASED" FOR VERY LONG!

YOU SEE, MADAME MEDUSA, THE INHUMANS OF THE 31ST CENTURY ARE NO LONGER THE PROUD RACE OF THIS ERA.

WE NUMBER LESS THAN 600 INDIVIDUALS, ALL OF WHOM ARE VIRTUAL SLAVES...

...LIVING IN A RESERVATION BENEATH THE HUMAN-RUN CITY OF ATTILAN.*

I, MYSELF, ESCAPED ONLY BECAUSE I WAS THE DISCIPLE TO MY CENTURY'S SORCEROR SUPREME** AT THE TIME.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND, DON'CHA KNOW!

* AS REVEALED IN GUARDIANS ANNUAL #1.
** KRUGARR:--FOOTNOTE-HAPPY-CRAIG

RESERVATION? BUT HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE? HOW COULD--?

A TRAITOR, M'LADY. ONE WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN FOREVER LOST TO HISTORY...

BUT, WHO WOULD BETRAY US?

THEY SAY THAT THE TRAITOR WAS A ROYAL...

...BUT, NOT AN INHUMAN!

"A ROYAL, BUT NOT AN INHUMAN?"

BY AGON!

LUNA!

WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON ON EARTH!

FAREWELL, MY LIEGE!

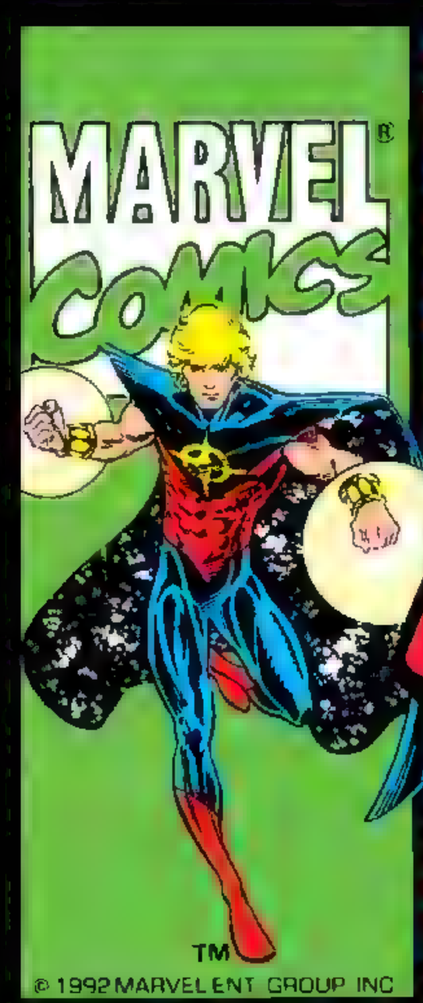
OUR TELEPORTATION STARS ARE ATTUNED TO OUR EARTH-BASED HEADQUARTERS...

...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS AT-- AVENGERS MANSION!

NEXT

VILLAINS, VILLAINS EVERYWHERE!

BE HERE OR BE SQUARE!



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$1.25 US
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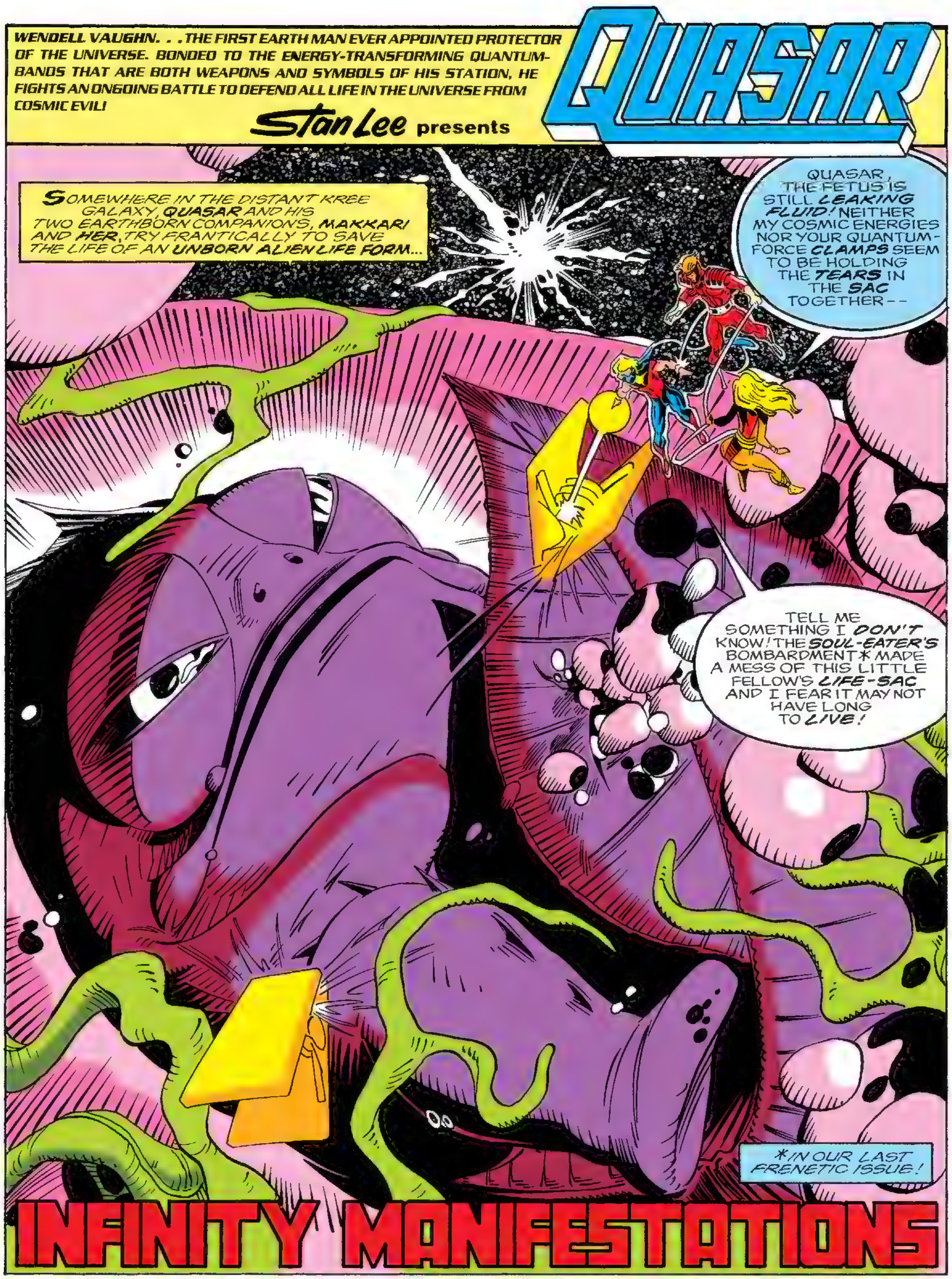
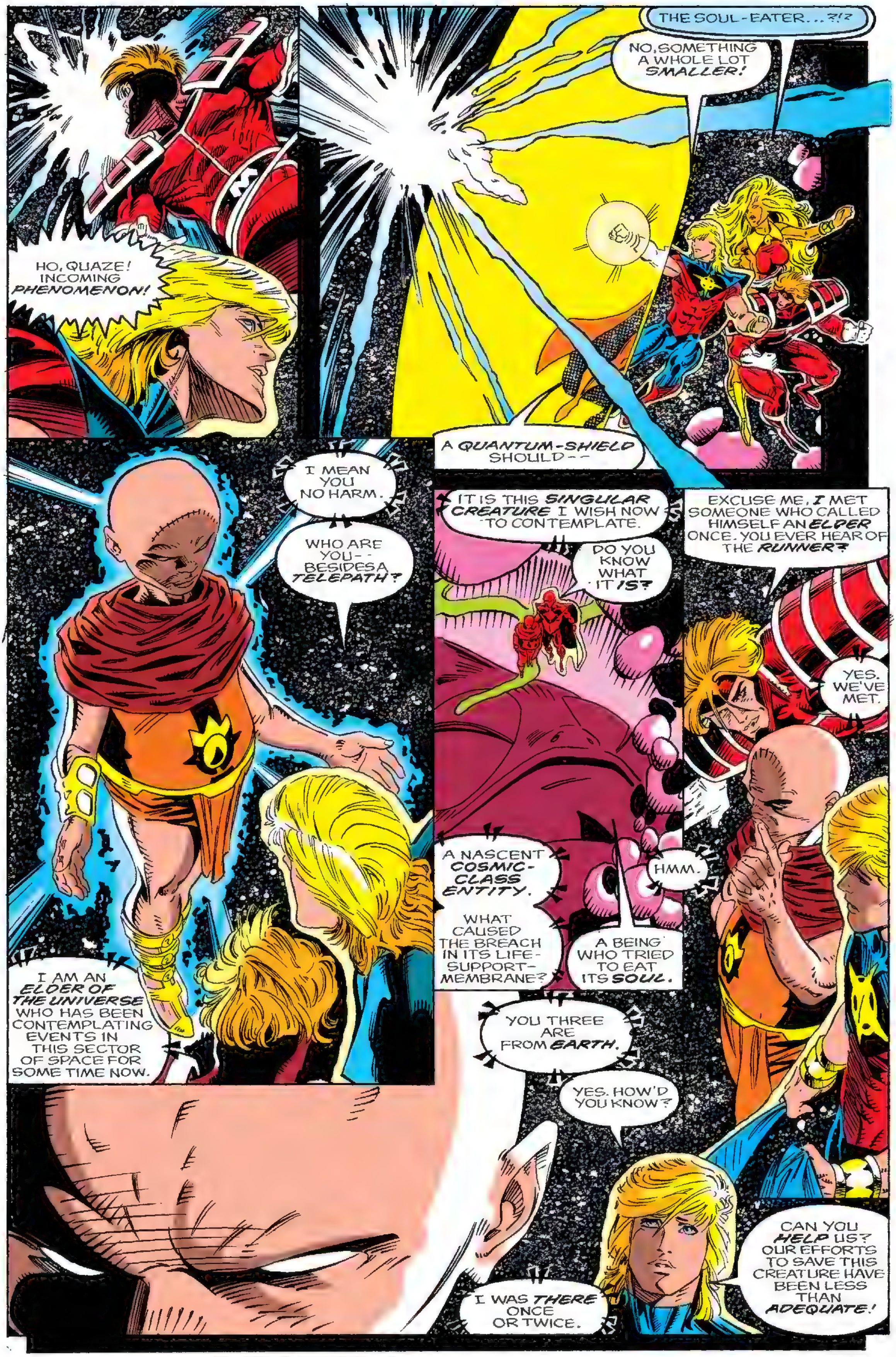
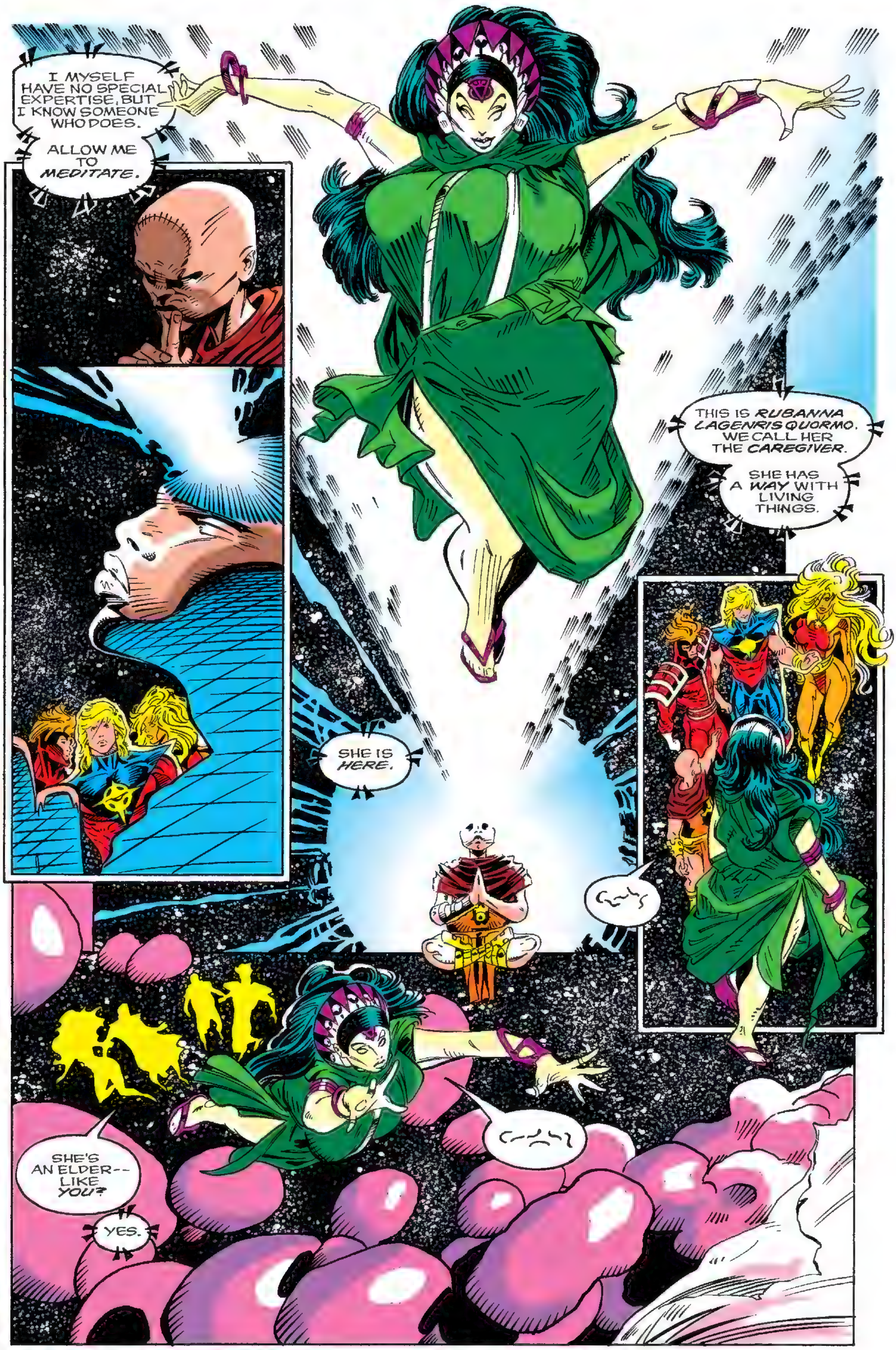
QUASAR™


WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!
Stan Lee presents
QUASAR
SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANT KREE GALAXY, QUASAR AND HIS TWO EARTHBORN COMPANIONS, MAKKARI AND HER, TRY FRANTICALLY TO SAVE THE LIFE OF AN UNBORN ALIEN LIFE FORM...
QUASAR, THE FETUS IS STILL LEAKING FLUID! NEITHER MY COSMIC ENERGIES NOR YOUR QUANTUM-FORCE CLAMPS SEEM TO BE HOLDING THE TEARS IN THE SAC TOGETHER--
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW! THE SOUL-EATER'S BOMBARDMENT* MADE A MESS OF THIS LITTLE FELLOW'S LIFE-SAC AND I FEAR IT MAY NOT HAVE LONG TO LIVE!
*IN OUR LAST FRENETIC ISSUE!
INFINITY MANIFESTATIONS
MARK GRUENWALD WRITER • GREG CAPULLO PENCILER • HARRY CANDELARIO INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • PAUL BECTON COLORIST • KELLY CORVESE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EMBRYO IN CHIEF


HO, QUAZE! INCOMING PHENOMENON!
THE SOUL-EATER...?!?
NO, SOMETHING A WHOLE LOT SMALLER!
A QUANTUM-SHIELD SHOULD--
I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
WHO ARE YOU-- BESIDES A TELEPATH?
I AM AN ELDER OF THE UNIVERSE WHO HAS BEEN CONTEMPLATING EVENTS IN THIS SECTOR OF SPACE FOR SOME TIME NOW.
IT IS THIS SINGULAR CREATURE I WISH NOW TO CONTEMPLATE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
EXCUSE ME, I MET SOMEONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF AN ELDER ONCE. YOU EVER HEAR OF THE RUNNER?
YES. WE'VE MET.
A NASCENT COSMIC-CLASS ENTITY.
HMM.
WHAT CAUSED THE BREACH IN ITS LIFE-SUPPORT-MEMBRANE?
A BEING WHO TRIED TO EAT ITS SOUL.
YOU THREE ARE FROM EARTH.
YES. HOW'D YOU KNOW?
I WAS THERE ONCE OR TWICE.
CAN YOU HELP US? OUR EFFORTS TO SAVE THIS CREATURE HAVE BEEN LESS THAN ADEQUATE!


I MYSELF HAVE NO SPECIAL EXPERTISE, BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES.
ALLOW ME TO MEDITATE.
THIS IS RUBANNA LAGENRIS QUORMO. WE CALL HER THE CAREGIVER.
SHE HAS A WAY WITH LIVING THINGS.
SHE IS HERE.
SHE'S AN ELDER-- LIKE YOU?
YES.

WOW. SHE JUST TOUCHES THE SAC AND IT SEALS!
I ALMOST THOUGHT I HEARD THE FETUS... COOING.
I ONCE THOUGHT IT MY DESTINY TO NURTURE LIFE, BUT I SEE NOW HOW LITTLE I KNOW.
SHE IS KIND TO LIFE; LIFE IS KIND TO HER.
REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, CONTEMPLATOR. WE WEREN'T SURE WHAT TO DO.
PERHAPS YOU CAN REPAY THE FAVOR SOMEDAY.
EXCUSE ME. I'VE GOT A CALL.
WHAT'S UP, EPOCH?
A FRIEND OF YOURS FROM EARTH IS ATTEMPTING TO SUMMON YOU, BUT DUE TO THE DISTANCE INVOLVED, THE MESSAGE WILL NOT REACH YOU FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED OF YOUR--
I AM LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IMITATING ME IN THIS GALACTIC SECTOR.
SHOULD YOU ENCOUNTER SUCH A BEING, PLEASE DETAIN HIM AND--
COULD YOU RELAY IT TO ME?
AND...
CAPTAIN AMERICA! WHAT'S UP, AVENGER?
I KNOW YOU'RE NO LONGER ON ACTIVE DUTY, QUASAR, BUT I HAVE A PROBLEM ONLY YOU--OF ALL AVENGERS--COULD HOPE TO HELP ME WITH.
GO ON.
I'M LOOKING FOR ETERNITY. ACCORDING TO SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES, SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THIS COSMIC CHARACTER WHOSE WELL BEING, I'M TOLD IS IMPORTANT TO THAT OF THE UNIVERSE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM?

WHEW! ETERNITY'S ONE OF THE *HEAVIEST* OF THE HEAVIES, CAP. I *DID* GLIMPSE HIM--OR IT--ONCE,* THOUGH, SO IT *MIGHT* BE BETTER IF I HANDLE THIS FOR YOU BY MYSELF.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO AND LET YOU *KNOW*, OKAY?

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AS USUAL. WE CAN ASK NO MORE. THANKS, QUASAR!

HEAR *THAT*, EPPY? I'M GOING TO NEED *YOUR HELP*. I KNOW I ASKED YOU ONCE BEFORE, WHEN THE *SUN* WAS IN JEOPARDY, IF YOU KNEW ANY *FELLOW OMNIPOTENTS*...

AND AS I TOLD YOU THEN, IN ALL MY DEALINGS WITH THEM, I WAS THE ONE CONTACTED.

WELL, *THINK HARD*. WHERE CAN I EVEN START TO CONTACT THE *SENTIENT SPIRIT* OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE?

ETERNITY IS EVERYWHERE THAT TIME AND LIFE EXISTS. NO PLACE IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER.

I WAS *AFRAID* YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT.

I MAY BE ABLE TO *HELP* ONCE AGAIN

THE NATURE OF THE ABSTRACT ENTITIES IS SOMETHING I HAVE CONTEMPLATED UPON *OFTEN*.

I BELIEVE WITH THE AID OF YOUR *POWER*--

--I CAN GAIN ENTRANCE TO THEIR *PLANE OF EXISTENCE*.

BACK IN ISSUE #25.

HER? MAK? HOW'D YOU GUYS LIKE TO COME WITH ME AND MEET THE *PERSONIFICATION* OF THE TEMPORAL ASPECT OF THE--

YOU *MISUNDERSTAND* QUASAR. IT WILL TAKE ALL OF MY CONCENTRATION TO JUST GET THE TWO OF US THERE.

WHOOPS! LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *CANCEL* THAT OFFER.

ARE YOU CERTAIN THE LITTLE MAN IS TO BE *TRUSTED?*

HE *DID* HELP WITH THE SPACE FETUS. I THINK *SO*.

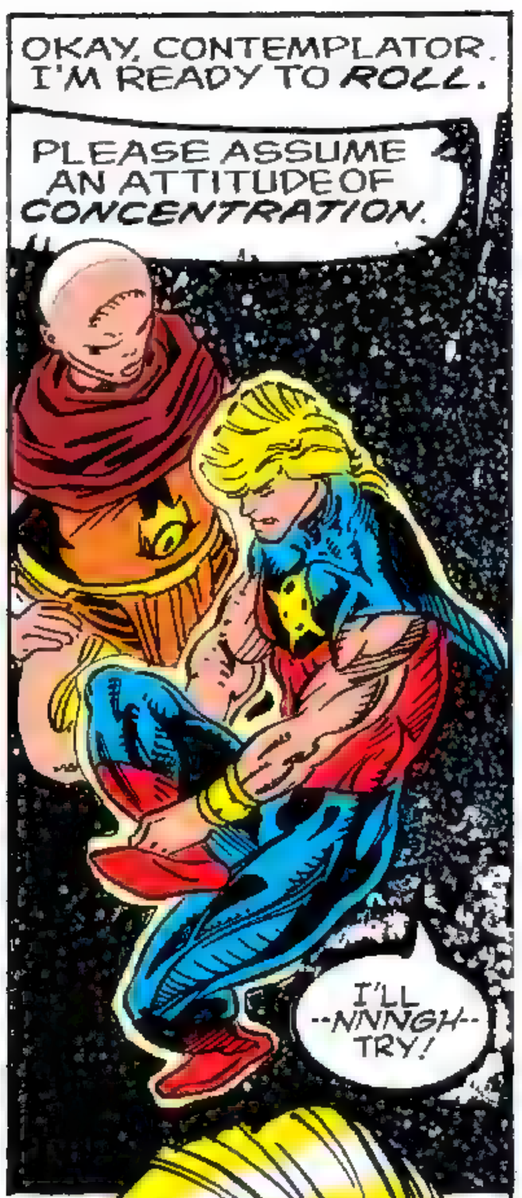
ANYWAY, I NEED YOU TWO TO DO ME A *FAVOR*. GO BACK TO THE SHIP OF THE MOURNERS* AND LET THEM KNOW THEY NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE MISSING SOULS OF THE KREE ANYMORE.

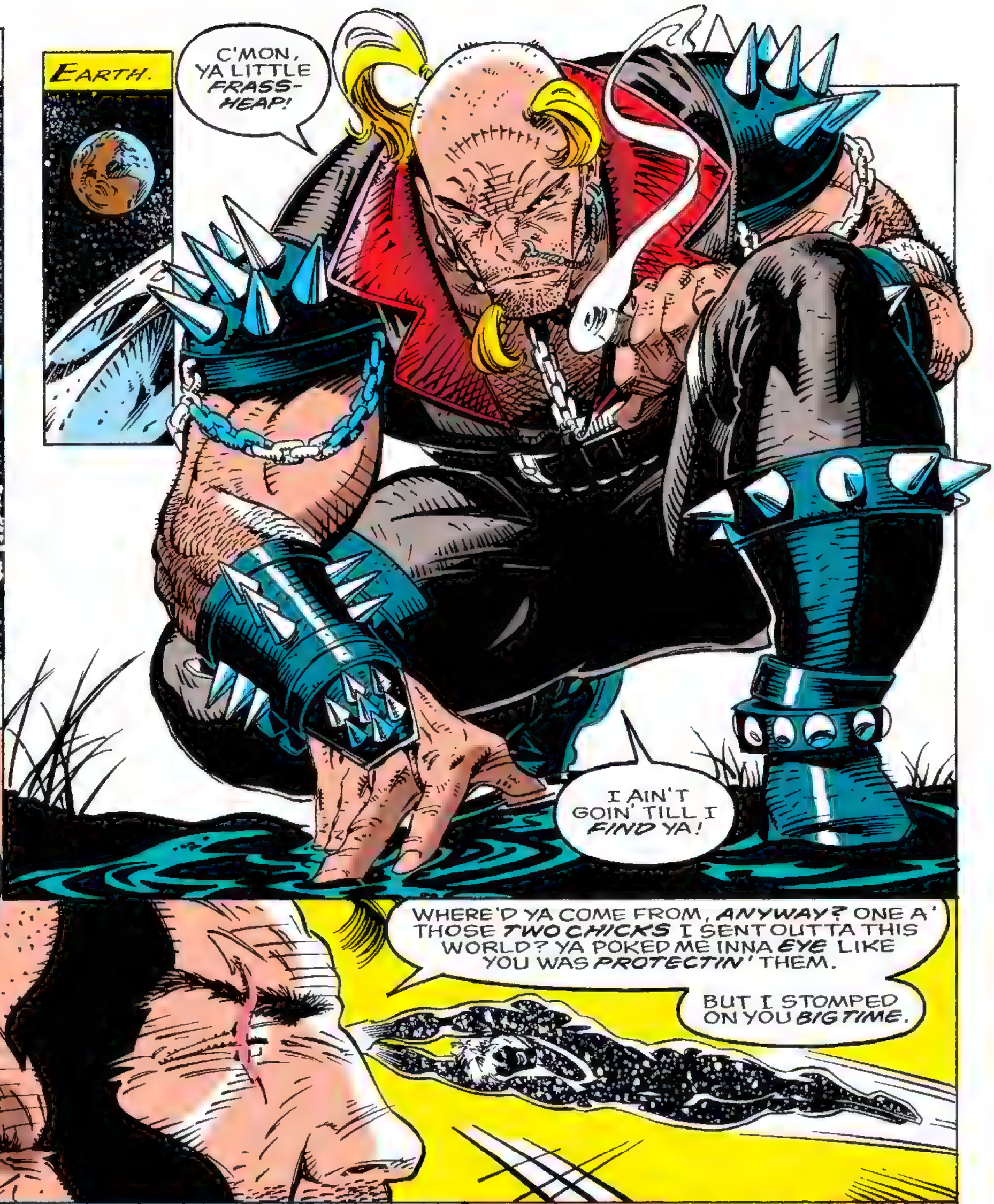
I HAVE NO LOVE FOR THOSE BIZARRE *DEATH-CELEBRATORS*, BUT IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, IT IS MY *KISMET* TO AID YOU IN YOUR *MISSION*.

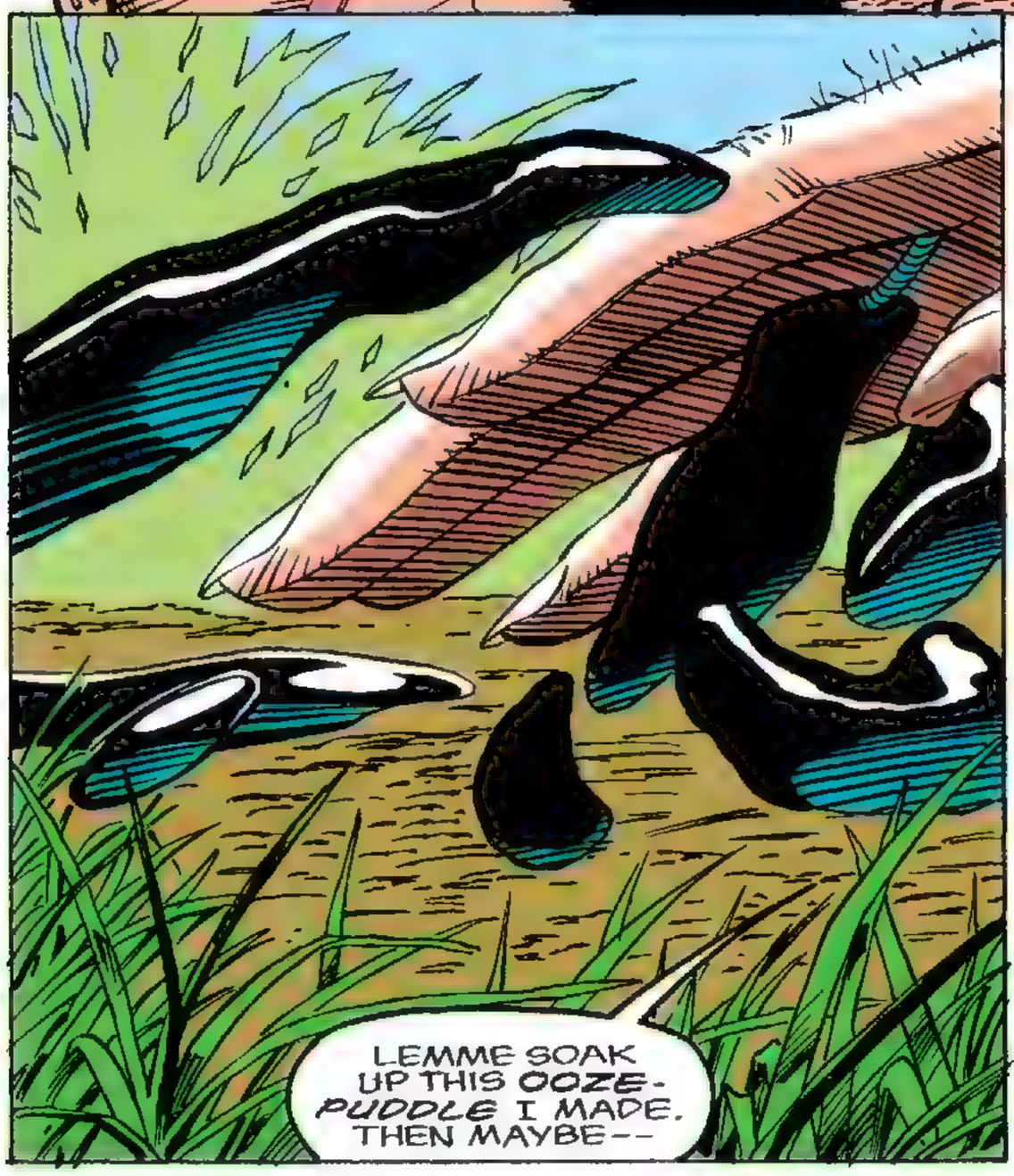
KISMET, HMM? HAS A NICE RING TO IT.

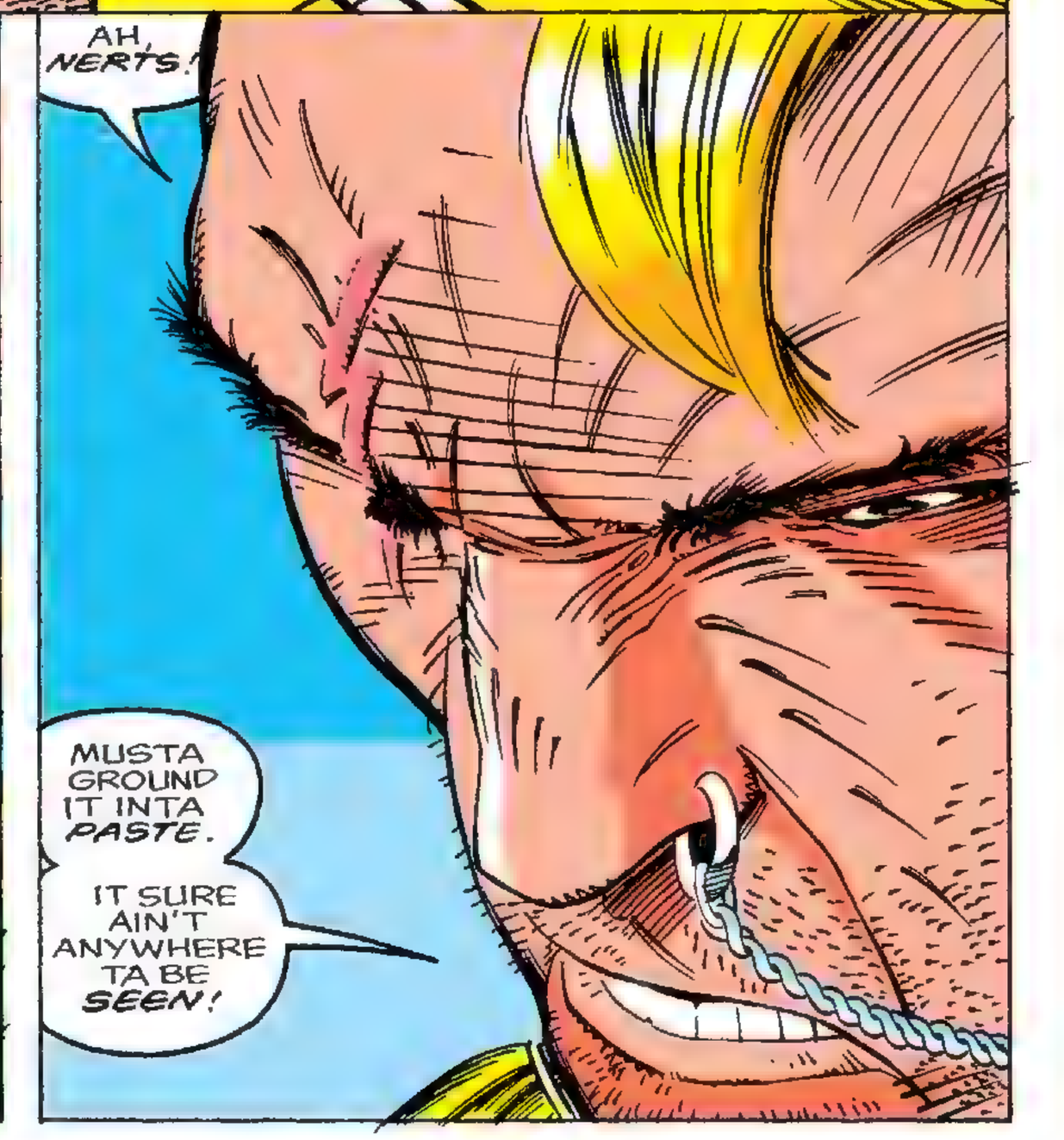
EPOCH WILL KEEP TRACK OF WHERE YOU GUYS ARE. I'LL *CATCH UP* WITH YOU AS SOON AS I *GET BACK!*

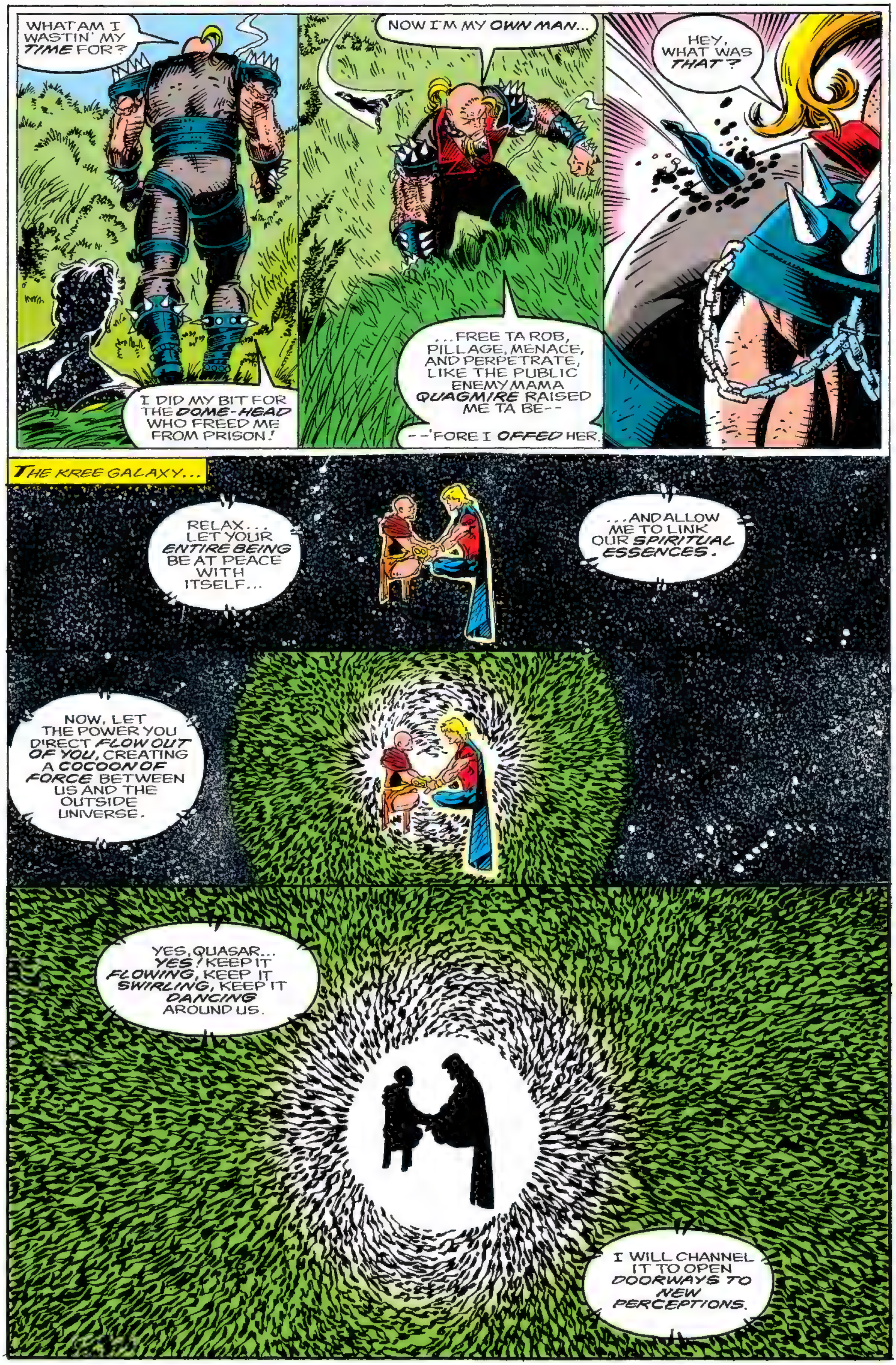
*SEE ISSUE #35.


OKAY, CONTEMPLATOR. I'M READY TO ROLL.
PLEASE ASSUME AN ATTITUDE OF CONCENTRATION.
I'LL --NNNGH-- TRY!

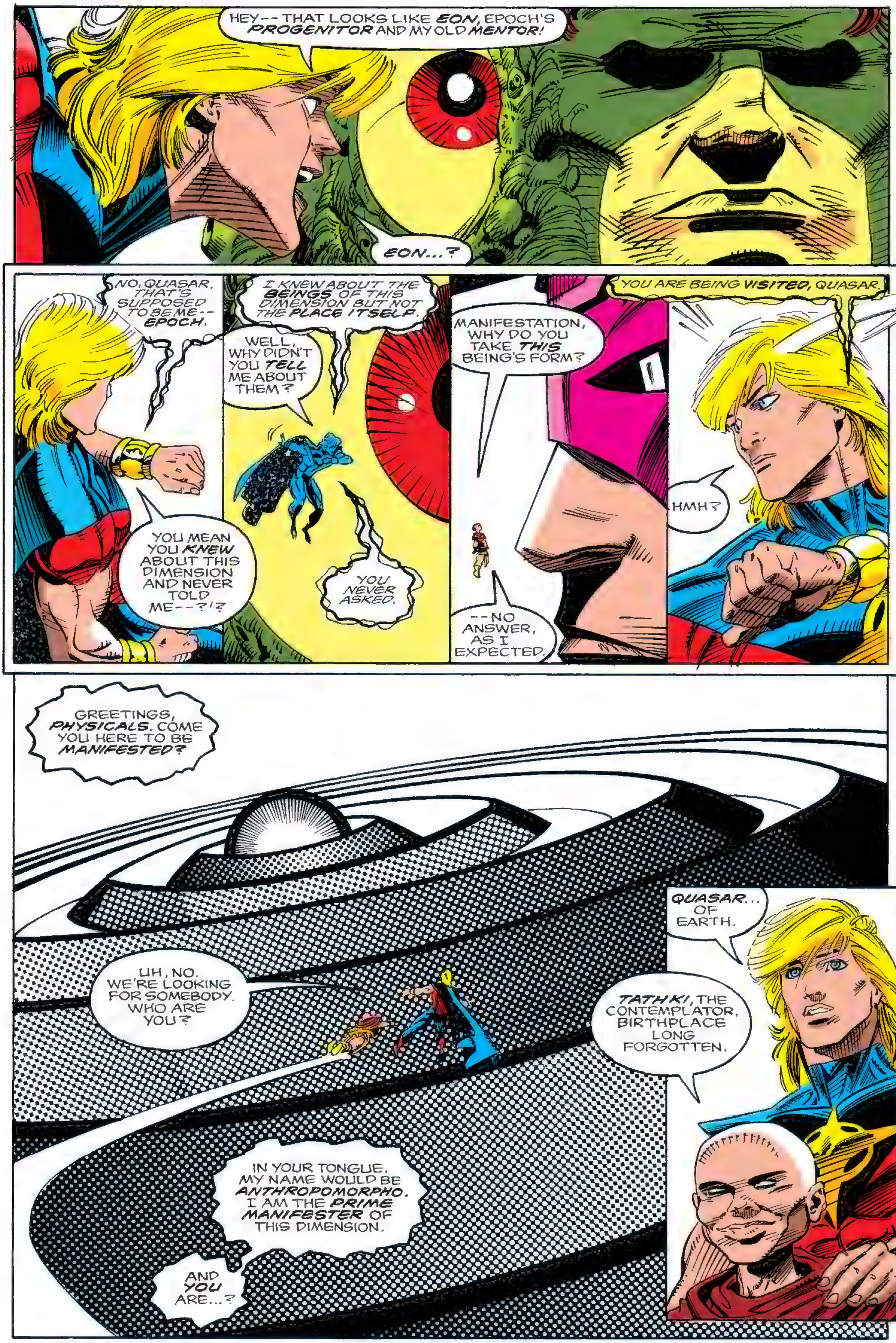

EARTH.
C'MON, YA LITTLE FRASS-HEAP!
I AIN'T GOIN' TILL I FIND YA!
YER IDDY-BIDDY CORPSE'LL LOOK REAL BUTCH HANGIN' ROUND MY NECK!
WHERE'D YA COME FROM, ANYWAY? ONE A' THOSE TWO CHICKS I SENT OUTTA THIS WORLD? YA POKED ME INNA EYE LIKE YOU WAS PROTECTIN' THEM.
BUT I STOMPED ON YOU BIG TIME.


LEMME SOAK UP THIS OOZE-PUDDLE I MADE. THEN MAYBE--

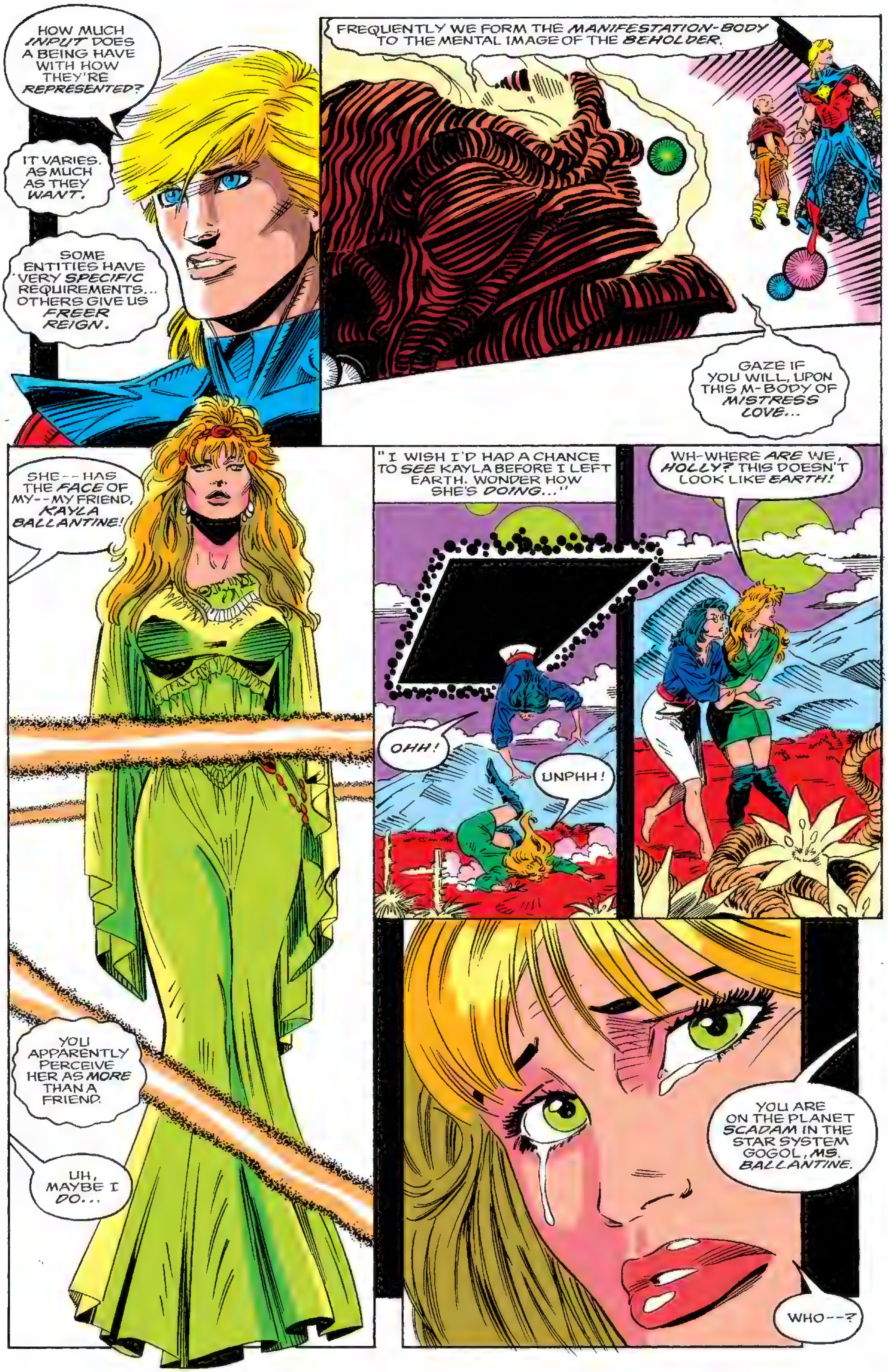

AH, NERTS!
MUSTA GROUND IT INTA PASTE.
IT SURE AIN'T ANYWHERE TA BE SEEN!

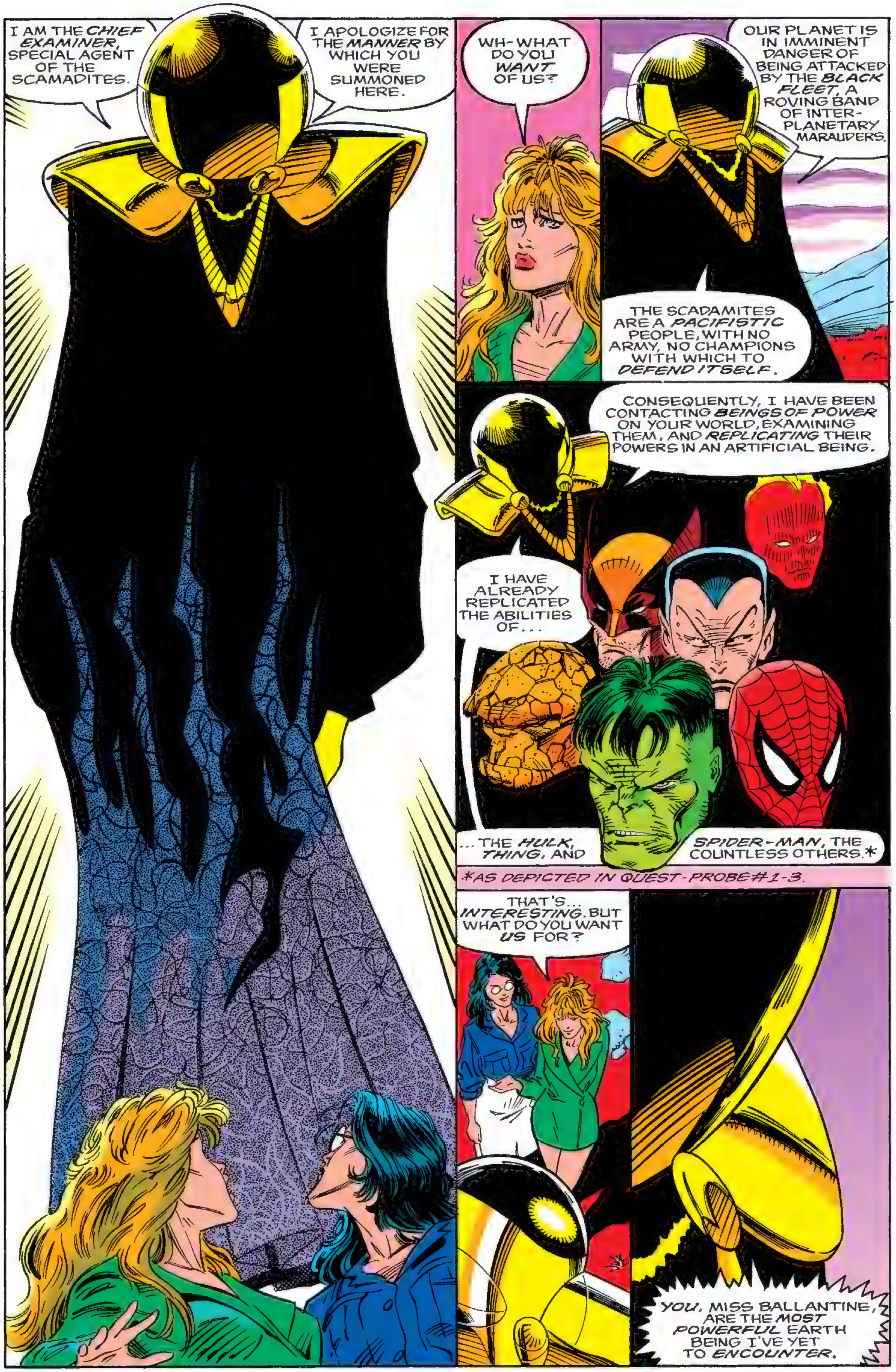

WHAT AM I WASTIN' MY TIME FOR?
I DID MY BIT FOR THE DOME-HEAD WHO FREED ME FROM PRISON!
NOW I'M MY OWN MAN...
...FREE TA ROB, PILLAGE, MENACE, AND PERPETRATE, LIKE THE PUBLIC ENEMY MAMA QUAGMIRE RAISED ME TA BE--
--'FORE I OFFED HER.
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?
THE KREE GALAXY...
RELAX... LET YOUR ENTIRE BEING BE AT PEACE WITH ITSELF...
...AND ALLOW ME TO LINK OUR SPIRITUAL ESSENCES.
NOW, LET THE POWER YOU DIRECT FLOW OUT OF YOU, CREATING A COCOON OF FORCE BETWEEN US AND THE OUTSIDE UNIVERSE.
YES, QUASAR... YES! KEEP IT FLOWING, KEEP IT SWIRLING, KEEP IT DANCING AROUND US.
I WILL CHANNEL IT TO OPEN DOORWAYS TO NEW PERCEPTIONS.

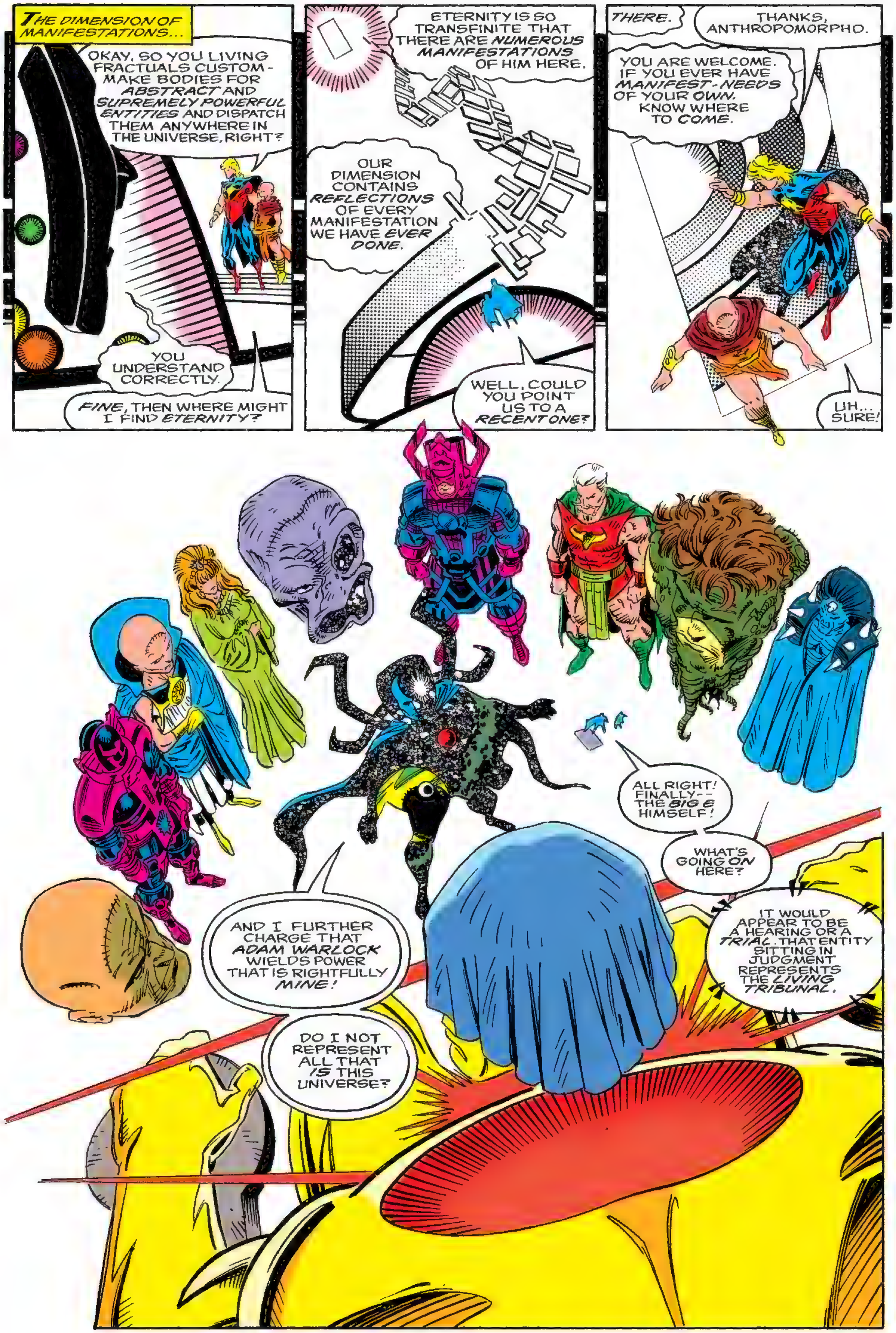
*SEE THE CLASSIC INFINITY GAUNTLET #5.

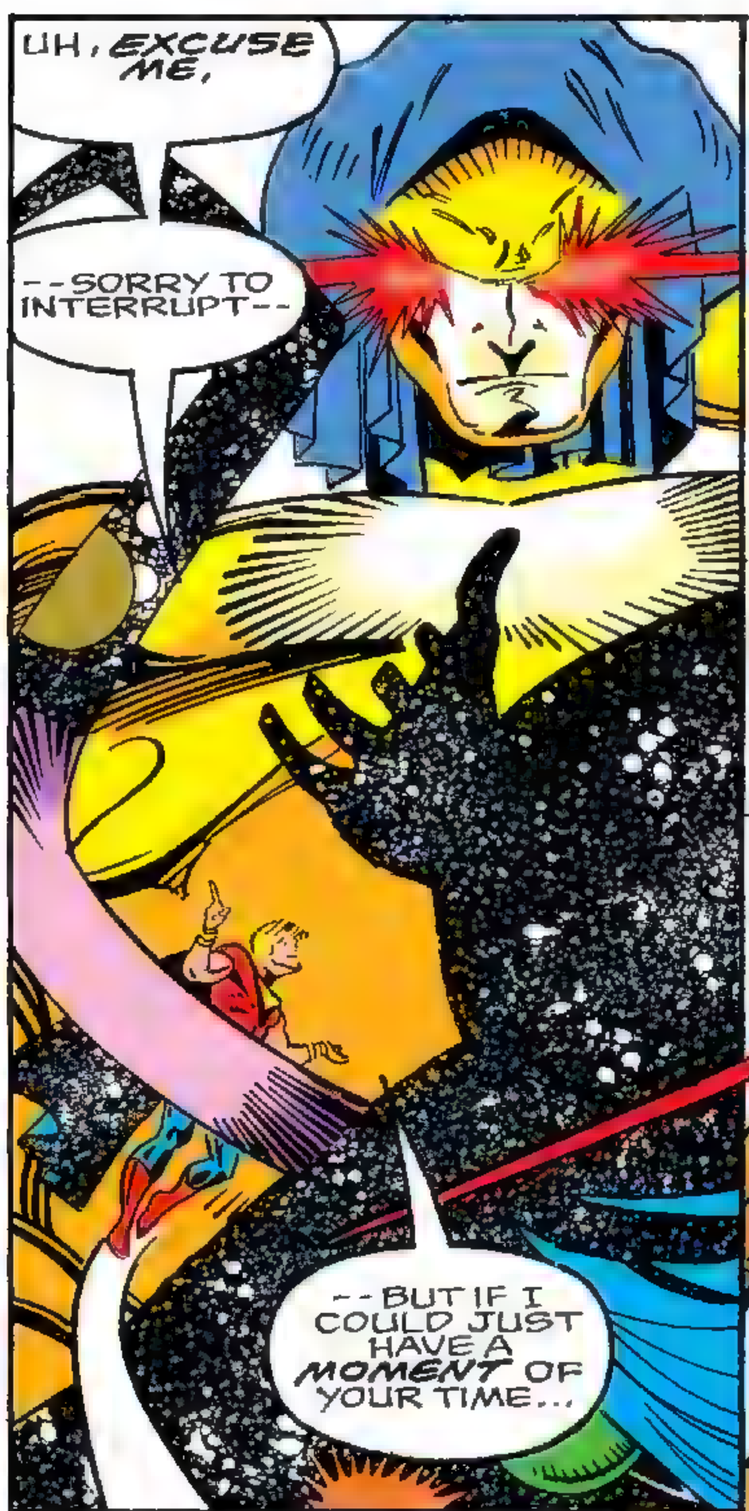

HEY--THAT LOOKS LIKE EON, EPOCH'S PROGENITOR AND MY OLD MENTOR!
EON...?
NO, QUASAR. THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ME--EPOCH.
YOU MEAN YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS DIMENSION AND NEVER TOLD ME--?!?
I KNEW ABOUT THE BEINGS OF THIS DIMENSION BUT NOT THE PLACE ITSELF.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?
YOU NEVER ASKED.
MANIFESTATION, WHY DO YOU TAKE THIS BEING'S FORM?
--NO ANSWER, AS I EXPECTED.
YOU ARE BEING VISITED, QUASAR.
HMH?
GREETINGS, PHYSICALS. COME YOU HERE TO BE MANIFESTED?
UH, NO. WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY. WHO ARE YOU?
IN YOUR TONGUE, MY NAME WOULD BE ANTHROPOMORPHO. I AM THE PRIME MANIFESTER OF THIS DIMENSION.
AND YOU ARE...?
QUASAR... OF EARTH.
TATHKI, THE CONTEMPLATOR, BIRTHPLACE LONG FORGOTTEN.

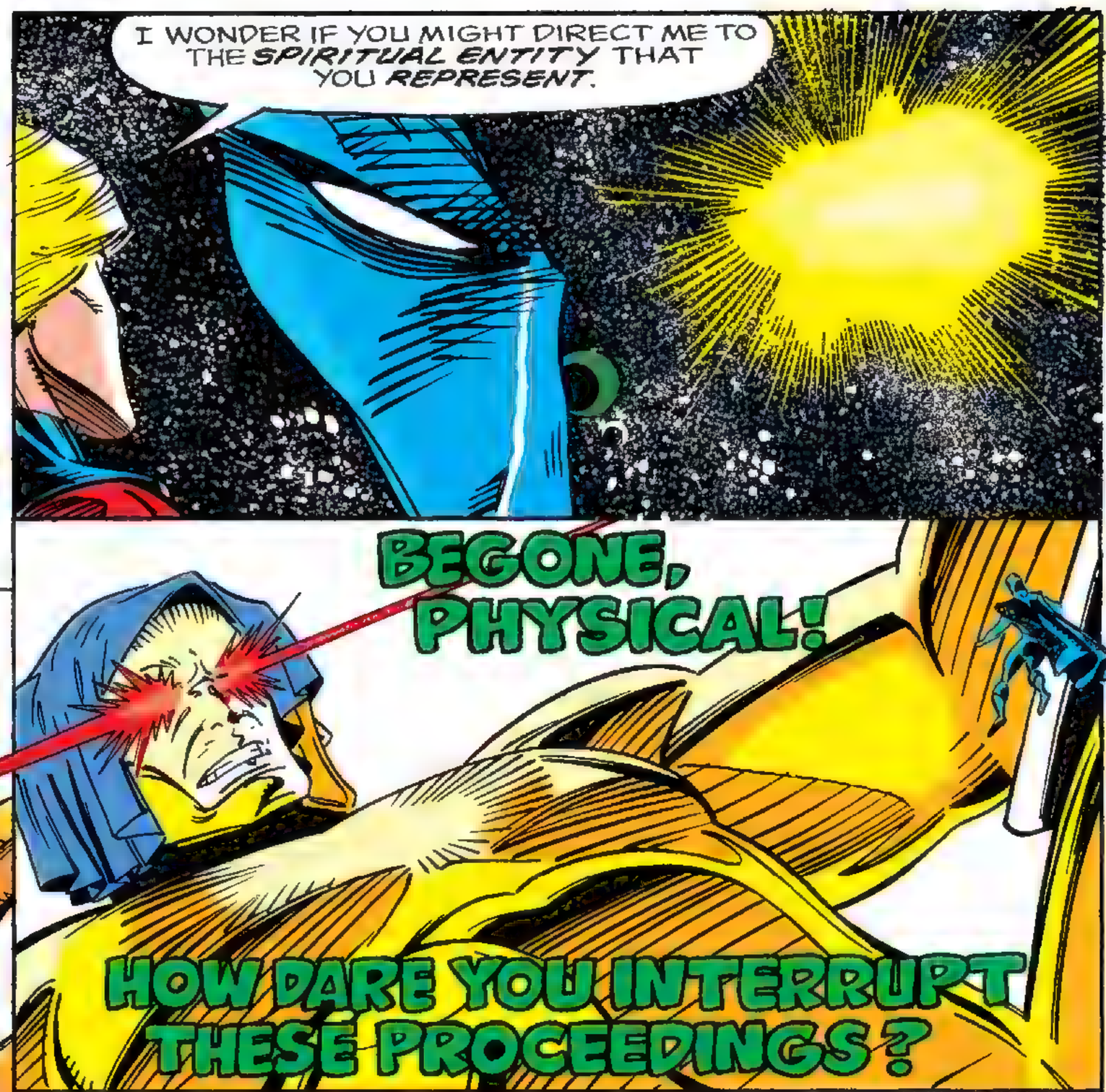
WE'RE LOOKING FOR ETERNITY. MY FRIEND HERE THINKS HE MAY BE FOUND HERE.
YES, HE CAN...IN A SENSE.
MY PEOPLE AND I ARE LIVING FRACTALS, ABLE TO SHAPE OURSELVES IN AN INFINITE MANNER. WE SERVE AS THE MANIFESTATION-BODIES FOR BEINGS WHO HAVE NO PHYSICAL FORMS.
SO I GATHERED. BUT WHY?
WE HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ABSTRACT BEINGS, AN EXCHANGE OF ENERGIES THAT YOU PHYSICALS WOULD NOT COMPREHEND.
WHAT ABOUT GALACTUS AND SOME OF THESE GUYS -- THEY DO HAVE BODIES OF THEIR OWN.
CERTAIN POWERFUL PHYSICAL ENTITIES ALSO ENLIST OUR SERVICES SO THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE SOMEWHERE WITHOUT ACTUALLY ATTENDING.
WE GIVE OUR NEWBORNS THE FINITE BEINGS TO PRACTICE ON BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO MANIFEST ABSTRACT BEINGS.
THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE OF THE PARTICULAR MANIFESTER DETERMINES HOW WELL THE ENTITY IS REPRESENTED.


HOW MUCH INPUT DOES A BEING HAVE WITH HOW THEY'RE REPRESENTED?
IT VARIES. AS MUCH AS THEY WANT.
SOME ENTITIES HAVE VERY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS... OTHERS GIVE US FREER REIGN.
FREQUENTLY WE FORM THE MANIFESTATION-BODY TO THE MENTAL IMAGE OF THE BEHOLDER.
GAZE IF YOU WILL, UPON THIS M-BODY OF MISTRESS LOVE...
SHE--HAS THE FACE OF MY--MY FRIEND, KAYLA BALLANTINE!
"I WISH I'D HAD A CHANCE TO SEE KAYLA BEFORE I LEFT EARTH. WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING..."
OHH!
UNPHH!
WH-WHERE ARE WE, HOLLY? THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE EARTH!
YOU APPARENTLY PERCEIVE HER AS MORE THAN A FRIEND.
UH, MAYBE I DO...
YOU ARE ON THE PLANET SCADAM IN THE STAR SYSTEM GOGOL, MS. BALLANTINE.
WHO--?


I AM THE CHIEF EXAMINER, SPECIAL AGENT OF THE SCAMADITES.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE MANNER BY WHICH YOU WERE SUMMONED HERE.
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT OF US?
OUR PLANET IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING ATTACKED BY THE BLACK FLEET, A ROVING BAND OF INTER-PLANETARY MARAUDERS,
THE SCADAMITES ARE A PACIFISTIC PEOPLE, WITH NO ARMY, NO CHAMPIONS WITH WHICH TO DEFEND ITSELF.
CONSEQUENTLY, I HAVE BEEN CONTACTING BEINGS OF POWER ON YOUR WORLD, EXAMINING THEM, AND REPLICATING THEIR POWERS IN AN ARTIFICIAL BEING.
I HAVE ALREADY REPLICATED THE ABILITIES OF...
...THE HULK, THING, AND
SPIDER-MAN, THE COUNTLESS OTHERS.*
*AS DEPICTED IN QUEST-PROBE #1-3.
THAT'S... INTERESTING. BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT US FOR?
YOU, MISS BALLANTINE, ARE THE MOST POWERFUL EARTH BEING I'VE YET TO ENCOUNTER.

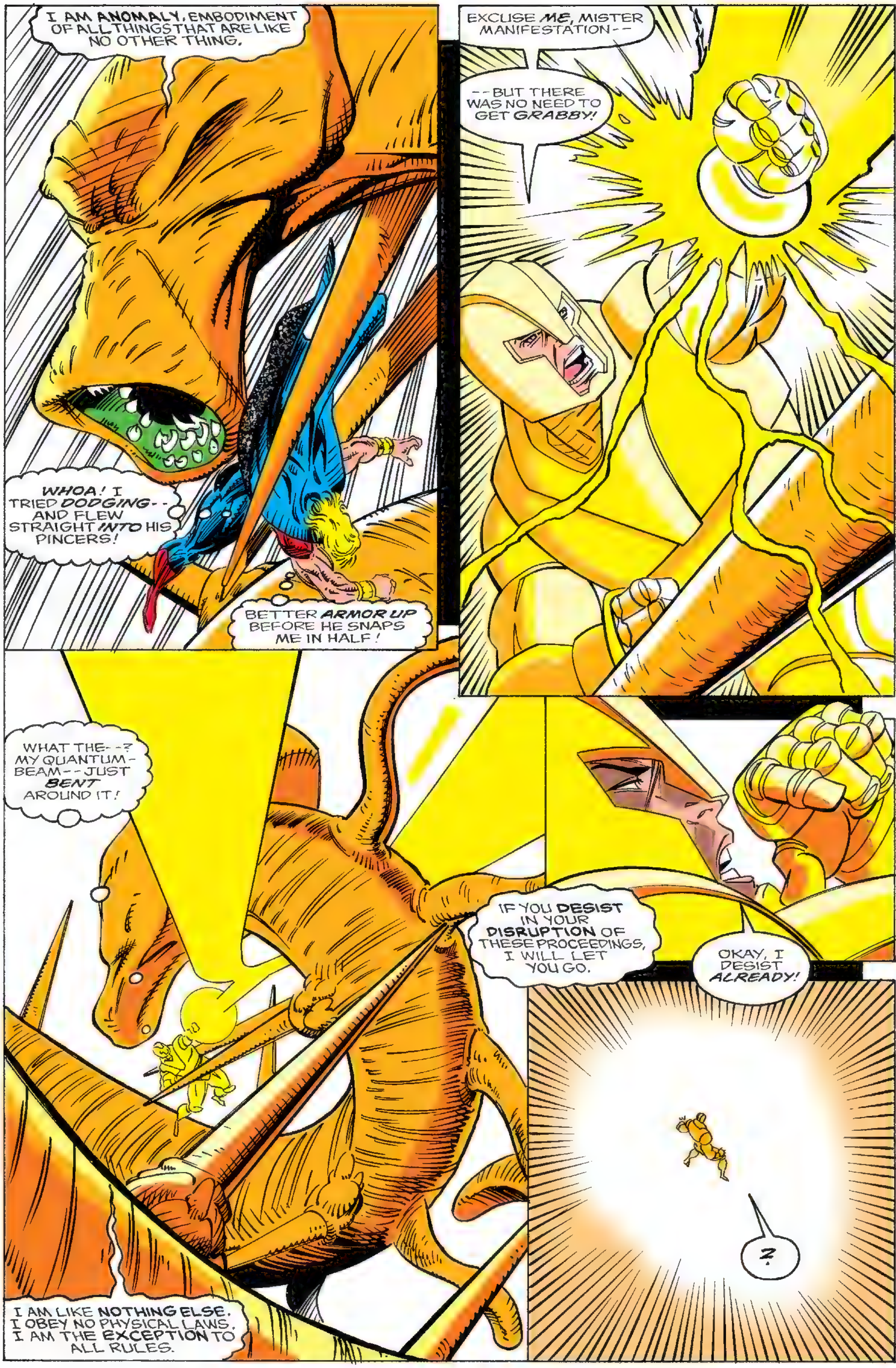

THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS...
OKAY, SO YOU LIVING FRACTUALS CUSTOM-MAKE BODIES FOR ABSTRACT AND SUPREMELY POWERFUL ENTITIES AND DISPATCH THEM ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE, RIGHT?
YOU UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY.
FINE, THEN WHERE MIGHT I FIND ETERNITY?
ETERNITY IS SO TRANSFINITE THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS MANIFESTATIONS OF HIM HERE.
OUR DIMENSION CONTAINS REFLECTIONS OF EVERY MANIFESTATION WE HAVE EVER DONE.
WELL, COULD YOU POINT US TO A RECENT ONE?
THERE.
THANKS, ANTHROPOMORPHO.
YOU ARE WELCOME. IF YOU EVER HAVE MANIFEST-NEEDS OF YOUR OWN, KNOW WHERE TO COME.
UH... SURE!
ALL RIGHT! FINALLY-- THE BIG E HIMSELF!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
AND I FURTHER CHARGE THAT ADAM WARLOCK WIELDS POWER THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!
IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A HEARING OR A TRIAL. THAT ENTITY SITTING IN JUDGMENT REPRESENTS THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.
DO I NOT REPRESENT ALL THAT IS THIS UNIVERSE?

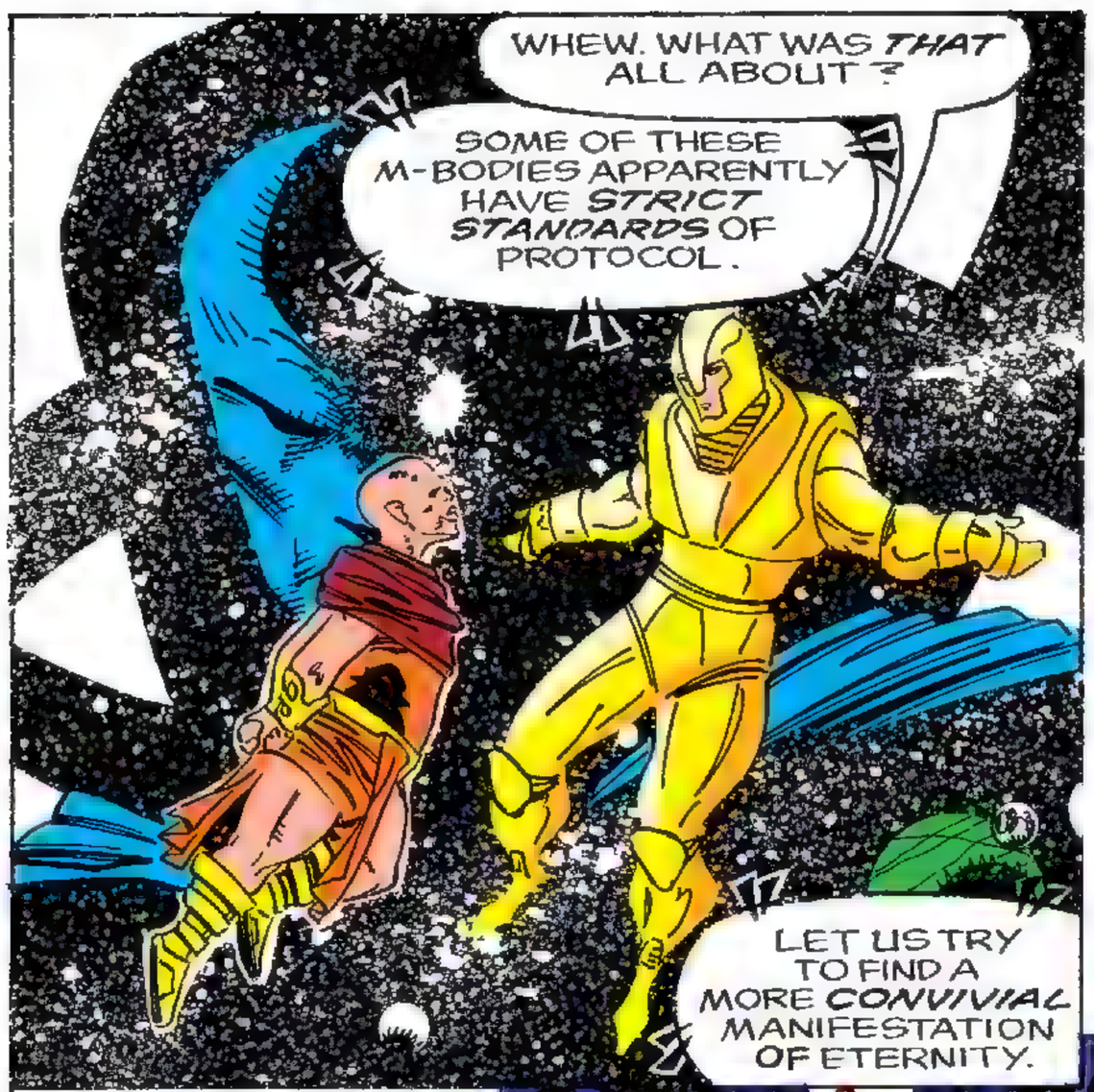




PERMIT ME TO ATTEND TO THIS UNSEEMLY DISRUPTION, YOUR EMINENCE.

HUH? WHERE'D HE COME FROM?!?

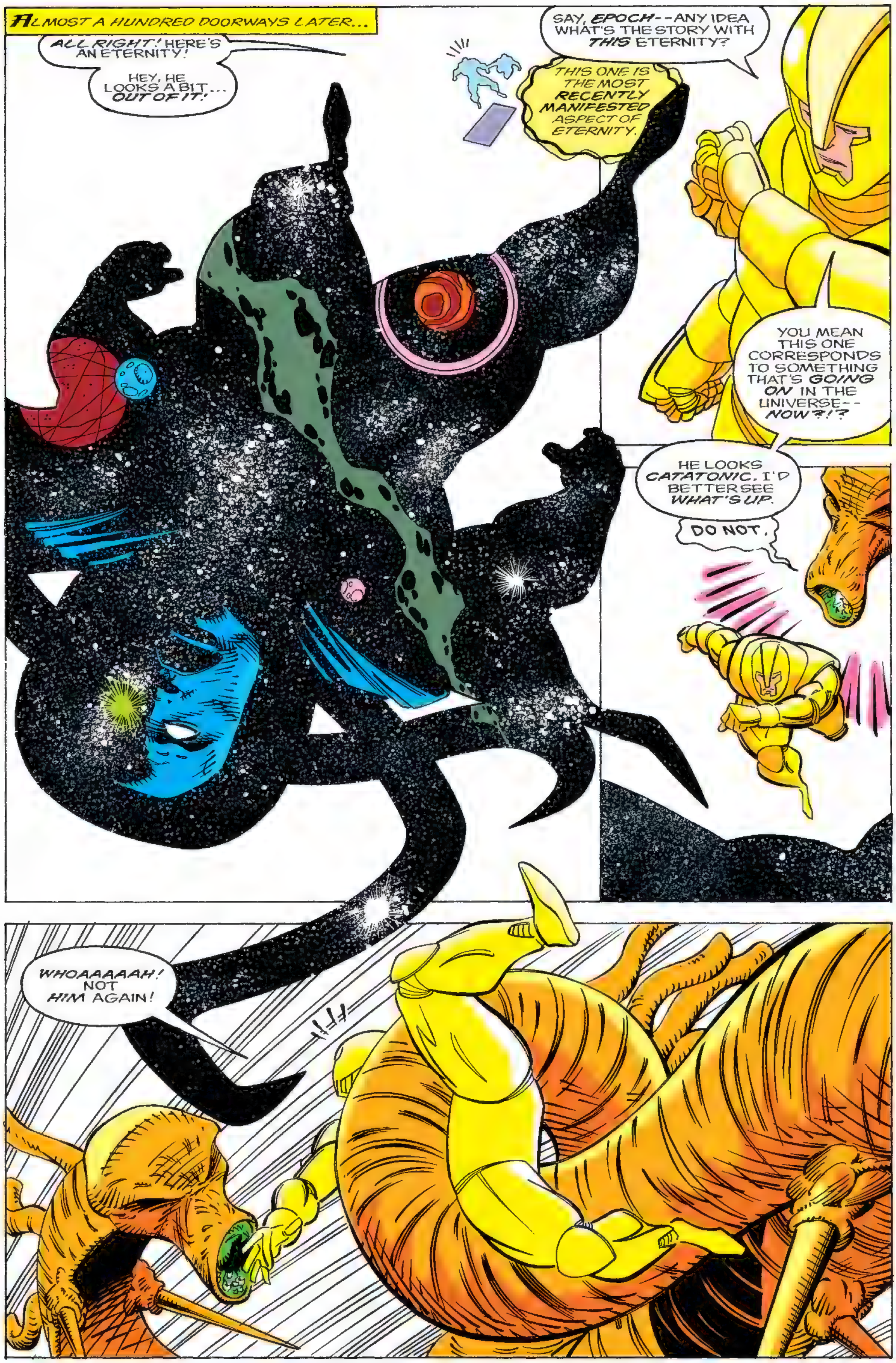

I AM ANOMALY, EMBODIMENT OF ALL THINGS THAT ARE LIKE NO OTHER THING.
WHOA! I TRIED DODGING-- AND FLEW STRAIGHT INTO HIS PINCERS!
BETTER ARMOR UP BEFORE HE SNAPS ME IN HALF!
EXCUSE ME, MISTER MANIFESTATION--
--BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO GET GRABBY!
WHAT THE--? MY QUANTUM-BEAM--JUST BENT AROUND IT!
IF YOU DESIST IN YOUR DISRUPTION OF THESE PROCEEDINGS, I WILL LET YOU GO.
OKAY, I DESIST ALREADY!
?
I AM LIKE NOTHING ELSE. I OBEY NO PHYSICAL LAWS. I AM THE EXCEPTION TO ALL RULES.

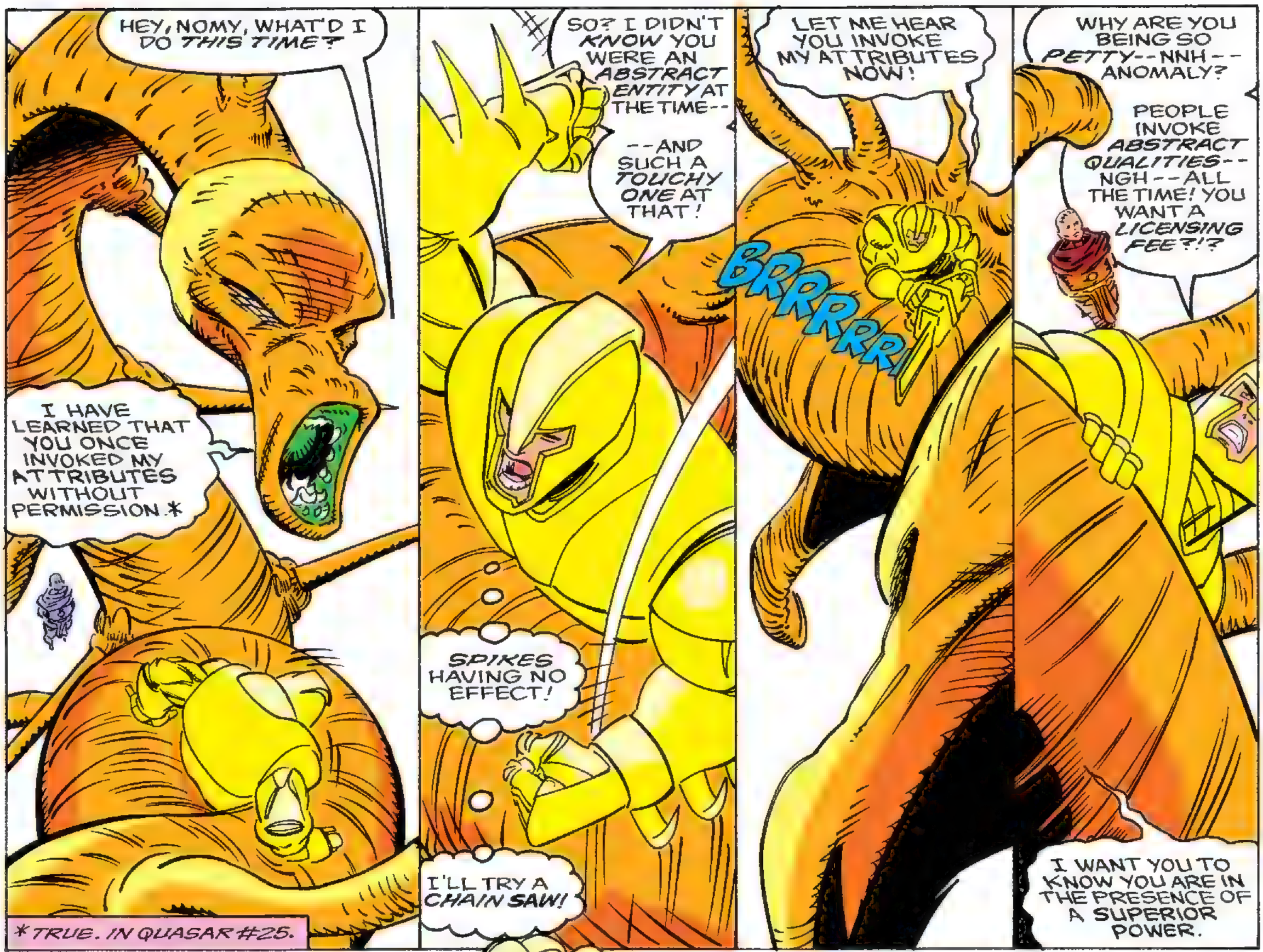


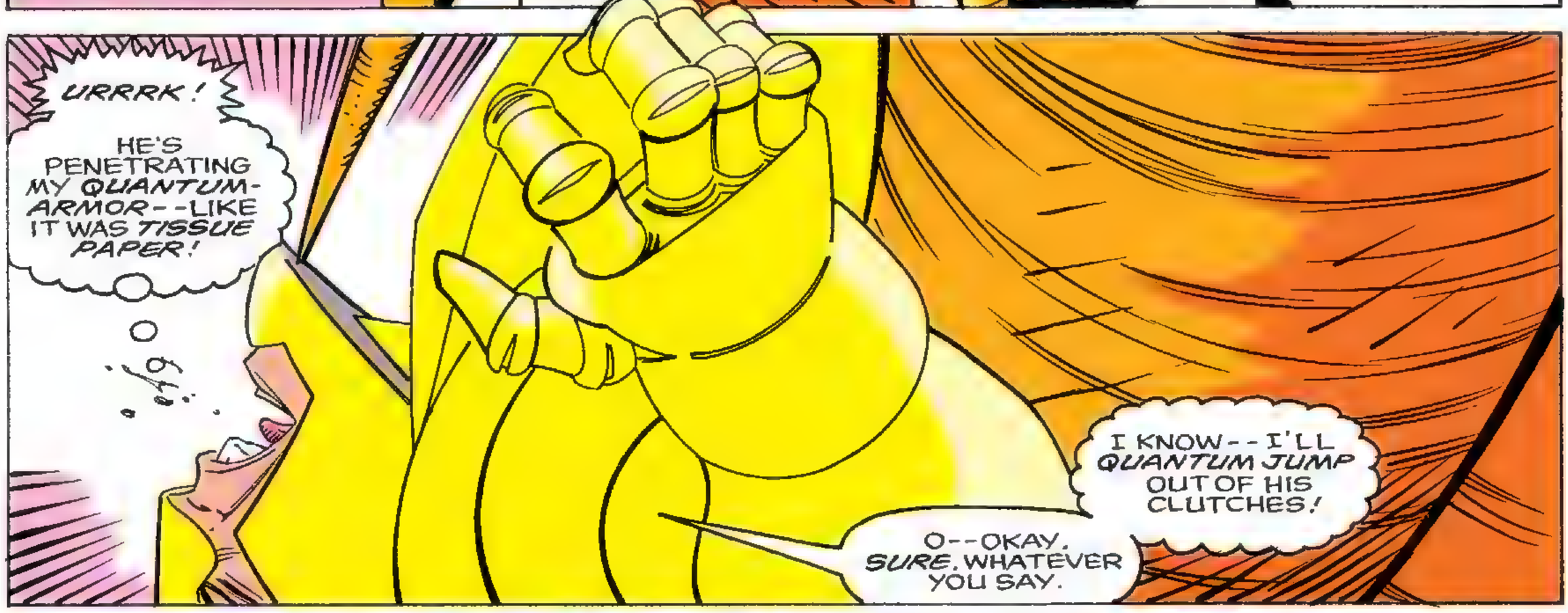
ULP.

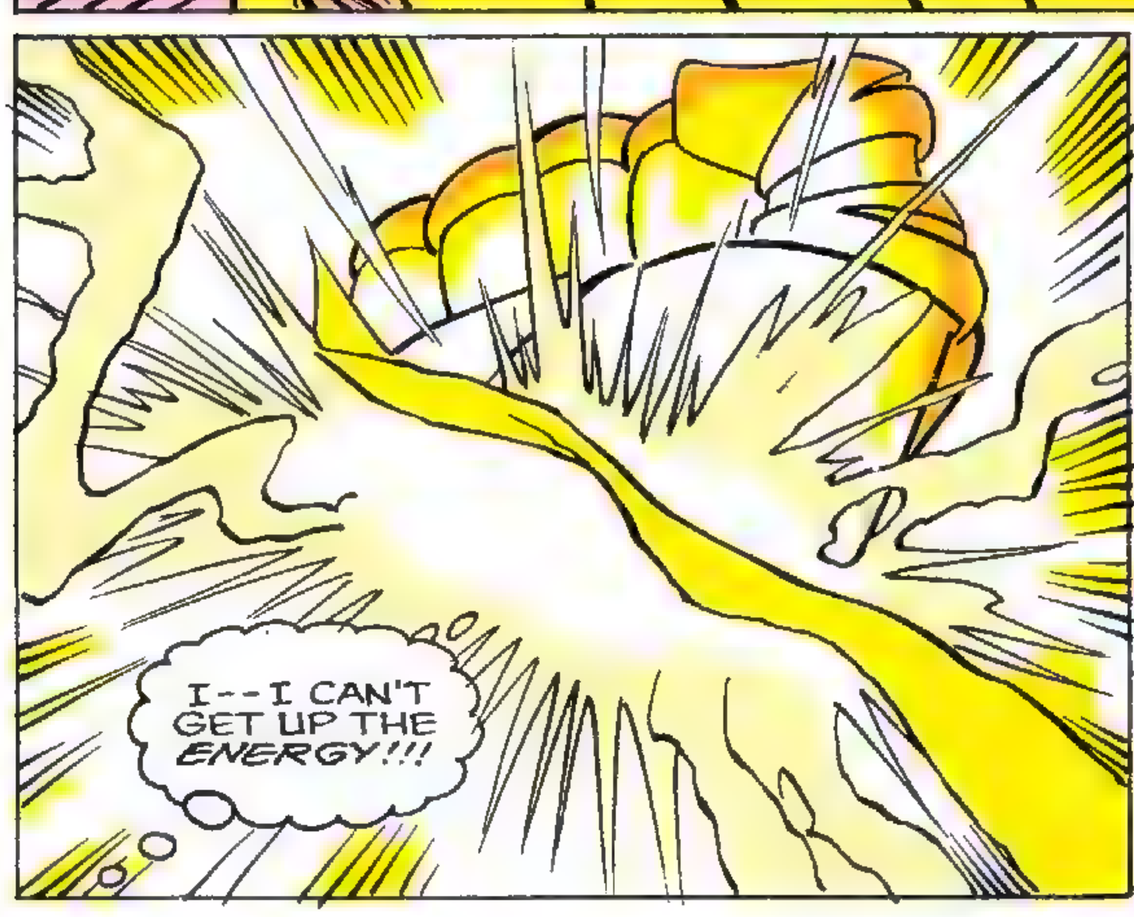
LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT DOOR.

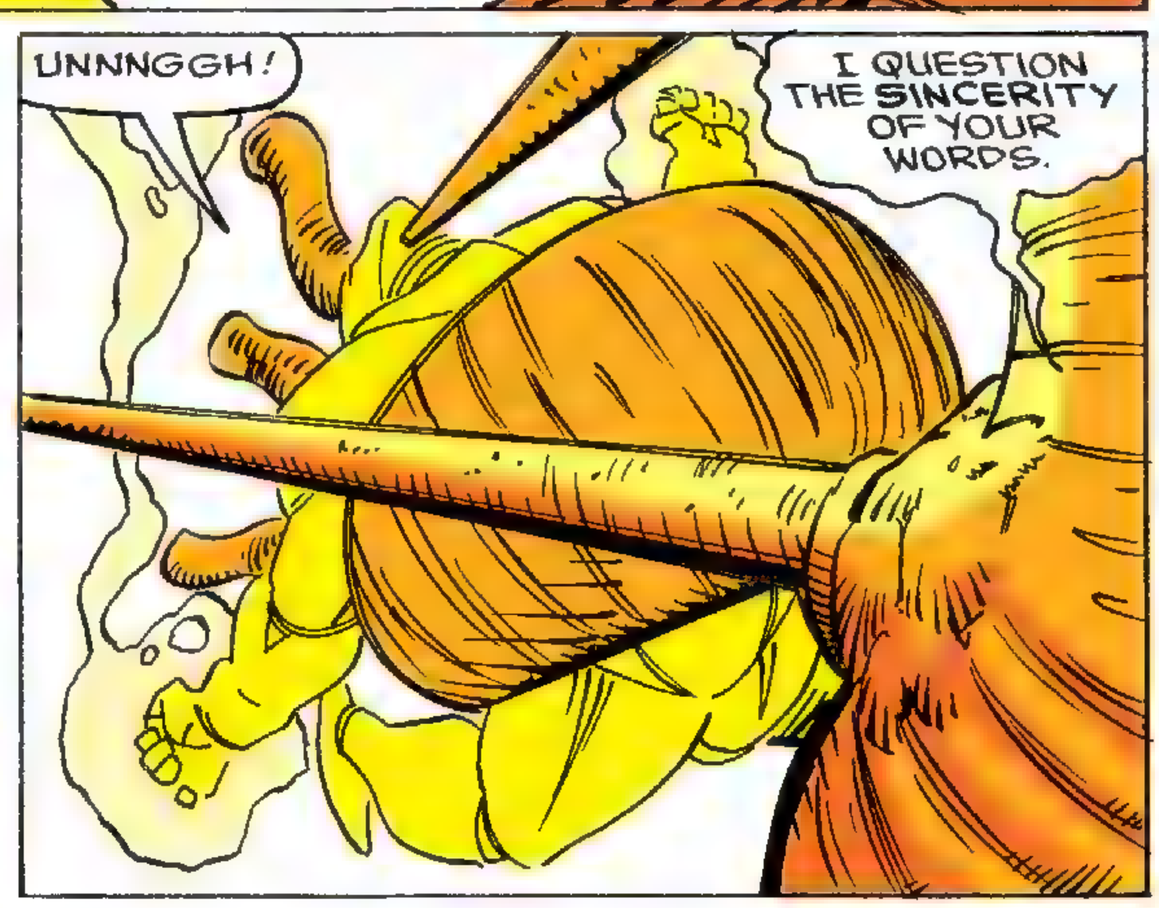
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
INFINITY! REMEMBER ME-- QUASAR? I WAS YOUR AVATAR ONCE.*
I NEED SOME HELP. I'M LOOKING FOR ETERNITY-- NOT ONE OF HIS MANIFESTATION BODIES, BUT THE REAL THING!
CAN YOU HELP?
SHE'S... IGNORING ME. GUESS THIS ISN'T THE M-BODY I MET.
HMH! WHAT'D I EXPECT--SHE, OF ALL PEOPLE MUST HAVE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF M-BODIES!
LET'S TRY ANOTHER DOOR, CONTEMPLATOR.
*ISSUES #23-25.

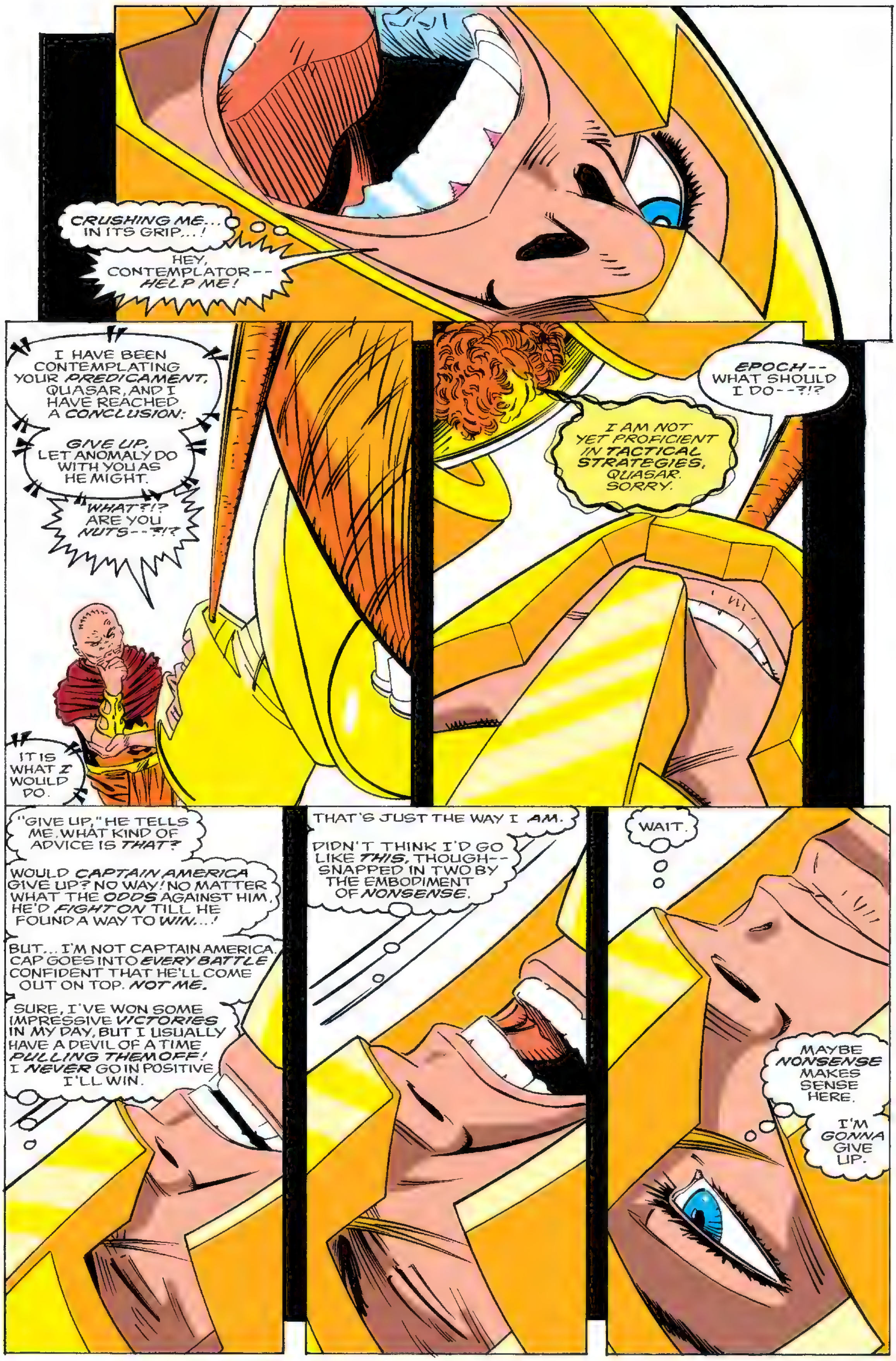

ALMOST A HUNDRED DOORWAYS LATER...
ALL RIGHT! HERE'S AN ETERNITY!
HEY, HE LOOKS A BIT... OUT OF IT!
SAY, EPOCH--ANY IDEA WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THIS ETERNITY?
THIS ONE IS THE MOST RECENTLY MANIFESTED ASPECT OF ETERNITY.
YOU MEAN THIS ONE CORRESPONDS TO SOMETHING THAT'S GOING ON IN THE UNIVERSE--NOW?!?
HE LOOKS CATATONIC. I'D BETTER SEE WHAT'S UP.
DO NOT.
WHOAAAAAH! NOT HIM AGAIN!

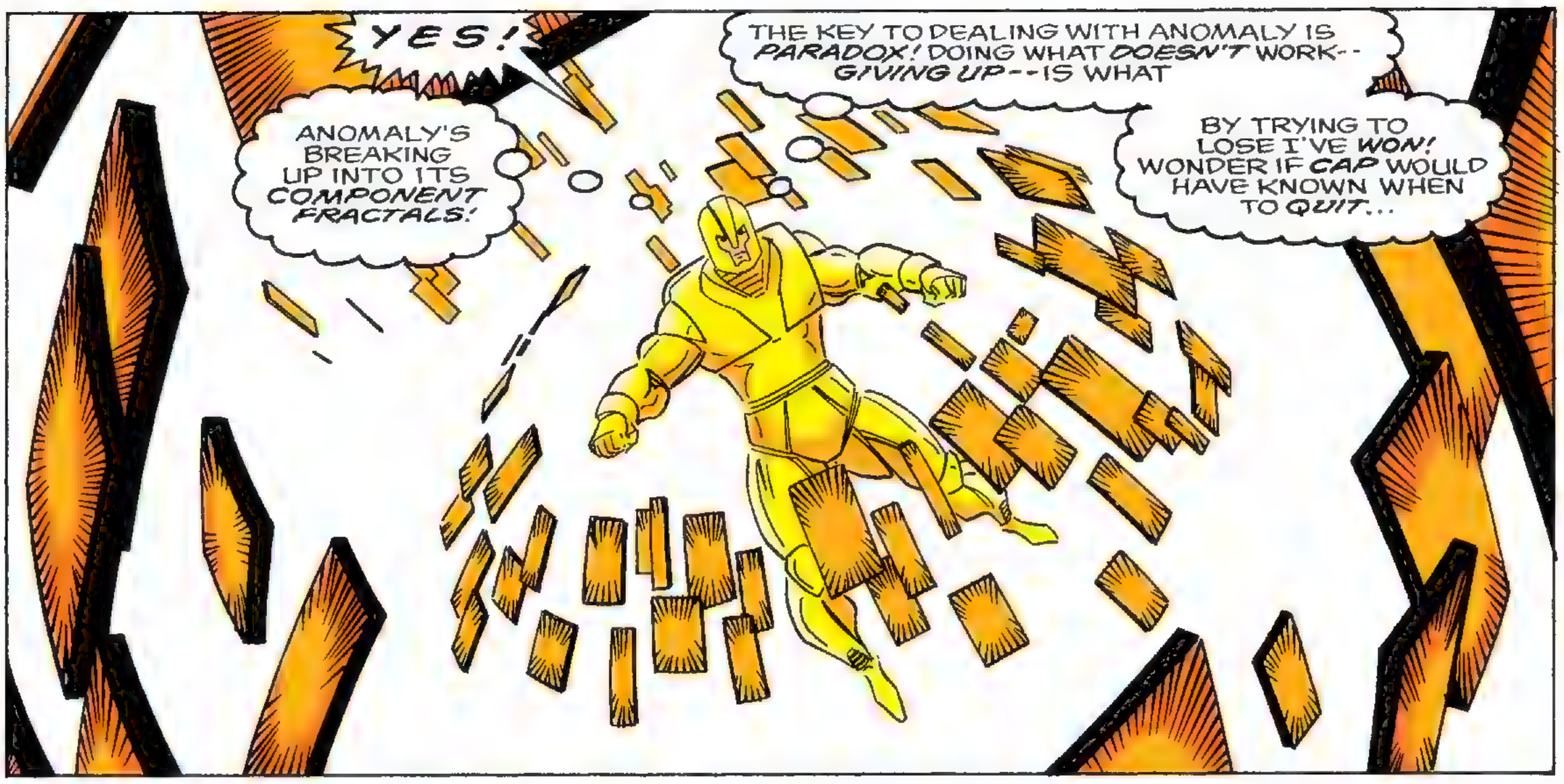

HEY, NOMY, WHAT'D I DO THIS TIME?
I HAVE LEARNED THAT YOU ONCE INVOKED MY ATTRIBUTES WITHOUT PERMISSION.*
*TRUE. IN QUASAR #25.
SO? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AN ABSTRACT ENTITY AT THE TIME--
--AND SUCH A TOUCHY ONE AT THAT!
SPIKES HAVING NO EFFECT!
I'LL TRY A CHAIN SAW!
LET ME HEAR YOU INVOKE MY ATTRIBUTES NOW!
BRRRRRR
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO PETTY--NNH--ANOMALY?
PEOPLE INVOKE ABSTRACT QUALITIES--NGH--ALL THE TIME! YOU WANT A LICENSING FEE?!?
I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A SUPERIOR POWER.

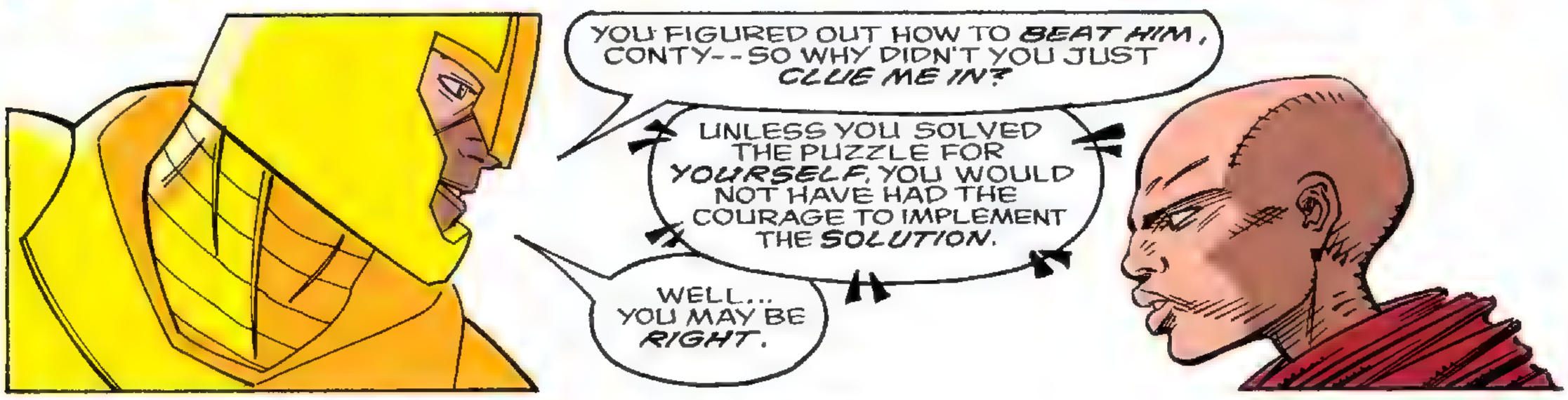

URRRK!
HE'S PENETRATING MY QUANTUM-ARMOR--LIKE IT WAS TISSUE PAPER!
I KNOW--I'LL QUANTUM JUMP OUT OF HIS CLUTCHES!
O--OKAY. SURE. WHATEVER YOU SAY.

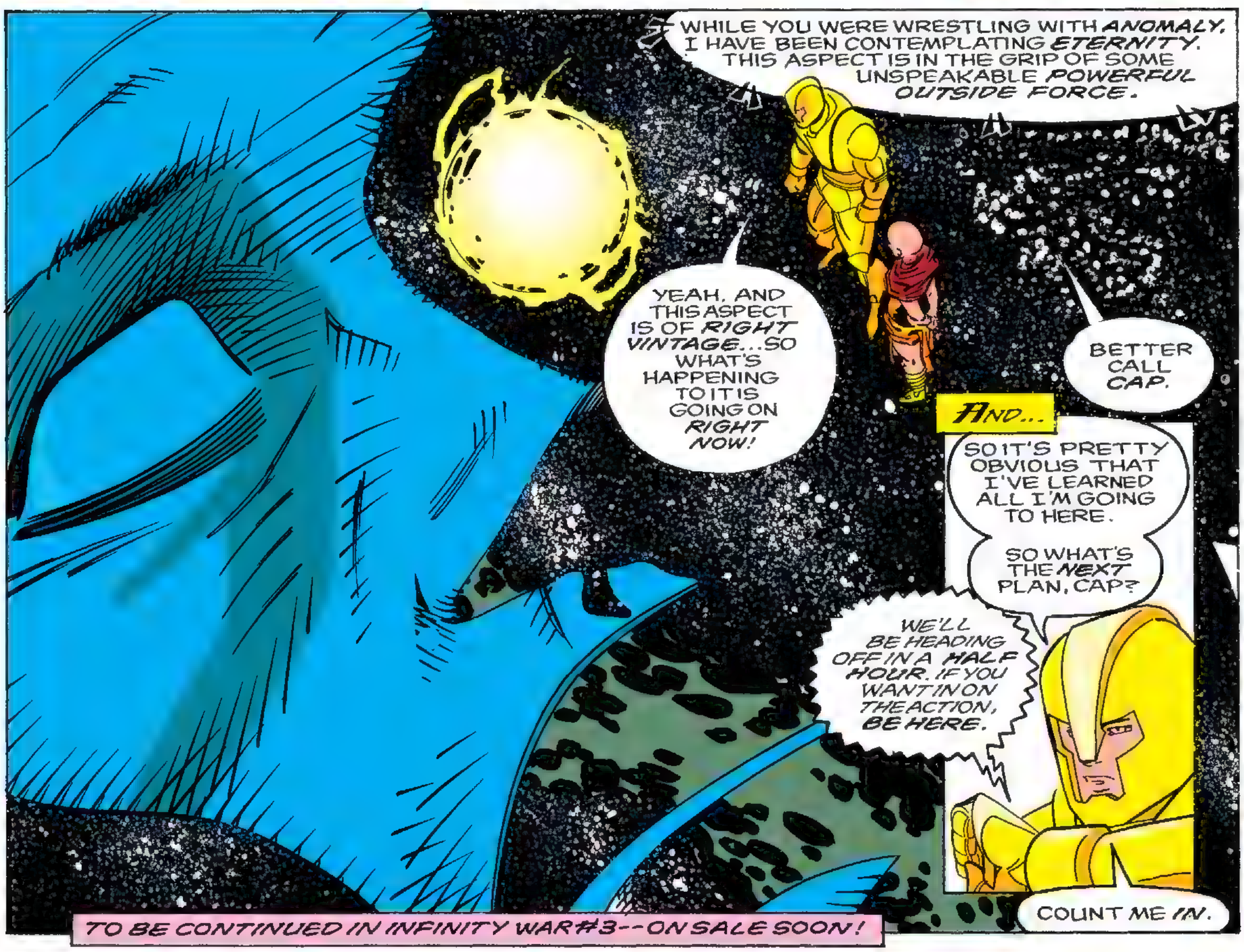

I--I CAN'T GET UP THE ENERGY!!!


UNNNGGH!
I QUESTION THE SINCERITY OF YOUR WORDS.


CRUSHING ME... IN ITS GRIP...!
HEY, CONTEMPLATOR-- HELP ME!
I HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATING YOUR PREDICAMENT, QUASAR, AND I HAVE REACHED A CONCLUSION:
GIVE UP. LET ANOMALY DO WITH YOU AS HE MIGHT.
WHAT?!? ARE YOU NUTS--?!?
IT IS WHAT Z WOULD DO.
EPOCH-- WHAT SHOULD I DO--?!?
I AM NOT YET PROFICIENT IN TACTICAL STRATEGIES, QUASAR. SORRY.
"GIVE UP," HE TELLS ME. WHAT KIND OF ADVICE IS THAT?
WOULD CAPTAIN AMERICA GIVE UP? NO WAY! NO MATTER WHAT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM, HE'D FIGHT ON TILL HE FOUND A WAY TO WIN...!
BUT... I'M NOT CAPTAIN AMERICA. CAP GOES INTO EVERY BATTLE CONFIDENT THAT HE'LL COME OUT ON TOP. NOT ME.
SURE, I'VE WON SOME IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES IN MY DAY, BUT I USUALLY HAVE A DEVIL OF A TIME PULLING THEM OFF! I NEVER GO IN POSITIVE I'LL WIN.
THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM.
DIDN'T THINK I'D GO LIKE THIS, THOUGH-- SNAPPED IN TWO BY THE EMBODIMENT OF NONSENSE.
WAIT.
MAYBE NONSENSE MAKES SENSE HERE.
I'M GONNA GIVE UP.







TO BE CONTINUED IN INFINITY WAR #3--ON SALE SOON!

***INFINITY WAR #1*, PAGE 25 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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Fantastic Four
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
OH, BOY...
DAY OF THE DOPPELGANGERS
RYAN '92

REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE RICHARDS, INVISIBLE WOMAN! JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

DAY OF THE DARK SIDE!

PAUL RYAN & TOM DEFALCO
PLOT, PENCILS & SCRIPT
(AND A TAG-TEAM SUPREME!)

DAN BULANADI
INKS

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS

GINA GOING
COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

OMIGOSH! WE'RE ALL DEAD UNLESS--!

MRS. RICHARDS, CAN THAT FORCE FIELD OF YOURS REALLY HOLD ALL THAT BACK?

NO! THE STRAIN IS INCREDIBLE!

I...I CAN ONLY... REDIRECT IT... AWAY FROM US... AND IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT JUST TO DO THAT!

THOR, THERE'S GOING TO BE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM WITH NUCLEAR RADIATION--!

HUH? OH, YEAH. SAY NO MORE!

SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT MYSELF... INSTEAD OF STANDING HERE LIKE AN OPEN-MOUTHED DOPE!

WHIRLING HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER AT A SPEED WHICH DEFIES DESCRIPTION, THOR TAKES TO THE AIR! AND THEN--!

I DID IT! I ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CONJURE A GIANT WIND FUNNEL, AND GUIDE THE FALLOUT TOWARD DEEP SPACE!

THAT OUGHT TO DO THE JOB!

NOT TOO SHABBY FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS FOULING UP!

DON'T MOVE, IRON MAN!

COLOSSUS AND I ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND EVEN YOUR FAMOUS REPULSOR RAYS!

WAY TO GO SASQUATCH!

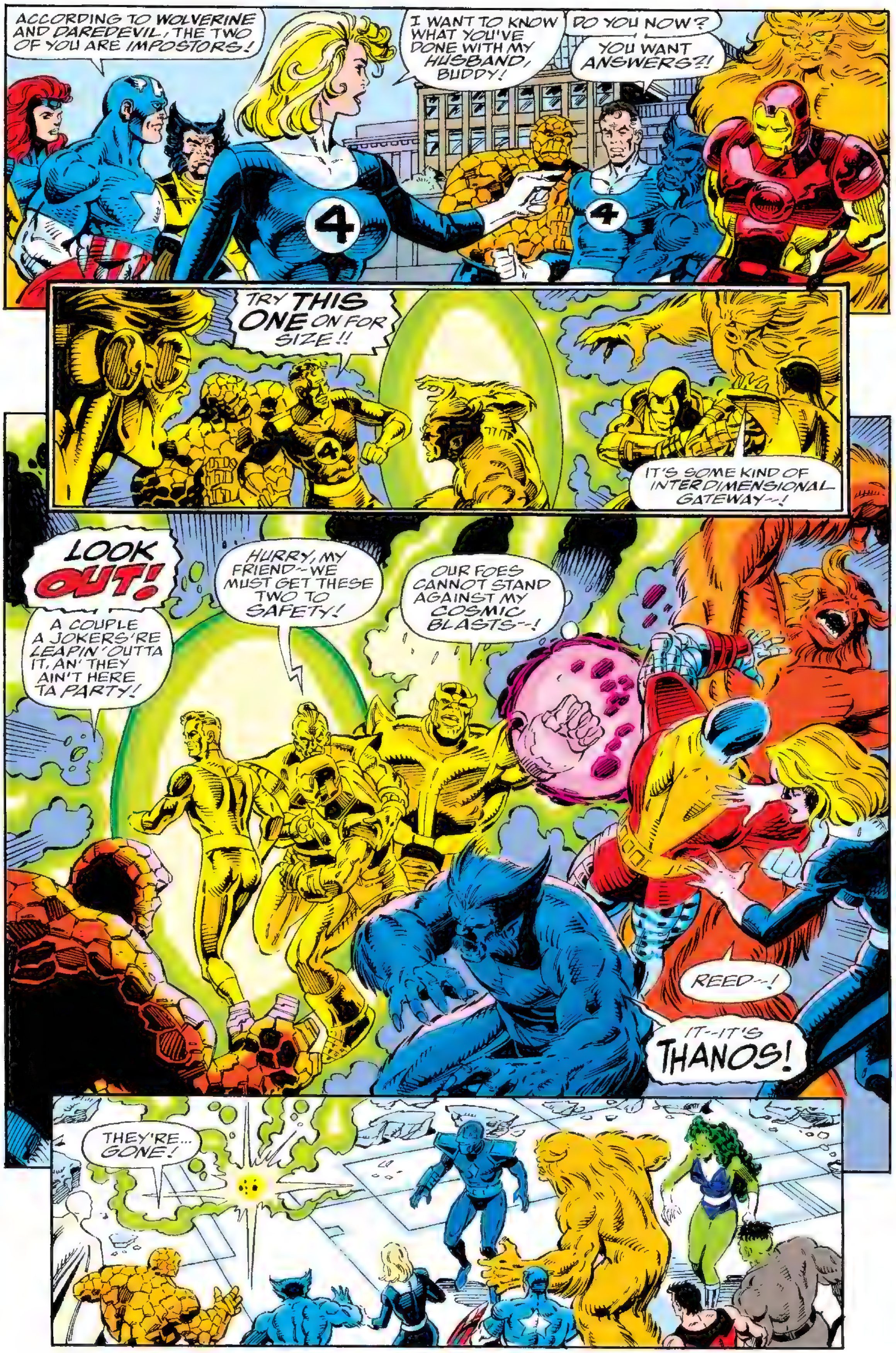
THE BEAST AND ME GOT THE FAKE REED UNDER WRAPS, TOO!

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD NEWS, GRIMM?

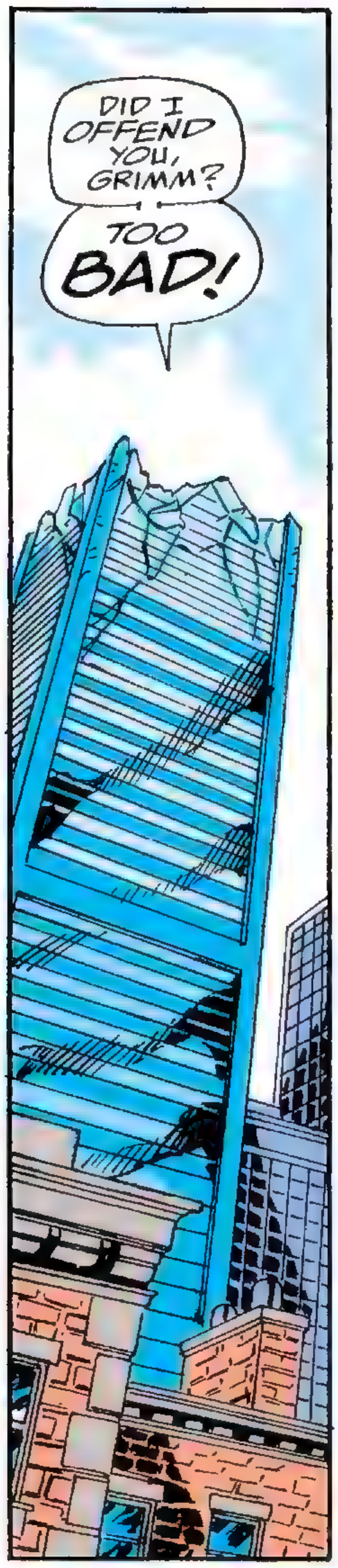
RICHARDS LURED US HERE TO ASSASSINATE US!

HOW DO WE KNOW THE REST OF THE F.F. ISN'T IN ON IT?

SUZIE JUST SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS BUTT, HULK! AIN'T THAT PROOF E'NUFF?!

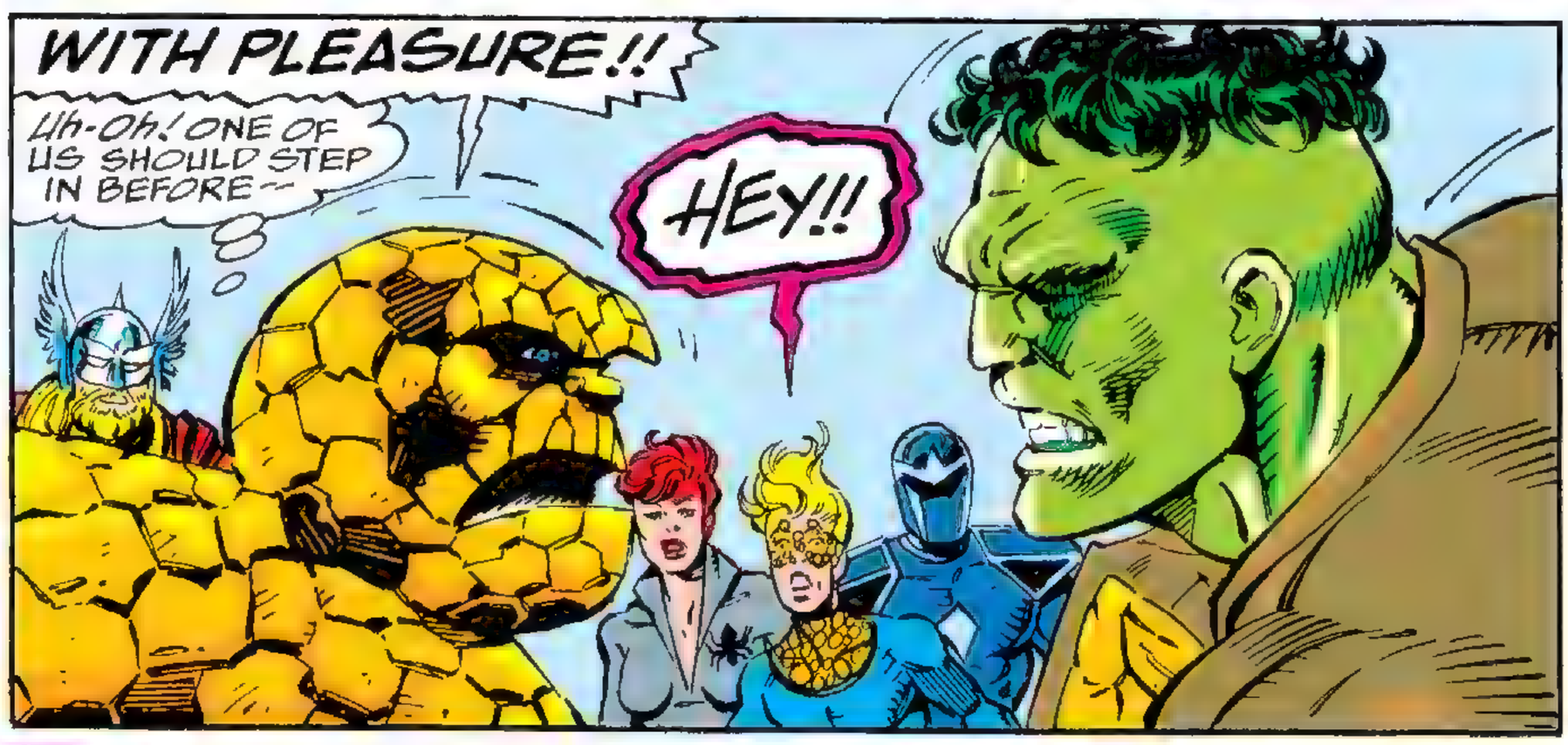

ACCORDING TO WOLVERINE AND DAREDEVIL, THE TWO OF YOU ARE IMPOSTORS!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH MY HUSBAND, BUDDY!
DO YOU NOW?
YOU WANT ANSWERS?!
TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE!!
IT'S SOME KIND OF INTERDIMENSIONAL GATEWAY--!
LOOK OUT!
A COUPLE A JOKERS'RE LEAPIN'OUTTA IT, AN' THEY AIN'T HERE TA PARTY!
HURRY, MY FRIEND--WE MUST GET THESE TWO TO SAFETY!
OUR FOES CANNOT STAND AGAINST MY COSMIC BLASTS--!
REED--!
IT--IT'S THANOS!
THEY'RE... GONE!

WHAT IS THANOS'S CONNECTION TO ALL THIS?
AND THE DOPPEL-GANGERS... WHAT DO THEY WANT?
SUE--! MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME PERSONAL TIME!
YOU MUST BE SERIOUS HURTING AFTER WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO REED, AND--
I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, LITTLE BROTHER-- BUT I CAN'T AFFORD THE LUXURY!
REED MAY NEED ME MORE THAN EVER! I CAN'T EASE UP NOW!
WE CAN'T RELY ON GUESS-WORK, LADIES...
WE NEED A MAJOR STRATEGY SESSION TO POOL OUR KNOWLEDGE!
BUT--!
ENOUGH! MY FEELINGS ARE NOT AT ISSUE--!
THAT BOMB DEMOLISHED THE ENTIRE TOP FLOOR!
I WANT YOU AND BEN TO CLEAR THE DEBRIS, AND ASSESS THE DAMAGE!
MRS. RICHARDS, I HATE TO IMPOSE...
NO PROBLEM, CAPTAIN AMERICA. FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS-- OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT, IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
HA--! THAT LADY'S A REGULAR LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE--!
I'LL BET SHE EVEN SOUNDS REVEILLE, AND RUNS YOU BOZOS THROUGH MORN-ING CALISTHENICS!
ZIPPER IT, HULK!
I AIN'T IN NO MOOD FER YER LIP...!


DID I OFFEND YOU, GRIMM?
TOO BAD!

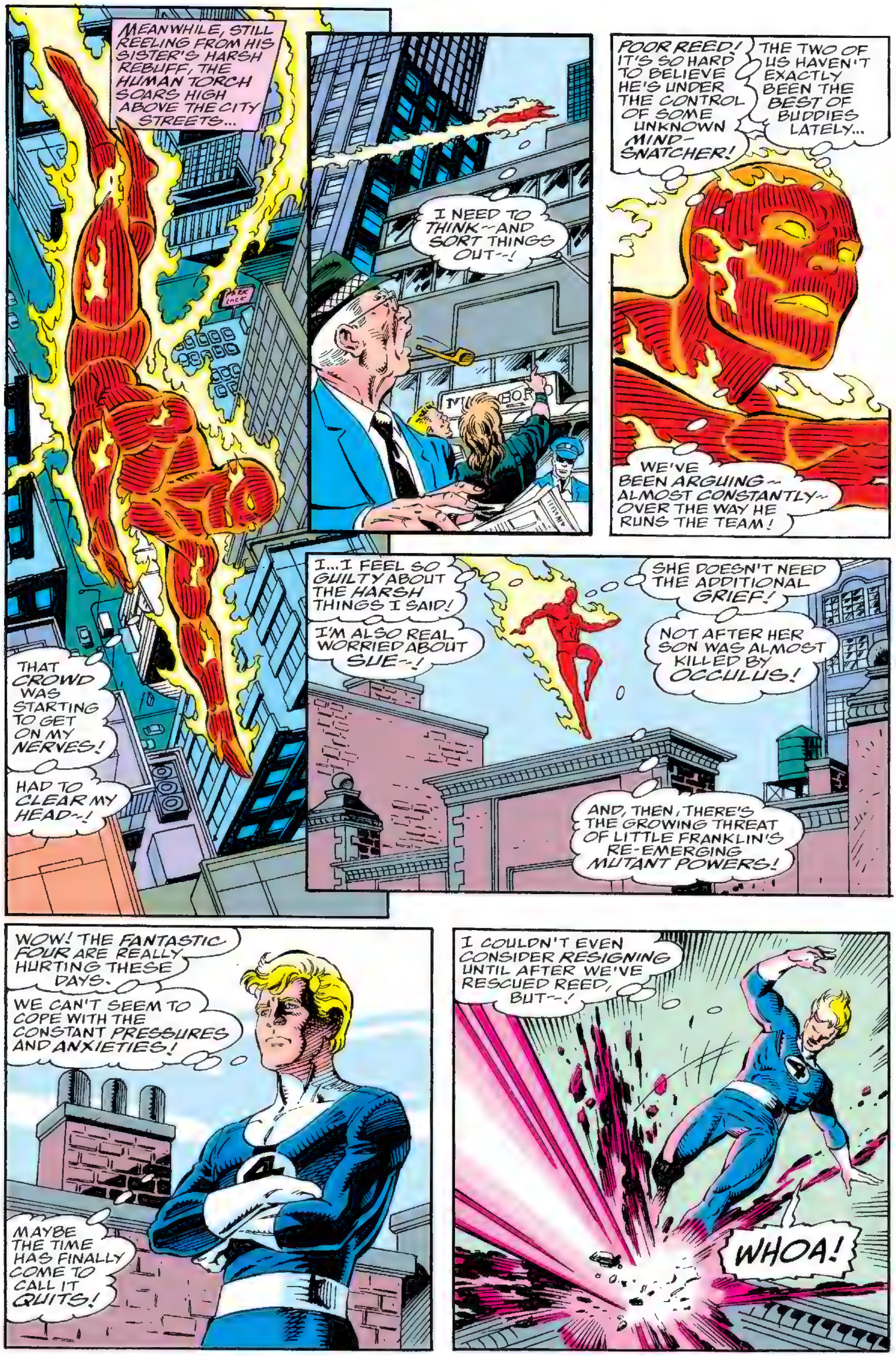
I KNOW YOU'RE HAVING A REALLY BAD DAY, BUT I COULDN'T CARE LESS!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM!
I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE WITTICISMS ON YOU, GRIMM!
SHADDUP! I'M WARNIN' YA--!

A VERY SNAPPY COME-BACK!
I HATE TO RESORT TO CLICHES, BUT I BELIEVE THE PROPER RESPONSE GOES SOMETHING LIKE--
MAKE ME.


WITH PLEASURE!!
Uh-Oh! ONE OF US SHOULD STEP IN BEFORE--
HEY!!

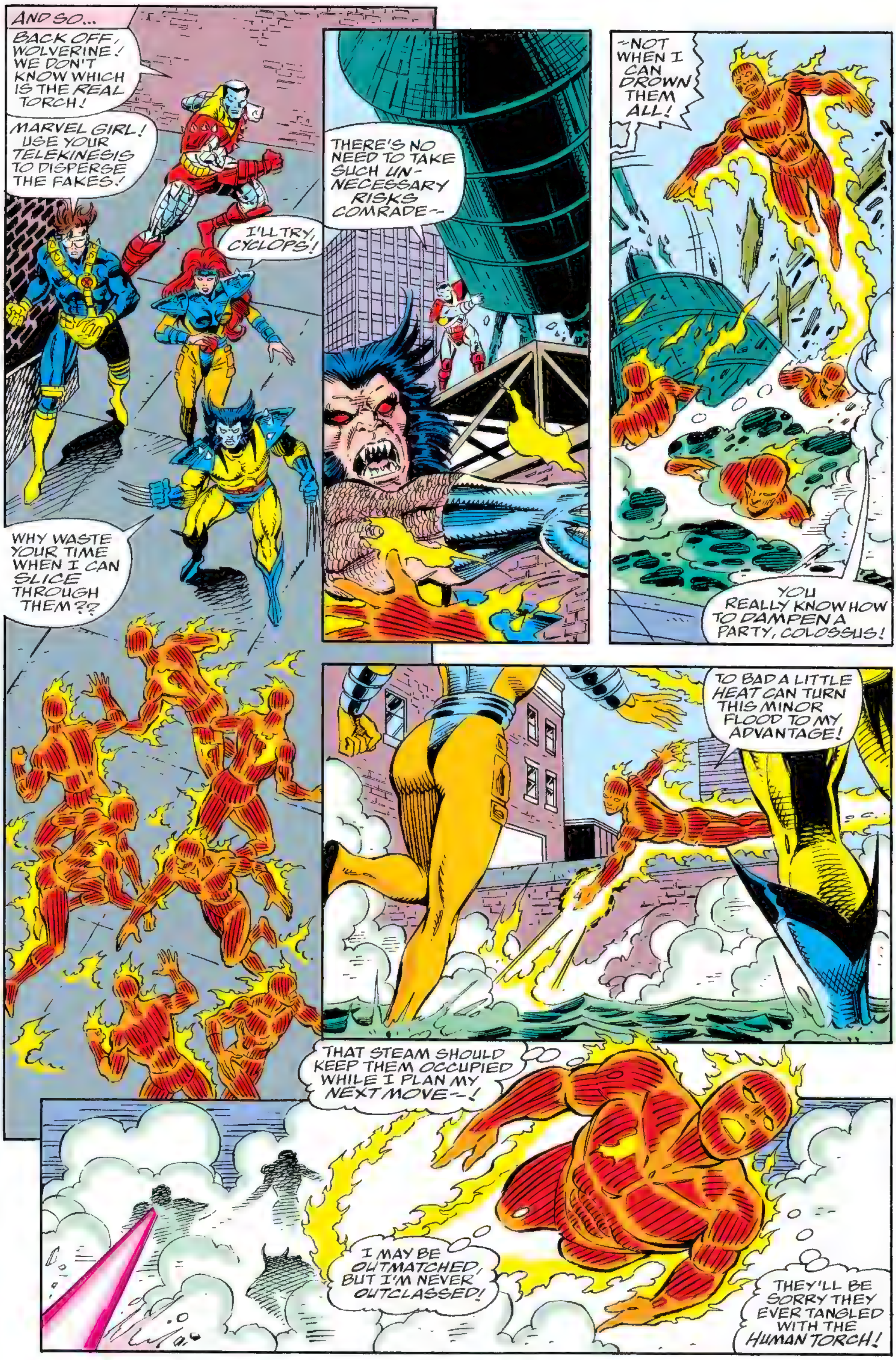
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED FOR THIS, BUT--
CHILL OUT YOU TWO!
BACK OFF, SPEEDBALL! THIS DON'T CONCERN YOU!
WRONG! YOU CAN'T GO CLOBBERING EACH OTHER WHEN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS IN DANGER!

I KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN BAD BLOOD BETWEEN YOU TWO, BUT THERE MUST BE A WAY TO WORK IT OUT WITHOUT SOME MINDLESS SLUGFEST!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, GUYS?!


MEANWHILE, STILL REELING FROM HIS SISTER'S HARSH REBUFF, THE HUMAN TORCH SOARS HIGH ABOVE THE CITY STREETS...
I NEED TO THINK--AND SORT THINGS OUT--!
POOR REED! IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOME UNKNOWN MIND-SNATCHER!
THE TWO OF US HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN THE BEST OF BUDDIES LATELY...
WE'VE BEEN ARGUING-- ALMOST CONSTANTLY-- OVER THE WAY HE RUNS THE TEAM!
THAT CROWD WAS STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES!
HAD TO CLEAR MY HEAD--!
I...I FEEL SO GUILTY ABOUT THE HARSH THINGS I SAID!
I'M ALSO REAL WORRIED ABOUT SUE--!
SHE DOESN'T NEED THE ADDITIONAL GRIEF!
NOT AFTER HER SON WAS ALMOST KILLED BY OCCULUS!
AND, THEN, THERE'S THE GROWING THREAT OF LITTLE FRANKLIN'S RE-EMERGING MUTANT POWERS!
WOW! THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE REALLY HURTING THESE DAYS.
WE CAN'T SEEM TO COPE WITH THE CONSTANT PRESSURES AND ANXIETIES!
MAYBE THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME TO CALL IT QUITS!
I COULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER RESIGNING UNTIL AFTER WE'VE RESCUED REED, BUT--!
WHOA!

TALK ABOUT DUMB LUCK! HE STEPPED BACK AT THE SAME INSTANT I FIRED MY OPTI-BLAST!
YOU TOOK YOUR BEST SHOT, CYCLOPS!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!!
MORE DOPPEL-GANGERS!
DUPLICATES OF THE X-MEN... AND ONE OF ME!
HOW... HOW CAN YOU BE ALIVE?
THE REAL WOLVERINE KILLED YOU!
BIG DEAL!
THERE'S MORE OF US! MUCH MORE!
WE HAVE AN END-LESS SUPPLY OF REPLACEMENTS!
REALLY?!
THERE'S A FUTURE FOR YOU GUYS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS!

JOKE ALL YOU WANT, TORCH! WE'VE LEARNED FROM PAST MISTAKES!
A SHADE IS TOO EVENLY MATCHED WITH HIS ORIGINAL FOR SUCCESS!
I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU PEOPLE THINK SO MUCH OF ME, BUT NEXT TIME, SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!
CYCLOPS'S BLASTS ARE GETTING A BIT TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!
MAYBE THIS MOLTEN WALL WILL DISTRACT HIM!
CUTE TRICK, TORCH, BUT MERE FIRE CANNOT DETER THE MUTANT MISTRESS OF WEATHER!
KARAKK
YEOW!
WAY TO GO, STORM--!
YOU BOUGHT ME ENOUGH TIME TO ABSORB HIS FLAME BARRIER ... AND FREE THE OTHERS!
STAY HERE-- AND DON'T TAKE ANY UN-NECESSARY CHANCES!
WE'LL NEED YOU LATER-- TO ASSUME THE REAL TORCH'S IDENTITY AFTER WE'VE DEFEATED HIM!
SEE YOU LATER, BABE!
YOUR FRIENDS ARE ABOUT TO JOIN US, AND I WANT TO PREPARE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR THEM!
LUCKILY, STORM LACKS MY HIGH MANEUVER-ABILITY! SHE ONLY RIDES THE WIND-- AND DOESN'T REALLY FLY!
THAT STUNT BOUGHT ME A FEW MOMENTS AT BEST!
IT'S TIME TO GO ON THE AGGRESSIVE... AND SOME FLAME DECOYS WILL HELP CONFUSE MY PLAYMATES!


AND SO...
BACK OFF, WOLVERINE! WE DON'T KNOW WHICH IS THE REAL TORCH!
MARVEL GIRL! USE YOUR TELEKINESIS TO DISPERSE THE FAKES!
I'LL TRY, CYCLOPS!
WHY WASTE YOUR TIME WHEN I CAN SLICE THROUGH THEM??
THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE SUCH UN-NECESSARY RISKS COMRADE--
--NOT WHEN I CAN DROWN THEM ALL!
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO DAMPEN A PARTY, COLOSSUS!
TO BAD A LITTLE HEAT CAN TURN THIS MINOR FLOOD TO MY ADVANTAGE!
THAT STEAM SHOULD KEEP THEM OCCUPIED WHILE I PLAN MY NEXT MOVE--!
I MAY BE OUTMATCHED, BUT I'M NEVER OUTCLASSED!
THEY'LL BE SORRY THEY EVER TANGLED WITH THE HUMAN TORCH!

EVEN AS A GRIM-FACED JOHNNY STORM BLAZES SKYWARD, BACK AT A TACTICAL CENTER IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...

WE'VE DETERMINED THAT MASSIVE ENERGY-RECEPTORS ARE ON EACH PLANET AND STAR... AND THAT THE EMISSIONS ARE ORIGINATING FROM A DISTANT DIMENSION!

IT MUST BE TIED IN WITH THE DOPPELGANGERS!

BUT GETTING THERE FROM HERE IS THE PROBLEM!

ONE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH.

WHO'D YOU BRING US? INTER-DIMENSIONAL GREYHOUND BUS?

EVEN BETTER! FOLKS, MEET MY FRIEND AND MENTOR-- AGATHA HARKNESS!

AND I'M SURE MOST OF YOU RECOGNIZE DR. DRUID!

PLEASE EXCUSE THE FLIPPANCY, AGATHA!

I SHOULD'VE LOOKED BEFORE I SPOKE!

I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO WELL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HOW ARE THE OTHERS?

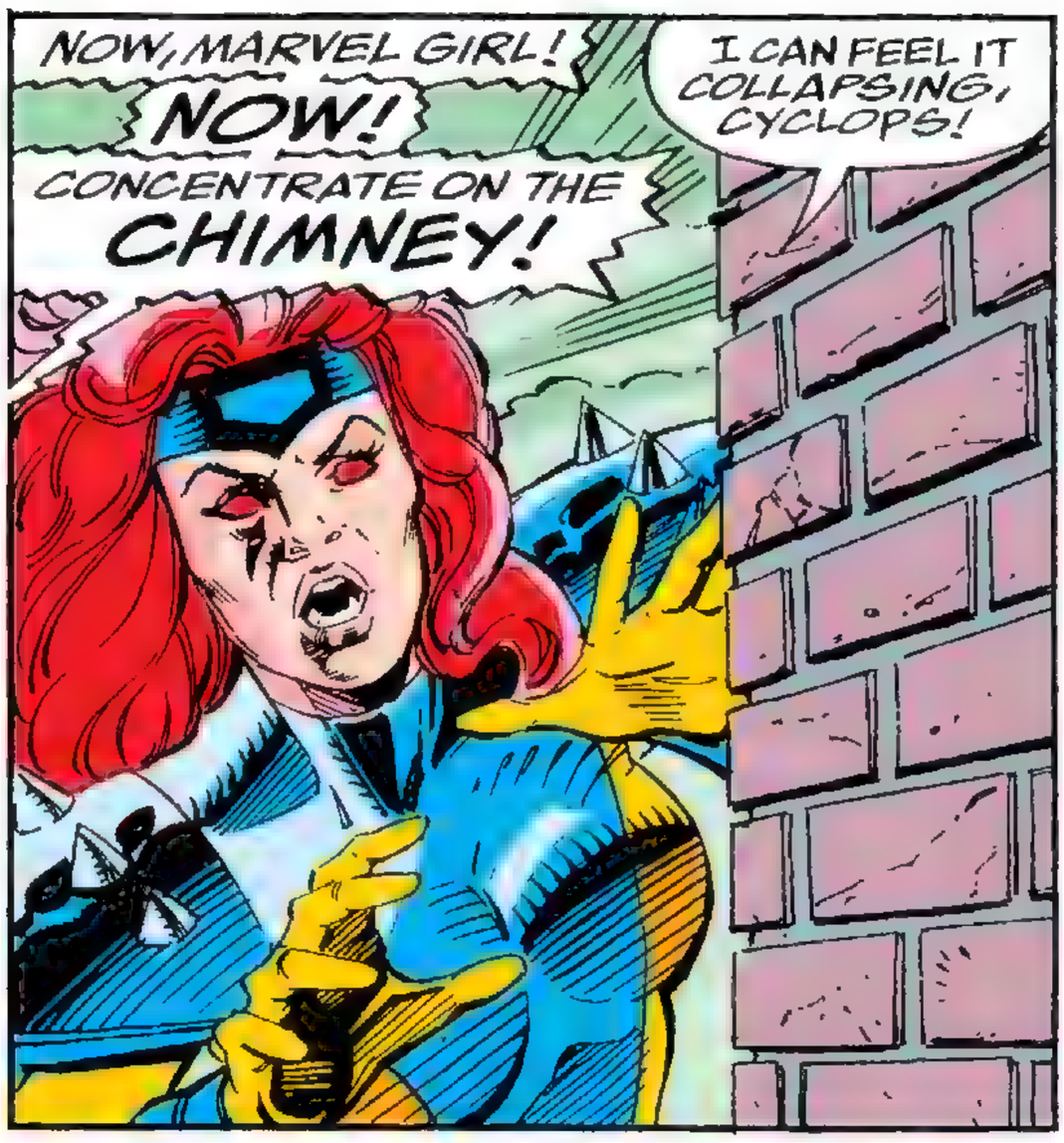
WE...WE REALLY MUST TALK!

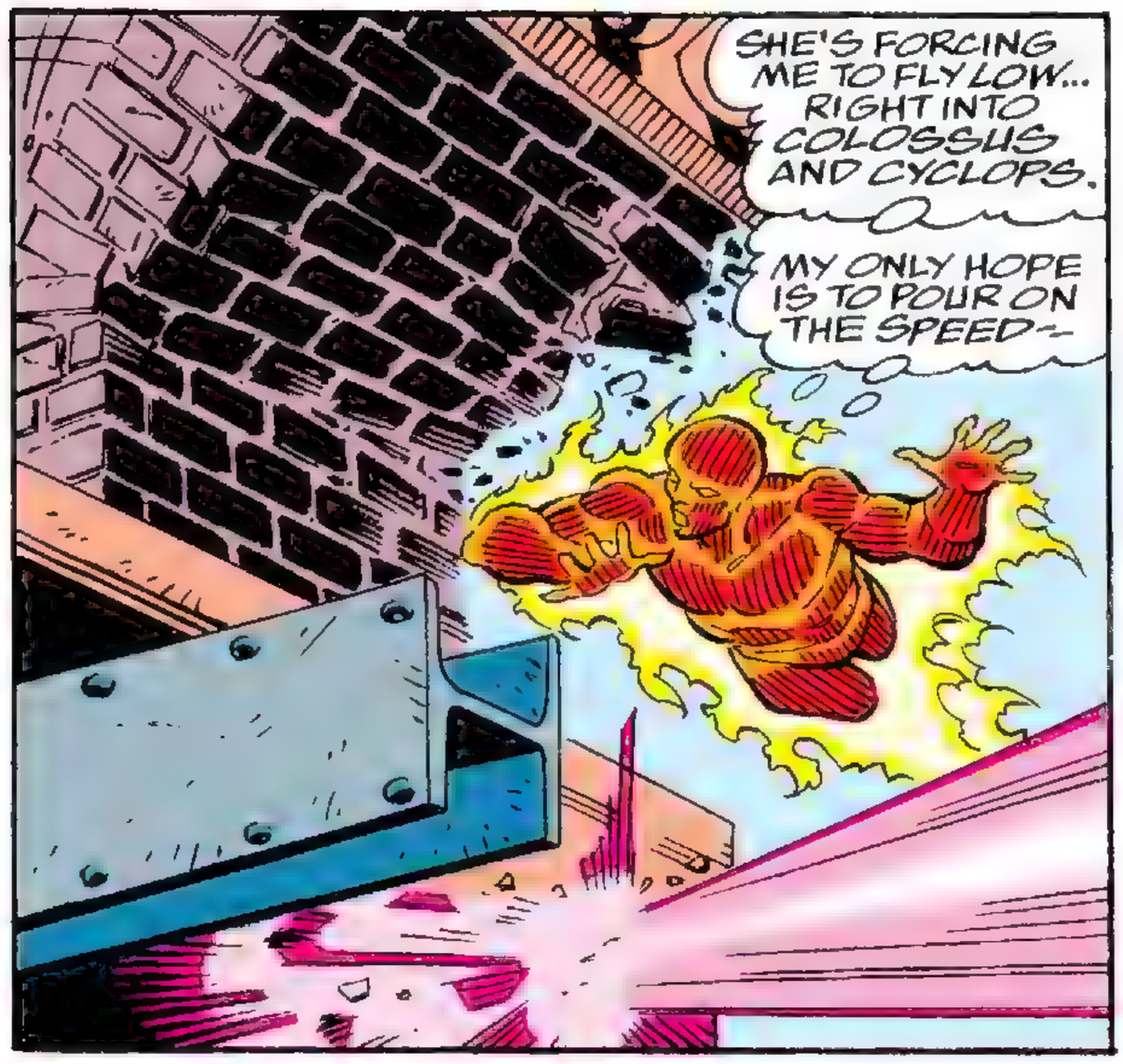
YOU MAY'VE CONNED THE SCARLET WITCH INTO VOUCHING FOR YOU, DRUID, BUT I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU AFTER THE WAY YOU BETRAYED THE AVENGERS THE LAST TIME!

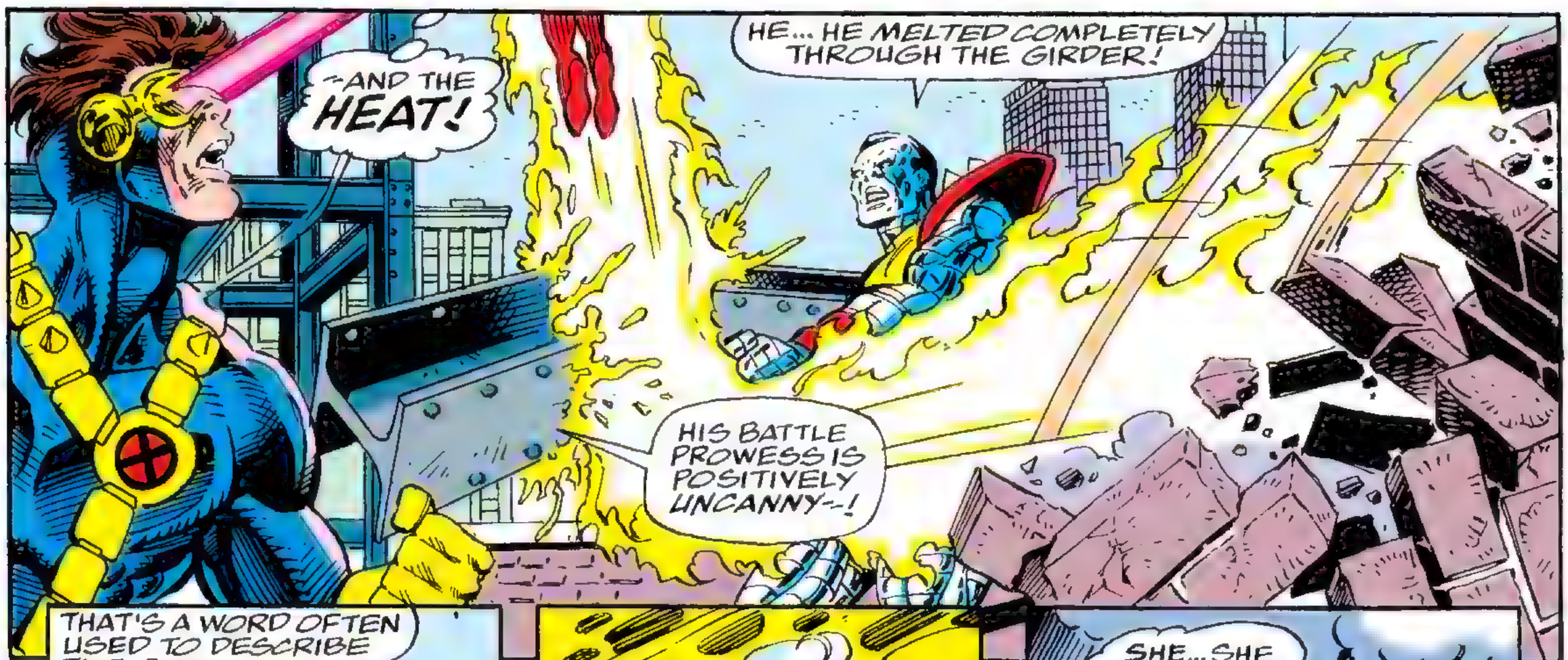
I ASSURE YOU, WONDER MAN... I AM A CHANGED MAN!

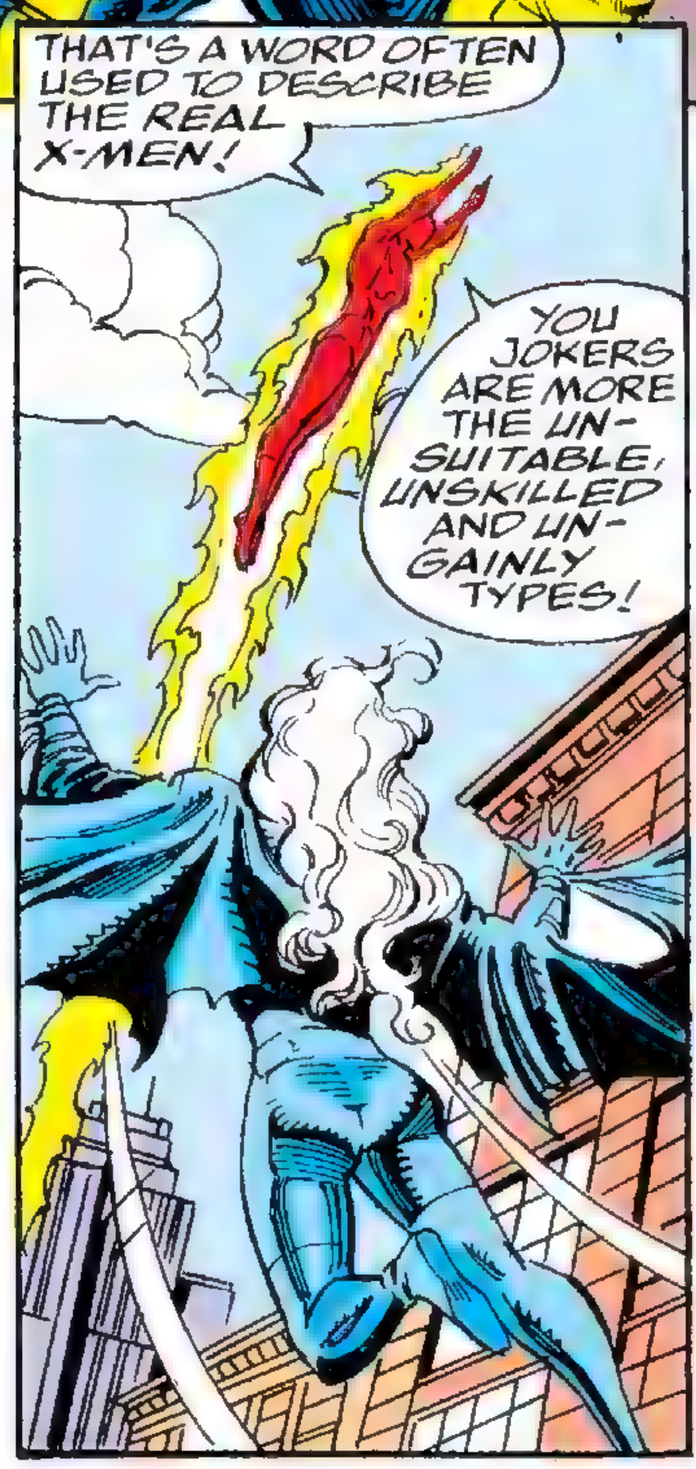
KWAM SWOK
BESIDES, IT WOULD APPEAR I AM NOT YOUR MOST PRESSING CONCERN!
IT'S COMING FROM DOWN THE HALL--!
REMAIN CALM, SUSAN -- I SENSE THERE IS NO REAL CAUSE FOR ALARM.
PWAP KWAM
I WARNED YA, HULK!
I MEAN BUSINESS!
I'M GONNA BEAT THE SPUNK OUTTA YA--!
GIVE IT A REST, GRIMM!
YOUR SKILL IS NO MATCH FOR YOUR MOUTH!
THIS IS IT HULK--!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, THING! YOU CAN DO IT! HIS DEFENSES ARE ALREADY CRUMBLING!
SCORE!
WOOOH! WOOH! WOOOH!
THE FF MUST HAVE THE GREATEST ENTERTAINMENT CENTER OF ALL!
DON'T GET OVER-CONFIDENT, GRIMM!
HOME
VISITOR
I'M ONLY DOWN BY TWO GOALS--AND IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER, CHUMP!

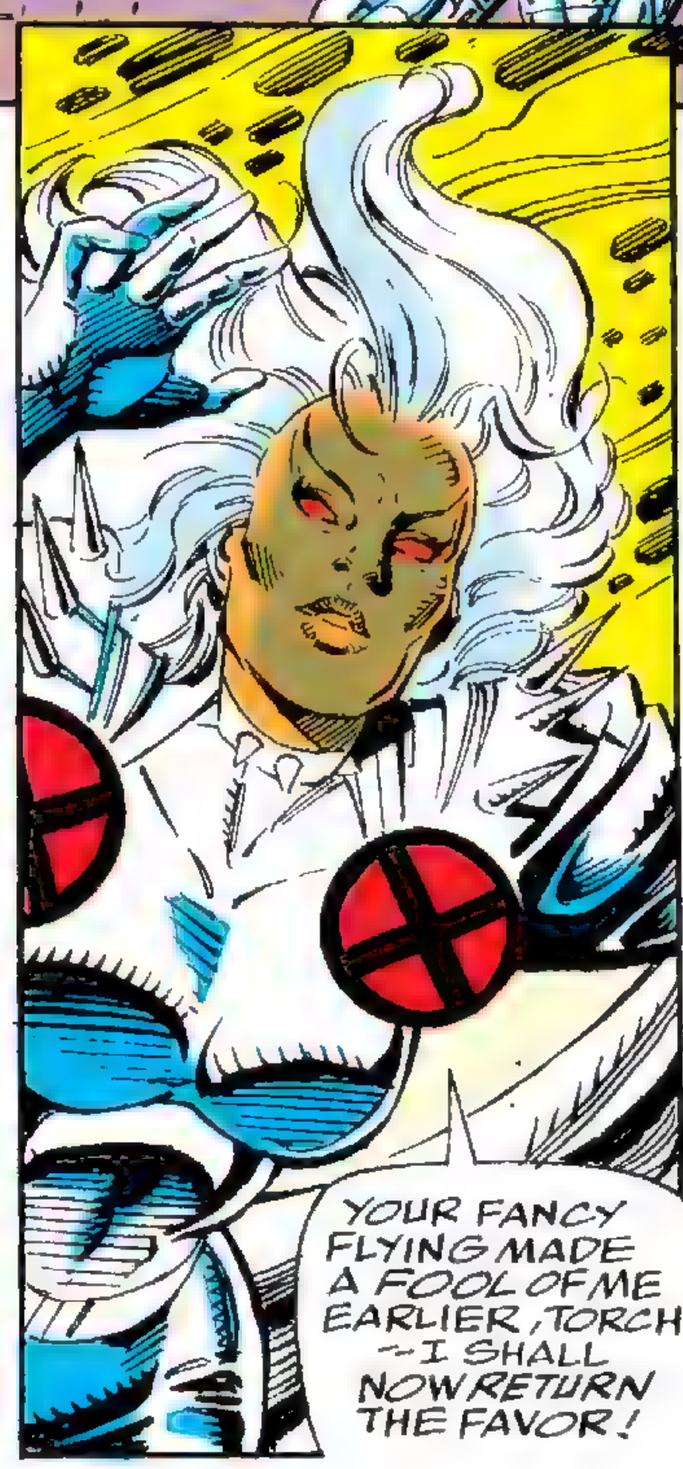
BUT, EVEN AS THE NEXT PUCK IS DROPPED, ANOTHER BATTLE RAGES ACROSS TOWN...
AT LAST! MY CLEANSING WINDS HAVE DISPELLED THE BLINDING STEAM!
WHERE IS THE TORCH?
THERE--! HIS SHADE IS ENGAGING HIM IN AERIAL COMBAT!
PERFECT! I HAVE A PLAN--!
IT'D BETTER WORK, BUB!
FOR ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND COURAGE, TORCH, YOU MUST BE TIRING BY NOW!
NAH! I'M STILL WARMING UP!
BESIDES, THAT'S ONE OF THE MAJOR DISADVANTAGES OF THE HERO BIZ--
--THERE'S NO TIME FOR COFFEE BREAKS!
I SHALL MISS YOUR HUMOR, TORCH!
ZAKK
I CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOUR LIGHTNING, STORM!
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, LADY!
I'M A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, AND HE TAKES EXCEPTION TO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF HIS TRADEMARKS!
HERE HE COMES--!
UH-OH! IT'S A TRAP-- AND I CAN'T TURN BACK!
HE'LL NEVER GET PAST US!
ON MY SIGNAL--!

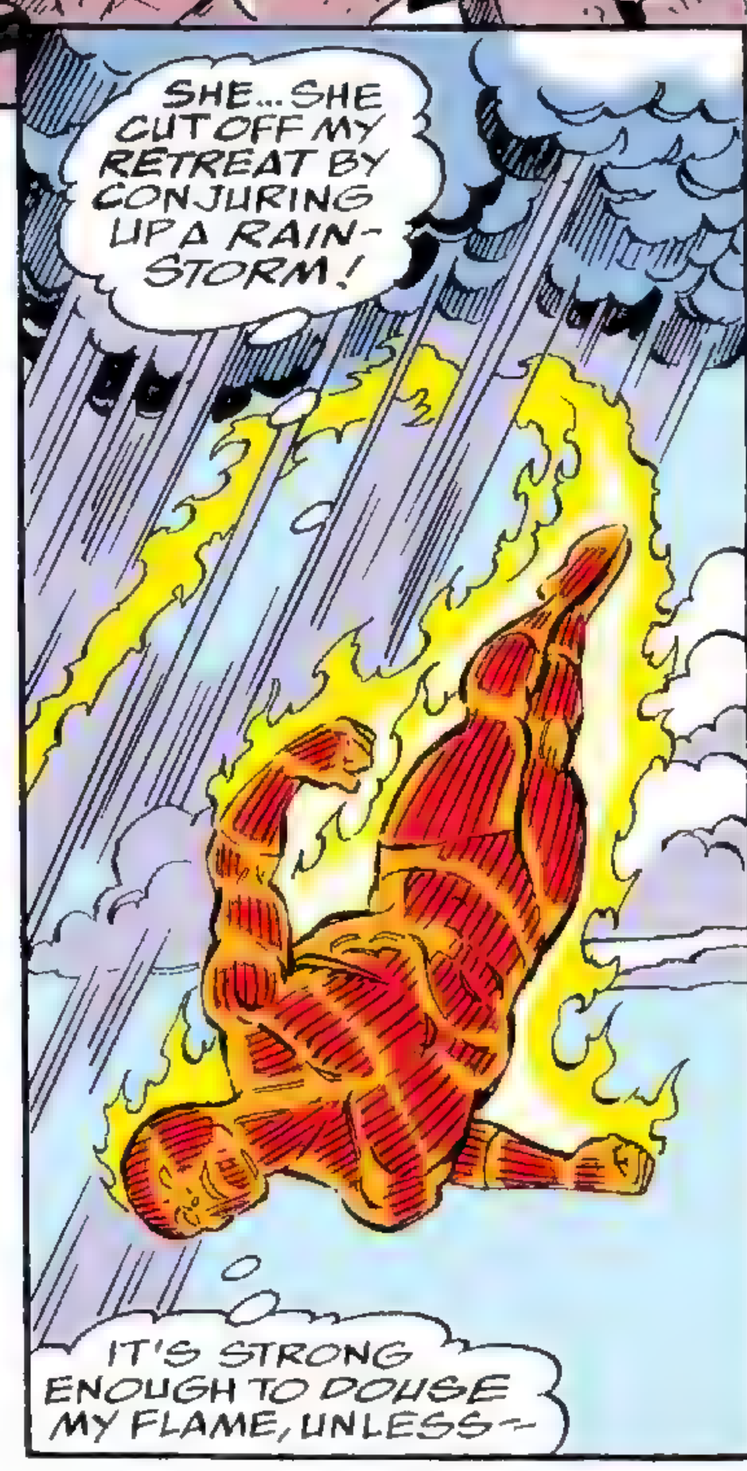

NOW, MARVEL GIRL!
NOW!
CONCENTRATE ON THE CHIMNEY!
I CAN FEEL IT COLLAPSING, CYCLOPS!

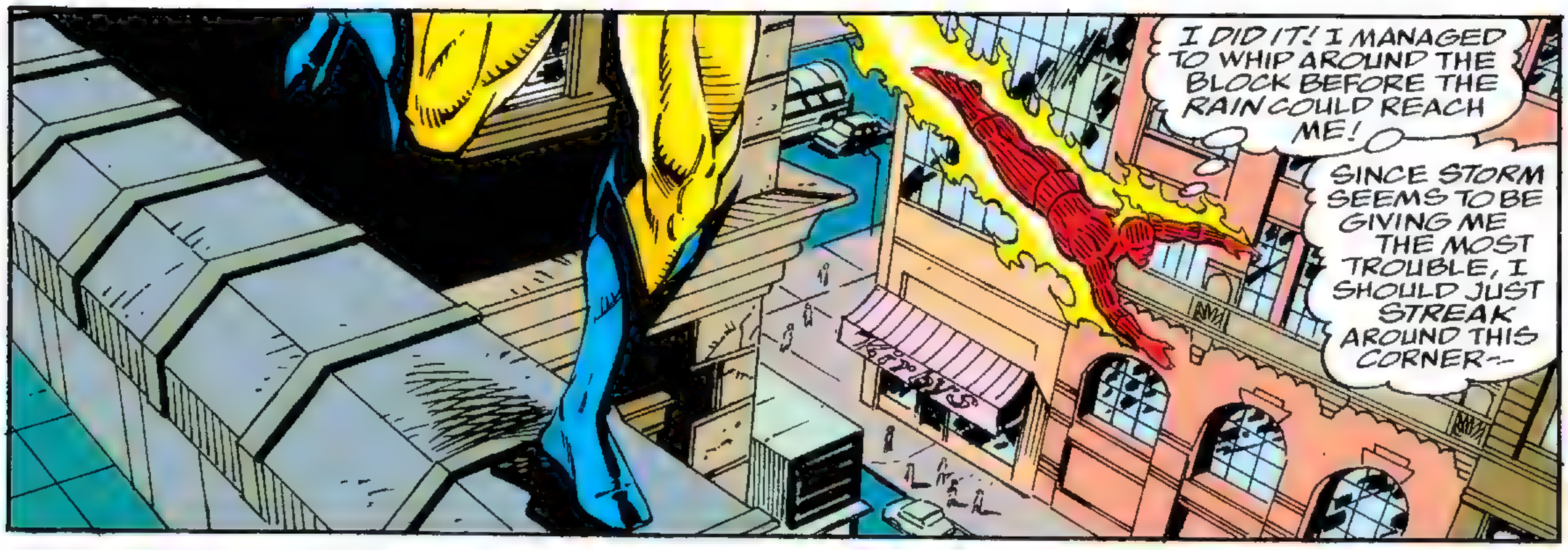

SHE'S FORCING ME TO FLY LOW... RIGHT INTO COLOSSUS AND CYCLOPS.
MY ONLY HOPE IS TO POUR ON THE SPEED--


--AND THE HEAT!
HE... HE MELTED COMPLETELY THROUGH THE GIRDER!
HIS BATTLE PROWESS IS POSITIVELY UNCANNY--!

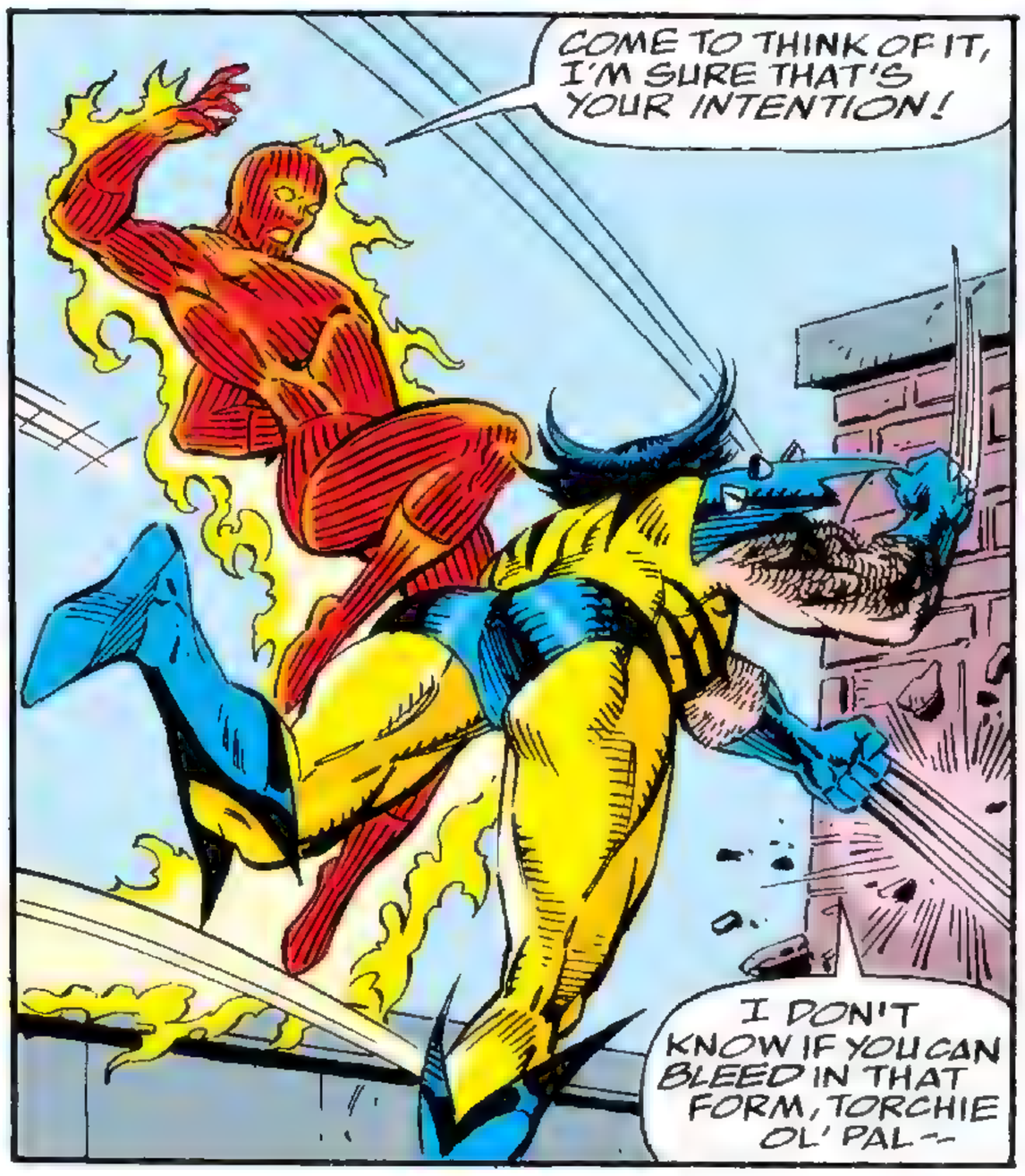

THAT'S A WORD OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE THE REAL X-MEN!
YOU JOKERS ARE MORE THE UN-SUITABLE, UNSKILLED AND UN-GAINLY TYPES!

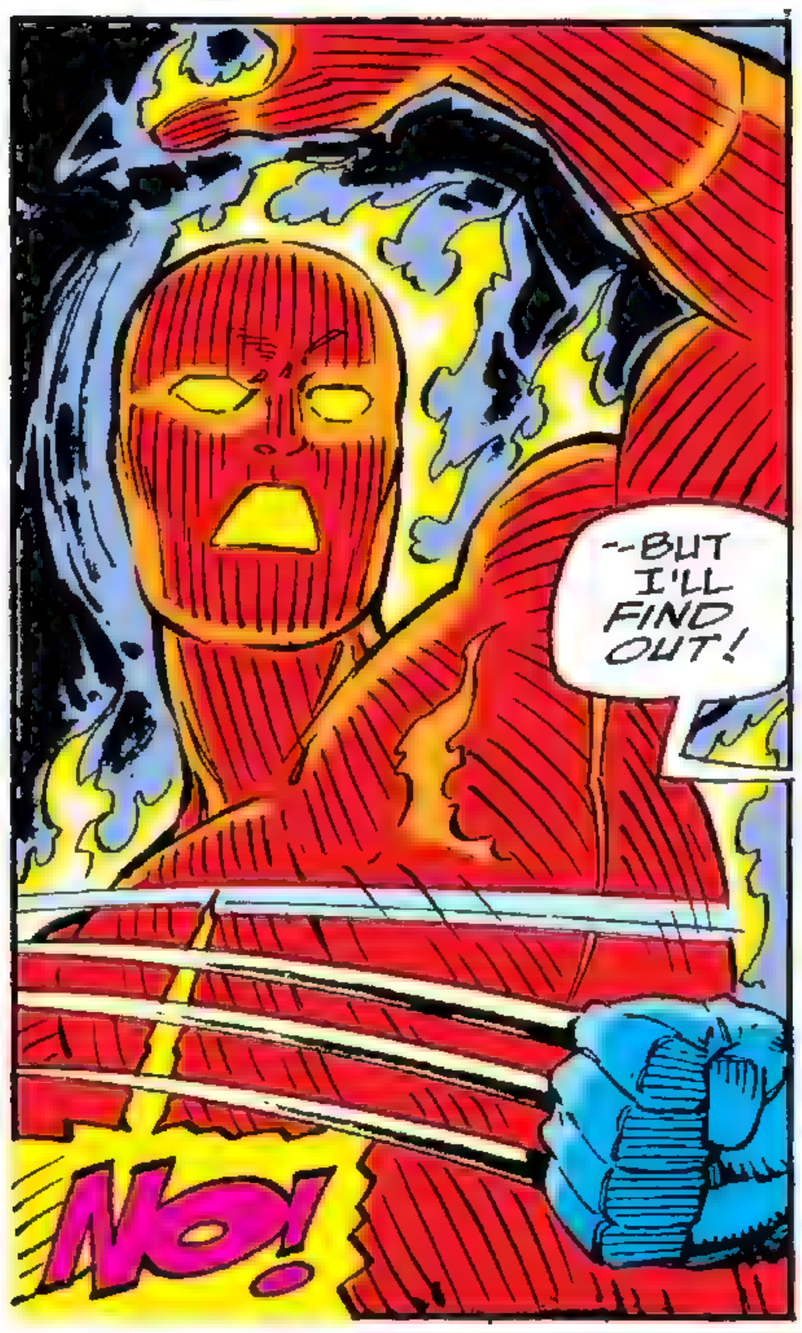

YOUR FANCY FLYING MADE A FOOL OF ME EARLIER, TORCH --I SHALL NOW RETURN THE FAVOR!


SHE... SHE CUT OFF MY RETREAT BY CONJURING UP A RAIN-STORM!
IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO DOUSE MY FLAME, UNLESS--


I DID IT! I MANAGED TO WHIP AROUND THE BLOCK BEFORE THE RAIN COULD REACH ME!
SINCE STORM SEEMS TO BE GIVING ME THE MOST TROUBLE, I SHOULD JUST STREAK AROUND THIS CORNER--

SURPRISE!
OH, SWELL! I NEED YOU LIKE I NEED A HOLE IN MY HEAD!

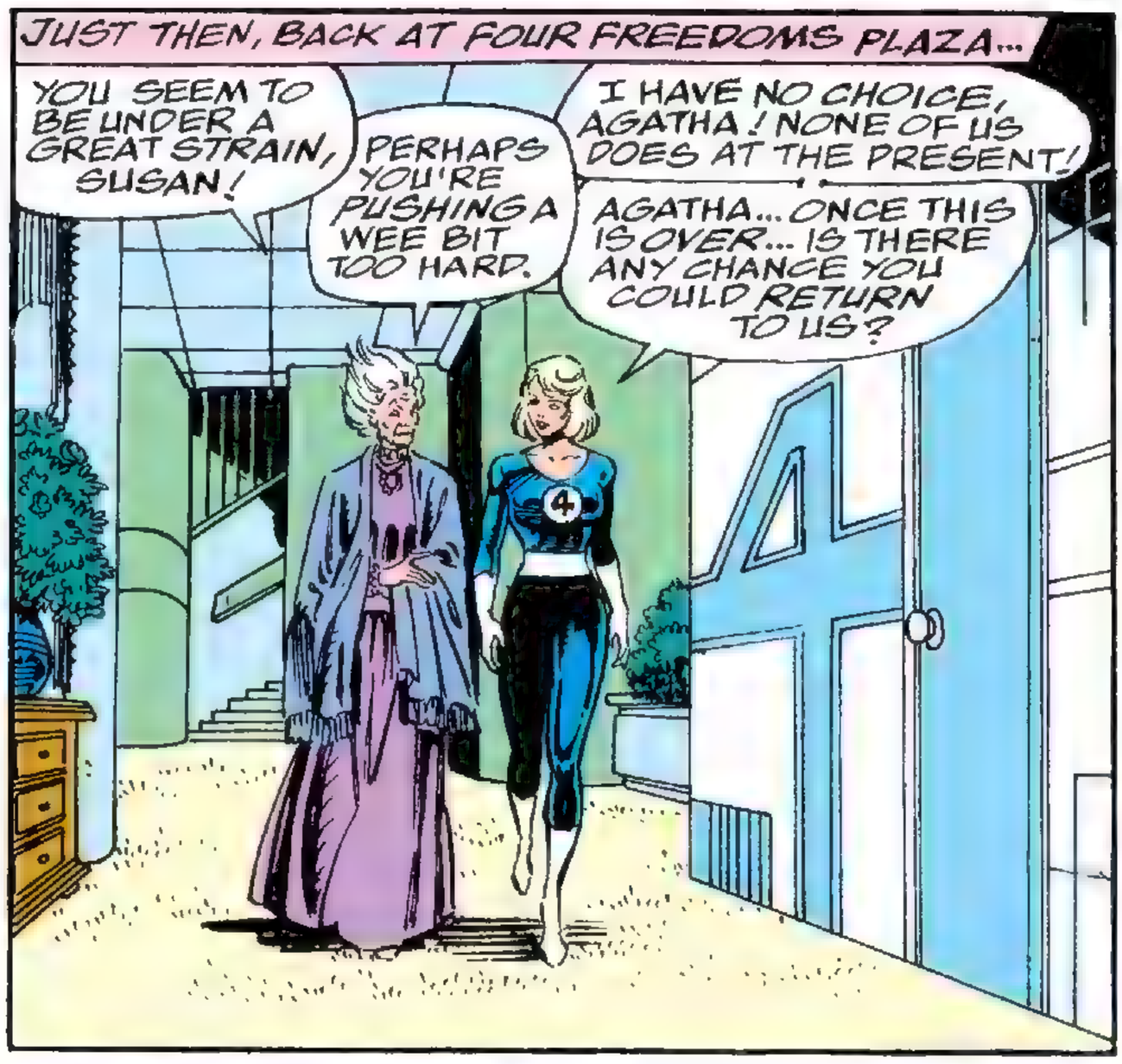

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M SURE THAT'S YOUR INTENTION!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN BLEED IN THAT FORM, TORCHIE OL' PAL--

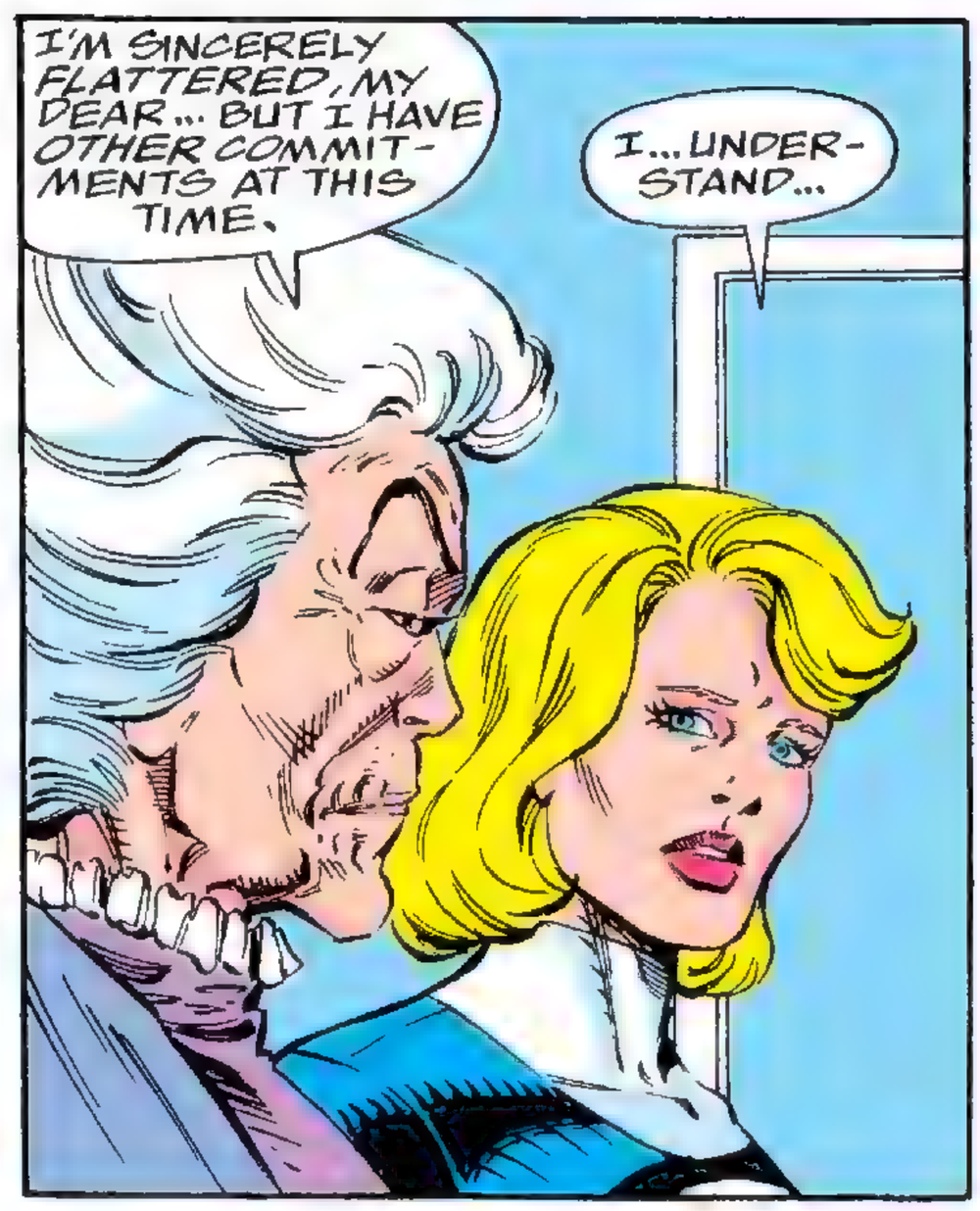

--BUT I'LL FIND OUT!
NO!

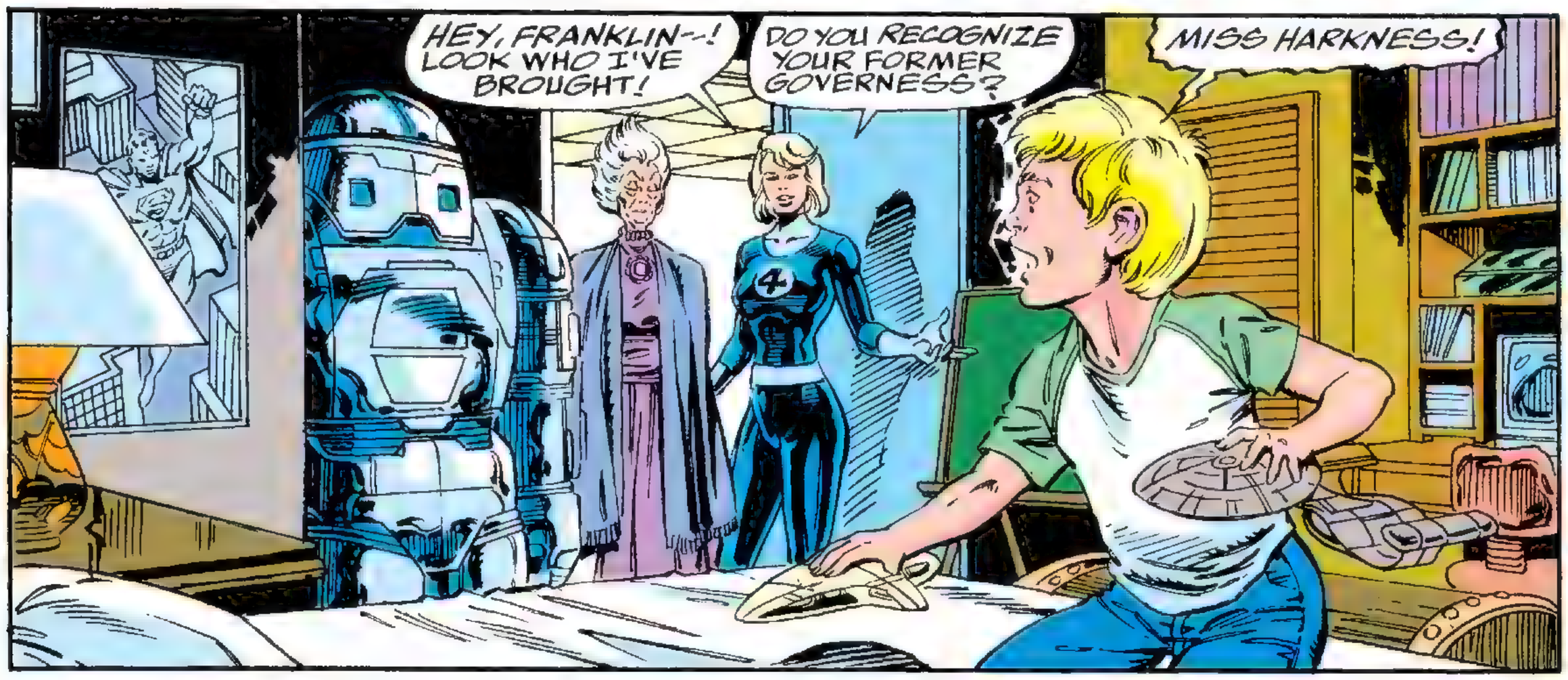
KEEP YOUR CLAWS TO YOUR-SELF!
ANOTHER STEP, AND WE'LL LEARN THEIR MELTING POINT!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, TORCH!

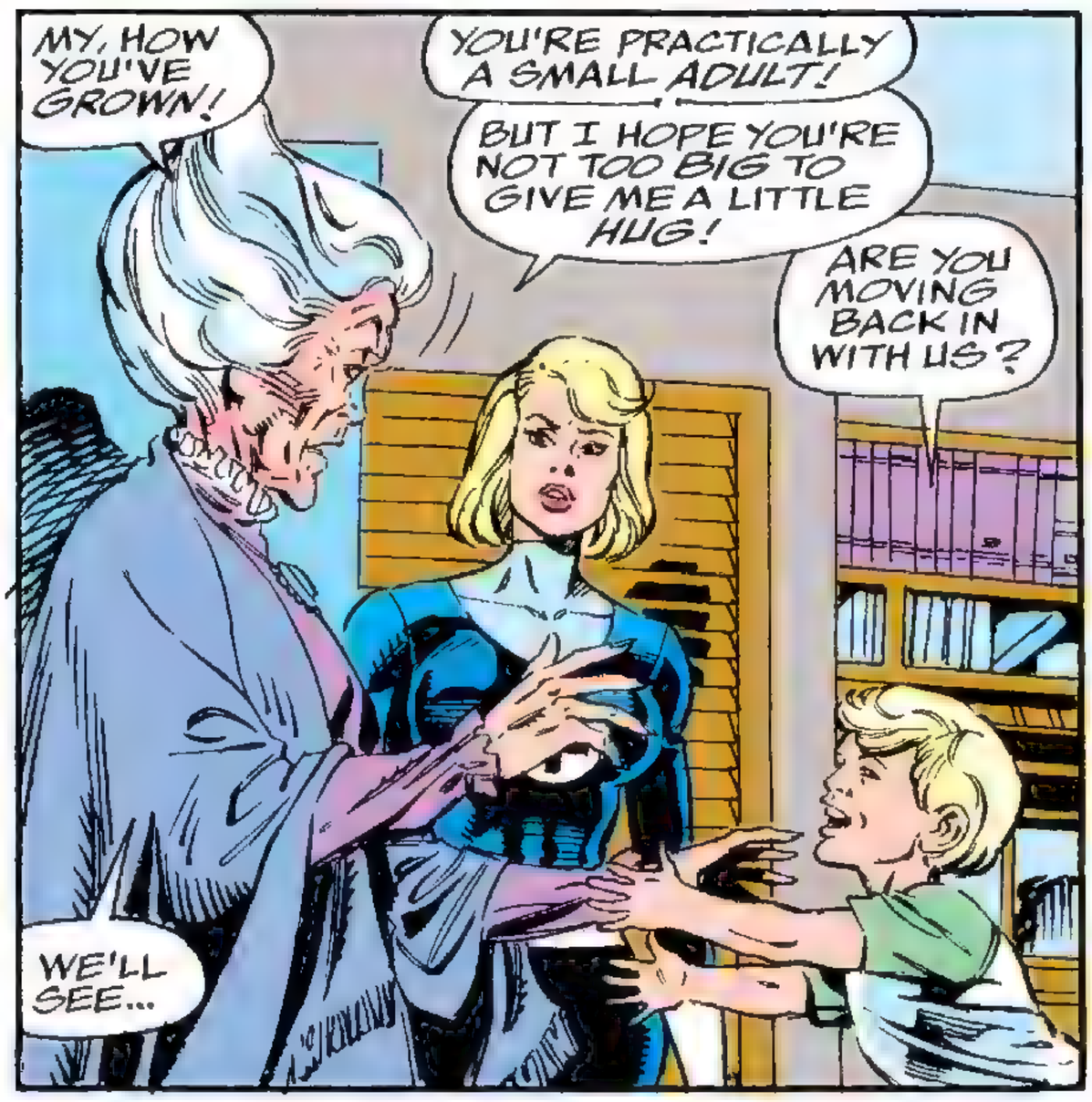
YOU CANNOT HARM--OR KILL--SOMETHING WHICH WAS NEVER TRULY ALIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU, AND THE ORIGINALS--ARE DESTINED TO LOSE SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU CAN DIE!

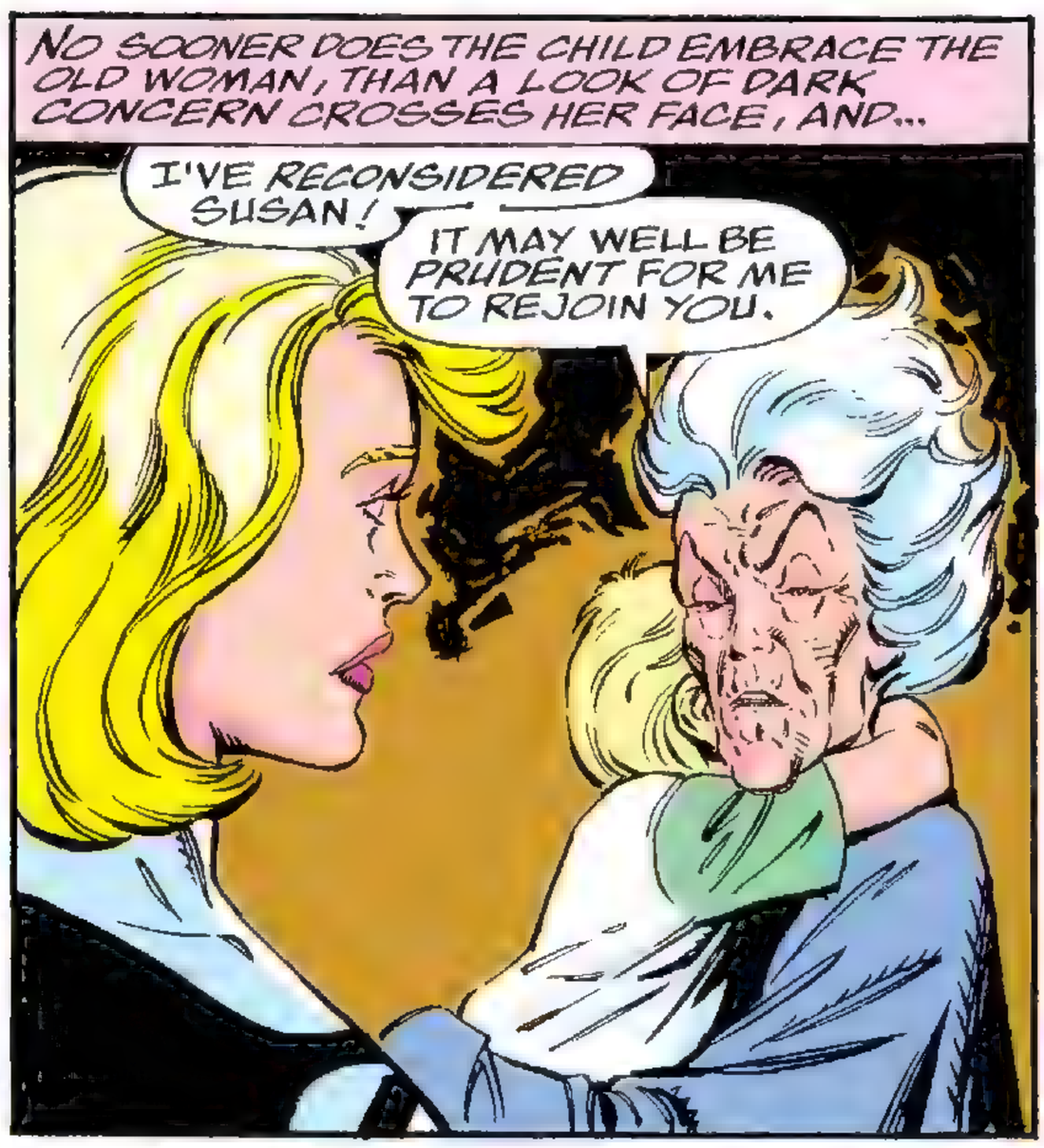
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS... NOT ALIVE?!
IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE, IT PUTS A WHOLE NEW SPIN ON THIS FIGHT!
ADIOS, SHORTY!
HE... HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!
HIS SKELETON WASN'T EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN--!
WOLVERINE'S DOWN!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! HIS REPLACEMENT WILL ARRIVE SOON!
NOT SOON ENOUGH TO SAVE YOU!
LAST CHANCE, GANG! BACK OFF, OR IT'S GOING TO BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT!
A REAL HOT TIME!

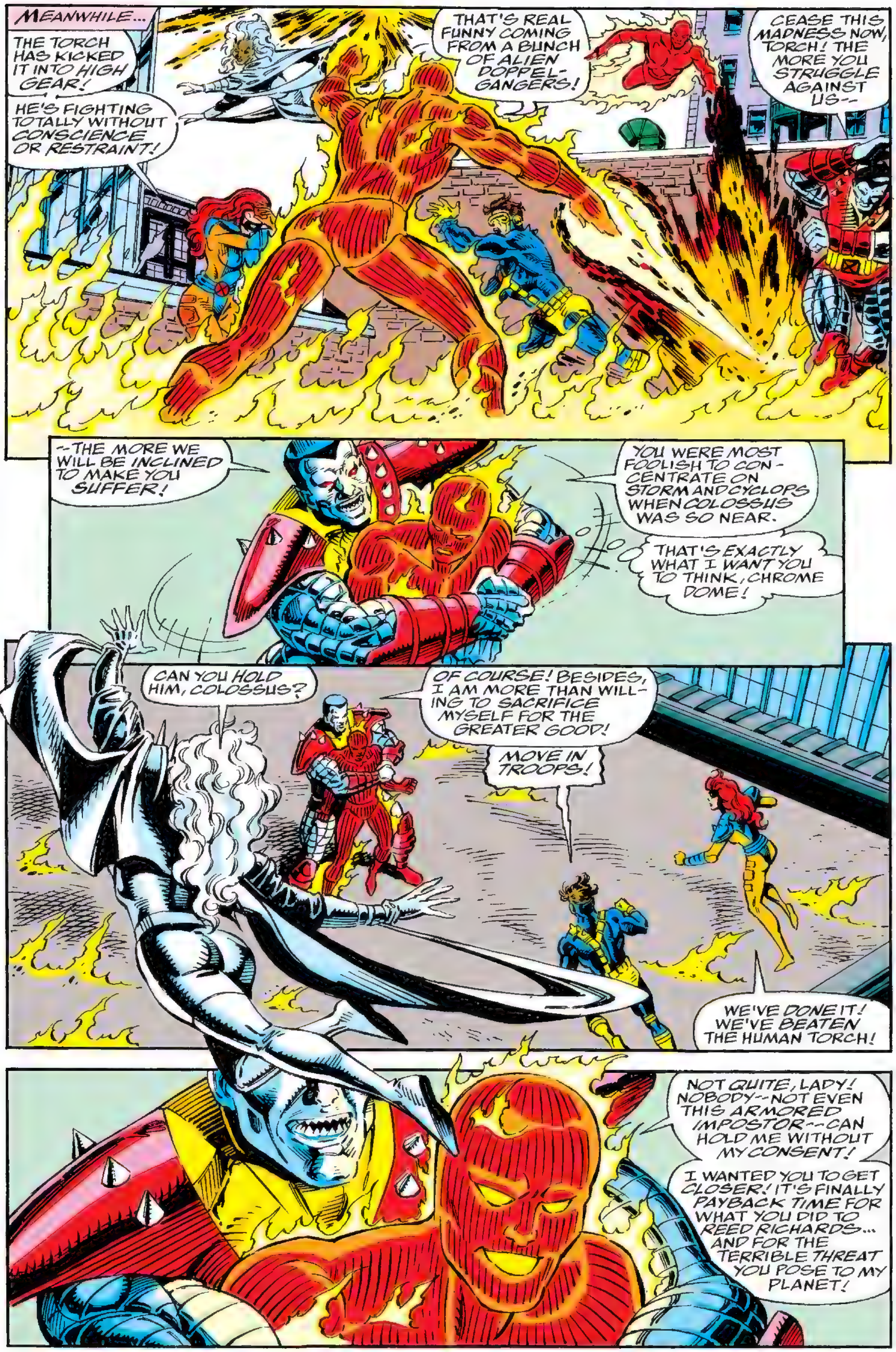

JUST THEN, BACK AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER A GREAT STRAIN, SUSAN!
PERHAPS YOU'RE PUSHING A WEE BIT TOO HARD.
I HAVE NO CHOICE, AGATHA! NONE OF US DOES AT THE PRESENT!
AGATHA... ONCE THIS IS OVER... IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU COULD RETURN TO US?

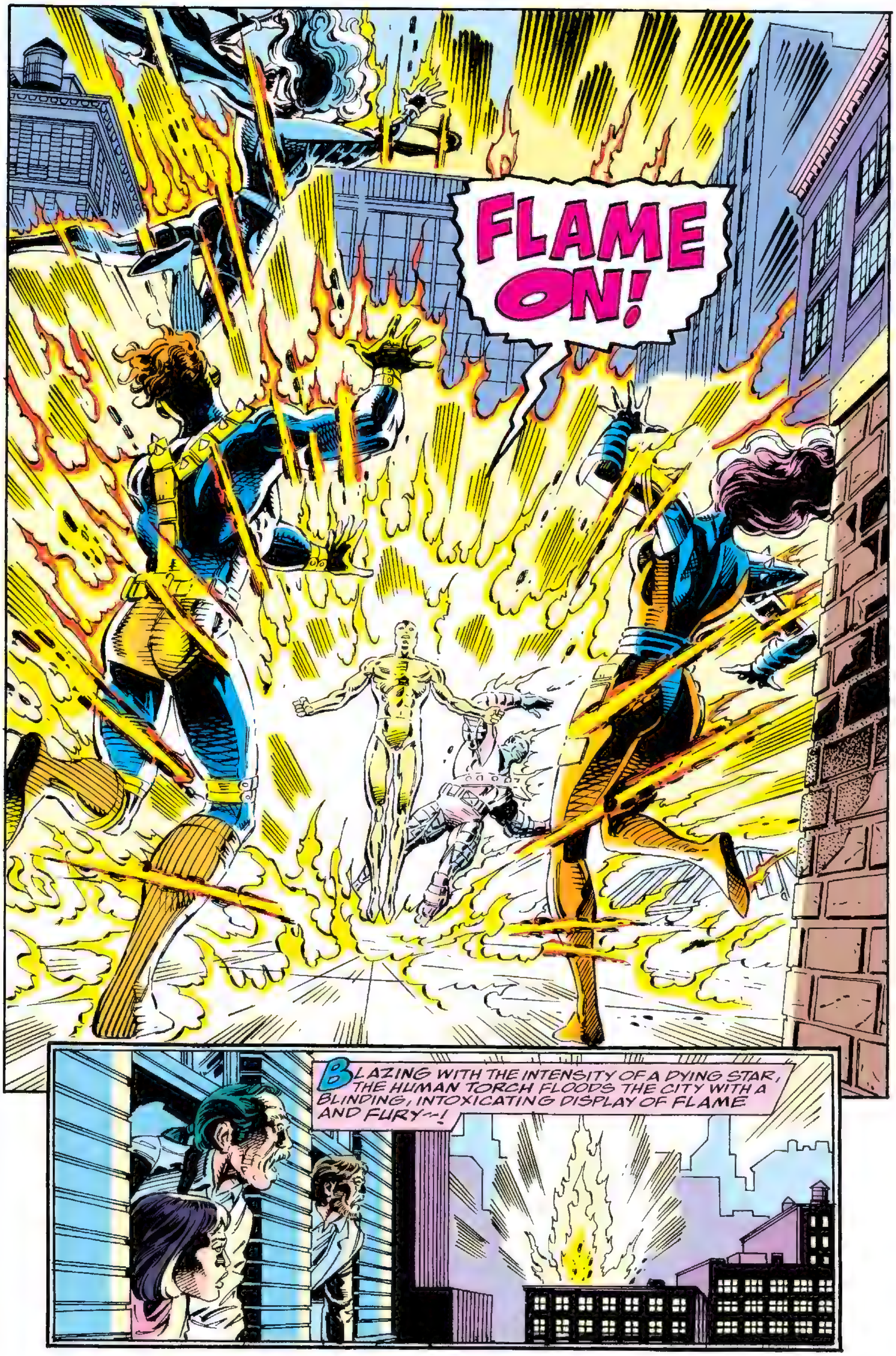

I'M SINCERELY FLATTERED, MY DEAR... BUT I HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME.
I... UNDERSTAND...


HEY, FRANKLIN--! LOOK WHO I'VE BROUGHT!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR FORMER GOVERNESS?
MISS HARKNESS!


MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN!
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY A SMALL ADULT!
BUT I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO BIG TO GIVE ME A LITTLE HUG!
ARE YOU MOVING BACK IN WITH US?
WE'LL SEE...

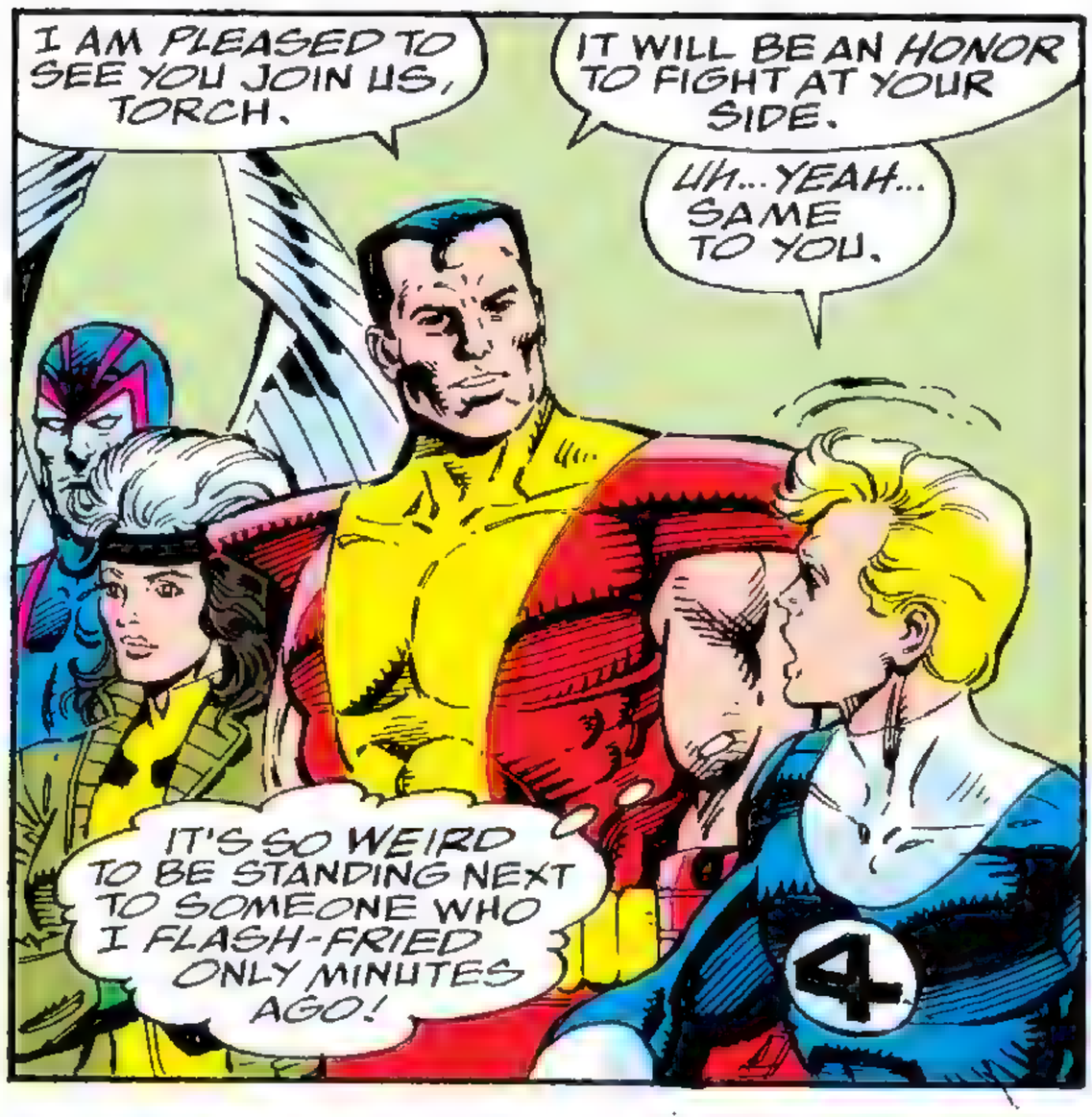

NO SOONER DOES THE CHILD EMBRACE THE OLD WOMAN, THAN A LOOK OF DARK CONCERN CROSSES HER FACE, AND...
I'VE RECONSIDERED SUSAN!
IT MAY WELL BE PRUDENT FOR ME TO REJOIN YOU.


MEANWHILE...
THE TORCH HAS KICKED IT INTO HIGH GEAR!
HE'S FIGHTING TOTALLY WITHOUT CONSCIENCE OR RESTRAINT!
THAT'S REAL FUNNY COMING FROM A BUNCH OF ALIEN DOPPEL-GANGERS!
CEASE THIS MADNESS NOW, TORCH! THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST US--
--THE MORE WE WILL BE INCLINED TO MAKE YOU SUFFER!
YOU WERE MOST FOOLISH TO CON-CENTRATE ON STORM AND CYCLOPS WHEN COLOSSUS WAS SO NEAR.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT YOU TO THINK, CHROME DOME!
CAN YOU HOLD HIM, COLOSSUS?
OF COURSE! BESIDES, I AM MORE THAN WILL-ING TO SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR THE GREATER GOOD!
MOVE IN TROOPS!
WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE BEATEN THE HUMAN TORCH!
NOT QUITE, LADY! NOBODY--NOT EVEN THIS ARMORED IMPOSTOR--CAN HOLD ME WITHOUT MY CONSENT!
I WANTED YOU TO GET CLOSER! IT'S FINALLY PAYBACK TIME FOR WHAT YOU DID TO REED RICHARDS... AND FOR THE TERRIBLE THREAT YOU POSE TO MY PLANET!


FLAME ON!
BLAZING WITH THE INTENSITY OF A DYING STAR, THE HUMAN TORCH FLOODS THE CITY WITH A BLINDING, INTOXICATING DISPLAY OF FLAME AND FURY--!

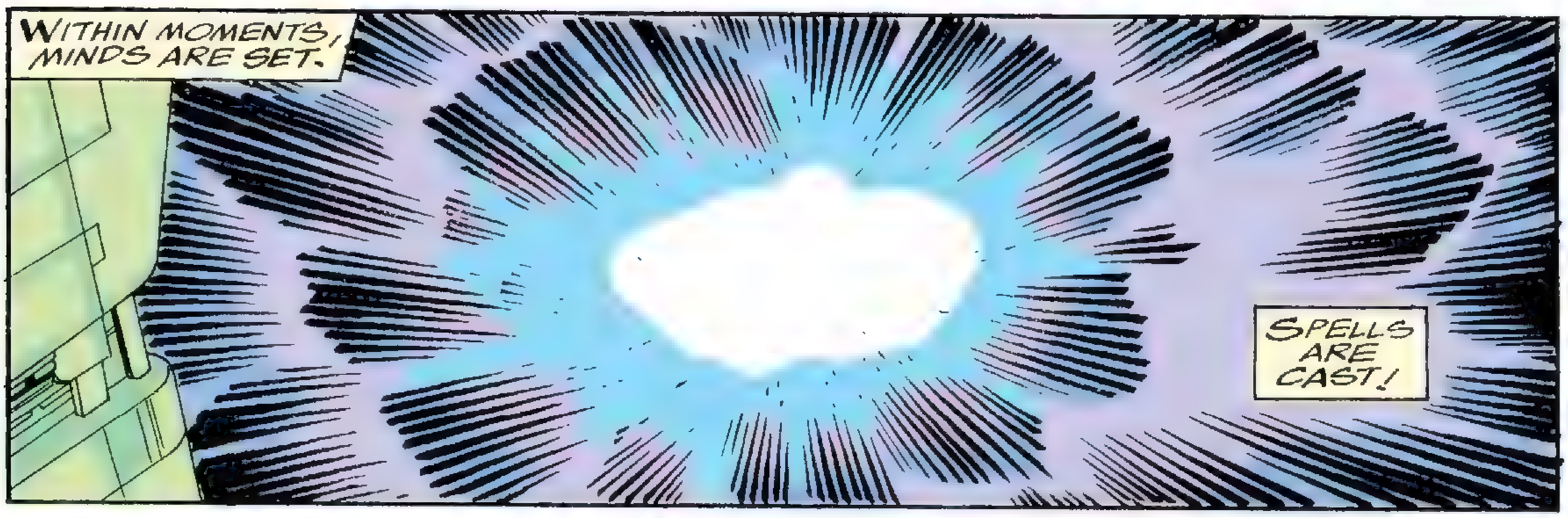
AND THEN...
IT'S... OVER!
THEY'RE ALREADY BEGINNING TO META-MORPHOSE BACK TO THEIR ALIEN STATES!
I...I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
WAIT! ONE OF THEM IS--
I CONGRATULATE YOU ON A JOB WELL DONE, TORCH!
I NEVER WOULD'VE GIVEN YOU CREDIT FOR SUCH UTTER RUTHLESSNESS!
NOT THAT IT WILL DO YOU ANY GOOD!
THEY'LL RETURN!
THEY'LL ALWAYS RETURN!
HOWEVER, YOU'VE MADE MY JOB MUCH EASIER!
I HAVE SUMMONED A DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY TO TRANSPORT ME HOME BECAUSE I NO LONGER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CONVERTING YOU TO THE DARK SIDE!
YOU'RE ALREADY MUCH WORSE THAN I COULD HAVE MADE YOU!
FAREWELL-- FOR NOW!
IT TOOK ALL OF MY CONCENTRATION TO KEEP MY FLAME FOCUSED ON THEM ... AND PREVENT THIS ROOF FROM IGNITING!

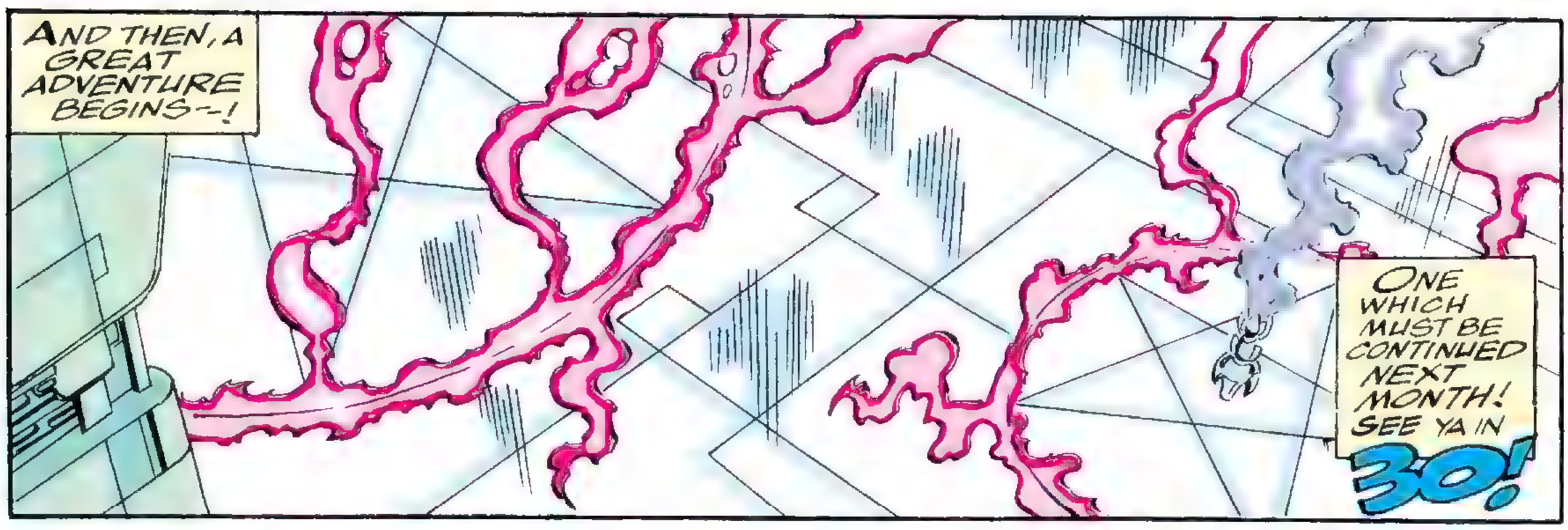
SOMETIME LATER, AS A LONE, HAUNTED FIGURE GLIDES TOWARDS 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA...
...PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED FOR A MOST DISTURBING JOURNEY...!
I JUST HOPE THESE FOUR DON'T END UP TELEPORTING US INTO A SLAB OF ROCK ON A FARAWAY PLANET!
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE! LISTEN UP--!
WE'RE GOING RIGHT TO THE SOURCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS ENERGY EMISSIONS THAT ARE INVADING OUR GALAXY.
WHERE'S JOHNNY? WHY ISN'T HE--?
"I SEE HIM NOW!"
WAS THE DOPPELGANGER RIGHT?
HAVE I REALLY CROSSED OVER THE EDGE?
WORSE... DO I EVEN CARE?


I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOU JOIN US, TORCH.
IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE.
UH... YEAH... SAME TO YOU.
IT'S SO WEIRD TO BE STANDING NEXT TO SOMEONE WHO I FLASH-FRIED ONLY MINUTES AGO!

THIS IS IT! THE MAXIMUM THE MYSTICS CAN TRANSPORT IN ONE TRIP!
WE'VE GATHERED TOGETHER ONLY THE MOST POWERFUL AND SEASONED FOR THIS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE!

WANDA-- WE'RE ALL SET!
THEN JOIN THE OTHERS WITHIN THE CIRCLE!


WITHIN MOMENTS, MINDS ARE SET.
SPELLS ARE CAST!


AND THEN, A GREAT ADVENTURE BEGINS--!
ONE WHICH MUST BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH! SEE YA IN 30!

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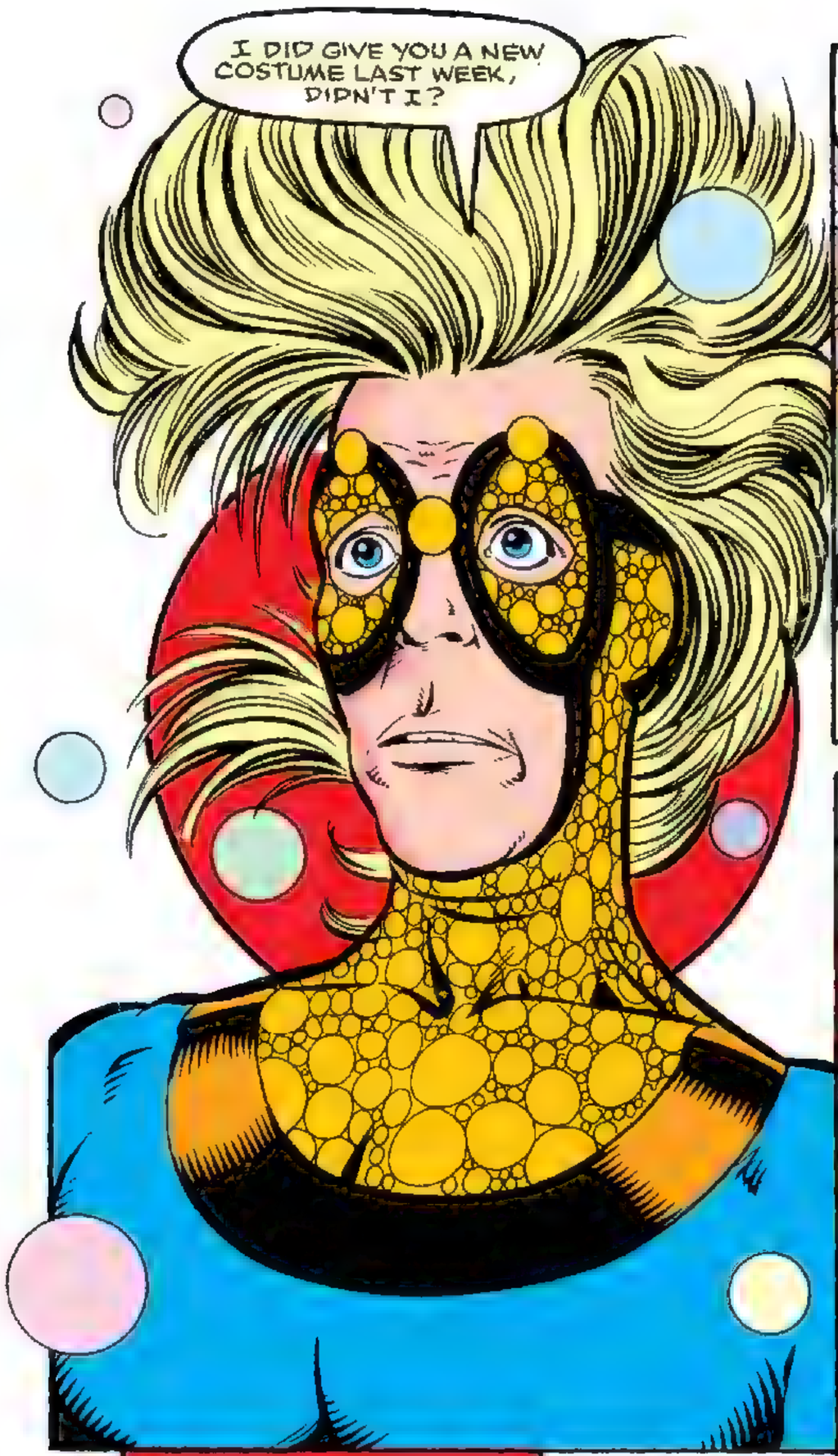
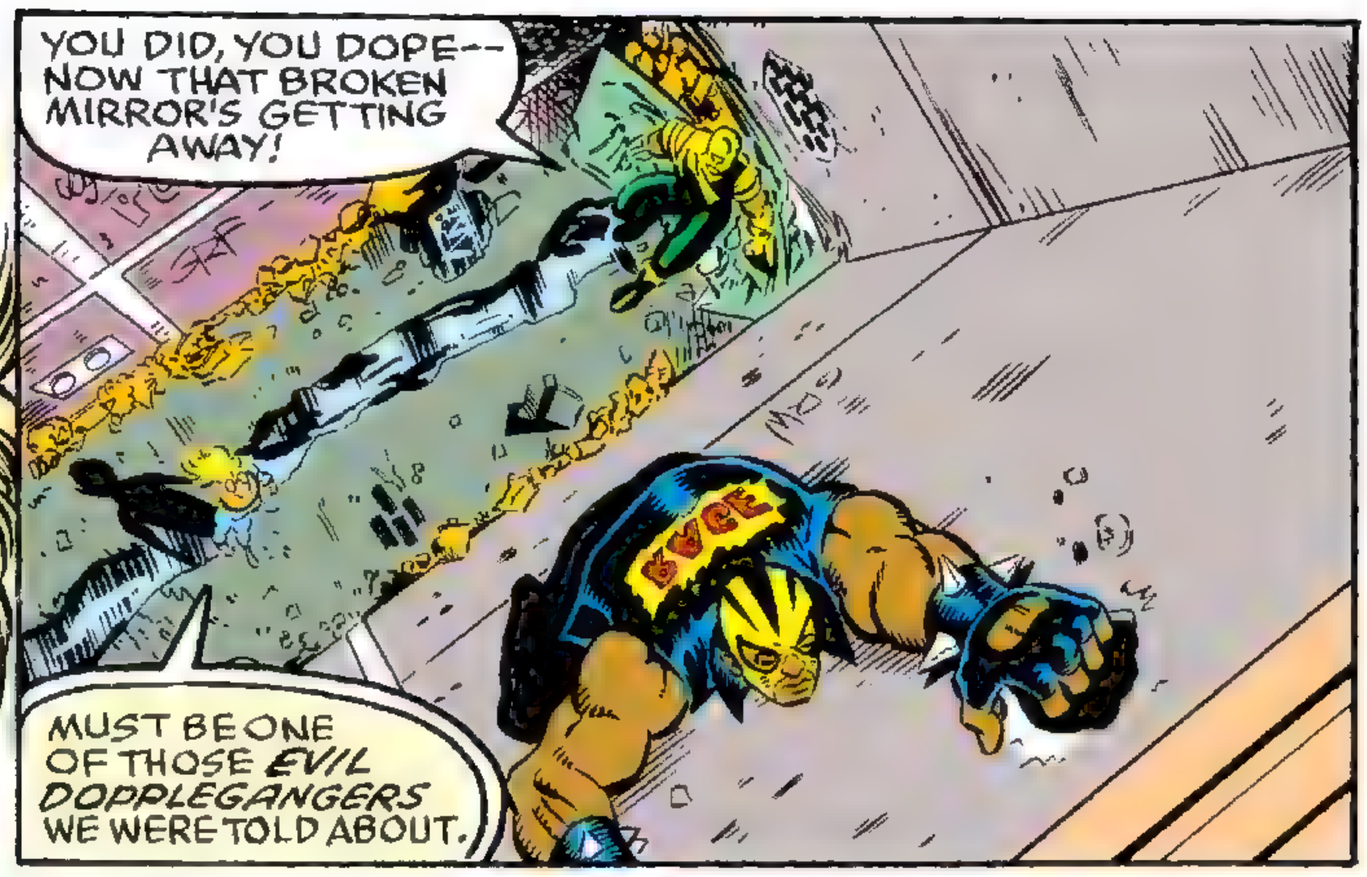
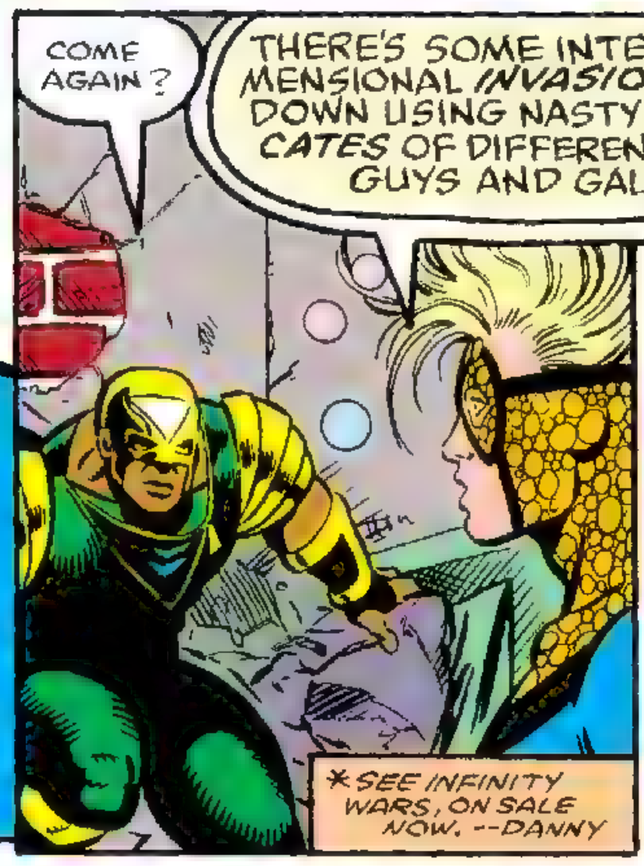
NIGHT THRASHER — MYSTERIOUS WEAPON AGAINST CRIME! NAMORITA — HYBRID ATLANTEAN! NOVA — THE HUMAN ROCKET! MARVEL BOY — TELEKINETIC FURY! FIRESTAR — MUTANT MASTER OF RADIATION! SPEEDBALL — BOUNCING BUNDLE OF ENERGY! SILHOUETTE — SHADOW TELEPORTER! TOGETHER THEY ARE THE NEXT GENERATION IN SUPER TEAM EXCITEMENT!
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE NEW WARRIORS!
MANHATTAN. THE BOUNCING, BUBBLY NEW WARRIOR CALLED SPEEDBALL PARTICIPATES IN HIS MOST DIFFICULT MISSION YET--
PLEASE, LORD, DON'T LET ME DROP THE DOUBLE-ANCHOVY
OHGEEZOHGEEZ-- GET AWAY YOU $#@! PIGEONS!
PIZZA!

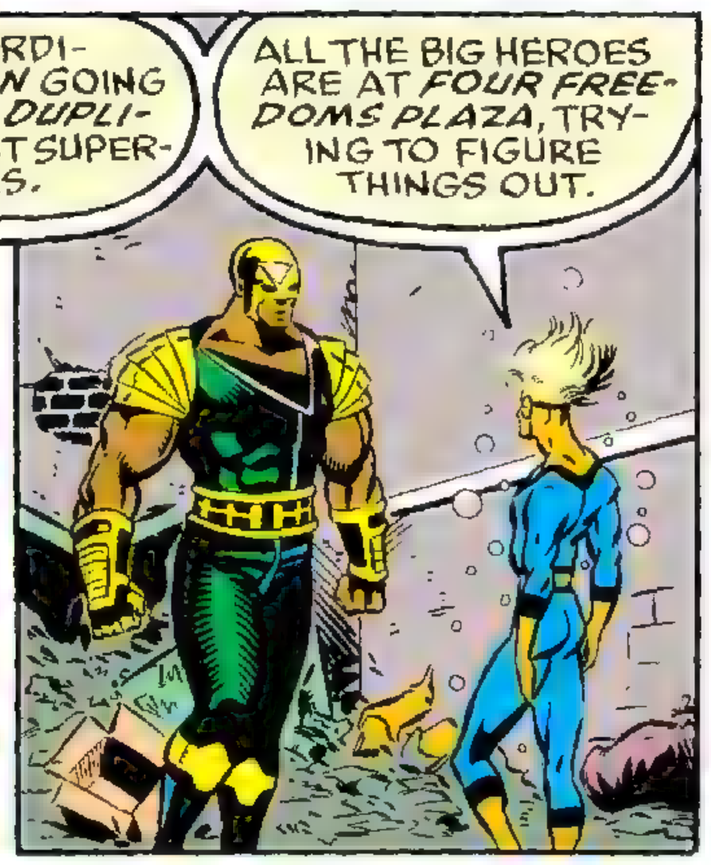
STUPID RASSUMRATSWITHWINGS!
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE -- DOMINO'S HAS NOTHING ON THE MASKED MARVEL!
AND IF THE PIZZA'S STILL HOT WHEN I GET IT BACK, MAYBE THE HULK WON'T KILL ME!
ULP
THRUMP
HECK WITH THE PIZZA! WHOEVER COULD TOSS A COP CAR LIKE THAT--
--COULD USE A LESSON IN PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL FROM THE--
YOW!
DEL BOY'S PIZZA

RAGE!!
DON'T WORRY, BIG BUDDY, I'LL NAIL THIS ROAD WARRIOR REJECT FOR YOU!
RAGE
A LITTLE KINETIC FIELD KICKBACK--
SKRASH
SKAPOW
SPEEDY-- YOU IDIOT!
THAT'S NOT ME-- I AM!

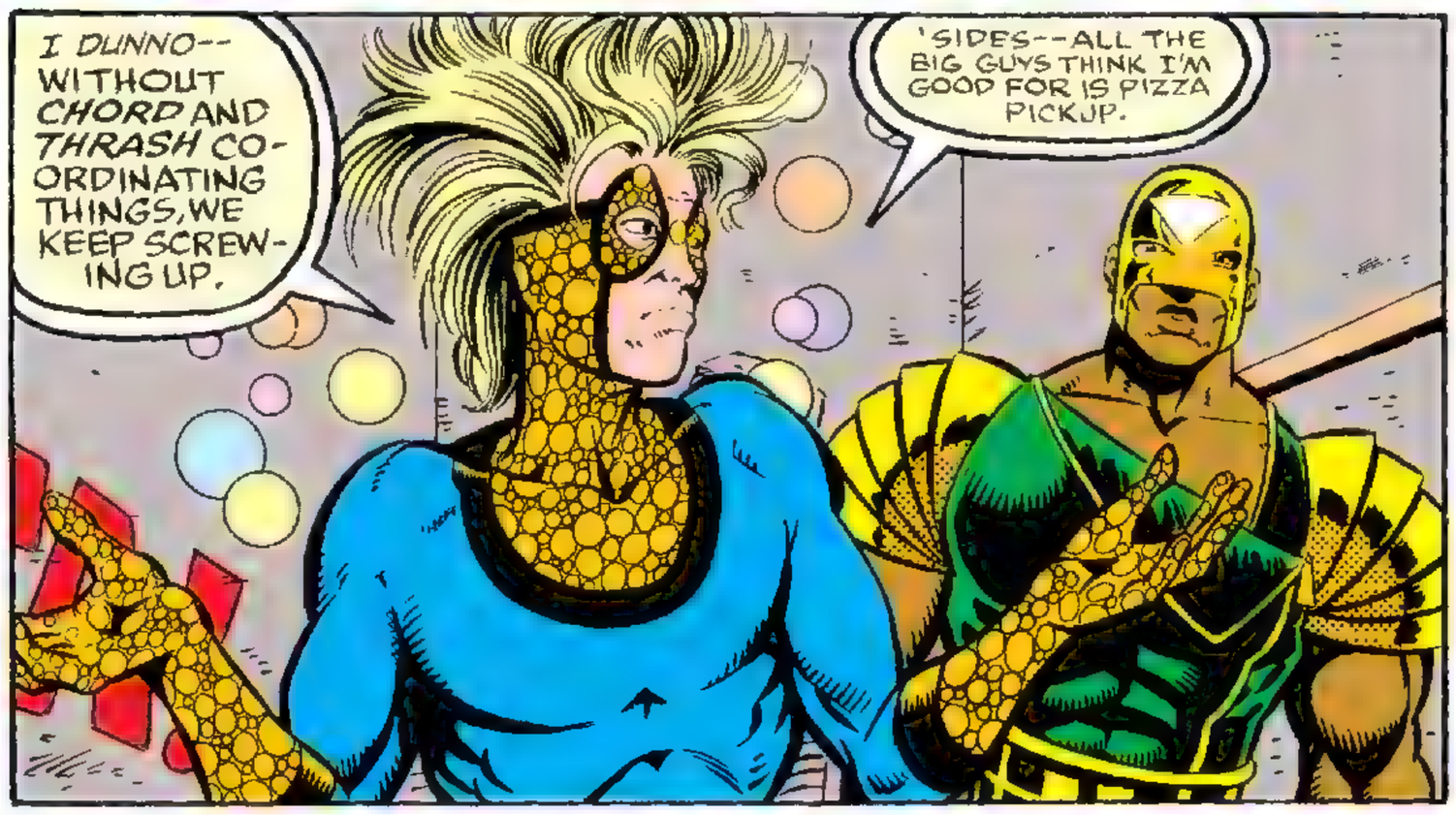

I DID GIVE YOU A NEW COSTUME LAST WEEK, DIDN'T I?

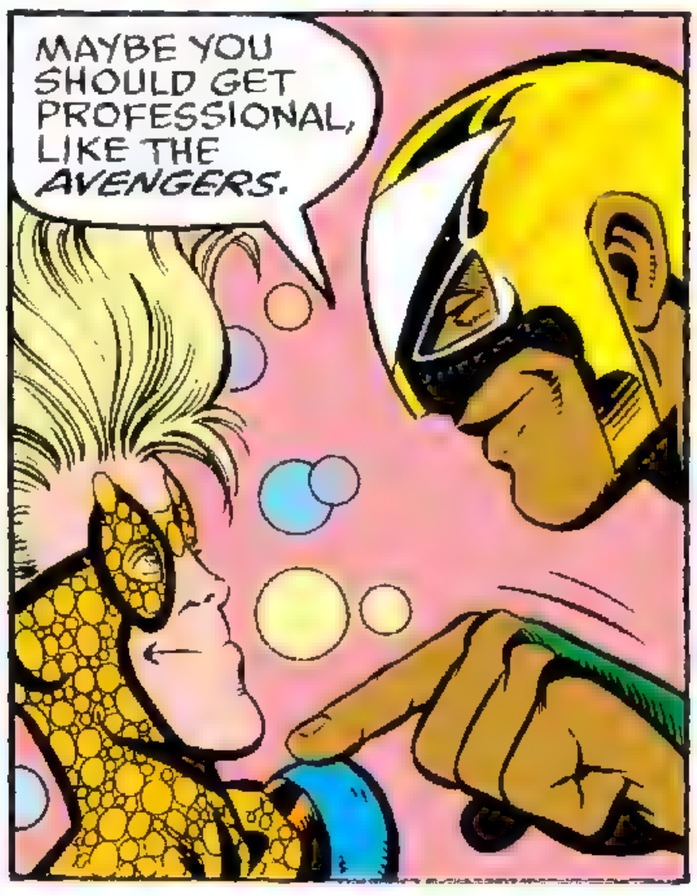

YOU DID, YOU DOPE-- NOW THAT BROKEN MIRROR'S GETTING AWAY!
MUST BE ONE OF THOSE *EVIL DOPPLEGANGERS* WE WERE TOLD ABOUT.


COME AGAIN?
THERE'S SOME INTERDIMENSIONAL *INVASION* GOING DOWN USING NASTY *DUPLICATES* OF DIFFERENT SUPER-GUYS AND GALS.
*SEE INFINITY WARS, ON SALE NOW. --DANNY

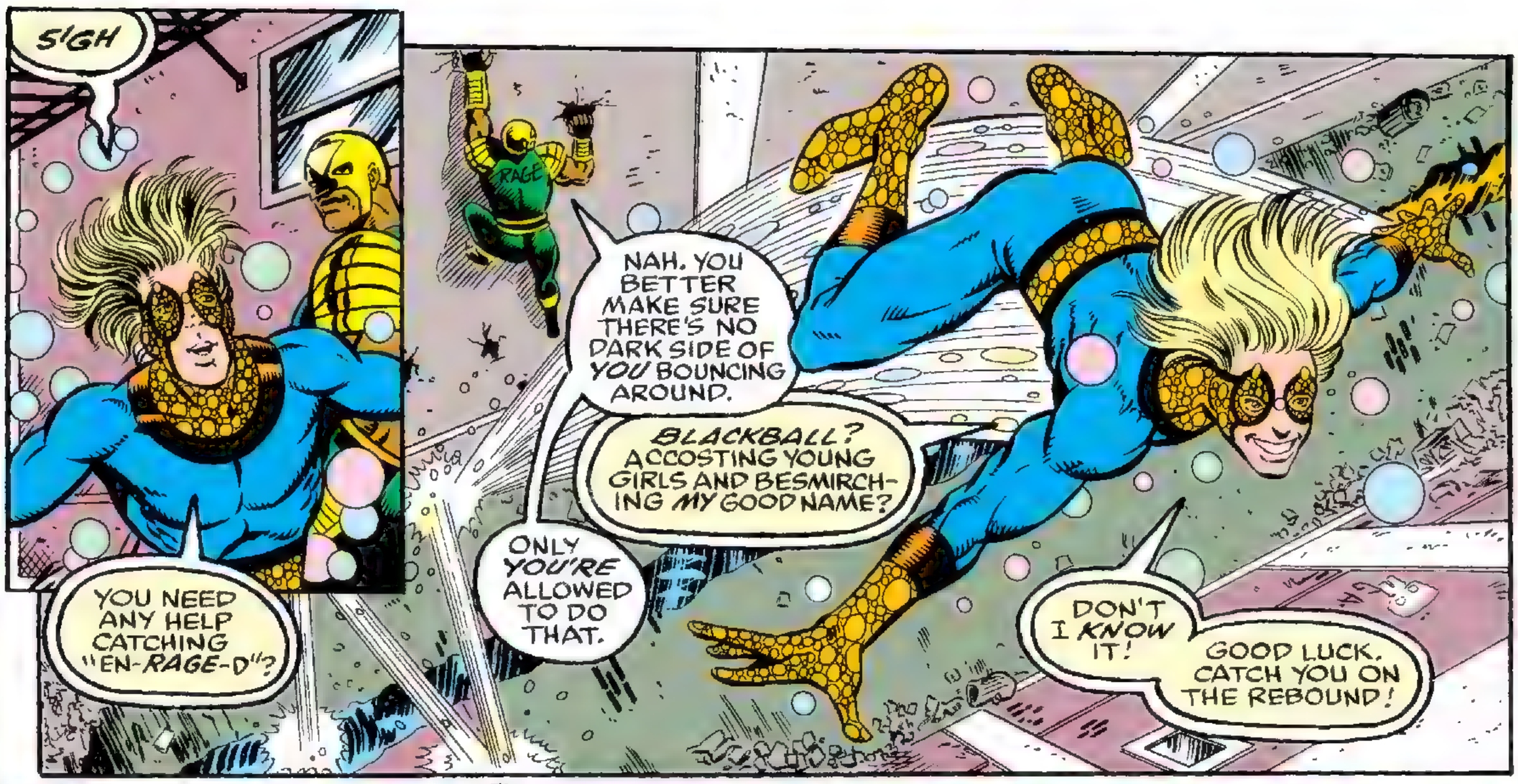

ALL THE BIG HEROES ARE AT *FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA*, TRYING TO FIGURE THINGS OUT.

UHM... WHY DIDN'T YOU GUYS CALL ME IN?


I DUNNO-- WITHOUT *CHORD* AND *THRASH* CO-ORDINATING THINGS, WE KEEP SCREWING UP.
'SIDES--ALL THE BIG GUYS THINK I'M GOOD FOR IS PIZZA PICKUP.


MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET PROFESSIONAL, LIKE THE *AVENGERS*.

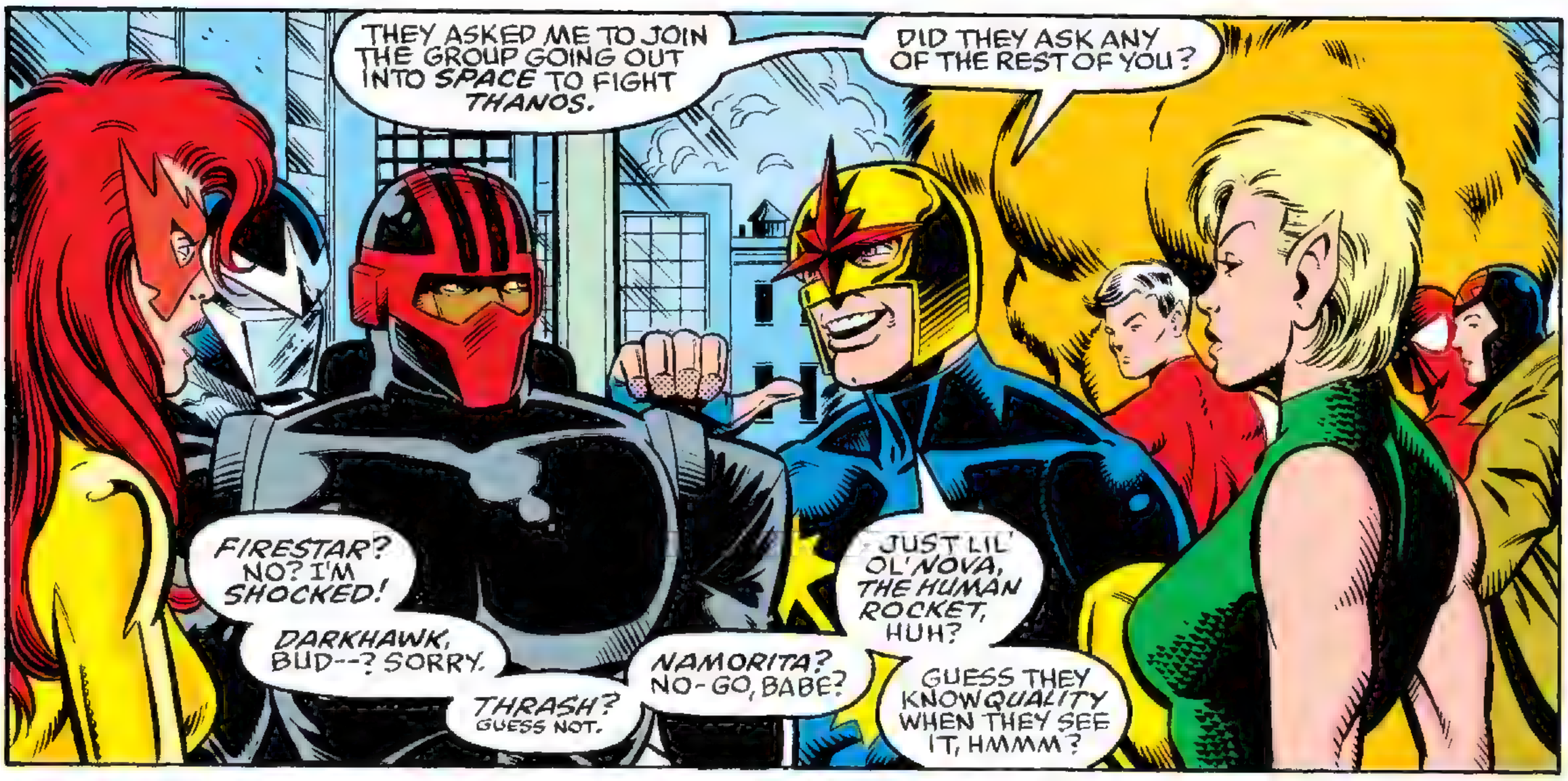
SURE, PROFESSIONAL ENOUGH TO KICK *YOU* OUT, RIGHT?
AND NEVER LET *YOU* IN.

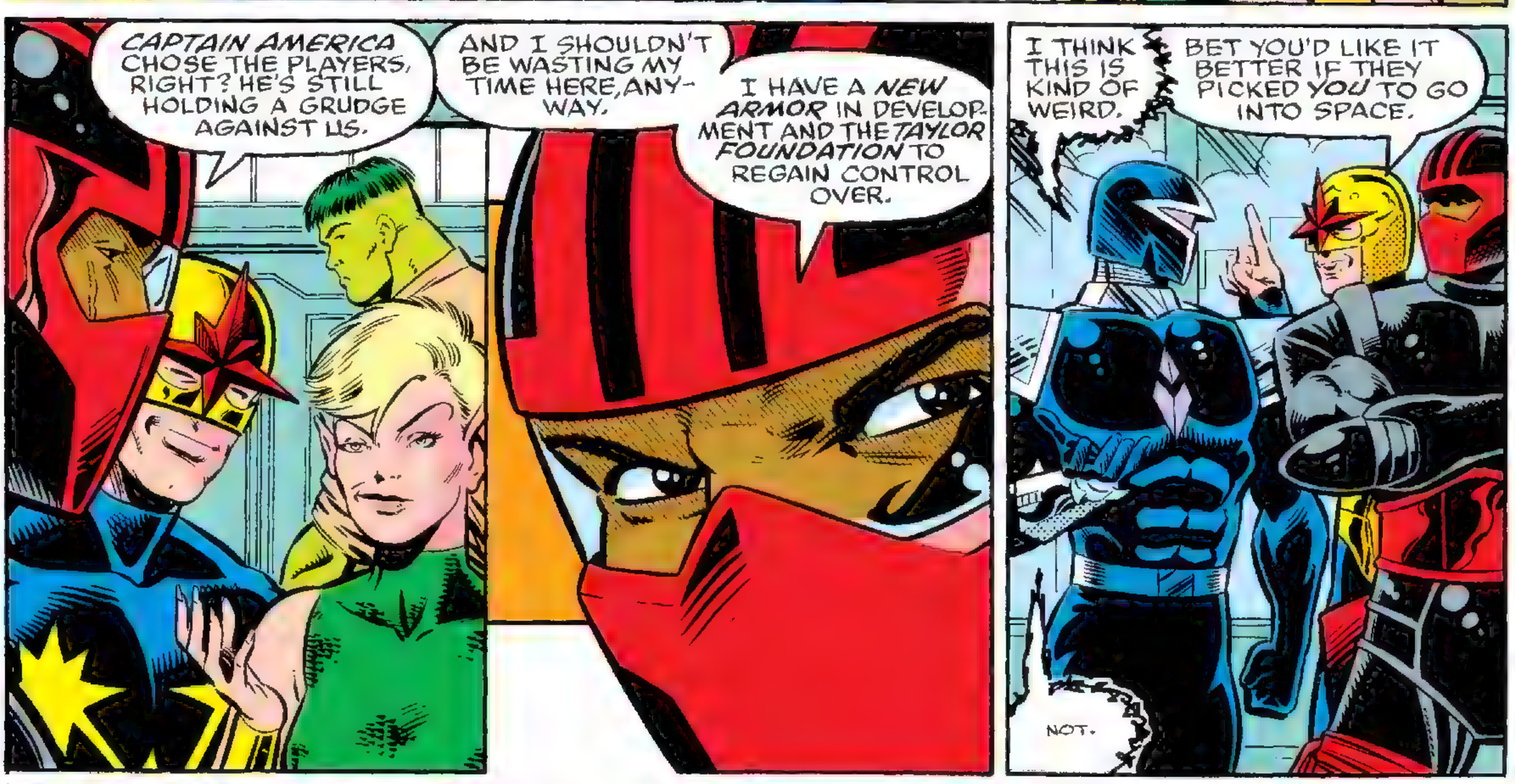

SIGH
YOU NEED ANY HELP CATCHING "EN-RAGE-D"?
RAGE
NAH. YOU BETTER MAKE SURE THERE'S NO DARK SIDE OF YOU BOUNCING AROUND.
ONLY YOU'RE ALLOWED TO DO THAT.
BLACKBALL? ACCOSTING YOUNG GIRLS AND BESMIRCHING MY GOOD NAME?
DON'T I KNOW IT!
GOOD LUCK. CATCH YOU ON THE REBOUND!

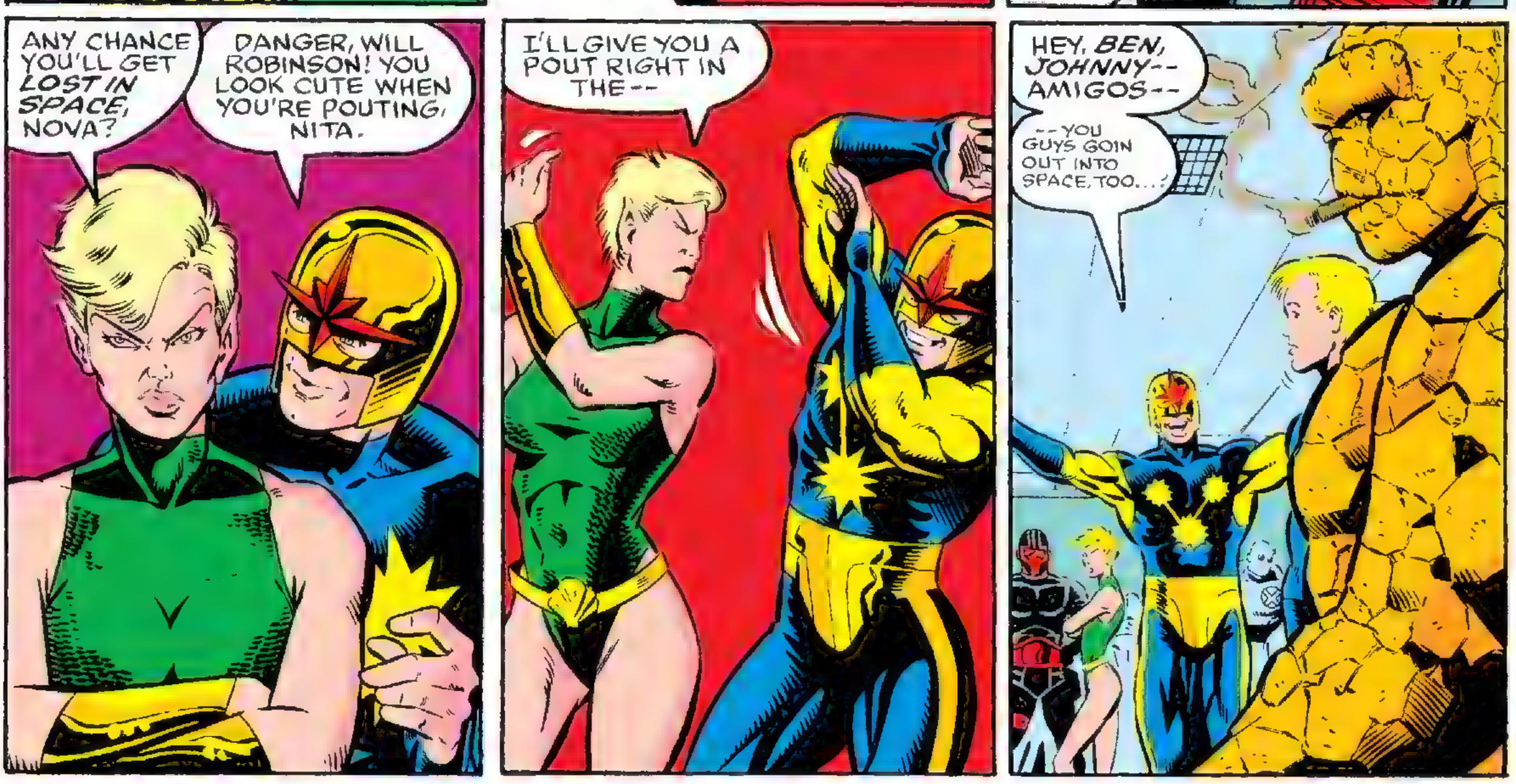
SURE.
WHERE DID THAT GUY GET TO?
RARRGH
LET'S DO IT, THEN...

RRNNNFF
THAT'S IT? I...ABSORBED HIM...?
NO EVIL VERSION OF ME IS NASTIER THAN THE REAL THING!
A-B-C. EASY.
OKAY-- WHO'S NEXT?
FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, HOME OF THE SUPERHUMAN ADVENTURERS KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR--

DARK SIDES
--AND HOST TO ONE OF THE LARGEST ASSEMBLAGES OF HEROES EVER SEEN BENEATH ONE BLOWN-UP ROOF!
THE AVENGERS--EAST AND WEST COAST BRANCHES;
THE CANADIAN STRIKEFORCE, ALPHA FLIGHT--
TWO TEAMS REPRESENTING THE MUTANT INTEREST--X-MEN AND X-FACTOR.
--AND OUR OWN GROUP OF HEROES, THE NEW WARRIORS--WHO ARE FEELING MORE THAN A LITTLE INSECURE AMIDST SUCH A GATHERING!
A SMALL LOOK AT AN INFINITE WAR, BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
FABIAN NICIEZA WRITER
DARICK ROBERTSON PENCILER
LARRY MAHLSTEDT INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO INFINITE CHIEF


THEY ASKED ME TO JOIN THE GROUP GOING OUT INTO SPACE TO FIGHT THANOS.
DID THEY ASK ANY OF THE REST OF YOU?
FIRESTAR? NO? I'M SHOCKED!
DARKHAWK, BUD--? SORRY.
THRASH? GUESS NOT.
NAMORITA? NO-GO, BABE?
JUST LIL' OL' NOVA, THE HUMAN ROCKET, HUH?
GUESS THEY KNOW QUALITY WHEN THEY SEE IT, HMMM?


CAPTAIN AMERICA CHOSE THE PLAYERS, RIGHT? HE'S STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST US.
AND I SHOULDN'T BE WASTING MY TIME HERE, ANYWAY.
I HAVE A NEW ARMOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION TO REGAIN CONTROL OVER.
I THINK THIS IS KIND OF WEIRD.
BET YOU'D LIKE IT BETTER IF THEY PICKED YOU TO GO INTO SPACE.
NOT.


ANY CHANCE YOU'LL GET LOST IN SPACE, NOVA?
DANGER, WILL ROBINSON! YOU LOOK CUTE WHEN YOU'RE POUTING, NITA.
I'LL GIVE YOU A POUT RIGHT IN THE--
HEY, BEN, JOHNNY-- AMIGOS--
--YOU GUYS GOIN OUT INTO SPACE, TOO...

MEANWHILE, IN SPRINGDALE, CONNECTICUT...

YOW! TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL "HOLY TOLEDO"!

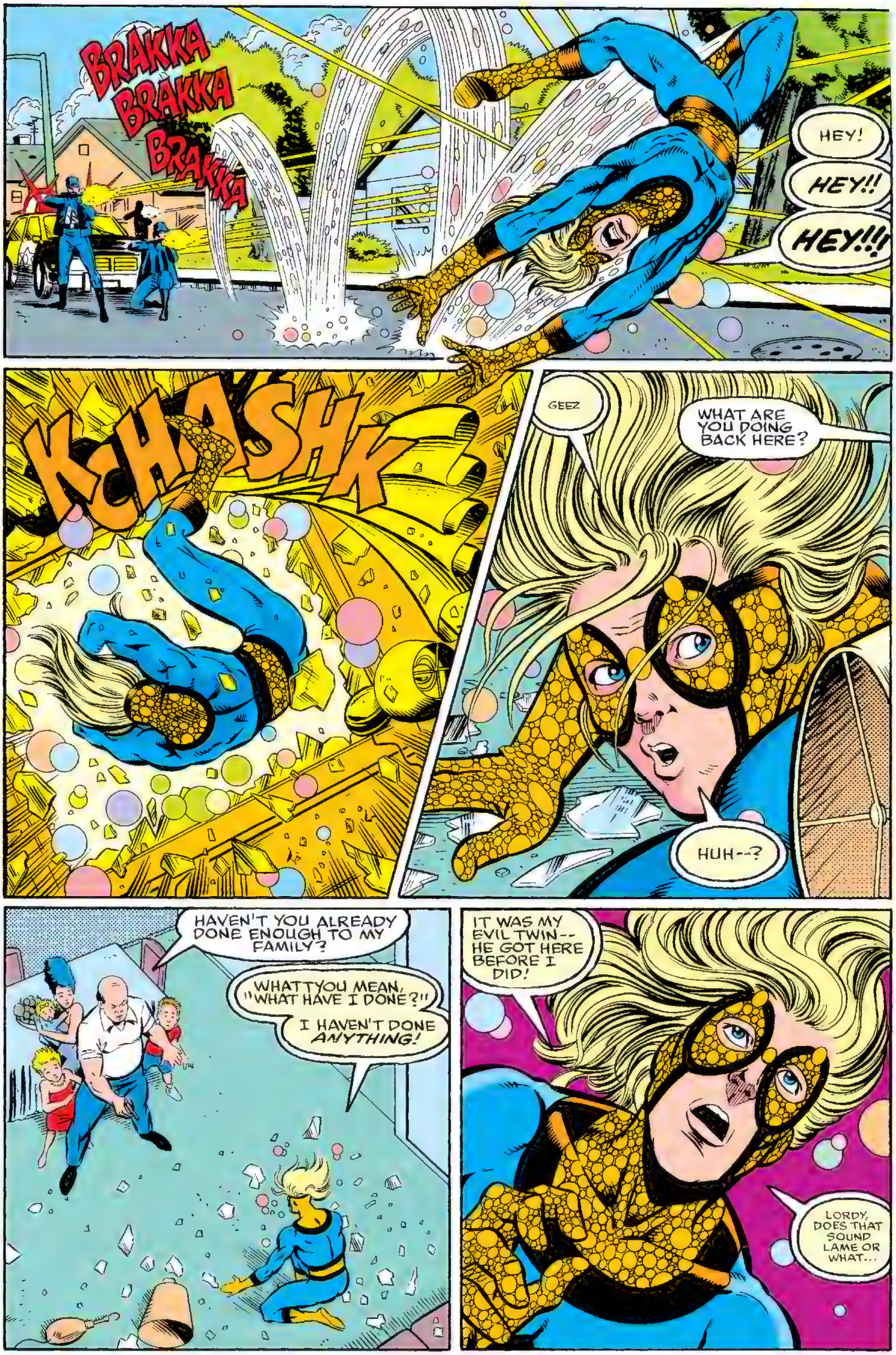
LOOKS LIKE LOS ANGELES-*LITE* DOWN THERE!

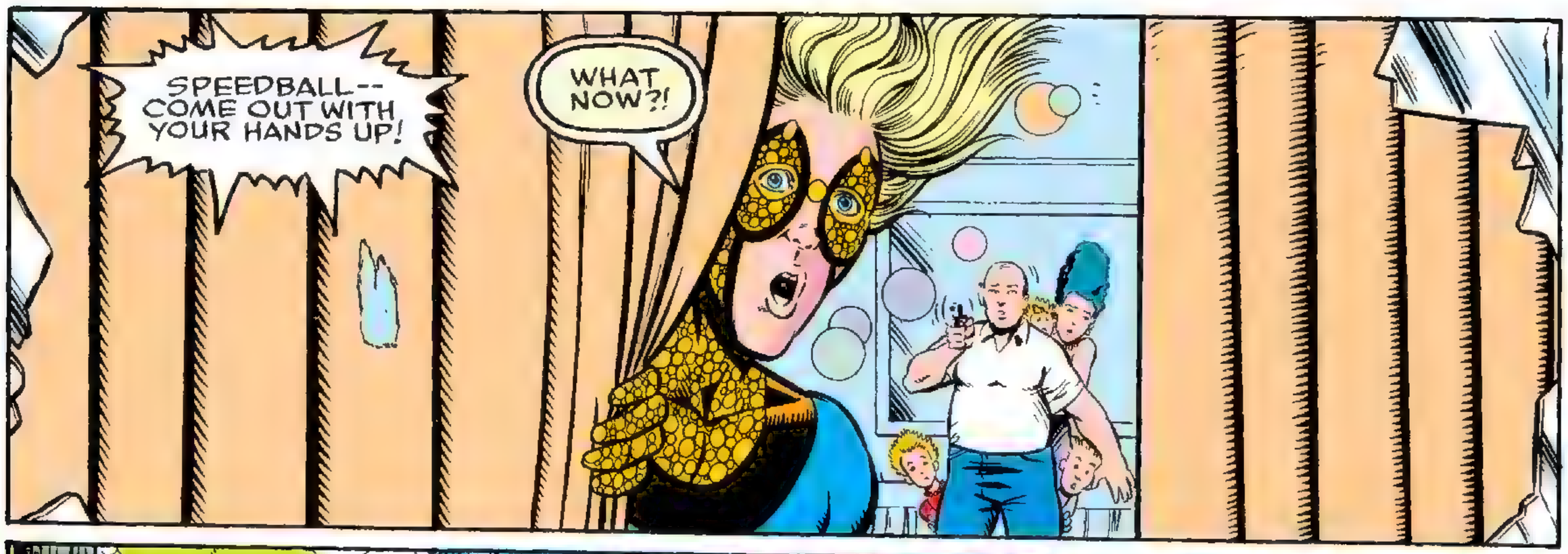
THIS IS REALLY SCARY!

SPRINGDALE'S ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF LIKE A LITTLE *FATHER KNOWS BEST* TIMEWARP TOWN.

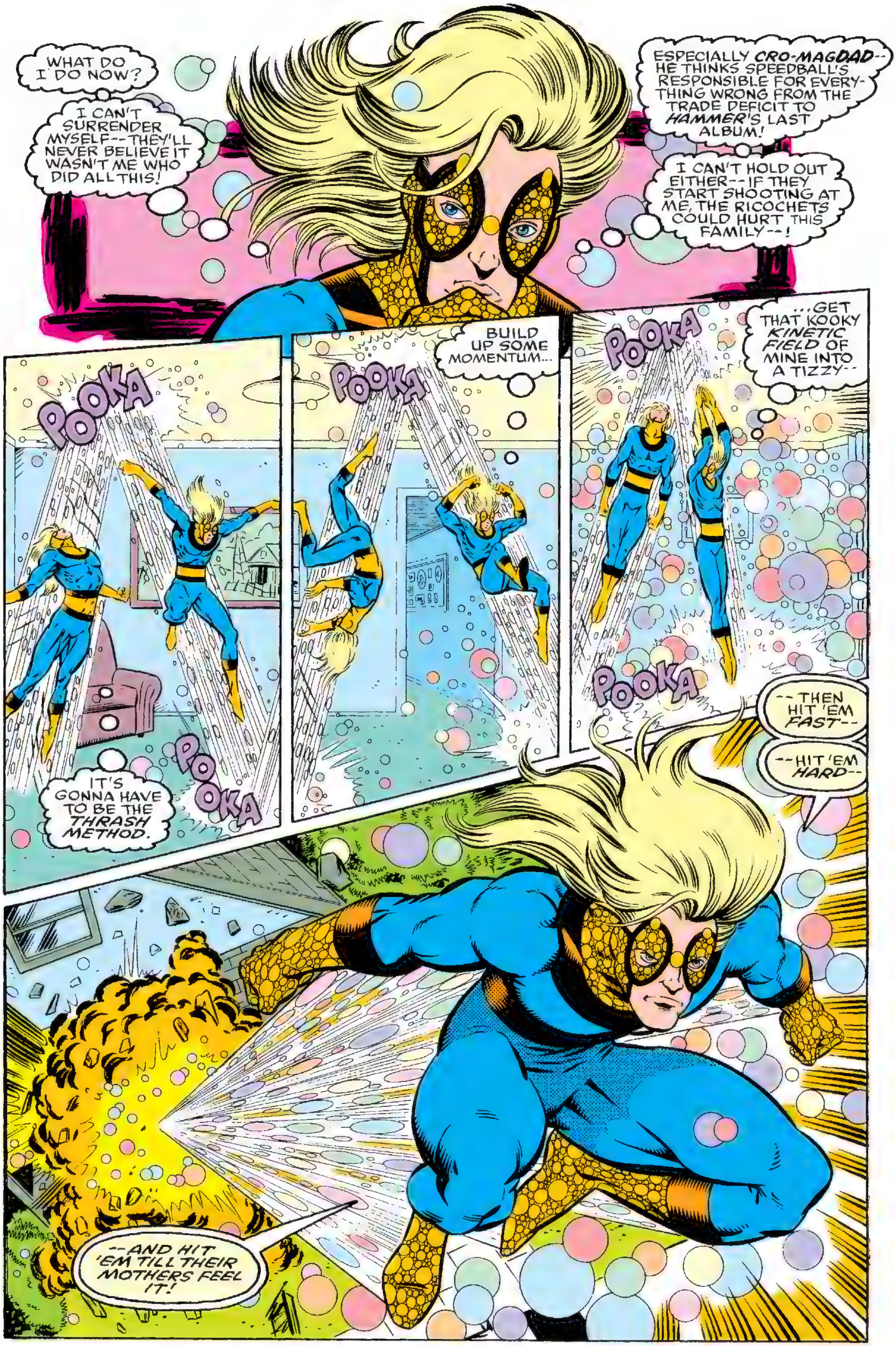
SEEING IT DEVASTATED LIKE THIS REALLY WONKS ME OUT.

THIS *INFINITY WAR* CRUD HAS TURNED IT INTO A *NIGHTMARE!*

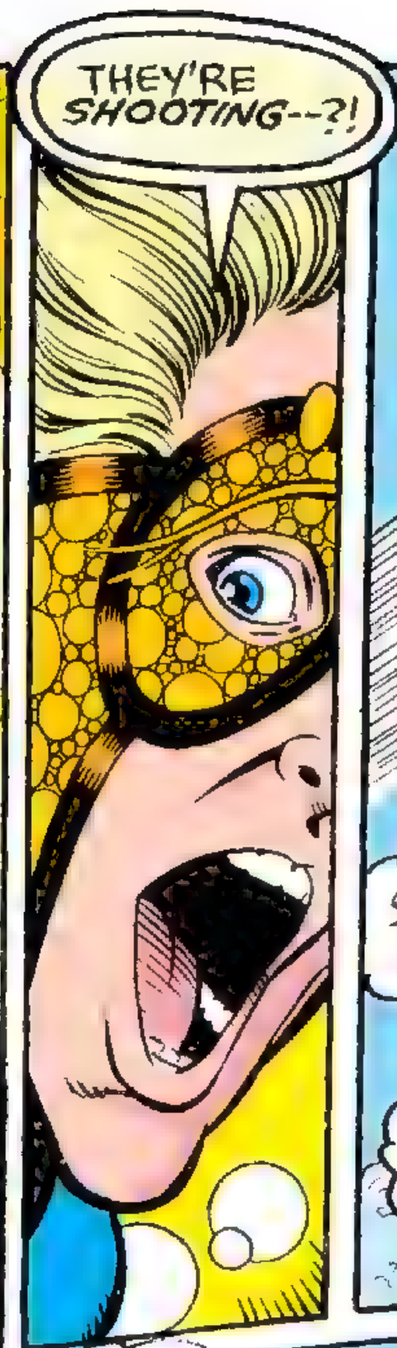

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
HEY!
HEY!!
HEY!!!
KCHA SHK
GEEZ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?
HUH--?
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY DONE ENOUGH TO MY FAMILY?
WHAT YOU MEAN, "WHAT HAVE I DONE?"
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
IT WAS MY EVIL TWIN-- HE GOT HERE BEFORE I DID!
LORDY, DOES THAT SOUND LAME OR WHAT...

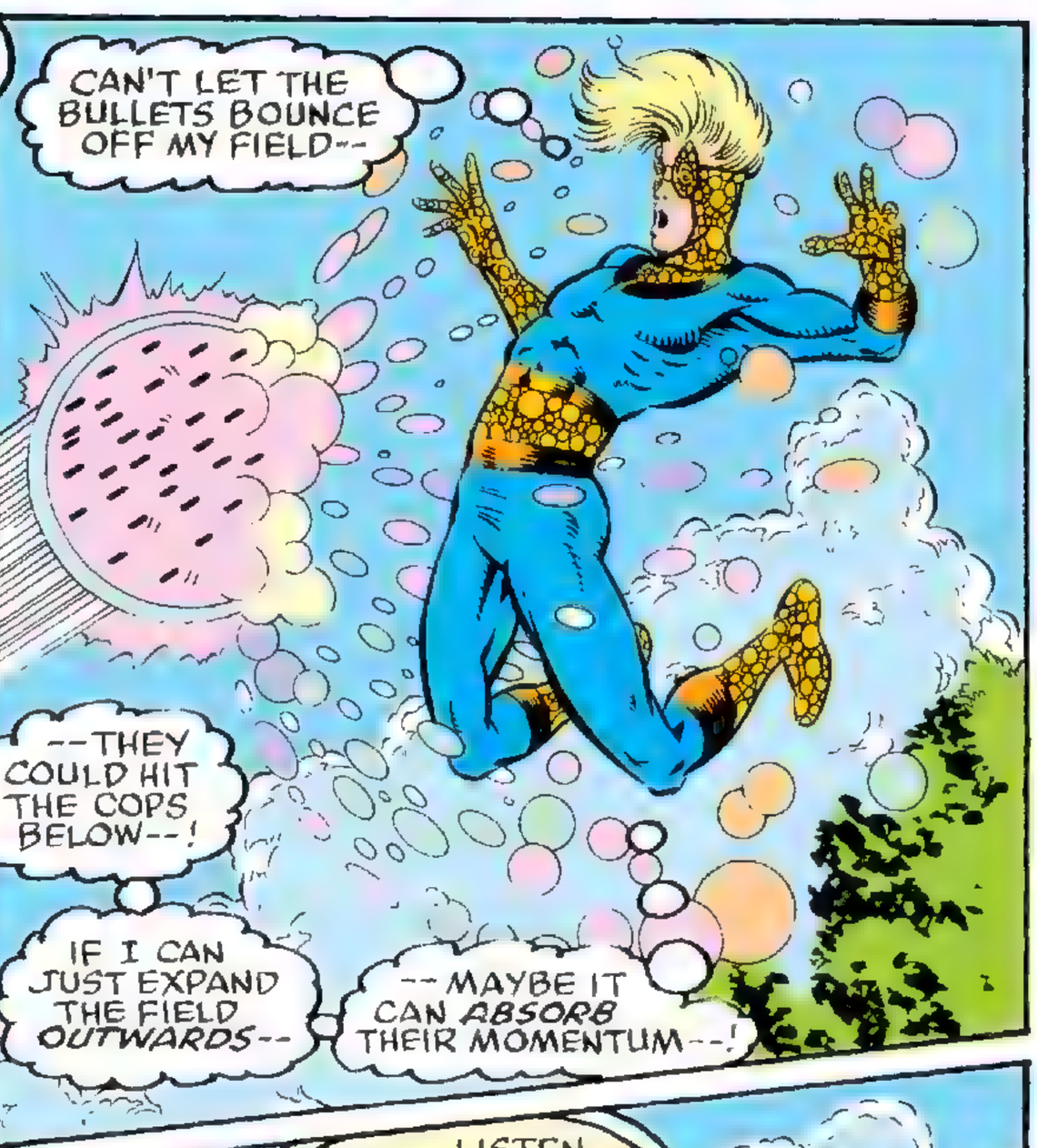

SPEEDBALL-- COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
WHAT NOW?!

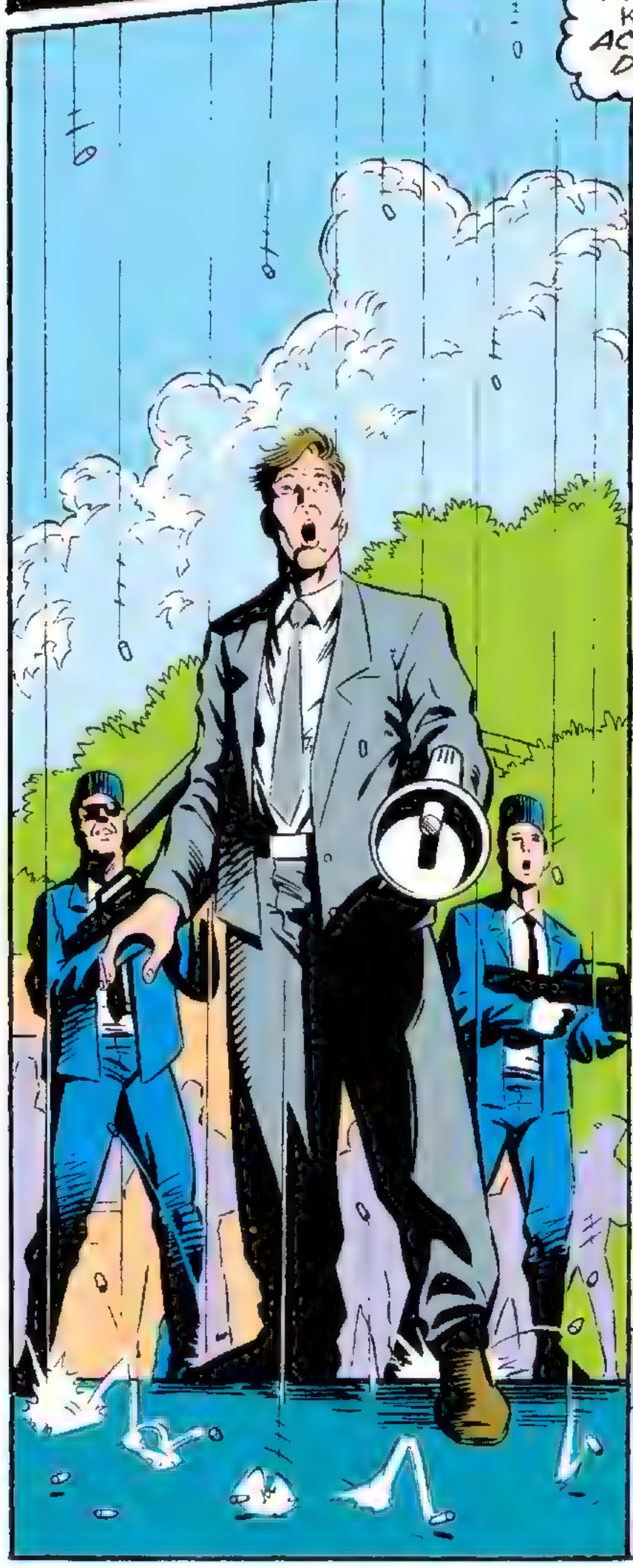
SURRENDER YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY AND YOU WON'T BE HURT!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
DAD--?!


WHAT DO I DO NOW?
I CAN'T SURRENDER MYSELF--THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT WASN'T ME WHO DID ALL THIS!
ESPECIALLY CRO-MAGDAD--HE THINKS SPEEDBALL'S RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING WRONG FROM THE TRADE DEFICIT TO HAMMER'S LAST ALBUM!
I CAN'T HOLD OUT EITHER--IF THEY START SHOOTING AT ME, THE RICOCHETS COULD HURT THIS FAMILY--!
POOKA
IT'S GONNA HAVE TO BE THE THRASH METHOD.
POOKA
BUILD UP SOME MOMENTUM...
POOKA
...GET THAT KOOKY KINETIC FIELD OF MINE INTO A TIZZY--
POOKA
--THEN HIT 'EM FAST--
--HIT 'EM HARD--
--AND HIT 'EM TILL THEIR MOTHERS FEEL IT!

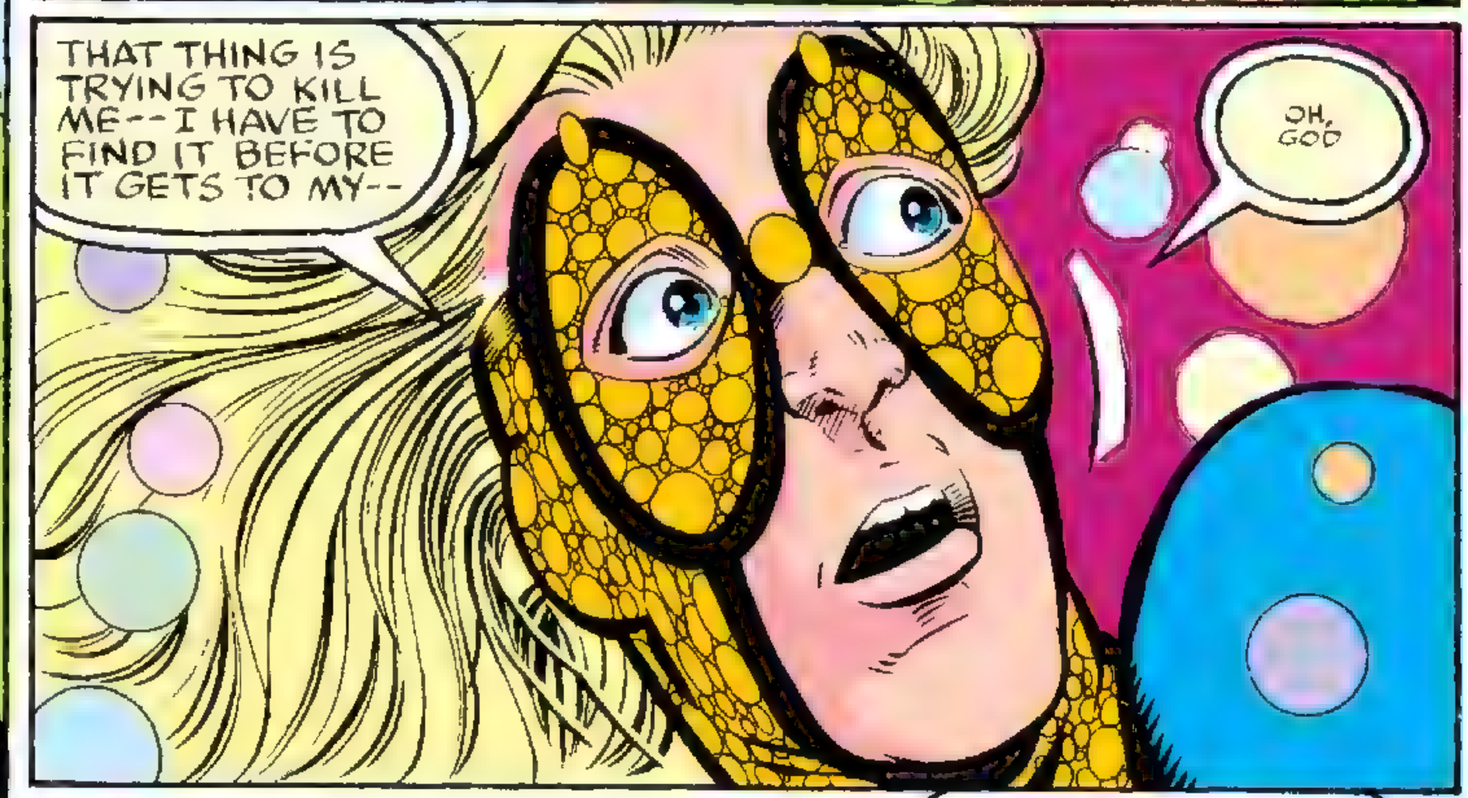
FIRE!!!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
POLICE
911

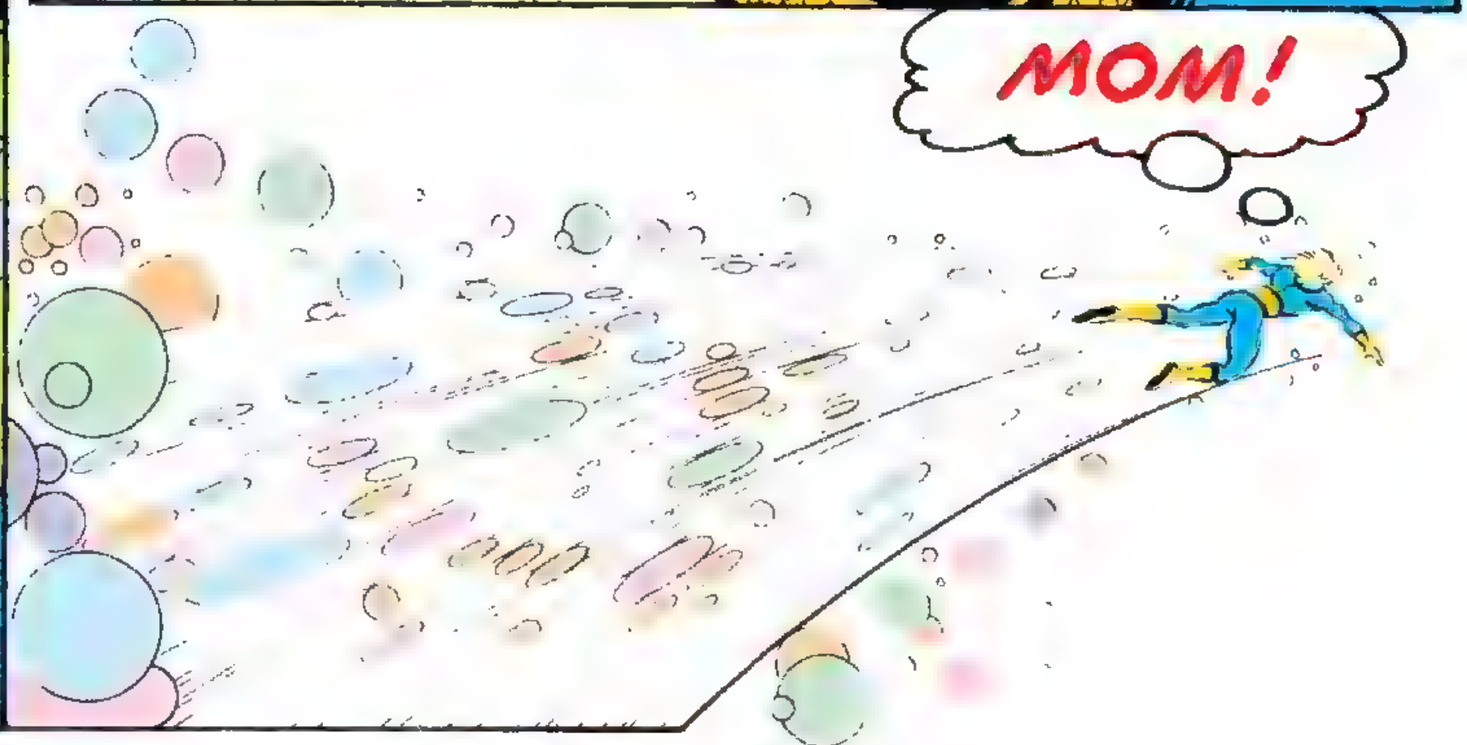

THEY'RE SHOOTING--?!

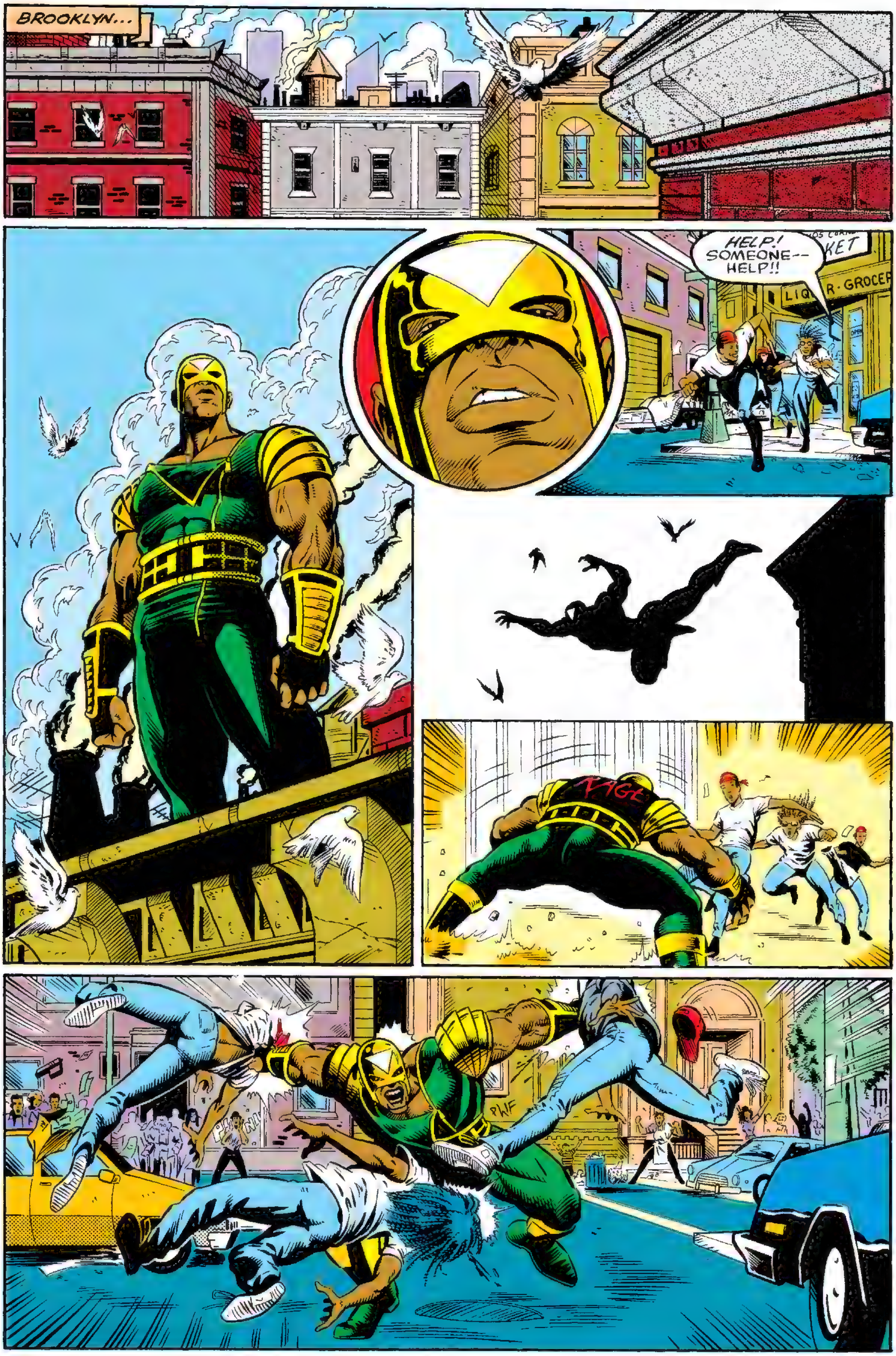

CAN'T LET THE BULLETS BOUNCE OFF MY FIELD--
--THEY COULD HIT THE COPS BELOW--!
IF I CAN JUST EXPAND THE FIELD OUTWARDS--
--MAYBE IT CAN ABSORB THEIR MOMENTUM--!


WELL, WHADDYOU KNOW? I ACTUALLY DID IT!

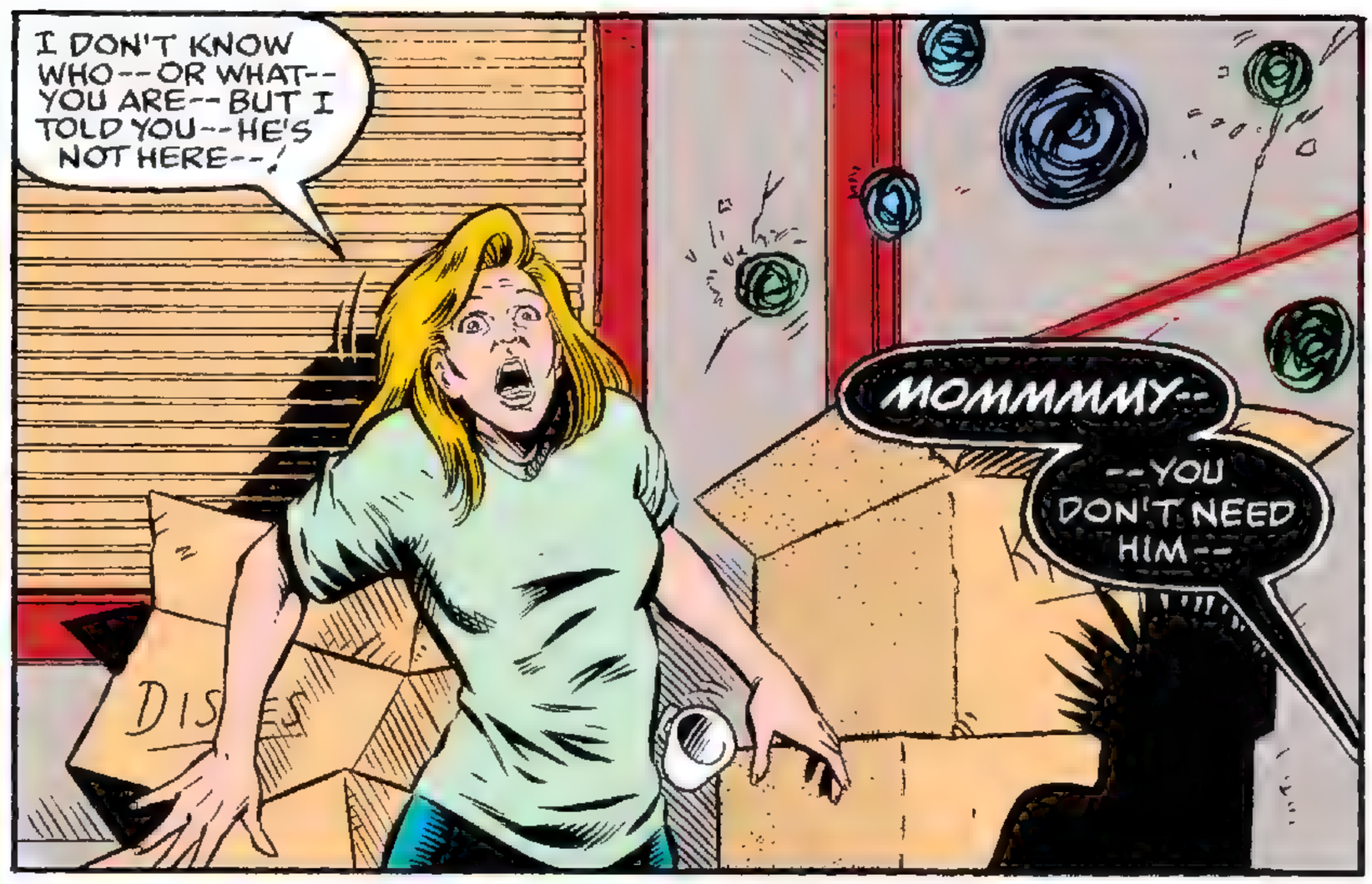
LISTEN TO ME-- WHAT-EVER HIT THIS TOWN--IT WASN'T ME!
IT'S A TWISTED VERSION OF ME-- AN EVIL TWIN!


THAT THING IS TRYING TO KILL ME--I HAVE TO FIND IT BEFORE IT GETS TO MY--
OH, GOD


MOM!


BROOKLYN...
HELP! SOMEONE-- HELP!!
LIQ R·GROCER
KET
VIGIL
PWF

GET 'EM, RAGE!
KILL THE BUMS!
CRUSH THEIR %$#@ HEADS IN, MAN!
WAY T'GO, RAGE!
YOU STOPPED 'EM!
PUNKS LIKE THAT ONLY LISTEN TO ONE THING-- VIOLENCE!
NOOOOO!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
IS THIS THE ANSWER?
GIVE IN TO ANGER?
TO HATRED?
TO RAGE?
IS THIS THE BEST WAY TO HELP MY PEOPLE?



--YOU HAVE ME--!

YOU'RE NOT MY SON!

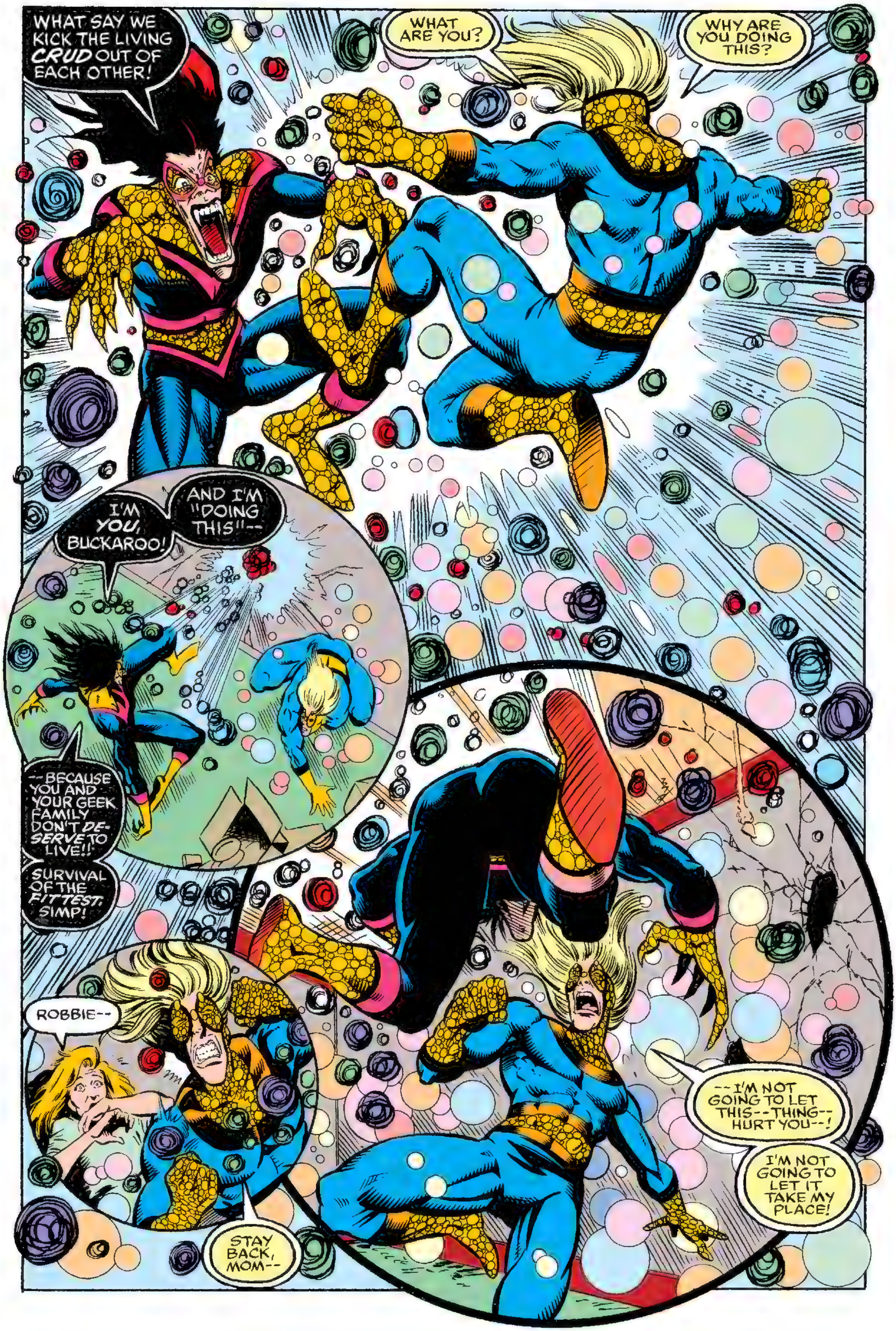
OH YEAH, I AM!

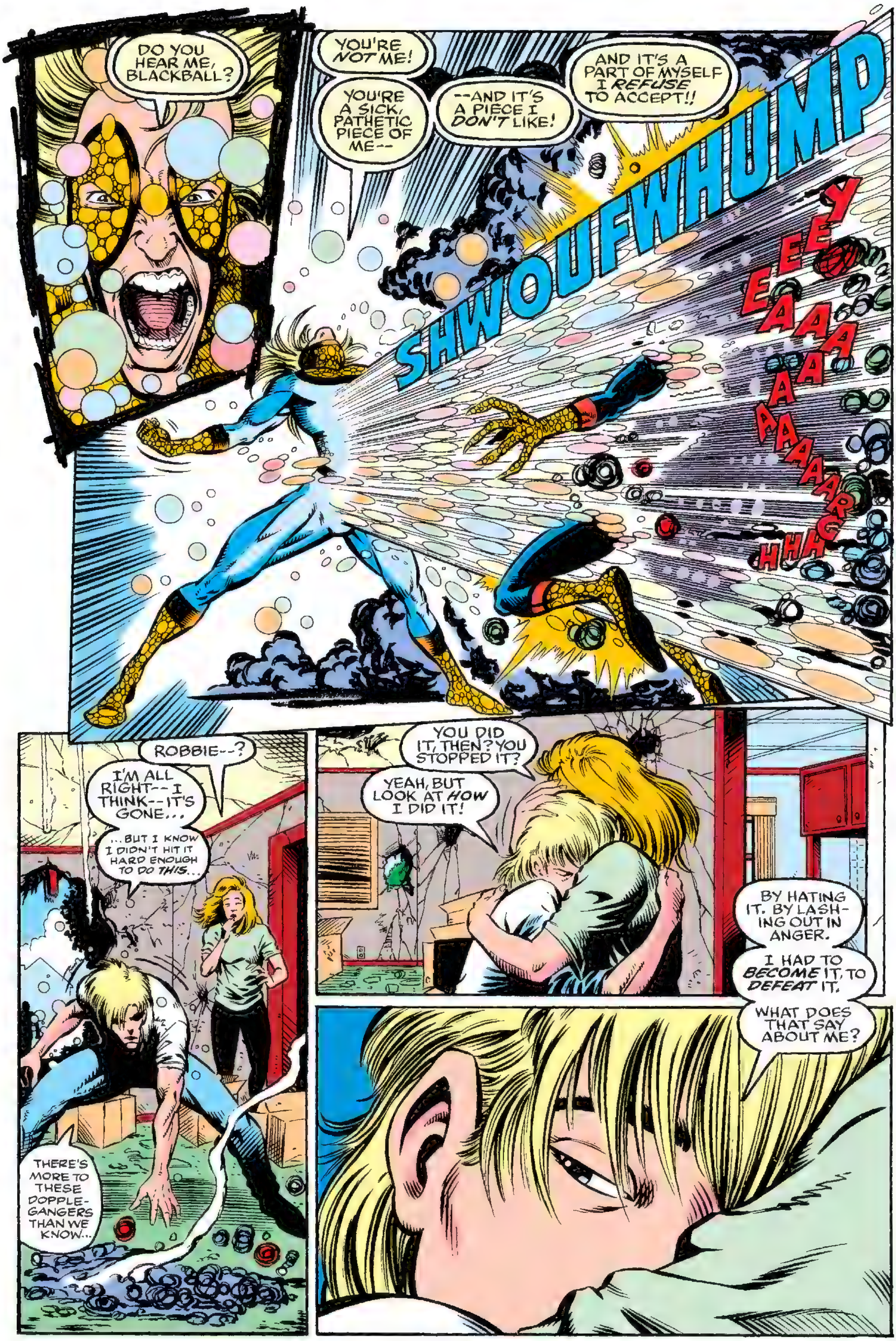
THE PART OF 'IM HE NEVER LETS YOU SEE!

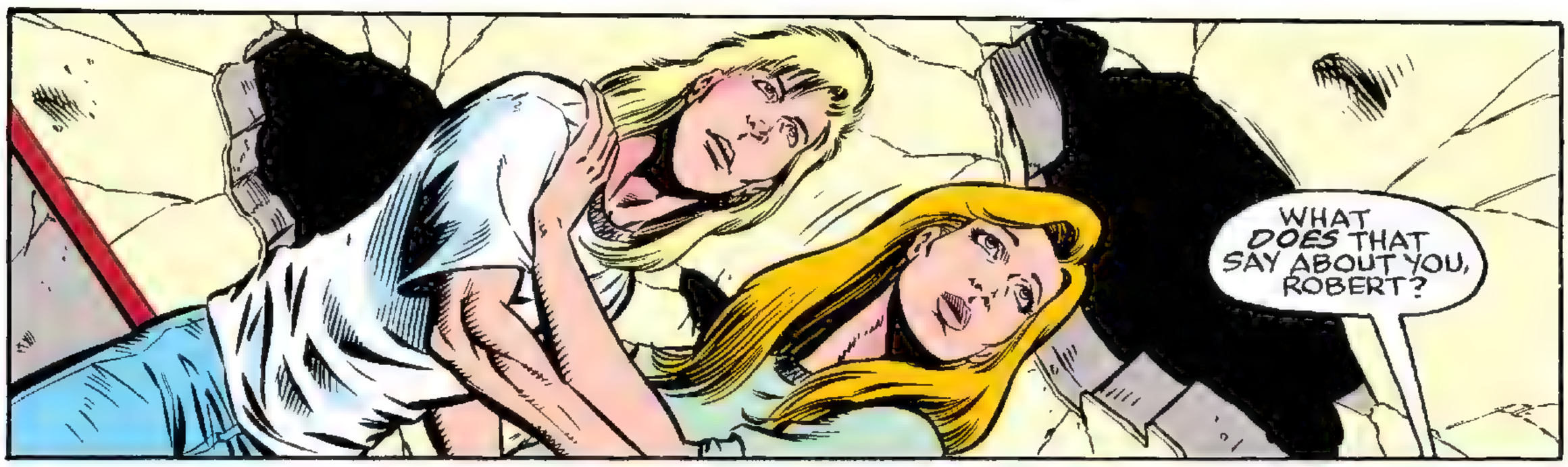
C'MERE, GOOD-LOOKIN'--GIVE YER BOY A BIG HUG!

NO OEDIPAL COMPLEX HERE, DONCHUKNOW!

GET AWAY FROM HER!!
HOKEY SMOKEY THE BEAR!
IT'S THE GOODY-TWO SHOES I SEE IN THE MIRROR EVERY MORNING AND IN MY NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT!
KSHASHK
HOW YA DOIN', HOWDY-DOODY!


WHAT SAY WE KICK THE LIVING CRUD OUT OF EACH OTHER!
WHAT ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I'M YOU, BUCKAROO!
AND I'M "DOING THIS"--
--BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR GEEK FAMILY DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE!!
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, SIMP!
ROBBIE--
STAY BACK, MOM--
--I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS--THING--HURT YOU--!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT TAKE MY PLACE!


DO YOU HEAR ME, BLACKBALL?
YOU'RE NOT ME!
YOU'RE A SICK, PATHETIC PIECE OF ME--
--AND IT'S A PIECE I DON'T LIKE!
AND IT'S A PART OF MYSELF I REFUSE TO ACCEPT!!
SHWOUFWHUMP
EEY EAAA AAAAARGHHA
ROBBIE--?
I'M ALL RIGHT-- I THINK-- IT'S GONE...
...BUT I KNOW I DIDN'T HIT IT HARD ENOUGH TO DO THIS...
THERE'S MORE TO THESE DOPPLE-GANGERS THAN WE KNOW...
YOU DID IT, THEN? YOU STOPPED IT?
YEAH, BUT LOOK AT HOW I DID IT!
BY HATING IT. BY LASHING OUT IN ANGER.
I HAD TO BECOME IT, TO DEFEAT IT.
WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?


WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT YOU, ROBERT?

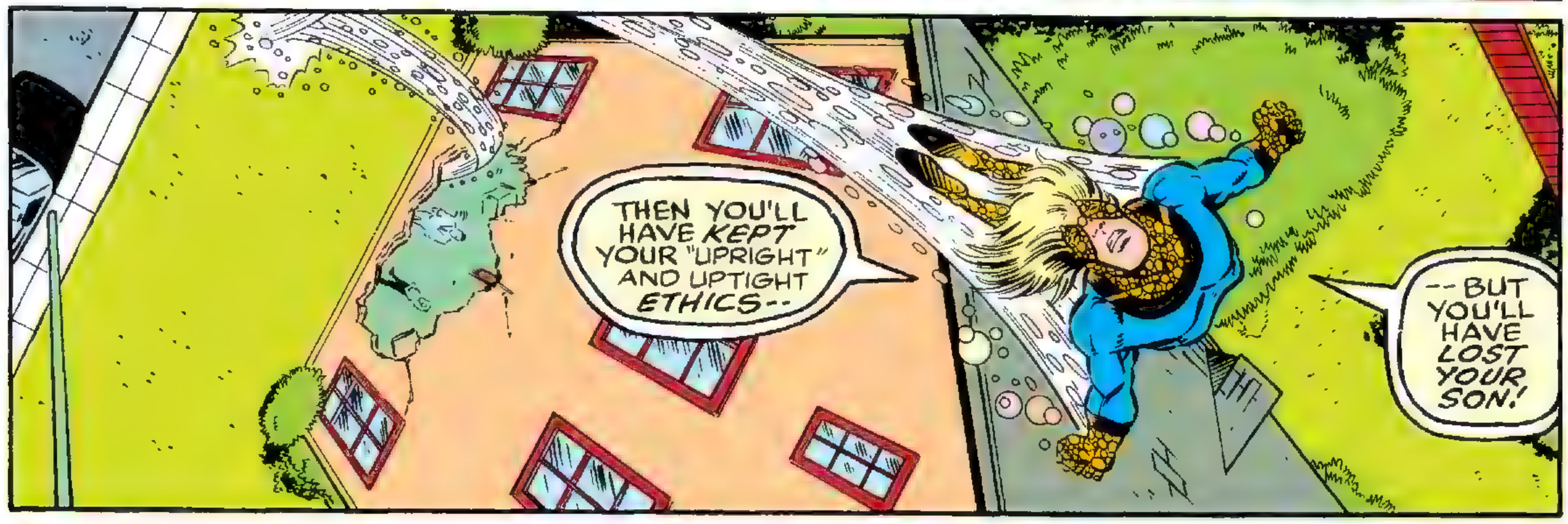
NOT VERY MUCH, I'M AFRAID TO SAY.
DAD?!
YOU-- DID YOU-- SEE--?

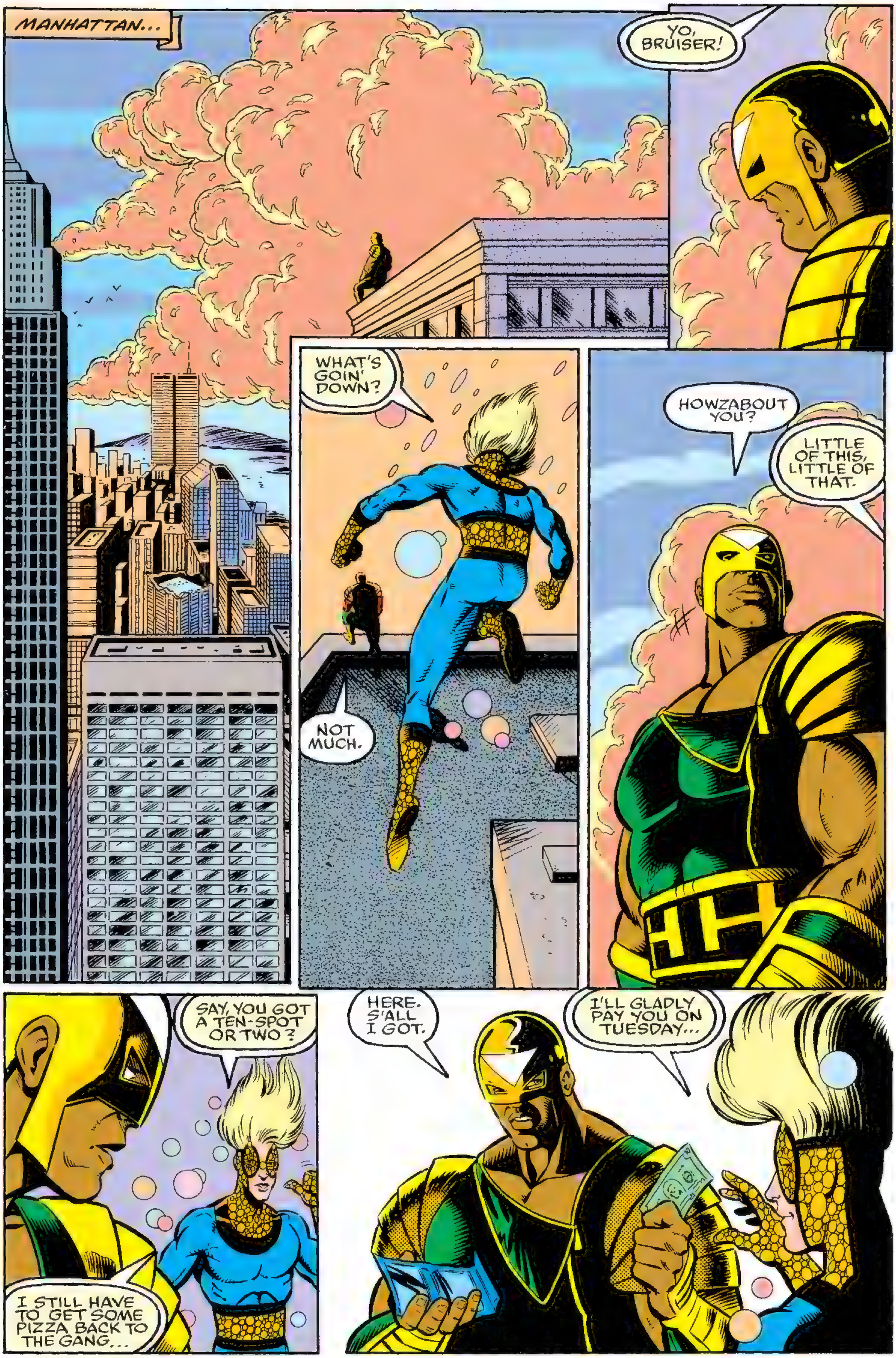
YES, I DID-- "SPEEDBALL."
AND YOU, MADDIE? HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?

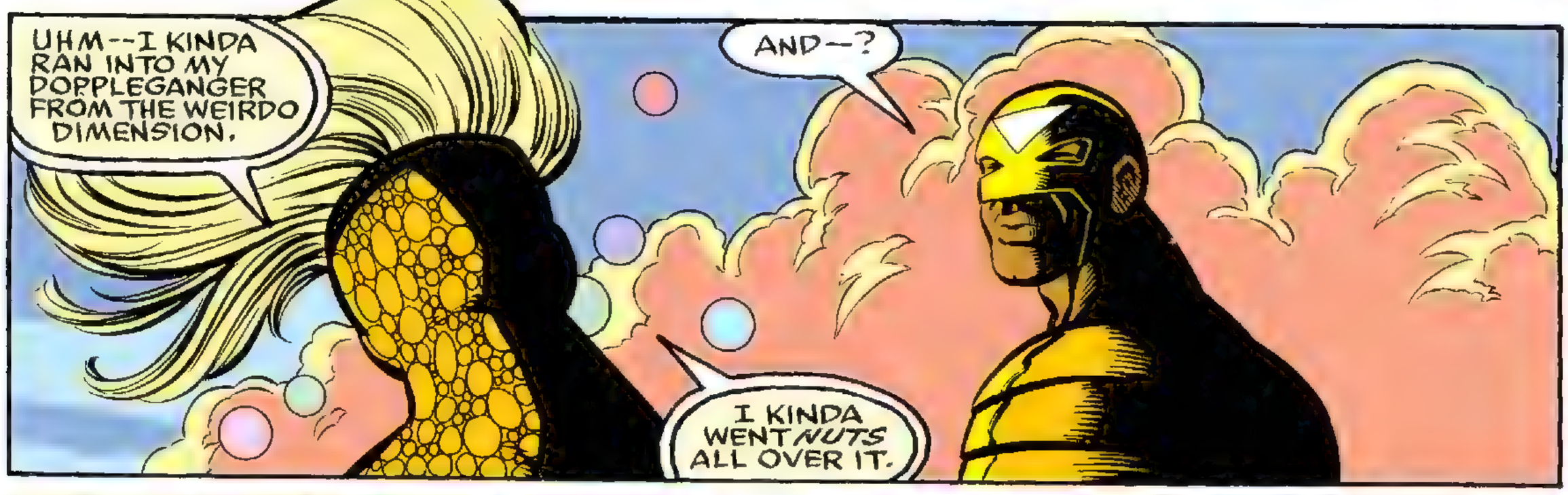
SHE ONLY FOUND OUT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO.
SHE WASN'T TOO THRILLED EITHER, DAD, BUT WHAT CAN YOU GUYS DO?

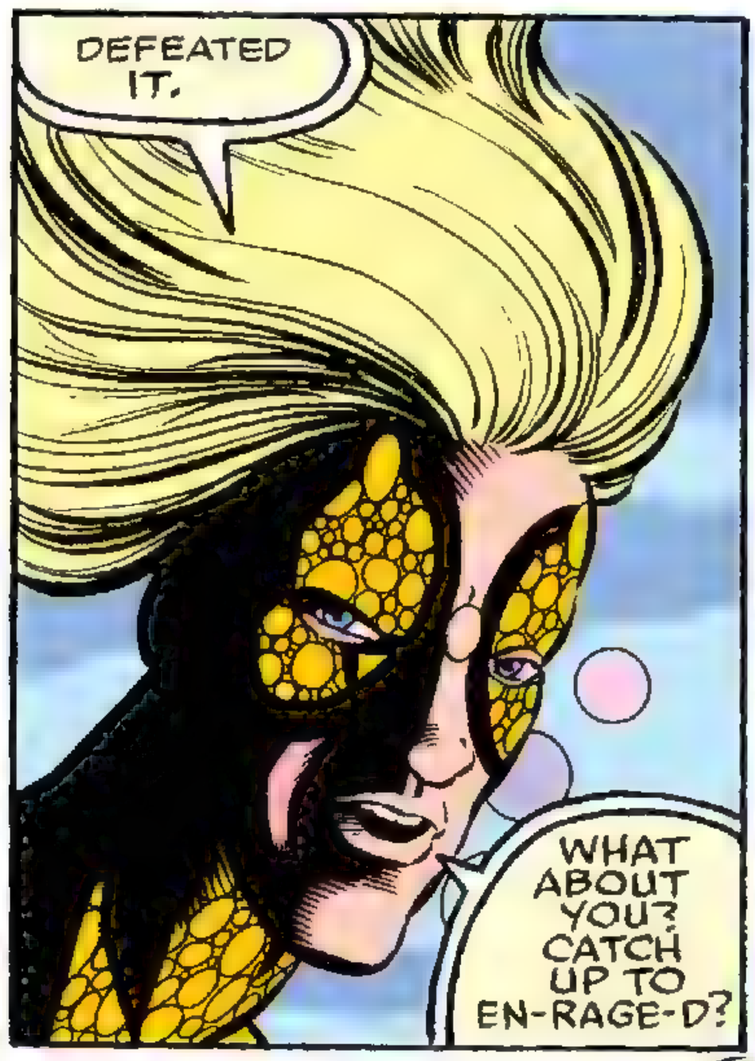
THIS IS WHAT I AM NOW. YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO ACCEPT IT.

AND WHAT IF I CAN'T? WHAT IF YOU AND YOUR KIND STAND FOR EVERYTHING I'M OPPOSED TO?
THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AND STOP ME.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO FAIL.


THEN YOU'LL HAVE KEPT YOUR "UPRIGHT" AND UPTIGHT ETHICS--
--BUT YOU'LL HAVE LOST YOUR SON!


MANHATTAN...
YO, BRUISER!
WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN?
NOT MUCH.
HOWZABOUT YOU?
LITTLE OF THIS, LITTLE OF THAT.
SAY, YOU GOT A TEN-SPOT OR TWO?
I STILL HAVE TO GET SOME PIZZA BACK TO THE GANG...
HERE. S'ALL I GOT.
I'LL GLADLY PAY YOU ON TUESDAY...


UHM--I KINDA RAN INTO MY DOPPLEGANGER FROM THE WEIRDO DIMENSION.
AND--?
I KINDA WENT *NUTS* ALL OVER IT.


DEFEATED IT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? CATCH UP TO EN-RAGE-D?

YEAH. I BEAT IT, I GUESS.
HOWDJOU DO IT?

HMM? BY ACCEPTING THE *OBVIOUS*, I GUESS.
SOMEHOW...I LITERALLY *ABSORBED* HIM INTO ME.
MY "EVIL TWIN" ALWAYS *HAS* BEEN-- AND ALWAYS *WILL* BE-- A PART OF ME.

A PART OF WHAT MAKES ME THE WAY I AM.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
BUT *I* CONTROL *IT* NOW.
I THINK.
GEEZ, LISTEN, IF I DON'T GET THE PIZZA BACK TO THE LONGJOHNS, THEY'LL KILL ME!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE *WOLVERINE* WHEN HE'S ANGRY.
YEAH, I'M SURE...
...BUT I BET HE WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE *ME* WHEN I'M ANGRY EITHER...
THE END
NEXT ISSUE: INTRODUCING--
TURBO and CARDINAL!

***INFINITY WAR #1*, PAGE 28 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARC SPECTOR:
MOON KNIGHT
VS. MOON SHADE
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF FRANKLIN RICHARDS!
KWAPISZ • PALMER

SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE MARC SPECTOR DIED — BUT WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR DEDICATED HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN A WORLD THAT HAS NONE. STAN LEE PRESENTS... MOON KNIGHT

...AND SOME OF US ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THIS COULD BE SOME NEW MUTANT MENACE.

IRON MAN RAISES A VALID CONSIDERATION... WE CAN'T RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY THAT--

PINS IT ON THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY'S FAVORITE PATSIES.

WHAT A CROCK OF--

DAREDEVIL-- ?AKK!?

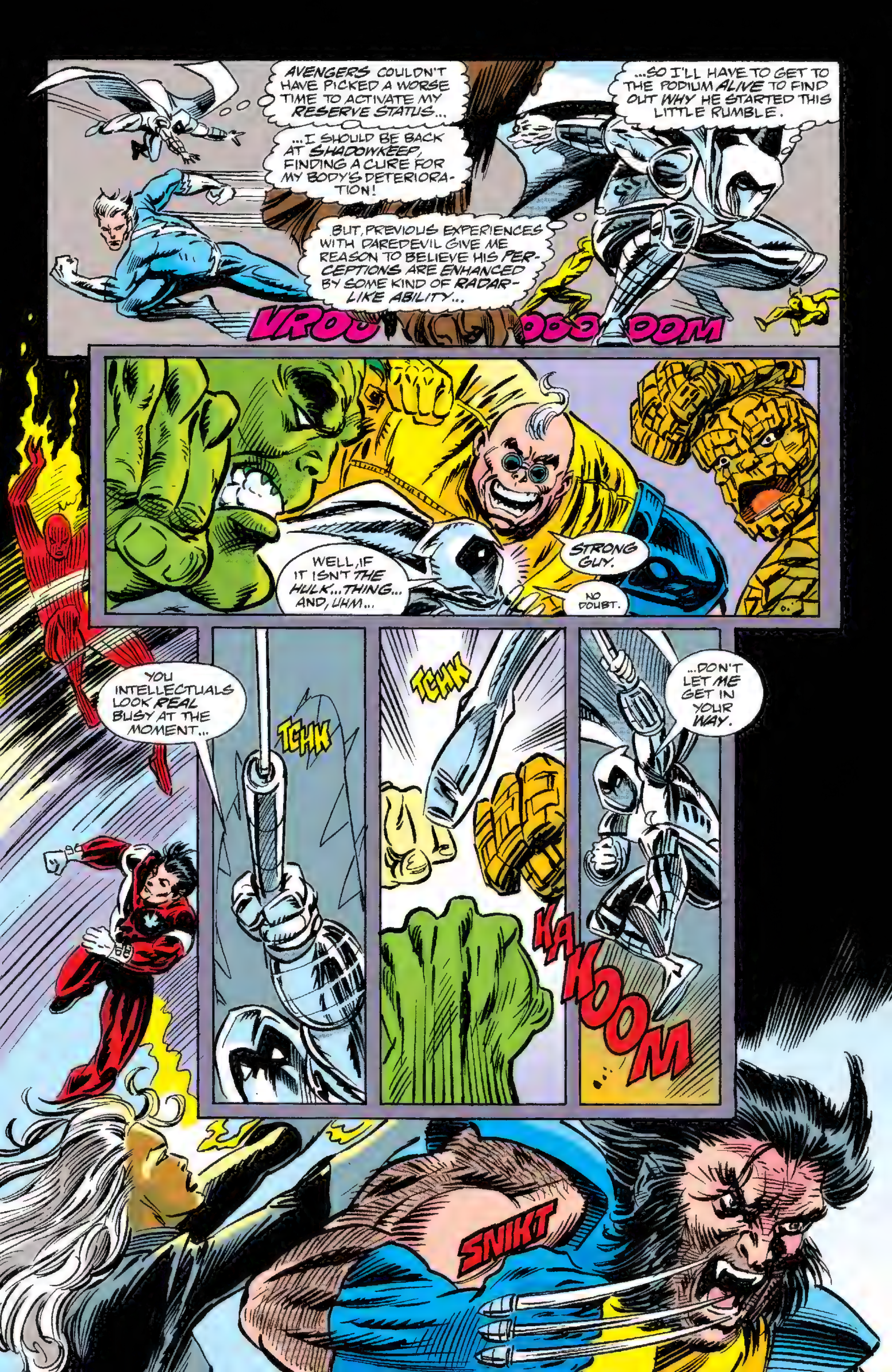
WOLVERINE'S RIGHT, REED... ANTI-MUTANT BIGOTRY MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE COMING FROM THIS PARTICULAR GATHERING--

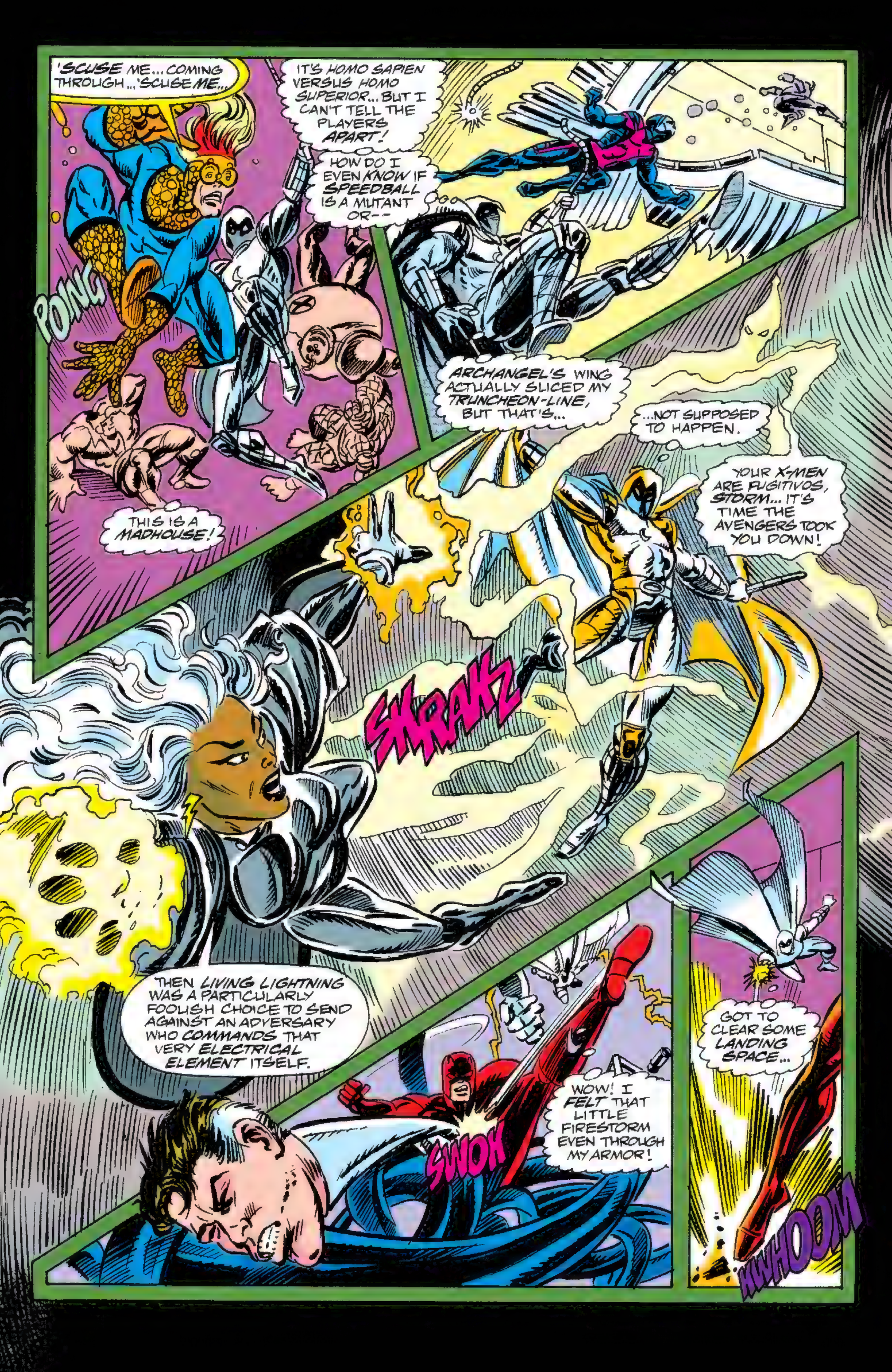
DON'T BOTHER WITH LOGIC, MOON KNIGHT...

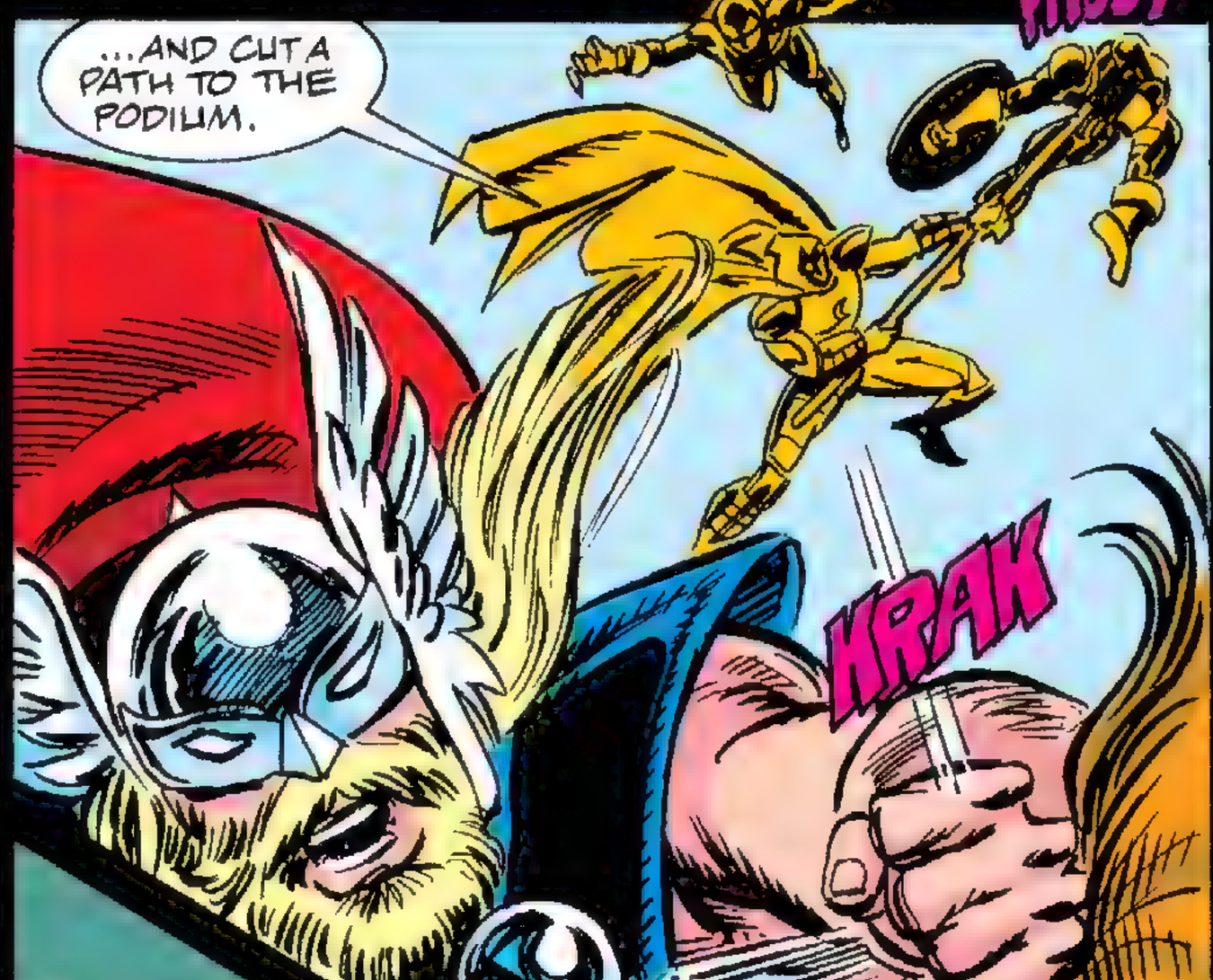
...I'LL NIP THIS WHOLE THING AT ITS SOURCE RIGHT NOW.

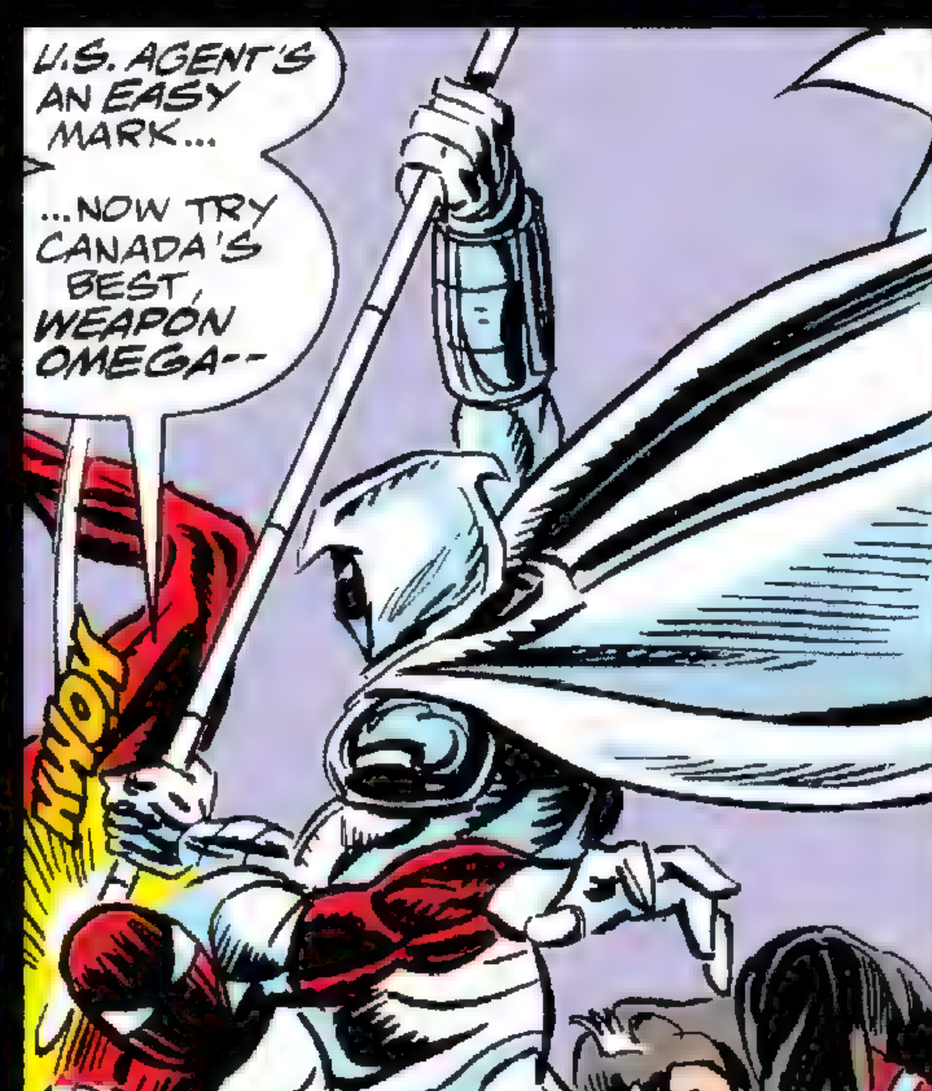
AS SEEN IN INFINITY WARS #1 AND 2.-- JOEY

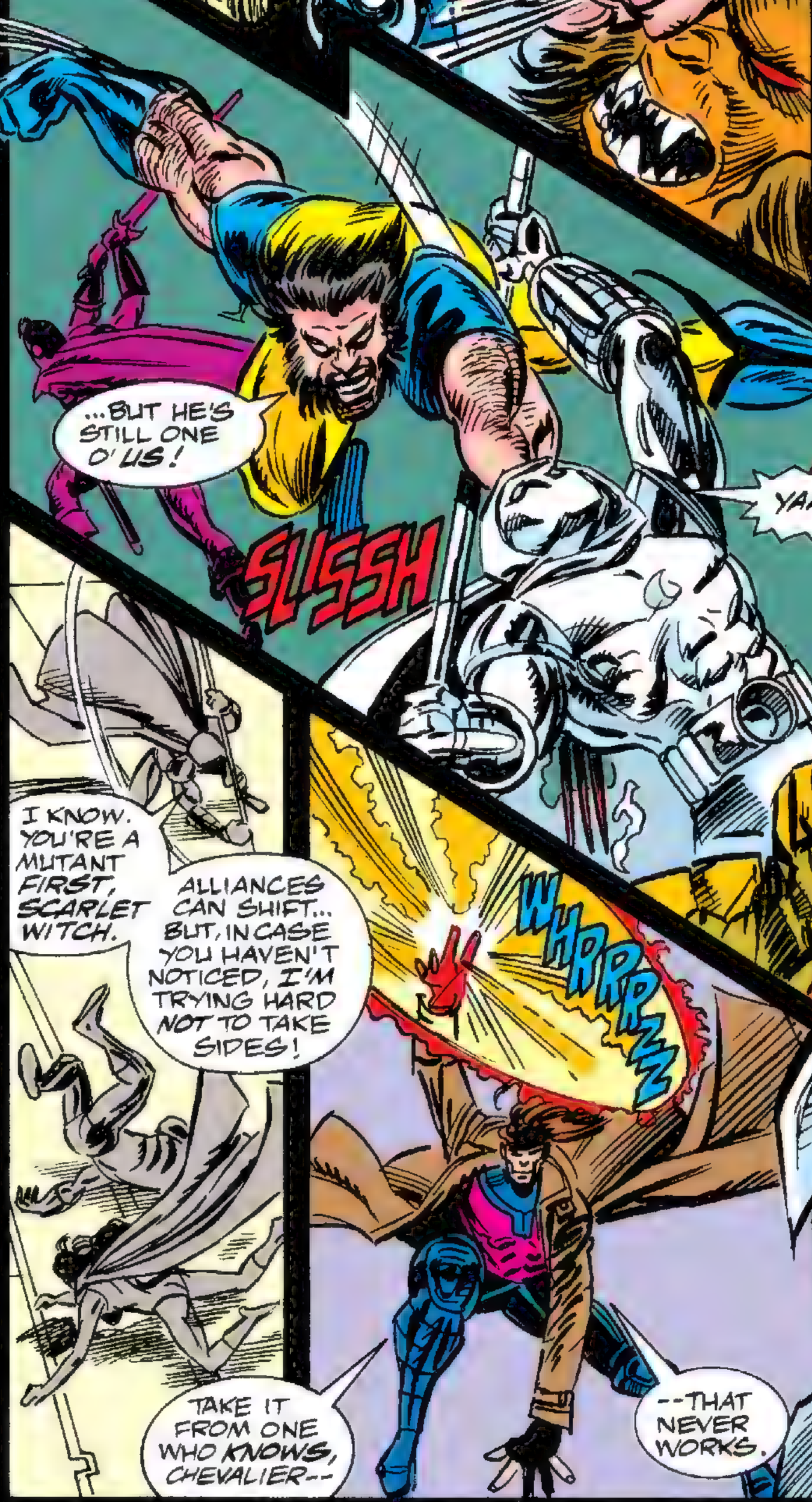
THE DARK DOPPELGANGERS DESCEND
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
GARY KWAPISZ PENCILER
TOM PALMER INKER
MIKE THOMAS COLORIST
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
THANKS, D.D.--
--REAL HELPFUL...
EEEEE
POOM
TOOM
SHROOM
SHROOM
SHRAAAK!
KRAK


AVENGERS COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A WORSE TIME TO ACTIVATE MY RESERVE STATUS...
...I SHOULD BE BACK AT SHADOWKEEP, FINDING A CURE FOR MY BODY'S DETERIORATION!
...SO I'LL HAVE TO GET TO THE PODIUM ALIVE TO FIND OUT WHY HE STARTED THIS LITTLE RUMBLE.
BUT, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES WITH DAREDEVIL GIVE ME REASON TO BELIEVE HIS PERCEPTIONS ARE ENHANCED BY SOME KIND OF RADAR-LIKE ABILITY...
VROOM
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE HULK...THING... AND, UHM...
STRONG GUY.
NO DOUBT.
YOU INTELLECTUALS LOOK REAL BUSY AT THE MOMENT...
TCHK
TCHK
...DON'T LET ME GET IN YOUR WAY.
KA-BOOM
SNIKT


'SCUSE ME... COMING THROUGH... 'SCUSE ME...
IT'S HOMO SAPIEN VERSUS HOMO SUPERIOR... BUT I CAN'T TELL THE PLAYERS APART!
HOW DO I EVEN KNOW IF SPEEDBALL IS A MUTANT OR--
PONG
THIS IS A MADHOUSE!
ARCHANGEL'S WING ACTUALLY SLICED MY TRUNCHEON-LINE, BUT THAT'S...
...NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
YOUR X-MEN ARE FUGITIVOS, STORM... IT'S TIME THE AVENGERS TOOK YOU DOWN!
SKRAKZ
THEN LIVING LIGHTNING WAS A PARTICULARLY FOOLISH CHOICE TO SEND AGAINST AN ADVERSARY WHO COMMANDS THAT VERY ELECTRICAL ELEMENT ITSELF.
SWOK
WOW! I FELT THAT LITTLE FIRESTORM EVEN THROUGH MY ARMOR!
GOT TO CLEAR SOME LANDING SPACE...
KWHOOM


...AND CUT A PATH TO THE PODIUM.
PHOOT
KRAK

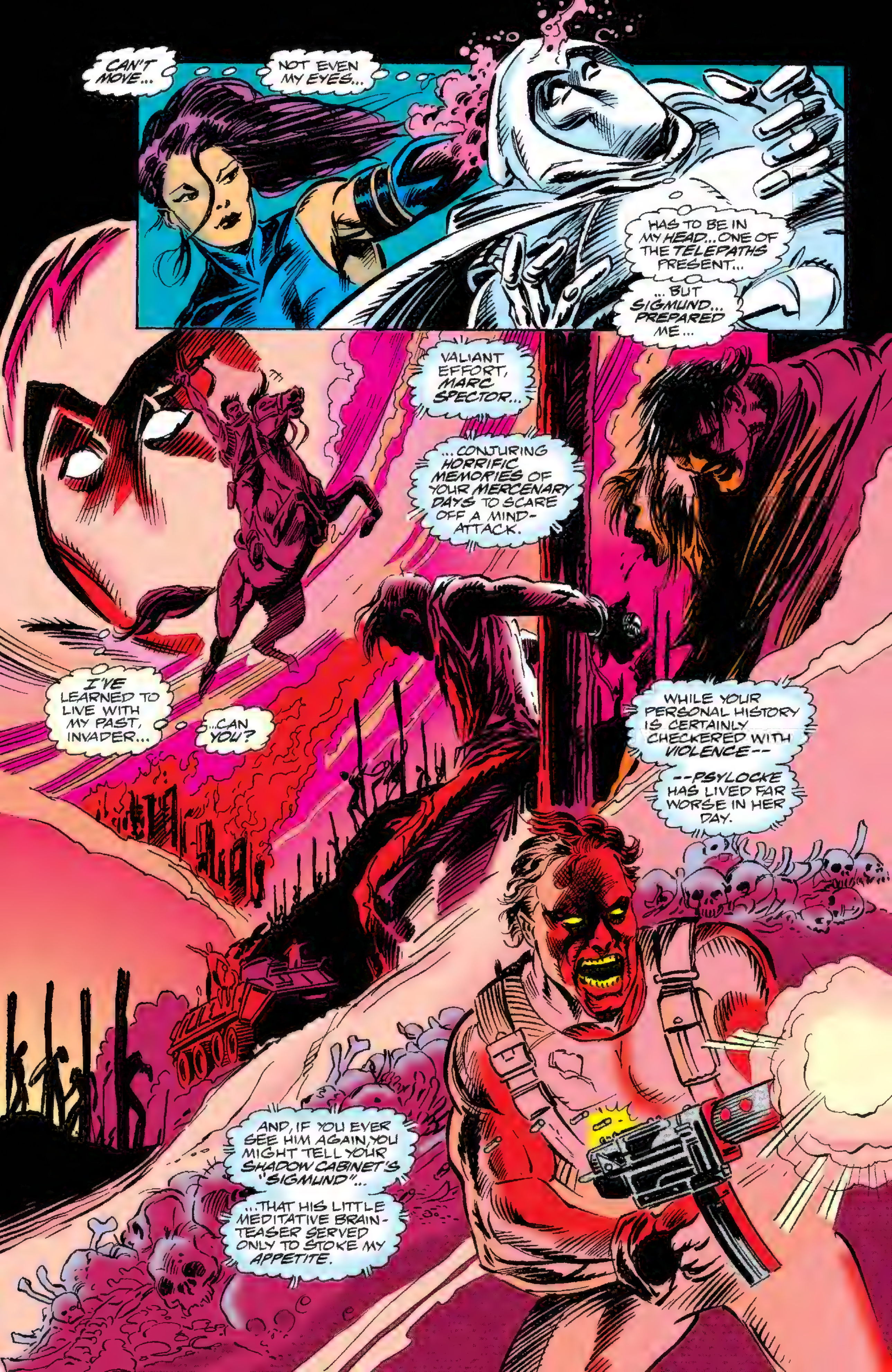

U.S. AGENT'S AN EASY MARK...
...NOW TRY CANADA'S BEST, WEAPON OMEGA--
WOOM

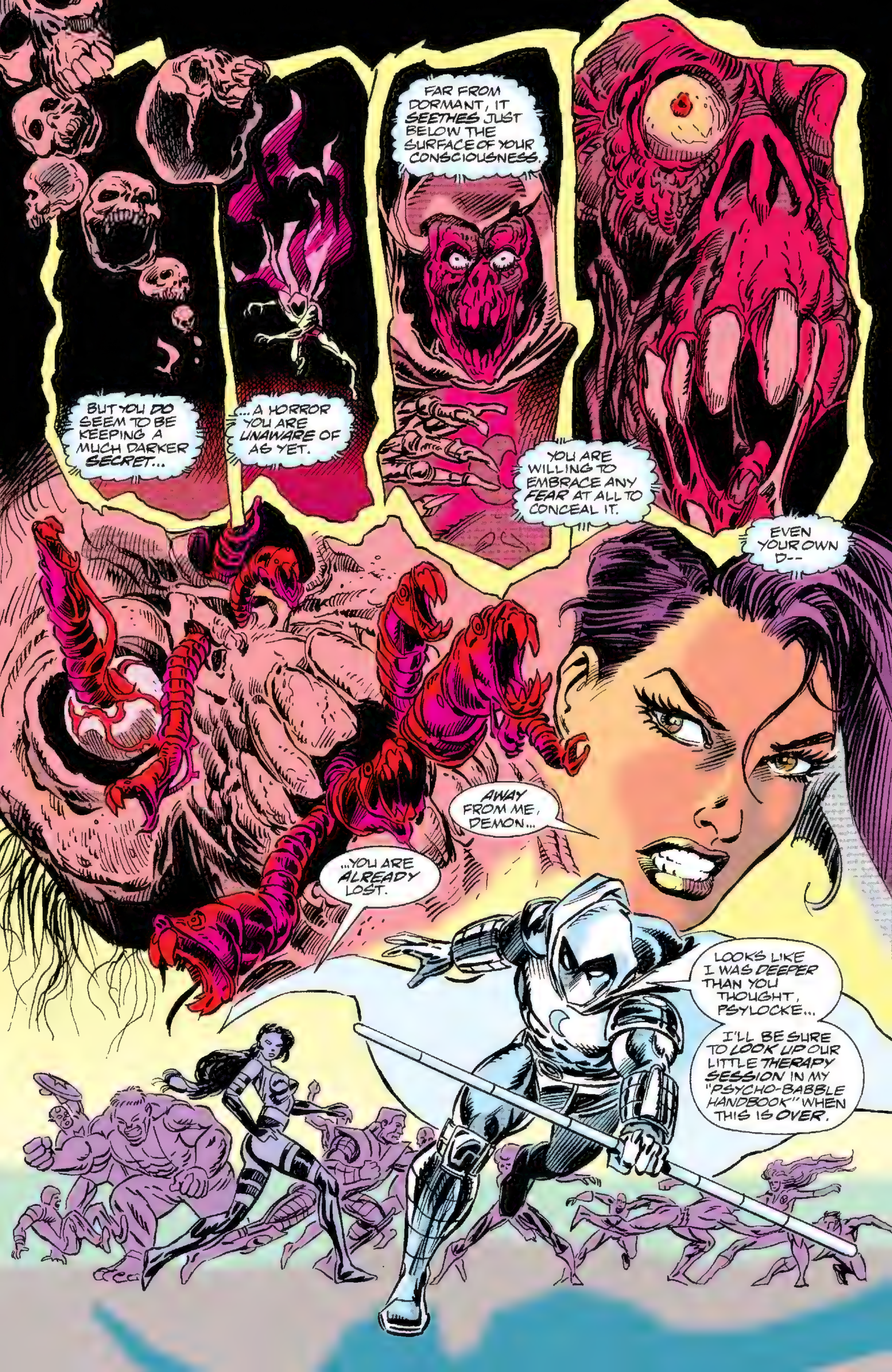

...BUT HE'S STILL ONE O' US!
SLISSH

WILD CHILD WAS NEVER OUR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT, TIN MAN...
YAARGH!
ALTHOUGH I'M LOATH TO USE MY HEX-BOLTS ON A FELLOW AVENGER...

I KNOW. YOU'RE A MUTANT FIRST, SCARLET WITCH.
ALLIANCES CAN SHIFT... BUT, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M TRYING HARD NOT TO TAKE SIDES!
WHRRRZZZ
TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, CHEVALIER--
--THAT NEVER WORKS.

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, WARRIOR... SO I THOUGHT I'D INTRODUCE MYSELF.
RRZZZ
CURRENT NOM DE GUERRE IS GAMBIT.
I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE LOOP FOR WAY TOO LONG.
ZWOOOM
YOUR BO-STICK'S OBVIOUSLY CHARGED WITH SOME FORM OF PERSONAL ENERGY-- NO DOUBT PAINFUL--
--BUT MINE'S ADAMANTIUM... AND WORTH EVERY PENNY.
SWISH
AND IF USED PROPERLY, MY STAFF DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO CONNECT TO DO THE JOB.
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
OOMPH
...ARRET-- UFF
ONLY LEAVES ABOUT TWENTY HYPER-AGGRESSIVE SUPER-POWERED BOZOS BETWEEN ME AND--
URK
000MPH
ZKRAT
I THINK NOVA ILLUSTRATES MY POINT BEST.


CAN'T MOVE...
NOT EVEN MY EYES...
HAS TO BE IN MY HEAD...ONE OF THE TELEPATHS PRESENT...
...BUT SIGMUND... PREPARED ME...
VALIANT EFFORT, MARC SPECTOR...
...CONJURING HORRIFIC MEMORIES OF YOUR MERCENARY DAYS TO SCARE OFF A MIND-ATTACK.
I'VE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH MY PAST, INVADER...
...CAN YOU?
WHILE YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY IS CERTAINLY CHECKERED WITH VIOLENCE--
--PSYLOCKE HAS LIVED FAR WORSE IN HER DAY.
AND, IF YOU EVER SEE HIM AGAIN, YOU MIGHT TELL YOUR SHADOW CABINET'S "SIGMUND"...
...THAT HIS LITTLE MEDITATIVE BRAIN-TEASER SERVED ONLY TO STOKE MY APPETITE.


BUT YOU DO SEEM TO BE KEEPING A MUCH DARKER SECRET...
...A HORROR YOU ARE UNAWARE OF AS YET.
FAR FROM DORMANT, IT SEETHES JUST BELOW THE SURFACE OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.
YOU ARE WILLING TO EMBRACE ANY FEAR AT ALL TO CONCEAL IT.
EVEN YOUR OWN D--
AWAY FROM ME, DEMON...
...YOU ARE ALREADY LOST.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS DEEPER THAN YOU THOUGHT, PSYLOCKE...
I'LL BE SURE TO LOOK UP OUR LITTLE THERAPY SESSION IN MY "PSYCHO-BABBLE HANDBOOK" WHEN THIS IS OVER.

FAR ENOUGH, MOON KNIGHT...
...THAT STAGE IS OFF-LIMITS!
TZAP
TZAP
PZING
CHK
TZAP
TZAP
WATCH IT WITH THOSE REPULSOR RAYS, SHELL-HEAD...
...WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE HERE.
AND I'M JUST TRYING TO REACH THOSE TWO BEFORE THEY KILL EACH OTHER.
DON'T BE CONCERNED WITH THEIR PROBLEMS...
...I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF YOUR OWN!
TZZ
TZZ

HA! MISSED!
"MISSED"?
HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT, MADROX...
NO! WAIT! I-- WUF!
WHOK
...IT'S YOUR LAST CHEAP THRILL OF THE DECA--
OUT OF MY WAY, IDIOTS!
THAT'S MULTIPLE MAN FOR YOU...
...ONE'S A CROWD!
MR. FANTASTIC'S OUT OF CONTROL...
A MAN OF INTELLECT LIKE HIM MUST HAVE SOMETHING UP HIS FLEXIBLE SLEEVE...
WOOMP
AH...SO THAT'S IT!
TEK

IT'S A GAMMA BOMB!

NICE TIMING, SUSIE...

CAN YOUR FORCE-FIELD REALLY HOLD SUCH FORCE IN CHECK?

ONLY REDIRECT IT, AND IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO DO THAT.

THOR, THERE'S GOING TO BE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM WITH NUCLEAR RADIATION.

SAY NO MORE.

--I'M EXPECTED TO JOIN THE REST OF THE *EXPEDITIONARY FORCE* IN PURSUIT OF THANOS AND WARLOCK THROUGH THE *DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.*

YOU CAN'T BE ASKING ME TO--

YOUR SENSE OF DECORUM DELAYED ME EARLIER, GAMBIT--THUS IT FALLS TO *YOU* TO TELL MOON KNIGHT THAT HE IS RAPIDLY...

...DYING.

A *MOMENT,* KNIGHT...?

FOR ANOTHER BATTLE OF HONOR, GAMBIT...?

WE MUST ORGANIZE OUR EARTHWATCH CAREFULLY...

MAYBE NEXT LIFE.

COULD I TROUBLE YOU FOR A *MODEM* AND SOME *PRIVACY,* MS. MASTERS?

OF COURSE MOON KNIGHT... BUT PLEASE CALL ME *ALICIA.*

BEN GRIMM INTRODUCED YOU TO SO *MANY* OF US TODAY THAT I'M FLATTERED YOU *RECOGNIZE* MY VOICE.

COMES NATURALLY.

WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR GONE, *I'M* THE *CARETAKER* OF WHAT'S LEFT OF FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA. I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO CHECK ON LITTLE *FRANKLIN.*

HE GETS IN EVEN MORE TROUBLE WHEN HE SLEEPS...

THE *INTERIOR ALARMS* DISENGAGE FOR RESIDENTS AUTOMATICALLY...

...SO THIS SUB-SYSTEM'S ALL *YOURS.*

I'VE DISCONNECTED THE *VISUAL TRANSMISSION* FROM THIS END AND *ZIG'S DISC* IS IN PLACE...

TRANSMIT THE *BIG PICTURE* TO THE *HOLO-DISPLAY* HERE, *JUNIOR BIRDMAN.*

SITUATION UPDATE, *SCOUT...?*

JUST HOURS AGO, MY NEWS STATION WAS FLOODED WITH STORIES OF HEROES BEING *ATTACKED* BY THEIR *EVIL TWINS* IN *MANHATTAN...*

...BUT NOW WE'RE GETTING REPORTS FROM AS FAR AS THE *OUTLYING TRI-STATE REGIONS.*

THEORETICAL REPURCUSSIONS OF THIS "INFINITY WAR," J.B....?

STANDARD WORLDS MERGING SCENARIO...

...EVERYBODY DIES.

DOWNLOAD OFFICIAL HARD COPY ON ALICIA MASTERS AND FRANKLIN RICHARDS, SHERIFF.

THE KID'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF MAJOR DREAM POWER OR SOMETHING. I REALLY NEED TO KNOW DETAILS ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME RIGHT NOW.

SIGMUND, CLEAR SOME SPACE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR MY FIRST SESSION... A LOT OF SPACE.

FAR TOO LONG IN COMING, MY FRIEND...

KLAANGALAANGALAANGALAANGALAA

WHOA! PERIMETER SECURITY'S BREACHED... I'LL READ THE DATA ON THE RUN.

ONLY CONTACTED THE SHADOW CABINET OVER MY COMLINK'S SECURED FREQUENCY. ZIG'S PROGRAM PROCESSED THE TRANSMISSIONS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE C-DRIVE.

TEK

...SO THERE WON'T BE ANY PERMANENT RECORDS IN THE F.F.'S COMPUTER SYSTEM.

I MAY HAVE "BOUGHT" THEIR SERVICES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, BUT MY SHADOW CABINET CAN'T AFFORD TO BE TRACED BACK TO MOON KNIGHT!

BUT, MR. FANTASTIC IS ONE OF TODAY'S GREATEST DEDUCTIVE MINDS... I'M STILL TAKING A RISK--

--WITH THEIR LIVES.

PHIZZIT

I THOUGHT I'D BE *PREPARED* FOR THIS...

BUT IS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO BE--

--*ME*?!

ATTENDRE, MOON KNIGHT--THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW!

HEAR ME OUT!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THAT WARPED THING IS *PATTERNED* AFTER ME...

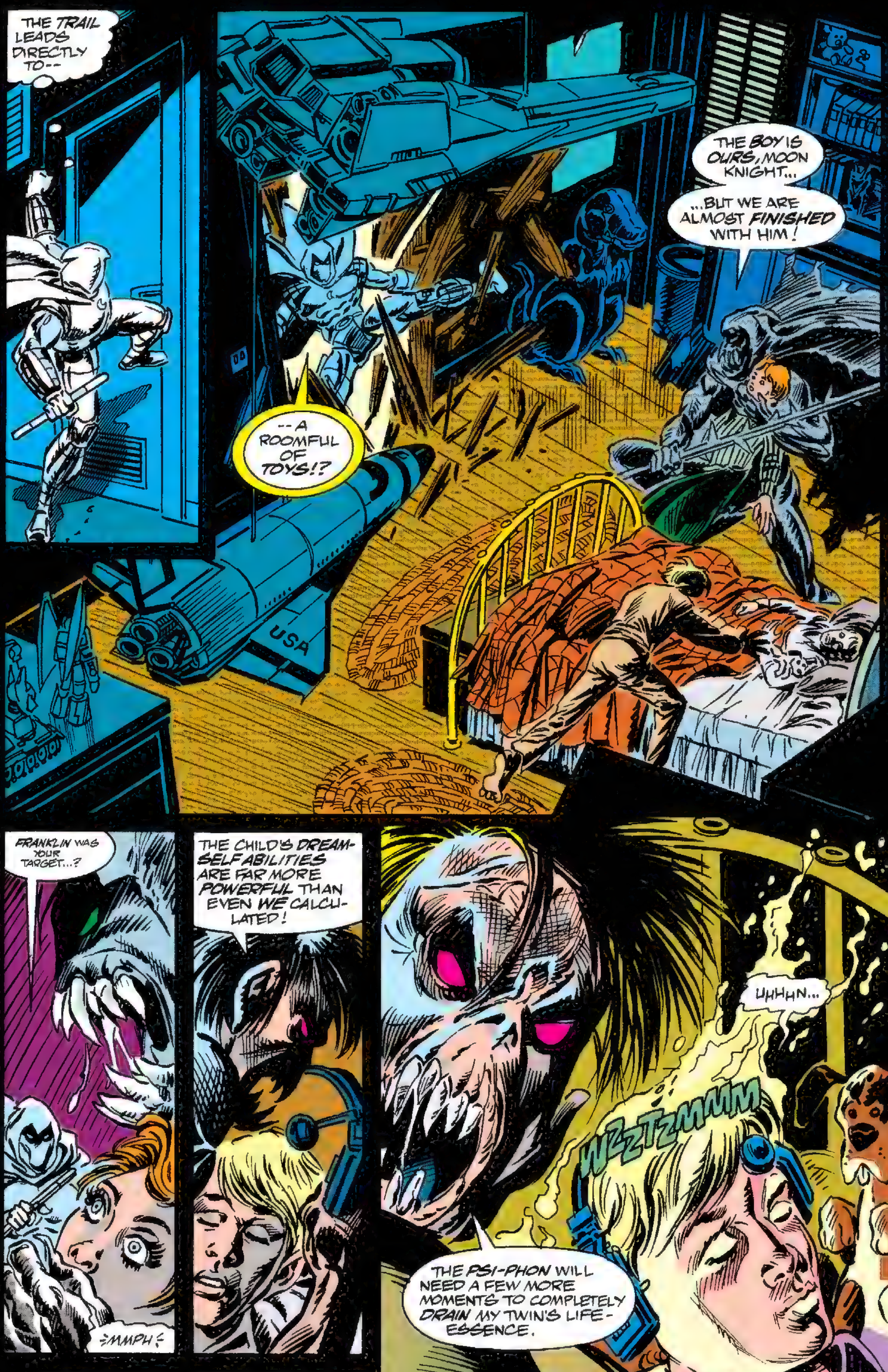
...SO, LIKE MY *MERCENARY SELF*, IT SEEMS TO HAVE ITS OWN *PRIVATE AGENDA*.

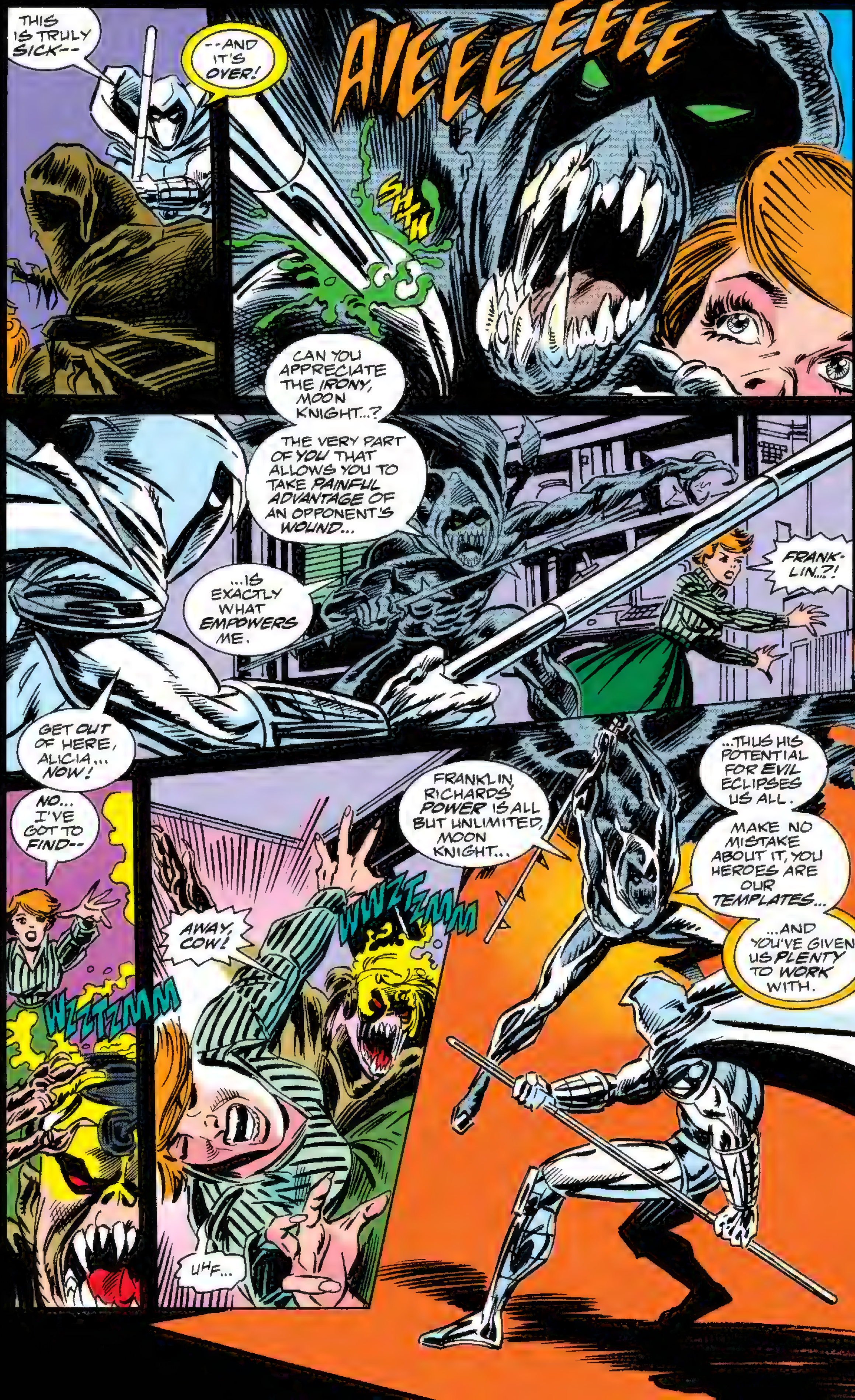
NOT TO MENTION A *CO-CONSPIRATOR*.

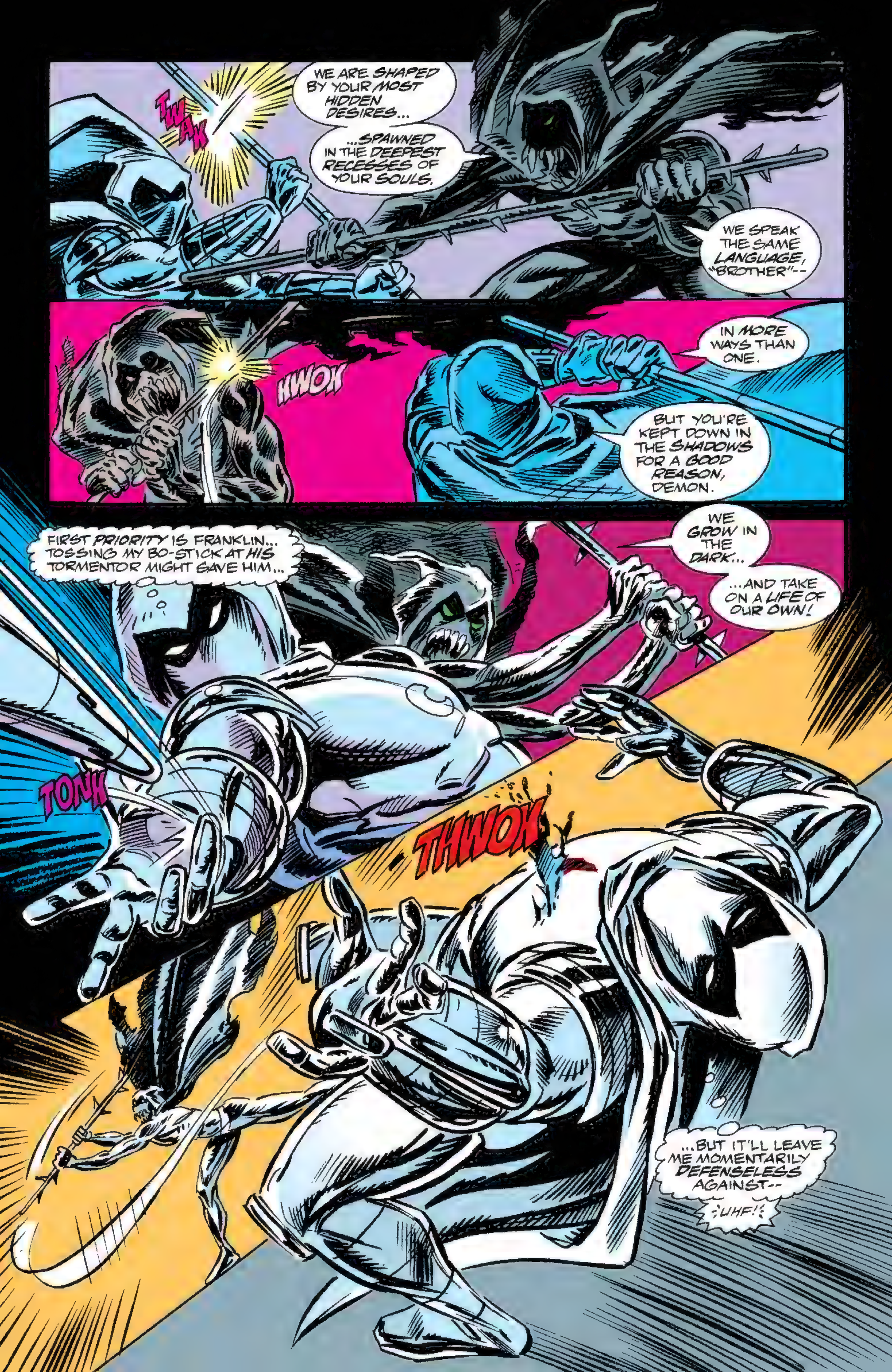
MY FORM CAN GET US THROUGH THE SECURITY NET BEFORE OUR MASTER REALIZES WE'RE MISSING!

BNOOM
YOUR JOB IS TO COVER ME! KEEP THOSE COSTUMED IDIOTS AWAY-- OR I WON'T GET IN!
HOLD IT, REN AND STIMPY!
CHK

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TROUBLE GAINING ENTRANCE?
SO FAR RESISTANCE IS PITIABLE!
CHK CHK
PING
PING
YEEEARGH!
SLIIIIIISH
THIS WAY--!
GONE ALREADY.
THE SHORT ONE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THIS PLACE SUSPICIOUSLY WELL...
...AND MY DOPPELGANGER'S SKILLS ARE FRUSTRATINGLY SIMILAR TO MY OWN.
BUT MY ADAMANTIUM CRESCENT DART SEEMED TO PENETRATE HIS DEFENSES.


THE TRAIL LEADS DIRECTLY TO--
--A ROOMFUL OF TOYS!?
THE BOY IS OURS, MOON KNIGHT...
...BUT WE ARE ALMOST FINISHED WITH HIM!
USA
FRANKLIN WAS YOUR TARGET...?
=MMPH=
THE CHILD'S DREAM-SELF ABILITIES ARE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN WE CALCULATED!
UHHHN...
WZZTZMMMM
THE PSI-PHON WILL NEED A FEW MORE MOMENTS TO COMPLETELY DRAIN MY TWIN'S LIFE-ESSENCE.

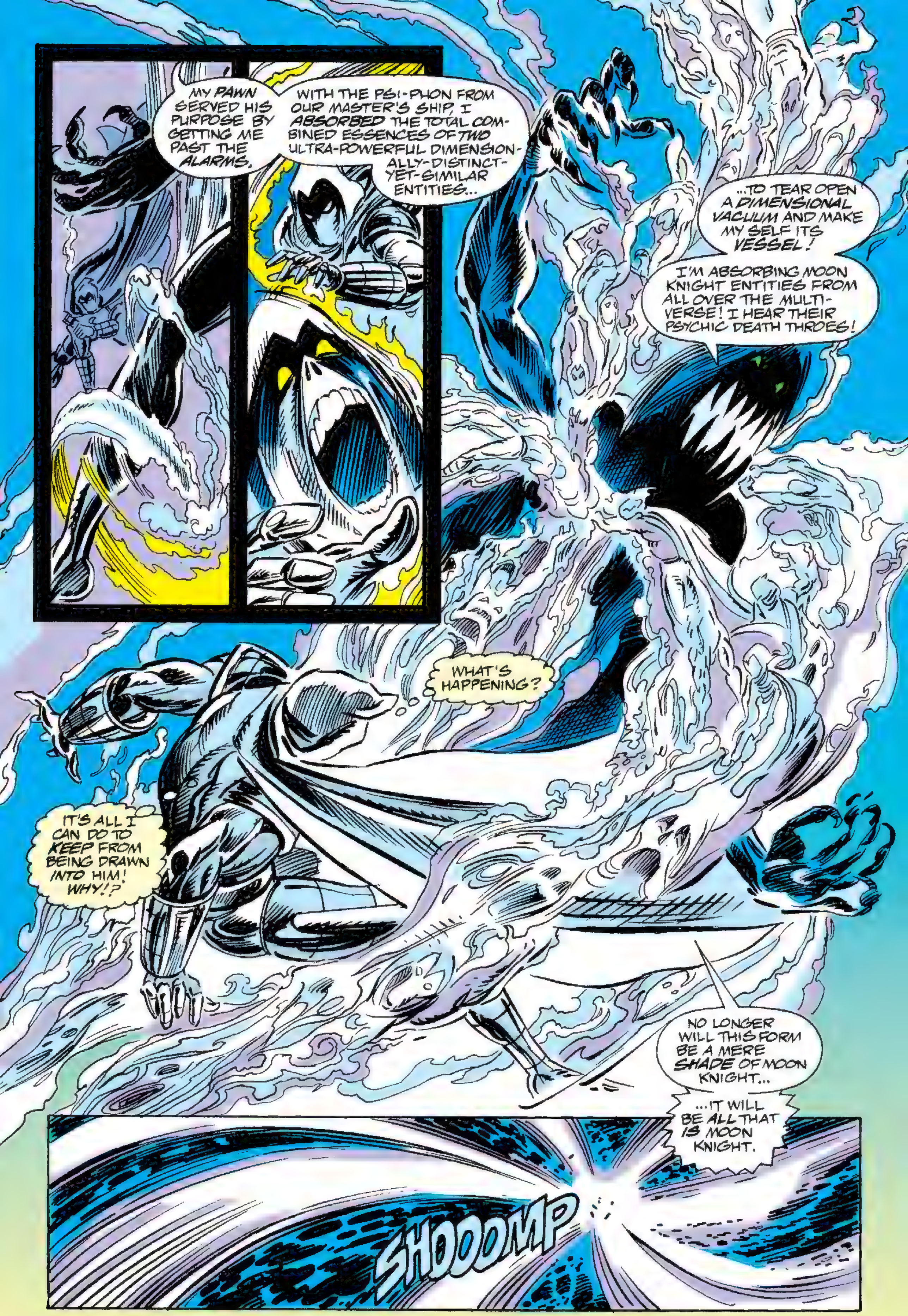

THIS IS TRULY SICK--
--AND IT'S OVER!
AIEEEEEE
SHTH
CAN YOU APPRECIATE THE IRONY, MOON KNIGHT...?
THE VERY PART OF YOU THAT ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE PAINFUL ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPONENT'S WOUND...
...IS EXACTLY WHAT EMPOWERS ME.
FRANK-LIN...?!
GET OUT OF HERE, ALICIA... NOW!
NO... I'VE GOT TO FIND--
FRANKLIN RICHARDS' POWER IS ALL BUT UNLIMITED, MOON KNIGHT...
...THUS HIS POTENTIAL FOR EVIL ECLIPSES US ALL.
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, YOU HEROES ARE OUR TEMPLATES...
...AND YOU'VE GIVEN US PLENTY TO WORK WITH.
AWAY, COW!
WWZTZMM
WZZTZMM
UHF...


TWAK
WE ARE SHAPED BY YOUR MOST HIDDEN DESIRES...
...SPAWNED IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF YOUR SOULS.
WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE, "BROTHER"--
KWOK
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
BUT YOU'RE KEPT DOWN IN THE SHADOWS FOR A GOOD REASON, DEMON.
FIRST PRIORITY IS FRANKLIN... TOSSING MY BO-STICK AT HIS TORMENTOR MIGHT SAVE HIM...
WE GROW IN THE DARK...
...AND TAKE ON A LIFE OF OUR OWN!
TONK
THWOK
...BUT IT'LL LEAVE ME MOMENTARILY DEFENSELESS AGAINST--
;UHF!;

MY TOSS TOOK OUT FRANKLIN'S DOPPELGANGER, BUT THE THING DIDN'T DISSOLVE! IT MUST ONLY BE UNCONSCIOUS!
GOT TO MAGNETICALLY RECALL MY TRUNCHEON...
WZZTZMM
...AND GET THE REAL FRANKLIN TO SAFETY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH TO REMOVE THIS "PSI-PHON" THING THEY WERE USING ON THE BOY...
WZZTZMM

NOW MOVE IT, ALICIA AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CREATURE FEATURE.
THE BRAT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY, FOOL...
WZZT

...I INTENDED ALL ALONG TO USURP THE FINAL, FATAL FORCE FROM MY ERSTWHILE COHORT HIMSELF.
WZZTZMM
YEEEIAA-


MY PAWN SERVED HIS PURPOSE BY GETTING ME PAST THE ALARMS.
WITH THE PSI-PHON FROM OUR MASTER'S SHIP, I ABSORBED THE TOTAL COMBINED ESSENCES OF TWO ULTRA-POWERFUL DIMENSIONALLY-DISTINCT-YET-SIMILAR ENTITIES...
...TO TEAR OPEN A DIMENSIONAL VACUUM AND MAKE MY SELF ITS VESSEL!
I'M ABSORBING MOON KNIGHT ENTITIES FROM ALL OVER THE MULTIVERSE! I HEAR THEIR PSYCHIC DEATH THROES!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP FROM BEING DRAWN INTO HIM! WHY!?
NO LONGER WILL THIS FORM BE A MERE SHADE OF MOON KNIGHT...
...IT WILL BE ALL THAT IS MOON KNIGHT.
SHOOOMP

I HAVE BECOME MOON SHADE
AND ALL THE MULTIVERSE WILL BE MINE!
NEXT--PART 2 OF OUR "INFINITY WAR" CROSSOVER TAKES MOON KNIGHT ON A LONG, STRANGE TRIP THROUGH THE HEADS OF GARY KWAPISZ, TOM PALMER, KLAUS JANSON, KELLEY JONES, NORM BREYFOGLE, JAMES FRY, AND TY TEMPLETON... AND THE MARVEL MULTIVERSE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!

INFINITY WAR #1, **PAGE 29 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

MARVEL COMICS
OUR MOST BIZARRE ISSUE YET!
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
MARC SPECTOR:
MOON KNIGHT
© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC
42 SEPT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MOON SHADE MENACES THE MULTIVERSE!
KWAPISZ / WALKER

SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE MARC SPECTOR DIED-BUT WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR DEDICATED HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN A WORLD THAT HAS NONE. STAN LEE PRESENTS...

MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT

"YOU'RE CORNERED, MOON KNIGHT...

"YOUR FELLOW SUPER HEROES ARE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH MY 'INFINITY WAR' COMRADES ELSEWHERE IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.

YOUR INTERFERENCE ONLY ENABLED A PRECIOUS FEW OF THE HARDIER MOON KNIGHTS TO SURVIVE MY PSYCHIC ASSAULT...

...MOMENTARILY.

"I WOULD BE LONG GONE--

"--BUT YOU THWARTED MY ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE UNLIMITED POWER POTENTIAL OF FRANKLIN RICHARDS AND MY COHORT, FRANKLIN'S DOPPEL-GANGER...

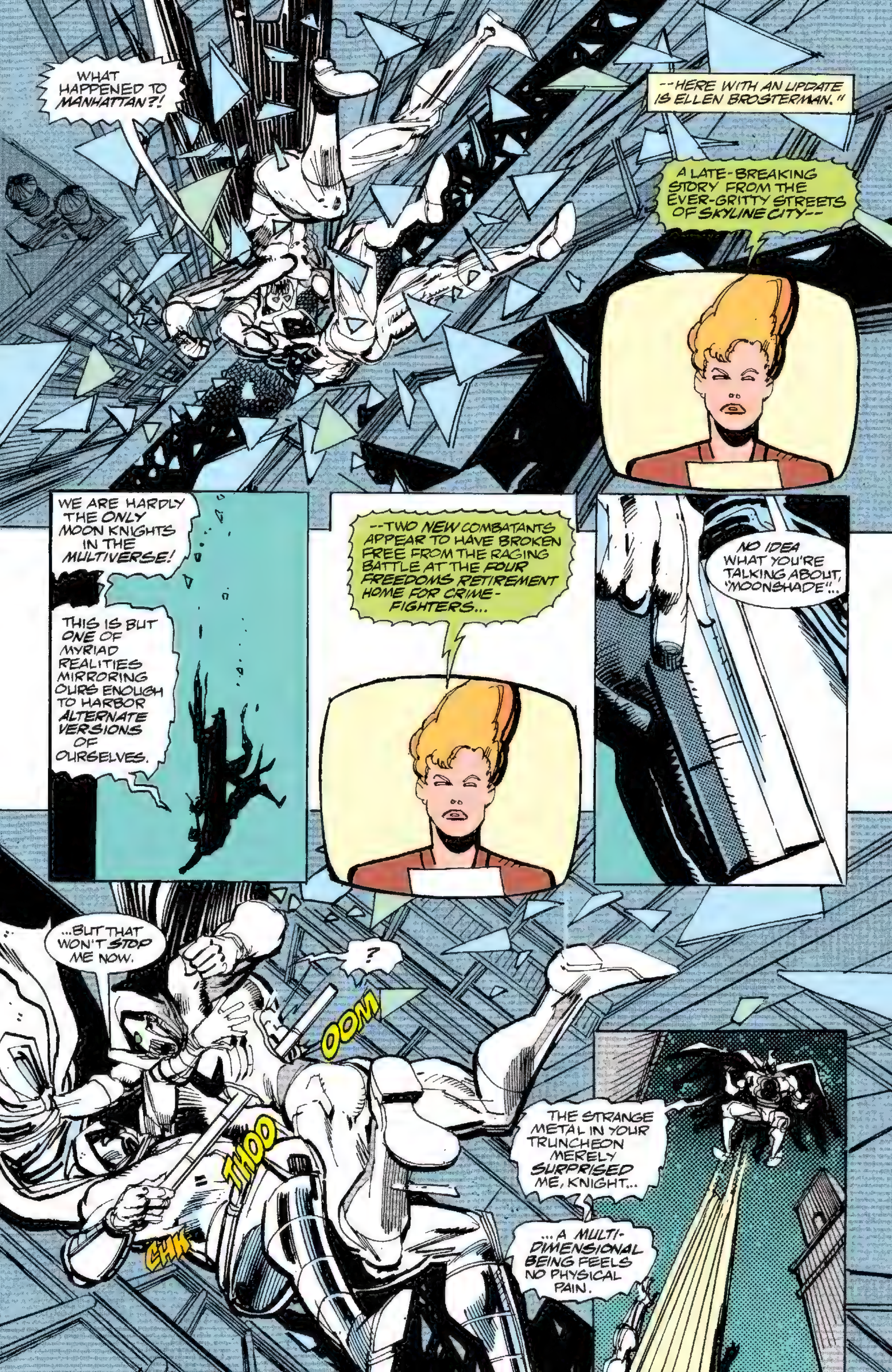
"BUT, EMPOWERED BY THE TOTAL LIFE FORCE OF MY COHORT, THE MAGUS'S DEVICE CHANNELED THEIR COMBINED PAN-DIMENSIONAL ENERGIES THROUGH MY SOULLESS SHELL!

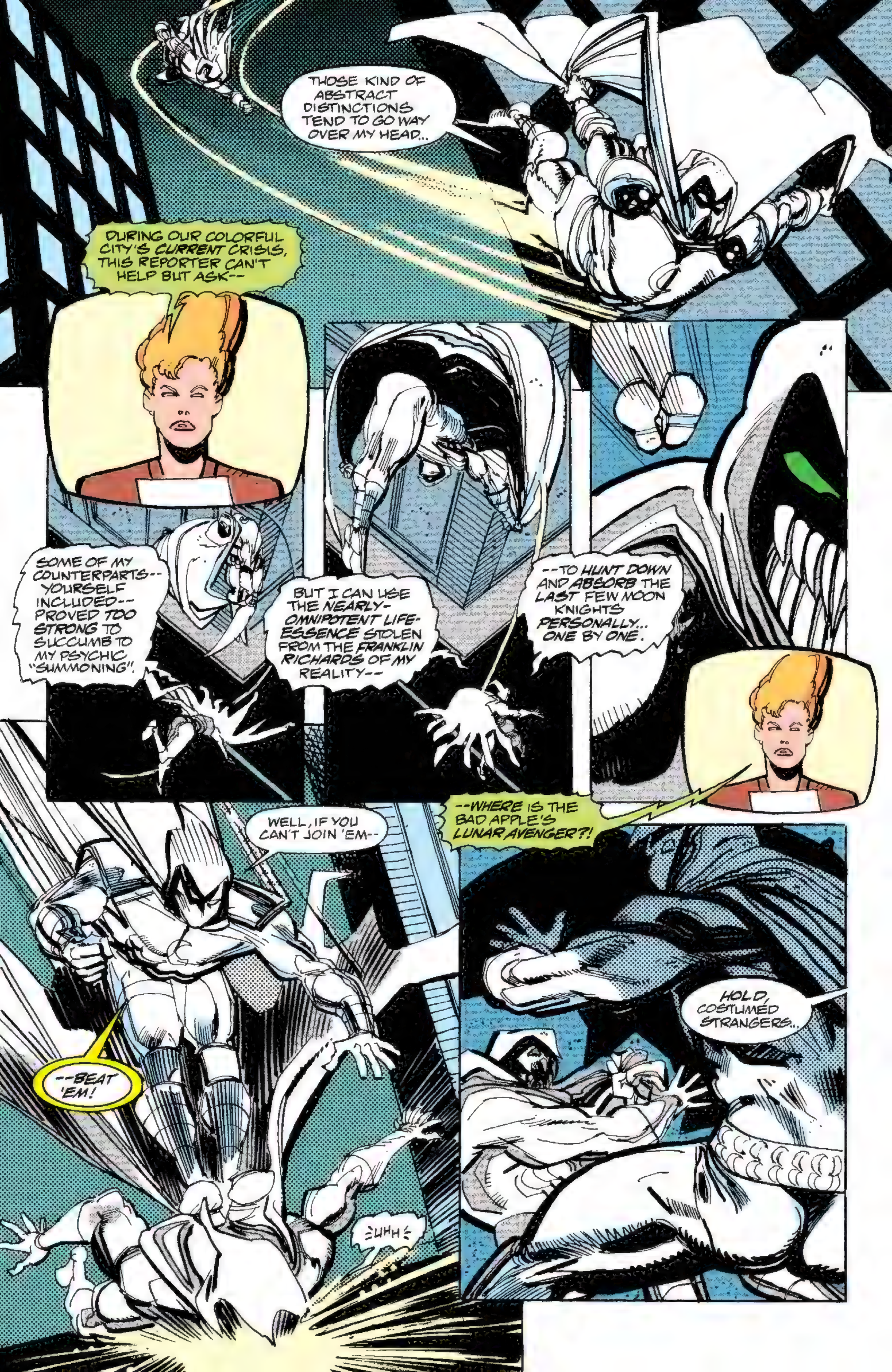
"SO THE HUMAN BRAT'S LIFE-ESSENCE WAS NOT COMPLETELY DRAINED INTO THE PSI-PHON!

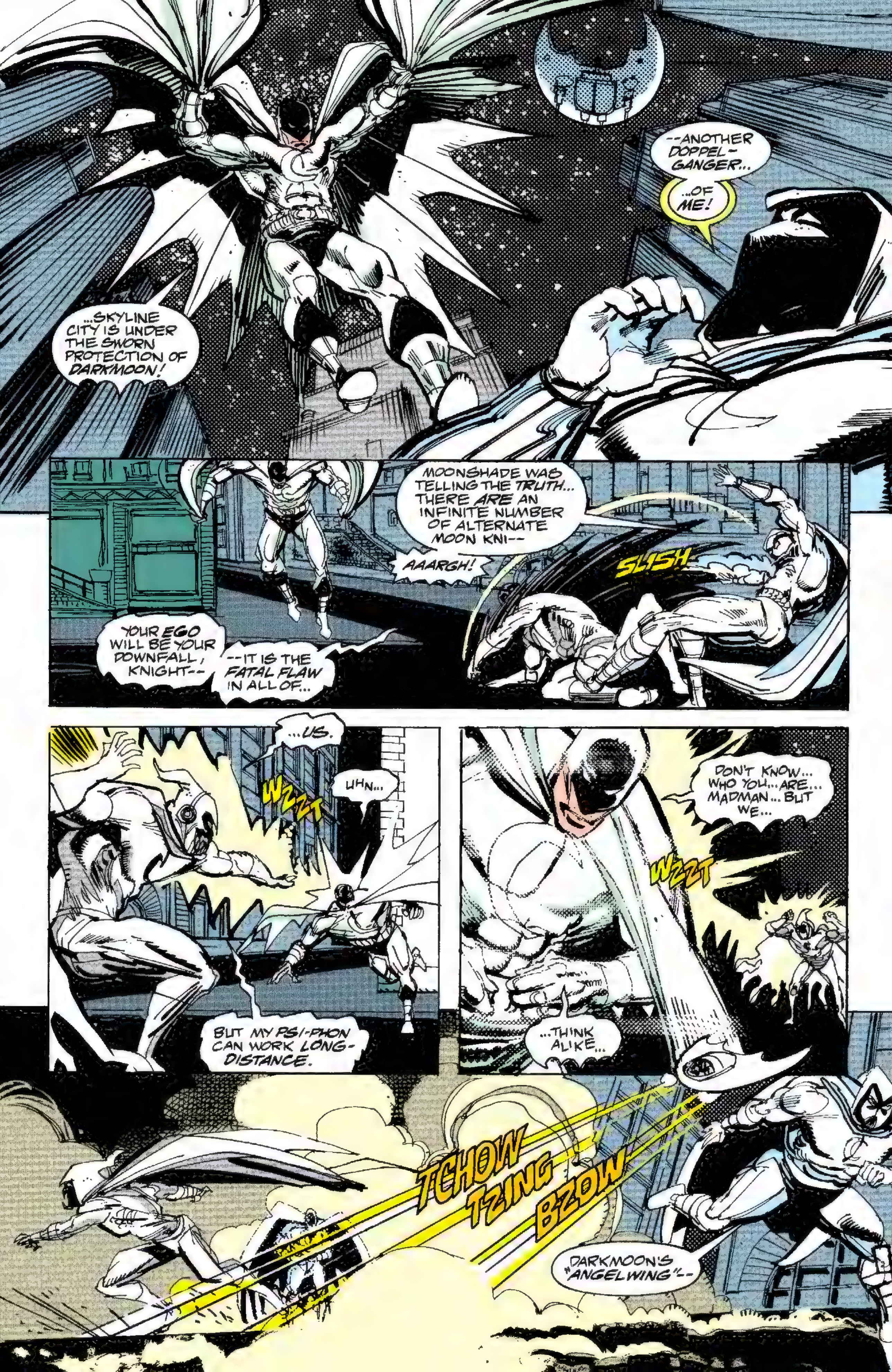
"THE RESULTANT VACUUM ABSORBED THE MOON KNIGHTS OF THE MULTI-VERSE INTO ME... AN ENTITY THAT WAS FORMERLY NO MORE THAN YOUR MERE SHADOW!" *

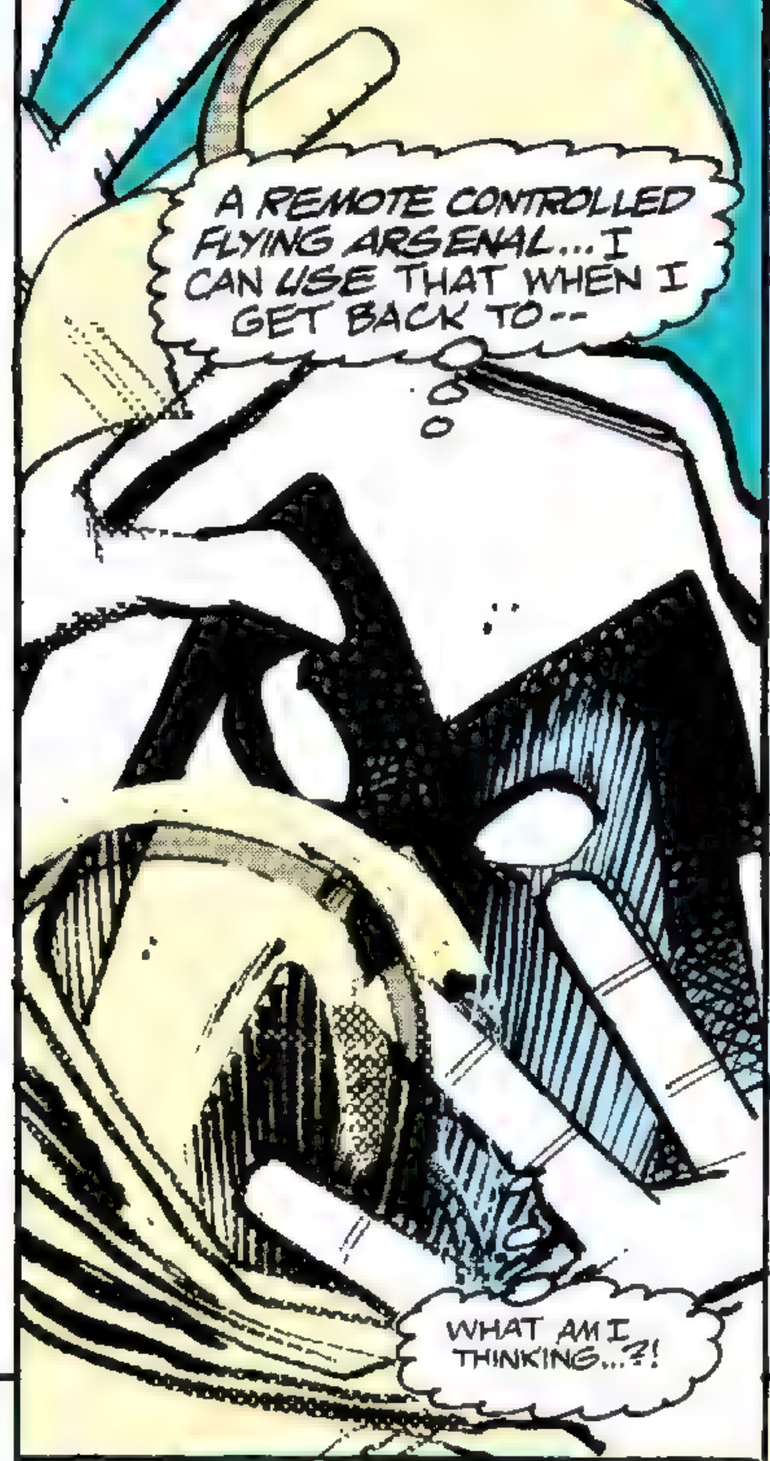
* LAST ISH.-- YOUR PAL JOEY

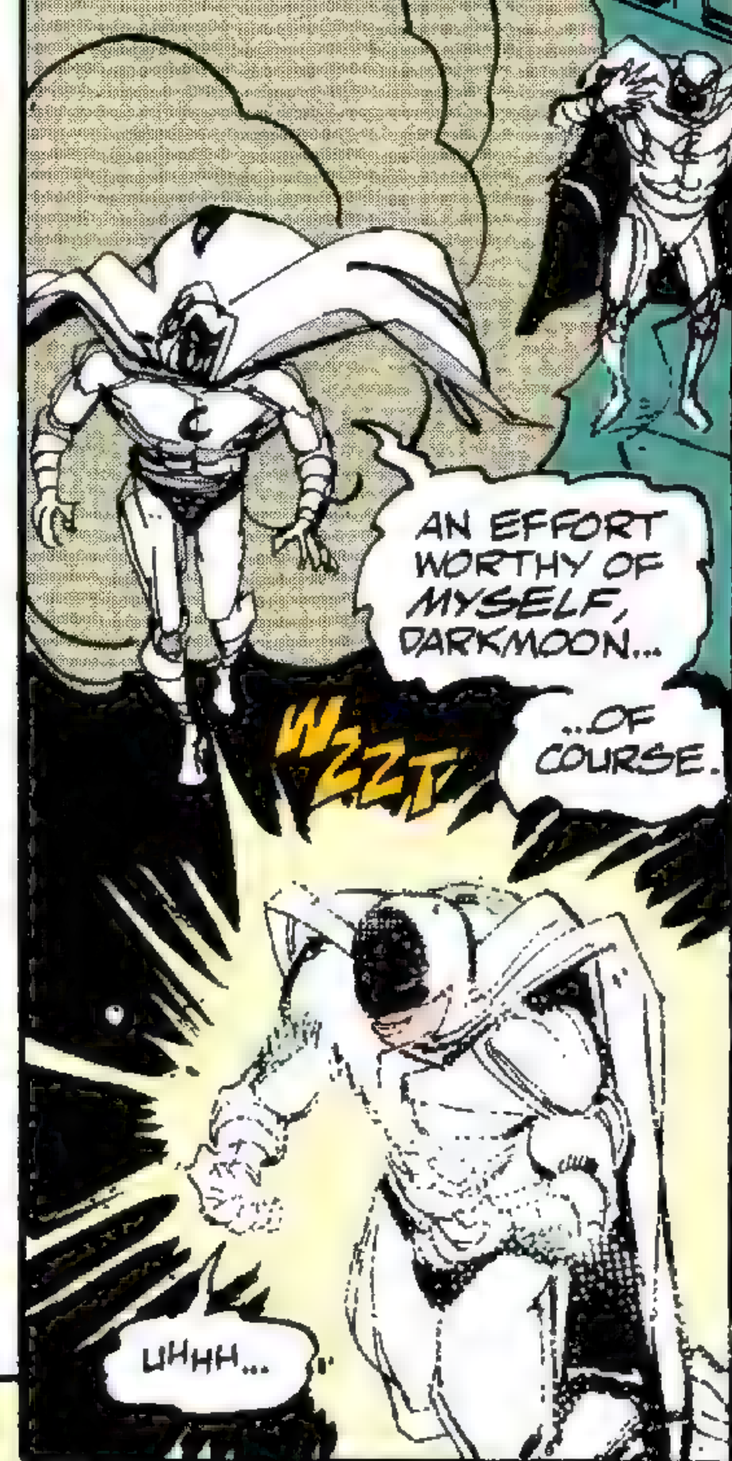
MULTIVERSE MADNESS!
I AM NOW MOON SHADE -- MOON KNIGHT TO THE HIGHEST POWER!!
SKA
RAAASH
WRITER; TERRY KAVANAGH / ARTISTS; GARY KWAPISZ, TOM PALMER, KLAUS JANSON, KELLEY JONES, JOHN BEATTY, NORM BREYFOGLE, JAMES FRY, KARL KESEL, TY TEMPLETON / COLORIST; CHRISTIE SCHEELE / LETTERER; KEN LOPEZ
EDITOR; JOEY CAVALIERI / EDITOR IN CHIEF; TOM DEFALCO


WHAT HAPPENED TO MANHATTAN?!
--HERE WITH AN UPDATE IS ELLEN BROSTERMAN."
A LATE-BREAKING STORY FROM THE EVER-GRITTY STREETS OF SKYLINE CITY--
WE ARE HARDLY THE ONLY MOON KNIGHTS IN THE MULTIVERSE!
THIS IS BUT ONE OF MYRIAD REALITIES MIRRORING OURS ENOUGH TO HARBOR ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF OURSELVES.
--TWO NEW COMBATANTS APPEAR TO HAVE BROKEN FREE FROM THE RAGING BATTLE AT THE FOUR FREEDOMS RETIREMENT HOME FOR CRIME-FIGHTERS...
NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, "MOONSHADE"...
...BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME NOW.
?
OOM
THOO
CHK
THE STRANGE METAL IN YOUR TRUNCHEON MERELY SURPRISED ME, KNIGHT...
...A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL BEING FEELS NO PHYSICAL PAIN.


THOSE KIND OF ABSTRACT DISTINCTIONS TEND TO GO WAY OVER MY HEAD...
DURING OUR COLORFUL CITY'S CURRENT CRISIS, THIS REPORTER CAN'T HELP BUT ASK--
SOME OF MY COUNTERPARTS-- YOURSELF INCLUDED-- PROVED TOO STRONG TO SUCCUMB TO MY PSYCHIC "SUMMONING".
BUT I CAN USE THE NEARLY-OMNIPOTENT LIFE-ESSENCE STOLEN FROM THE FRANKLIN RICHARDS OF MY REALITY--
--TO HUNT DOWN AND ABSORB THE LAST FEW MOON KNIGHTS PERSONALLY... ONE BY ONE.
--WHERE IS THE BAD APPLE'S LUNAR AVENGER?!
WELL, IF YOU CAN'T JOIN 'EM--
--BEAT 'EM!
HOLD, COSTUMED STRANGERS...
=UHH=


...SKYLINE CITY IS UNDER THE SWORN PROTECTION OF DARKMOON!
--ANOTHER DOPPEL-GANGER...
...OF ME!
YOUR EGO WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL, KNIGHT--
--IT IS THE FATAL FLAW IN ALL OF...
MOONSHADE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF ALTERNATE MOON KNI--
AAARGH!
SLISH
...US.
WZZT
UHN...
BUT MY PSI-PHON CAN WORK LONG-DISTANCE.
DON'T KNOW... WHO YOU... ARE... MADMAN... BUT WE...
WZZT
...THINK ALIKE...
TCHOW
TZING
BZOW
DARKMOON'S "ANGELWING"--


A REMOTE CONTROLLED FLYING ARSENAL...I CAN USE THAT WHEN I GET BACK TO--
WHAT AM I THINKING...?!


AN EFFORT WORTHY OF MYSELF, DARKMOON...
...OF COURSE.
WZZT
UHHH...

THIS IS WAY TOO WEIRD FOR ME...
CHK

...BUT I CAN'T EVEN SLOW THIS MADMAN DOWN.
HAWHOOM
HA HA HA HA

AND MY... THAT OTHER CHARACTER... WON'T SURVIVE MOONSHADE'S "PSI-PHON"!
CHK
CHK
THAT'S IT.
MY LUNATIC TWIN USED THAT HI-TECH HEADSET TO TRANSFORM INTO MOON-SHADE ORIGINALLY!

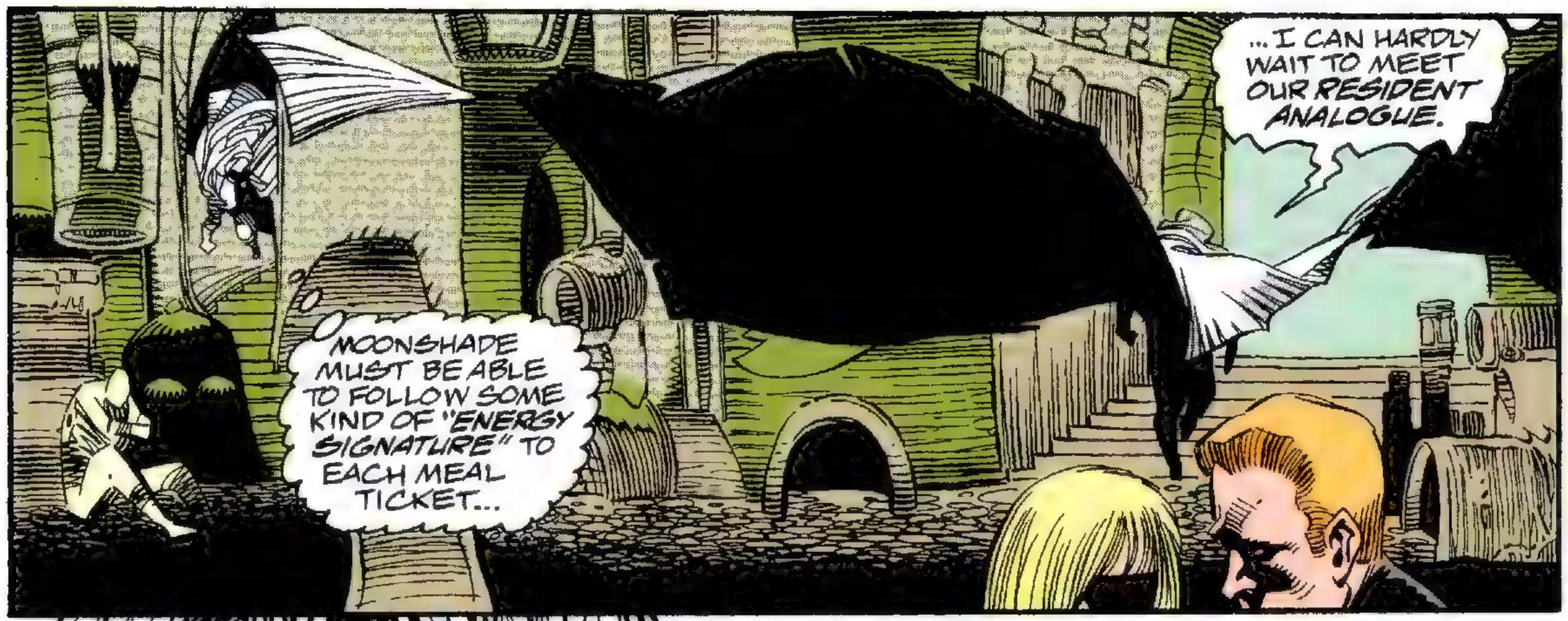
I CAN HEAR ITS ELECTRONIC HUM AT WORK NOW.

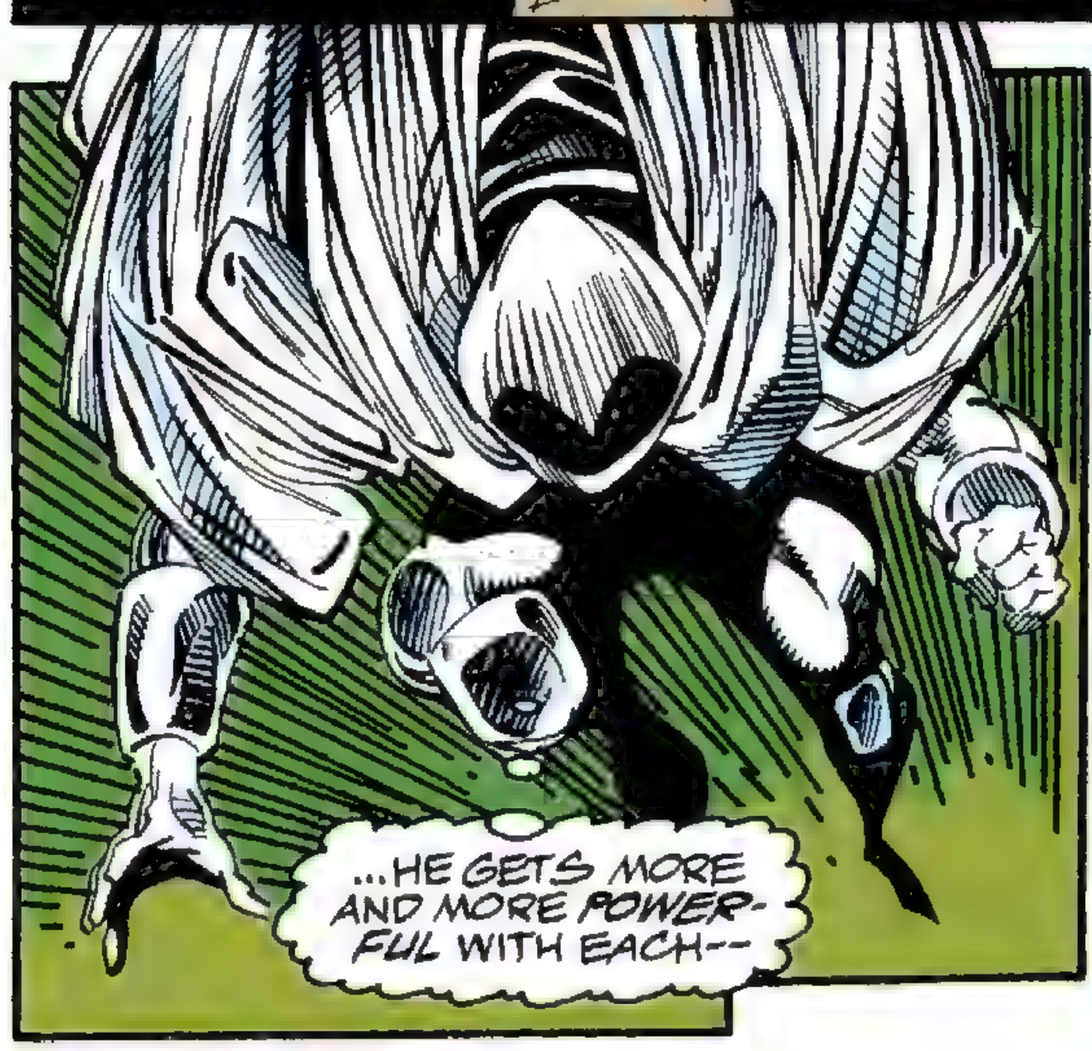
WZZTZMMM
IT IS OVER, DARKMOON...
AGHH

...AND BETTER YOU THAN ME--
BUT THAT'S YOUR LAST MOON PIE...

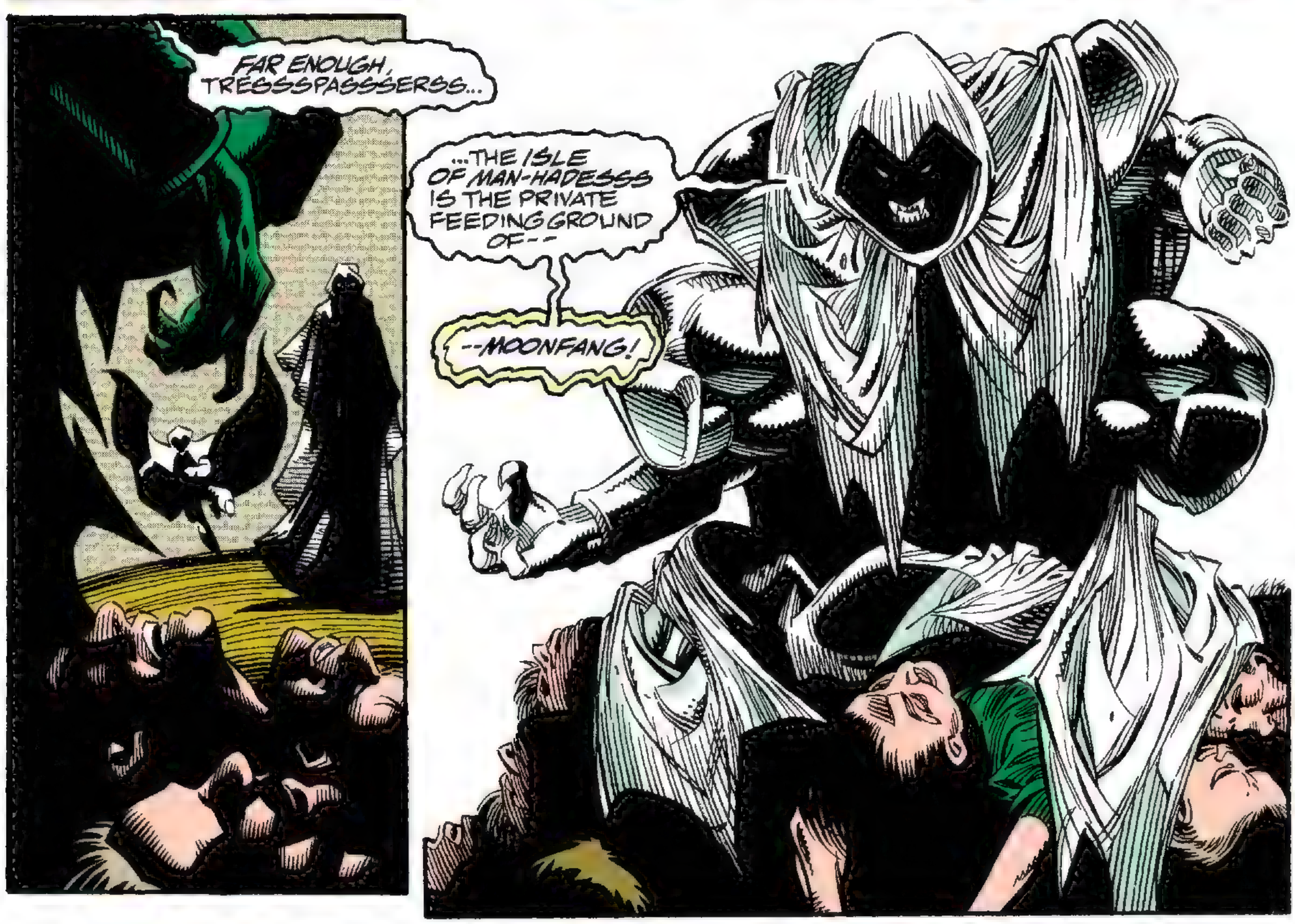
HAH! MY EVER EVOLVING FORM NO LONGER REQUIRES THE DEVICE...
...THIS EQUIPMENT IS NOW OBSOLETE.
...TO SWALLOW YOU WHOLE.
SKRAK

I HOPED TO AVOID MAKING A PIG OF MYSELF SO SOON AFTER MY LAST HELPING, BUT YOU ARE PROVING FAR TOO--
ÈURP!
DIFFICULT TO DIGEST... AT THE MOMENT. SO I'LL SAVE YOU FOR LAST!
ÈAKK È URK È
ARMOR'S A LITTLE TANGY... YOU WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT DESSERT.
WHERE HAVE WE WOUND UP NOW?
THE SCENE OF MY NEXT COURSE.
THE LOCALS AREN'T EVEN REACTING TO US--
--ALMOST AS IF THEY'RE ALREADY RESIGNED TO SOMETHING FAR WORSE...


MOONSHADE MUST BE ABLE TO FOLLOW SOME KIND OF "ENERGY SIGNATURE" TO EACH MEAL TICKET...
...I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO MEET OUR RESIDENT ANALOGUE.


...HE GETS MORE AND MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH--

NO...!
NOT THIS...
I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED...


FAR ENOUGH, TRESSSPASSSERSS...
...THE ISLE OF MAN-HADESSS IS THE PRIVATE FEEDING GROUND OF--
--MOONFANG!

AND THERE ISSS NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE...

SWIISH

THE PREDATOR EVENTUALLY BECOMES THE PREY, MOONFANG...

YOUR DEMONIC NATURE WILL MAKE A UNIQUE ADDITION TO THE POWER OF MOONSHADE.

THOOM

NOT IF YOU AND YOUR SSSILENT COHORT--

--ARE DEAD...

SKRAASH

...AND BURIED.

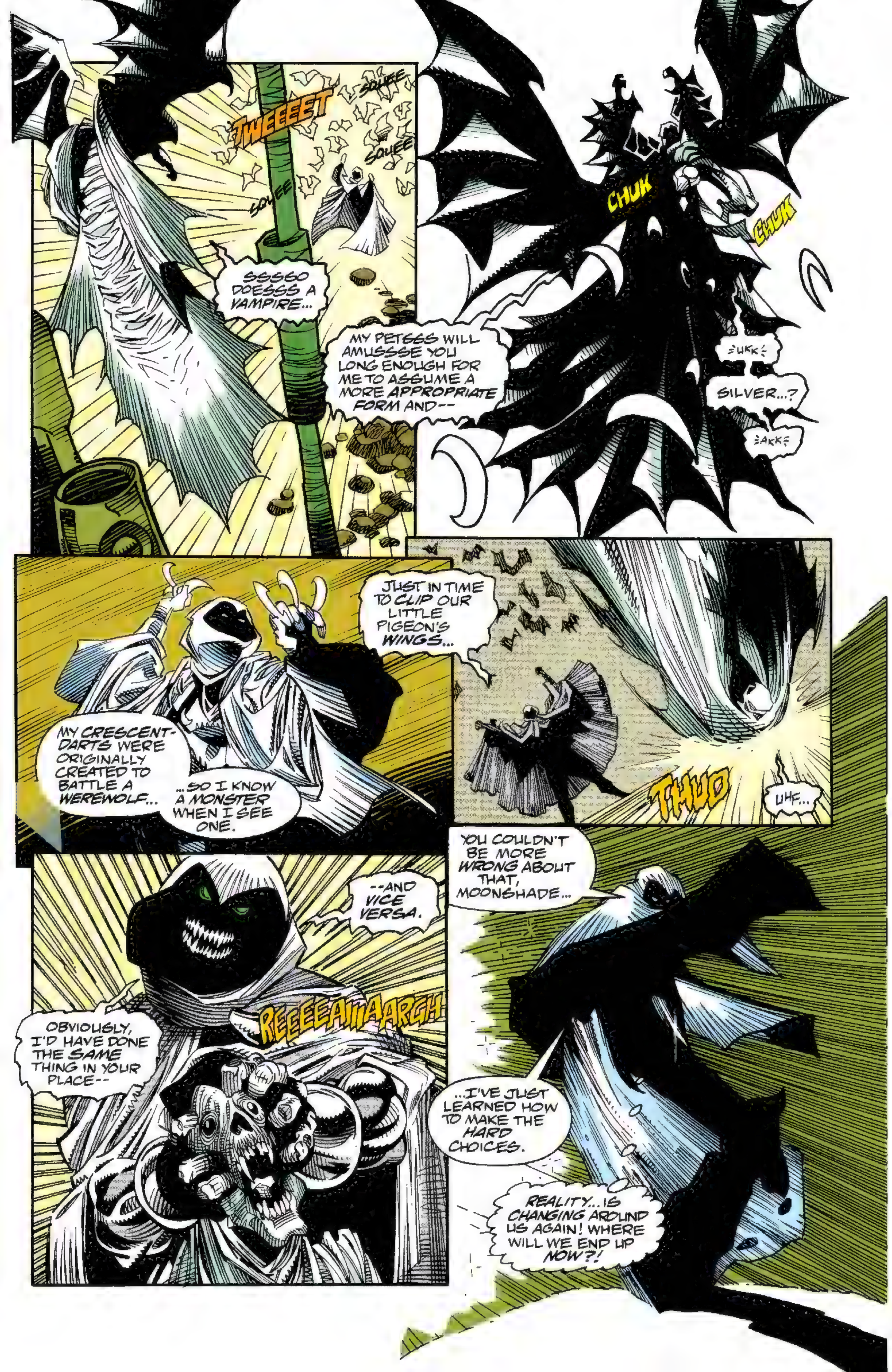
DON'T BE PREMATURE...

SQUEE

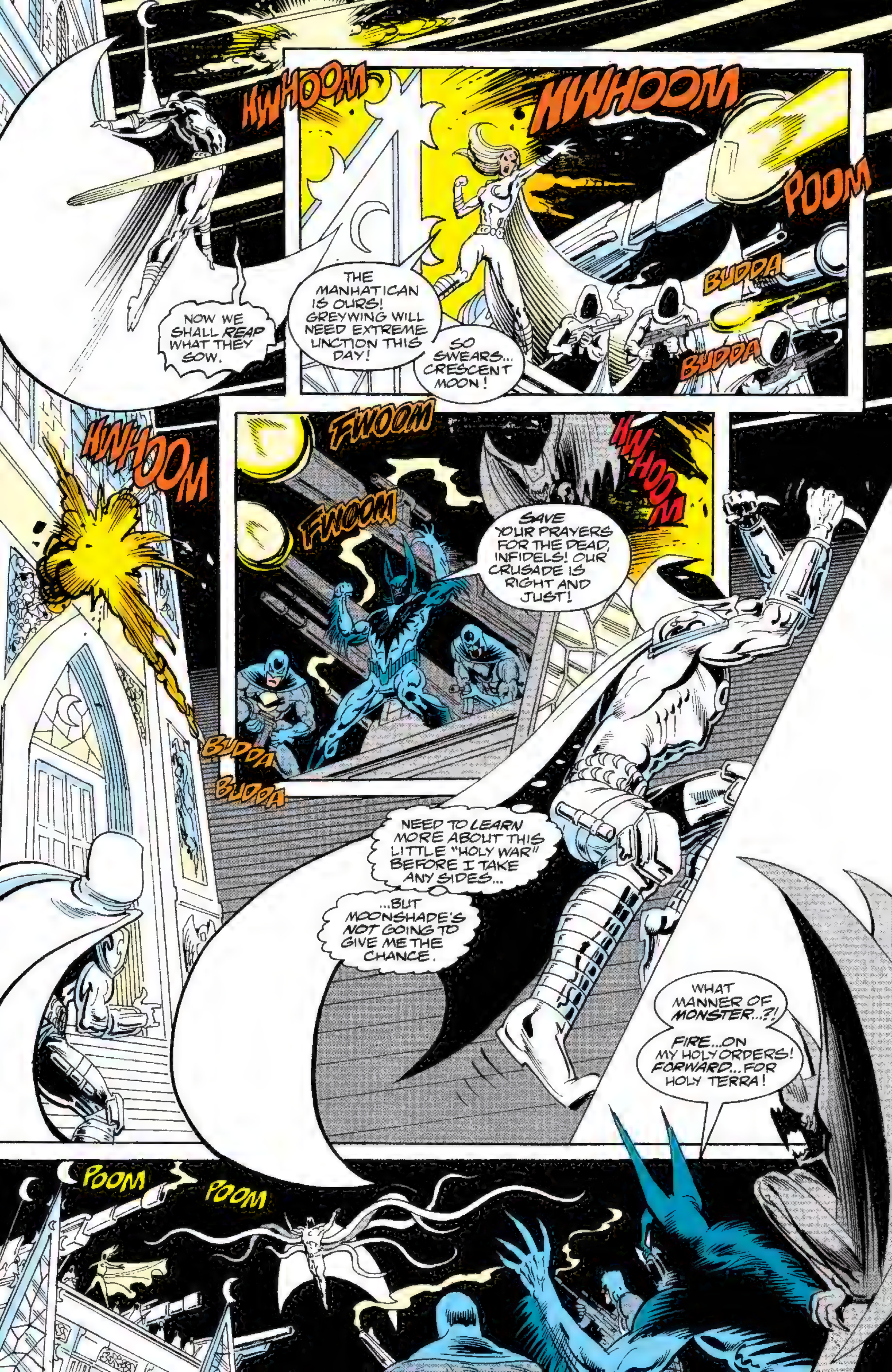
SQUEE

SQUEE

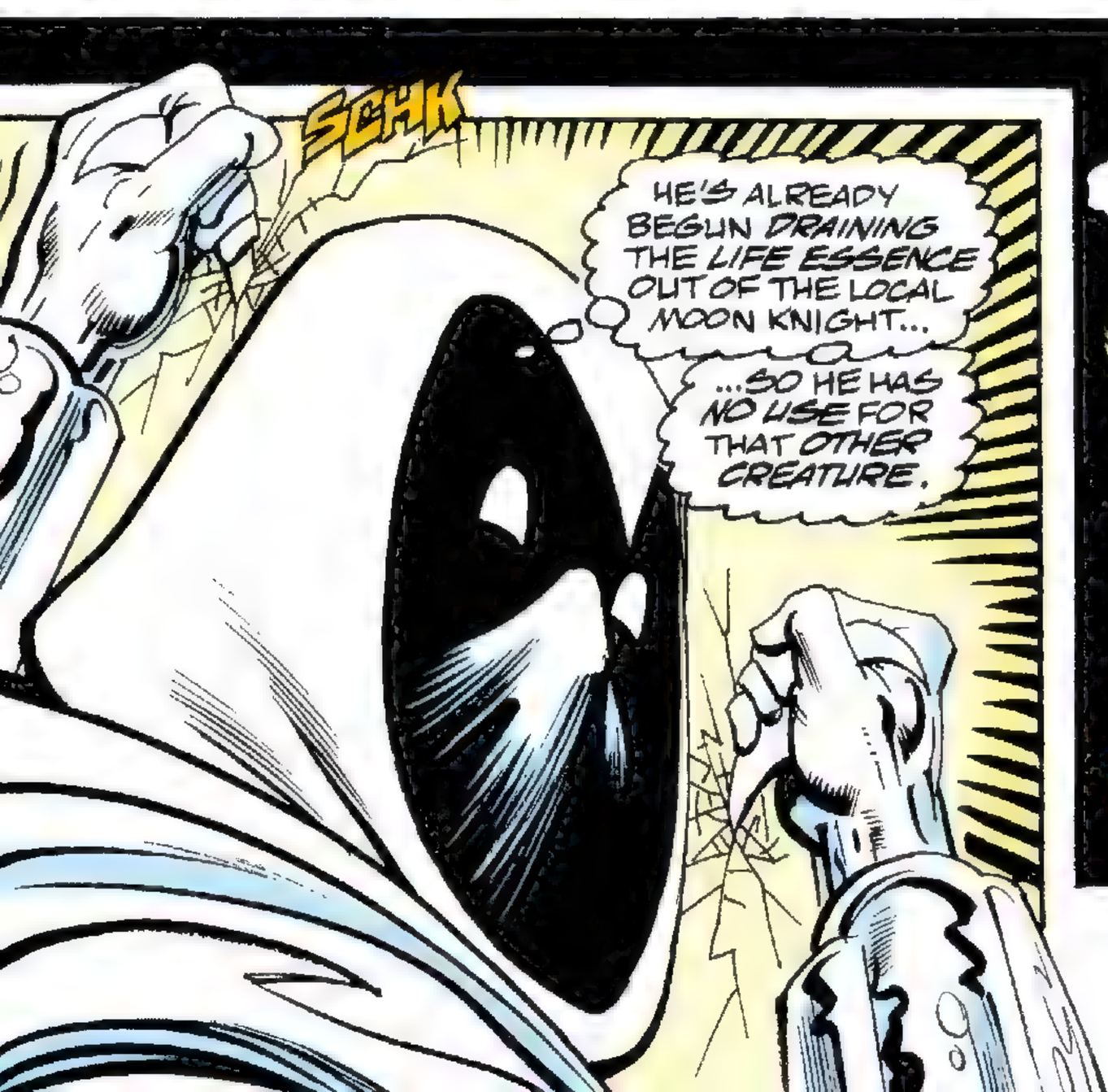
...A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ENTITY ALWAYS HAS OTHER OPTIONS.


TWEEEEET
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
SSSSO DOESSS A VAMPIRE...
MY PETSSS WILL AMUSSSE YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ASSUME A MORE APPROPRIATE FORM AND--
CHUK
CHUK
SUKK
SILVER...?
SAKK
JUST IN TIME TO CLIP OUR LITTLE PIGEON'S WINGS...
MY CRESCENT-DARTS WERE ORIGINALLY CREATED TO BATTLE A WEREWOLF...
...SO I KNOW A MONSTER WHEN I SEE ONE.
THUD
UHF...
--AND VICE VERSA.
REEEEAIIIAARGH
OBVIOUSLY, I'D HAVE DONE THE SAME THING IN YOUR PLACE--
YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG ABOUT THAT, MOONSHADE...
...I'VE JUST LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES.
REALITY...IS CHANGING AROUND US AGAIN! WHERE WILL WE END UP NOW?!

KWHOOM
POOM
POOM
KWHOOM
KWHOOM
TOOM
TOOM
HOLY--!
KWHOOM
EXACTLY.


HWHOOM
NOW WE SHALL REAP WHAT THEY SOW.
HWHOOM
THE MANHATICAN IS OURS! GREYWING WILL NEED EXTREME UNCTION THIS DAY!
SO SWEARS... CRESCENT MOON!
POOM
BUDDA
BUDDA
HWHOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
HWHOOM
SAVE YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD, INFIDELS! OUR CRUSADE IS RIGHT AND JUST!
BUDDA
BUDDA
NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS LITTLE "HOLY WAR" BEFORE I TAKE ANY SIDES...
...BUT MOONSHADE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE ME THE CHANCE.
WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER...?!
FIRE...ON MY HOLY ORDERS! FORWARD...FOR HOLY TERRA!
POOM
POOM

CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE!
SCHK
TOO LATE...
...MOONSHADE'S GOT BOTH THE RINGLEADERS.
AHHH
UHN...
ZAKK


SCHK
HE'S ALREADY BEGUN DRAINING THE LIFE ESSENCE OUT OF THE LOCAL MOON KNIGHT...
...SO HE HAS NO USE FOR THAT OTHER CREATURE.

AHHH
UHN...
AAIIEEEEE!

BUT, AFTER WHAT WE ENCOUNTERED AT OUR *LAST* DIMENSIONAL STOP...

AAIIIEEEE!

...I CAN'T *AUTOMATICALLY* ASSUME "MOON KNIGHT EQUALS GOOD GUY" *THROUGHOUT* THE MULTIVERSE.

WHUMP

UNTIL I PROVE OTHERWISE!

I SAVED ONE, BUT--

--THE *OTHER* NEEDS... LAST RITES!

HWUD

URK

ALL *THROUGH* WITH *THIS* REALITY...

...LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ROOOAAAR...
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, IVORY...
BUT HE SURE GETS HIS NAME AROUND!
MOON
"DINO-KNIGHT" WAS THE LAST STRAW...
...THIS RIDE'S CLOSED FOR REPAIRS!
GET HIM, MR. SPECTOR!
HE'S KILLING MOON GHOST!
SHTAK
BY FRY KESEL

NOT BY A LONG SHOT, LITTLE MAN!

SPLOOSH

TRUNCHEON'S ADAMANTIUM BLADE SEVERED MOONSHADE'S TENTACLES, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO HURT H--

WH-WHAT IS IT...?

SOMEONE CALL THE ATLANHATTAN POLICE...

WATER...

...I'M UNDER-WATER.

bloomi ble

FORGET IT, MOM--THIS IS A JOB FOR MOON-MAID!

DROWNING...

HELPLESS TO PREVENT MOONSHADE FROM KILLING YET ANOTHER ONE OF OUR COUNTERPARTS--

--SUFFOCATING... HER... JUST OUTSIDE THE WALL OF WATER.

SO HIS SPATIAL-WARP EFFECT IS LOCALIZED... MOONSHADE IS THE CALM IN THE EYE OF HIS OWN DIMENSIONAL STORM.

AHHHH...

TCHK

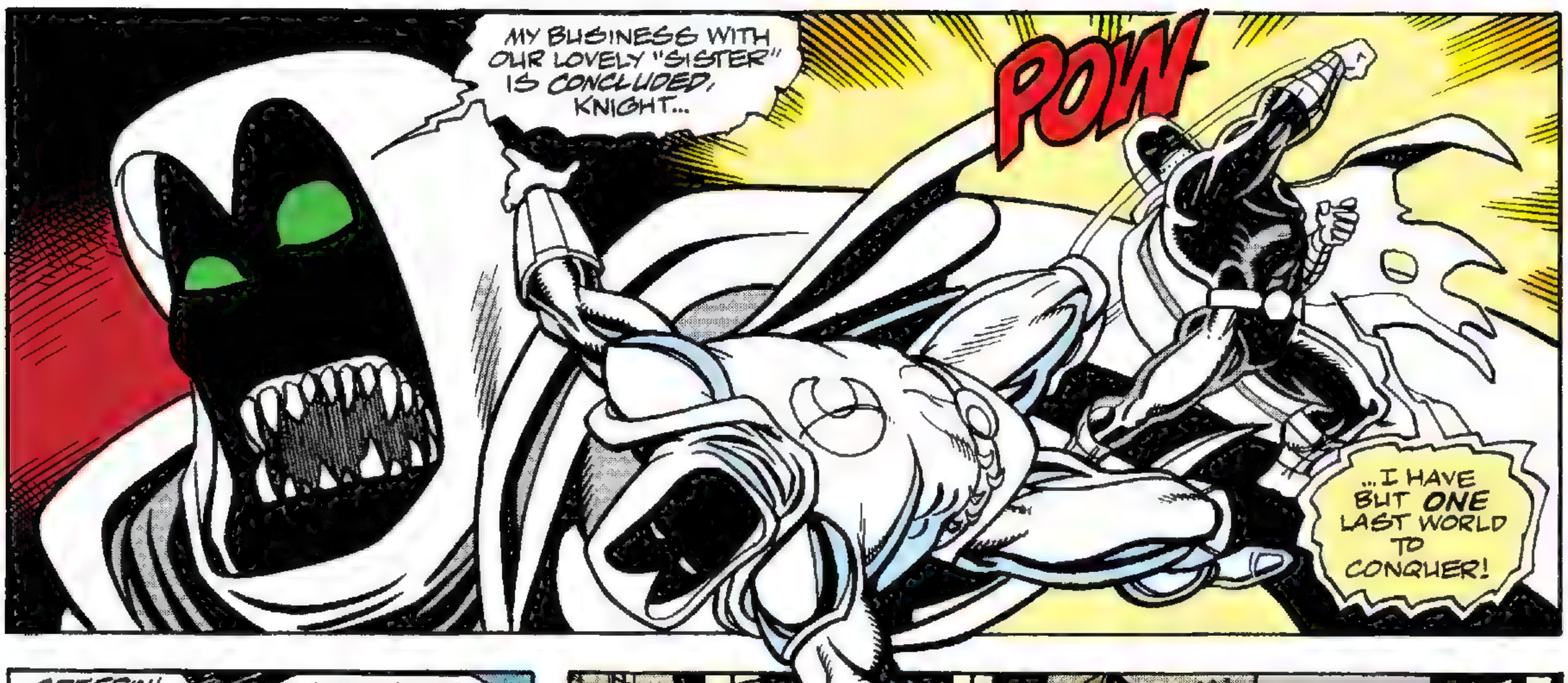
SPISH

:URK: AKK AKK--:

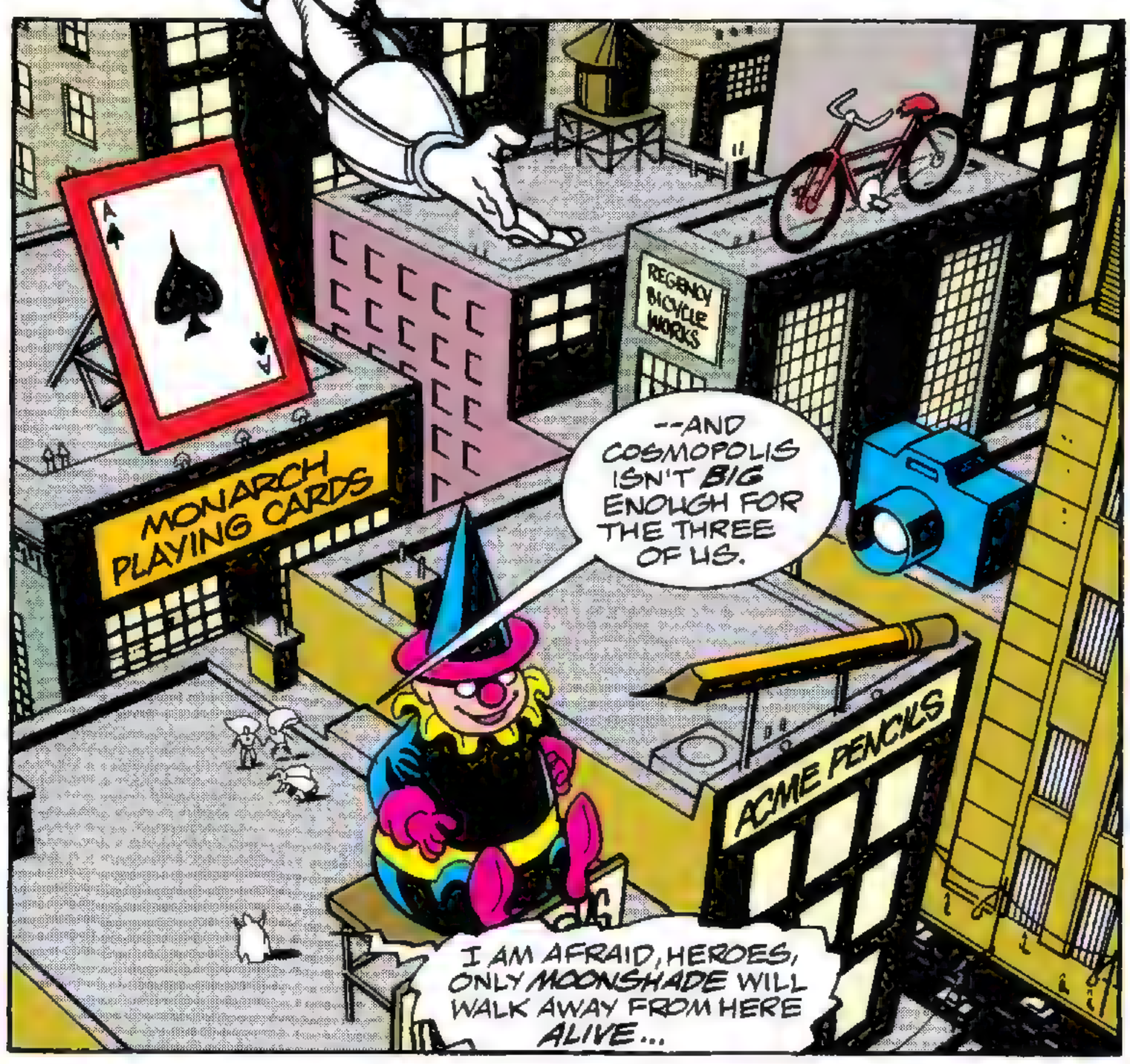
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THIS BLOODTHIRSTY MONSTER'S MY ONLY ANCHOR TO REALITY!

SPLAOSH

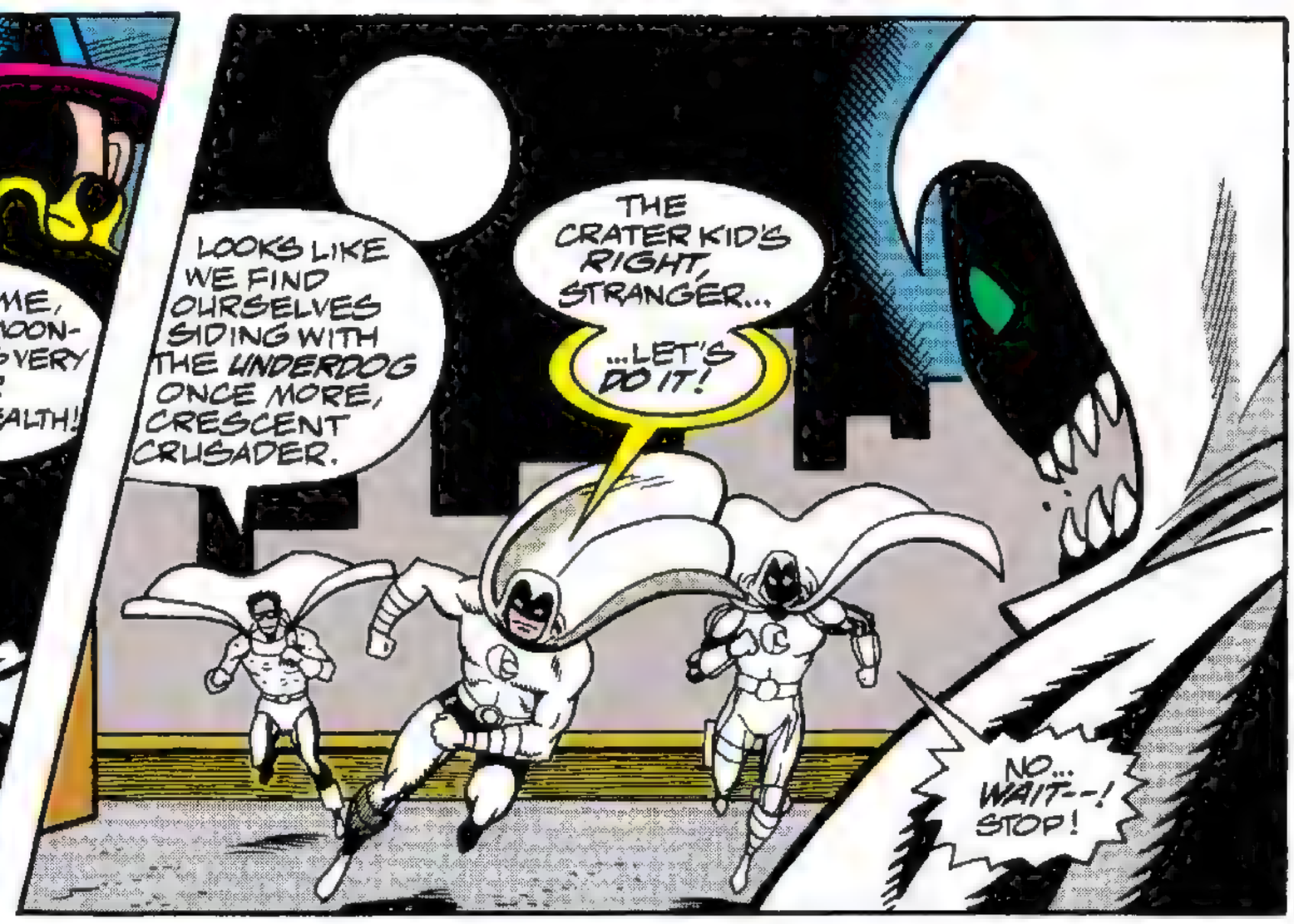
TCHK

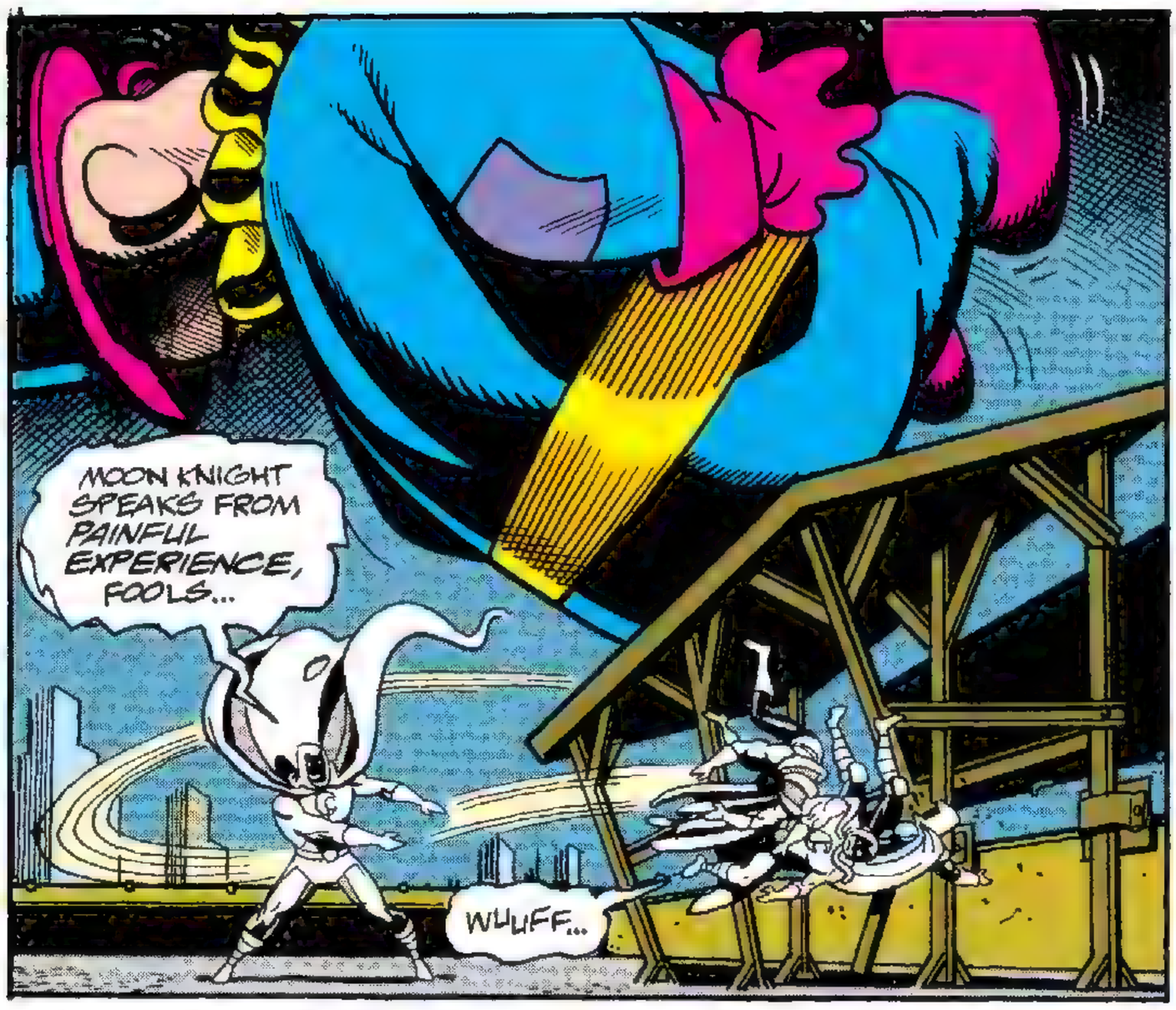

MY BUSINESS WITH OUR LOVELY "SISTER" IS CONCLUDED, KNIGHT...
POW
...I HAVE BUT ONE LAST WORLD TO CONQUER!

CREEPIN' CRATERS, MOONMAN-- HE LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE YOU!
AS DOES THE BULLY WITH THE BIG TEETH, MOONBOY--
UGHN...
WUUD

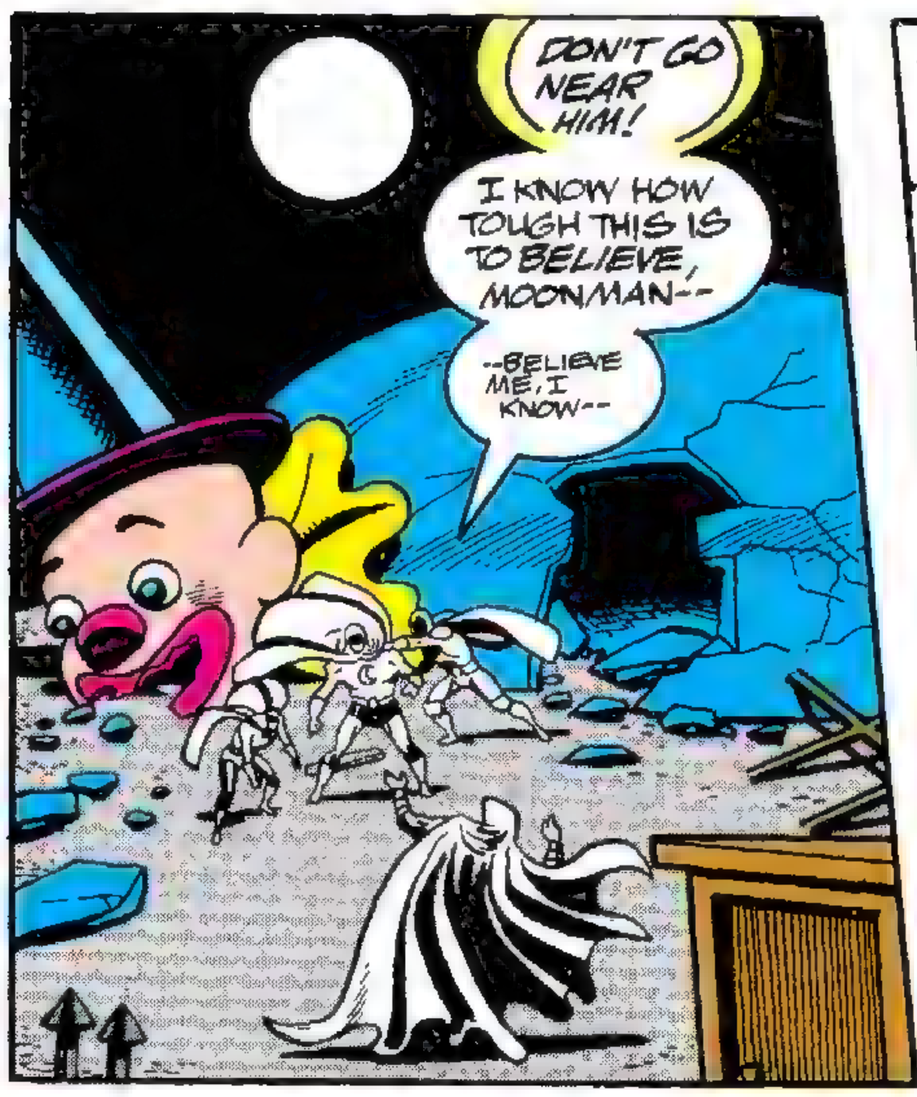

MONARCH PLAYING CARDS
REGENCY BICYCLE WORKS
ACME PENCILS
--AND COSMOPOLIS ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF US.
I AM AFRAID, HEROES, ONLY MOONSHADE WILL WALK AWAY FROM HERE ALIVE...

...YOU HAVE OFFICIALLY BEEN DECLARED REDUNDANT.
TRUST ME, GUYS--MOON-SHADE'S VERY BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH!


LOOKS LIKE WE FIND OURSELVES SIDING WITH THE UNDERDOG ONCE MORE, CRESCENT CRUSADER.
THE CRATER KID'S RIGHT, STRANGER...
...LET'S DO IT!
NO... WAIT--! STOP!


MOON KNIGHT SPEAKS FROM PAINFUL EXPERIENCE, FOOLS...
WUUFF...

...BUT OUR KIND SEEM TO PREFER LEARNING THE HARD WAY.
LEAPIN' LUNARANGS, MOONMAN...
...I REALLY DON'T LIKE THE WAY THIS CREEP'S LOOKING AT YOU.


DON'T GO NEAR HIM!
I KNOW HOW TOUGH THIS IS TO BELIEVE, MOONMAN--
--BELIEVE ME, I KNOW--

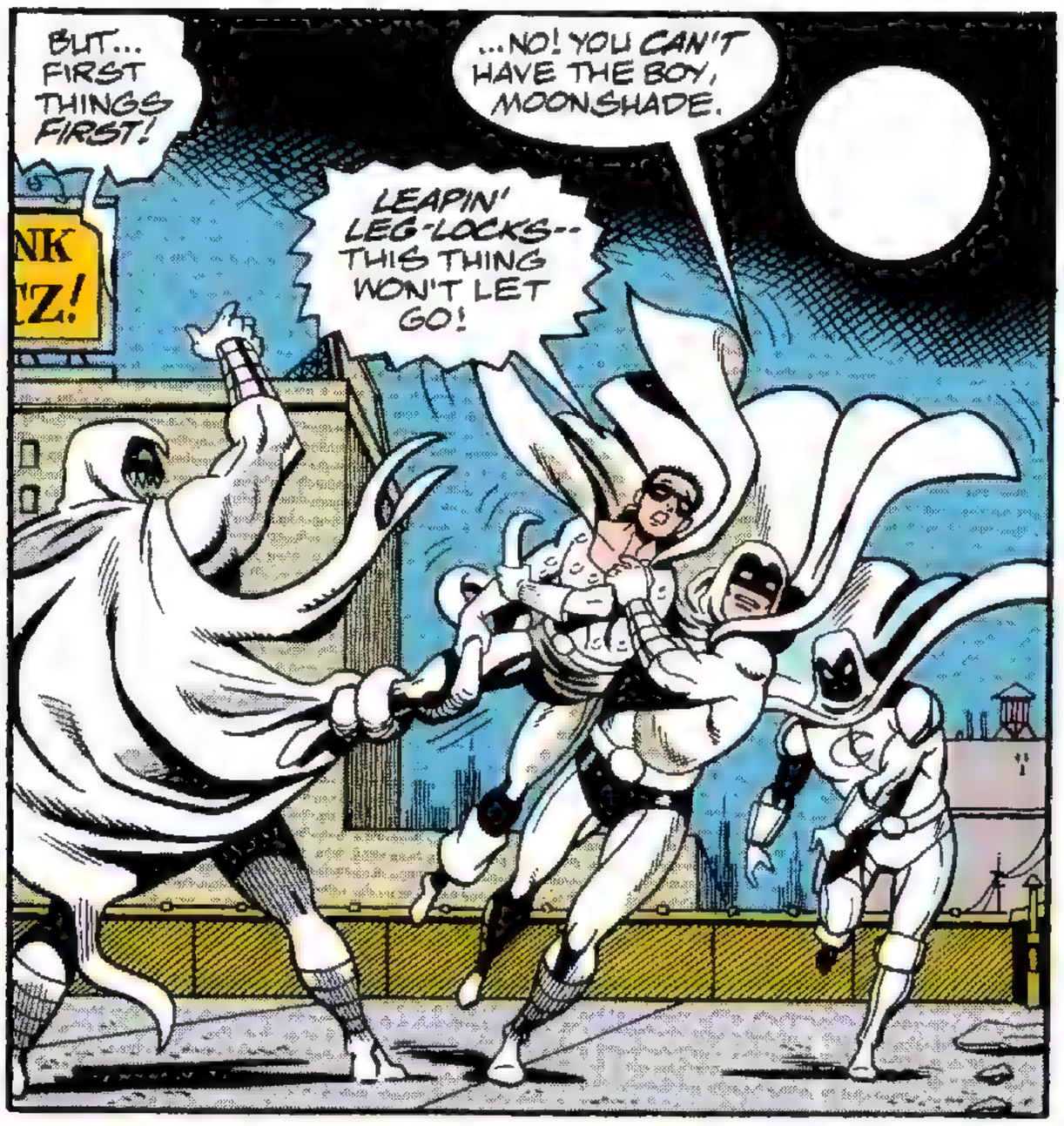
--BUT YOU AND I STEM FROM THE SAME FAMILY TREE... AND MOONSHADE'S THE ROTTEN APPLE THAT DEVOURED THAT TREE
WITH EACH OF US THAT OUR ROGUE KIN CONSUMES, MOONSHADE BECOMES MORE FORMIDABLE... WE APPEAR TO BE THE LAST TWO LEFT ON THE MENU.
ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN DECLINE DINNER POLITELY, "MOON KNIGHT"...?

NOT YET, COUSIN...

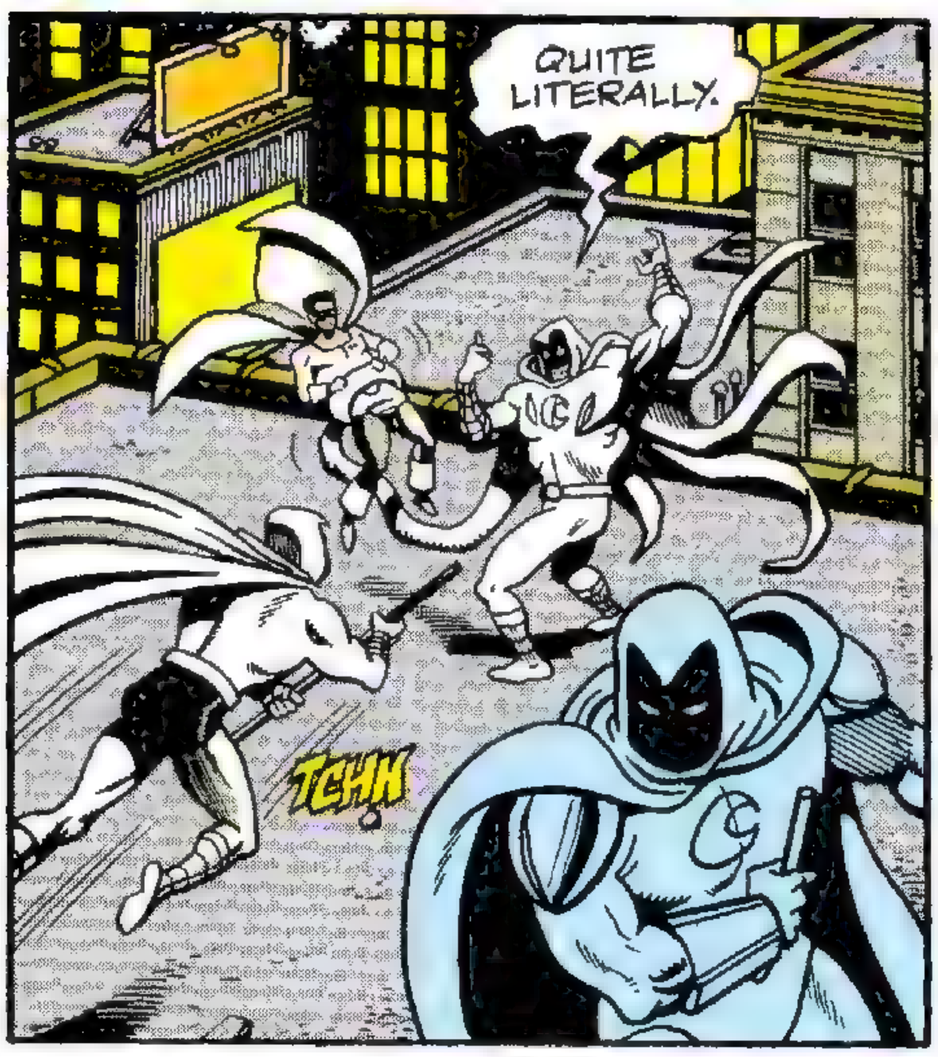
...JUST A THEORY.
HOW SOON THEY FORGET...
CHUK
CHUK

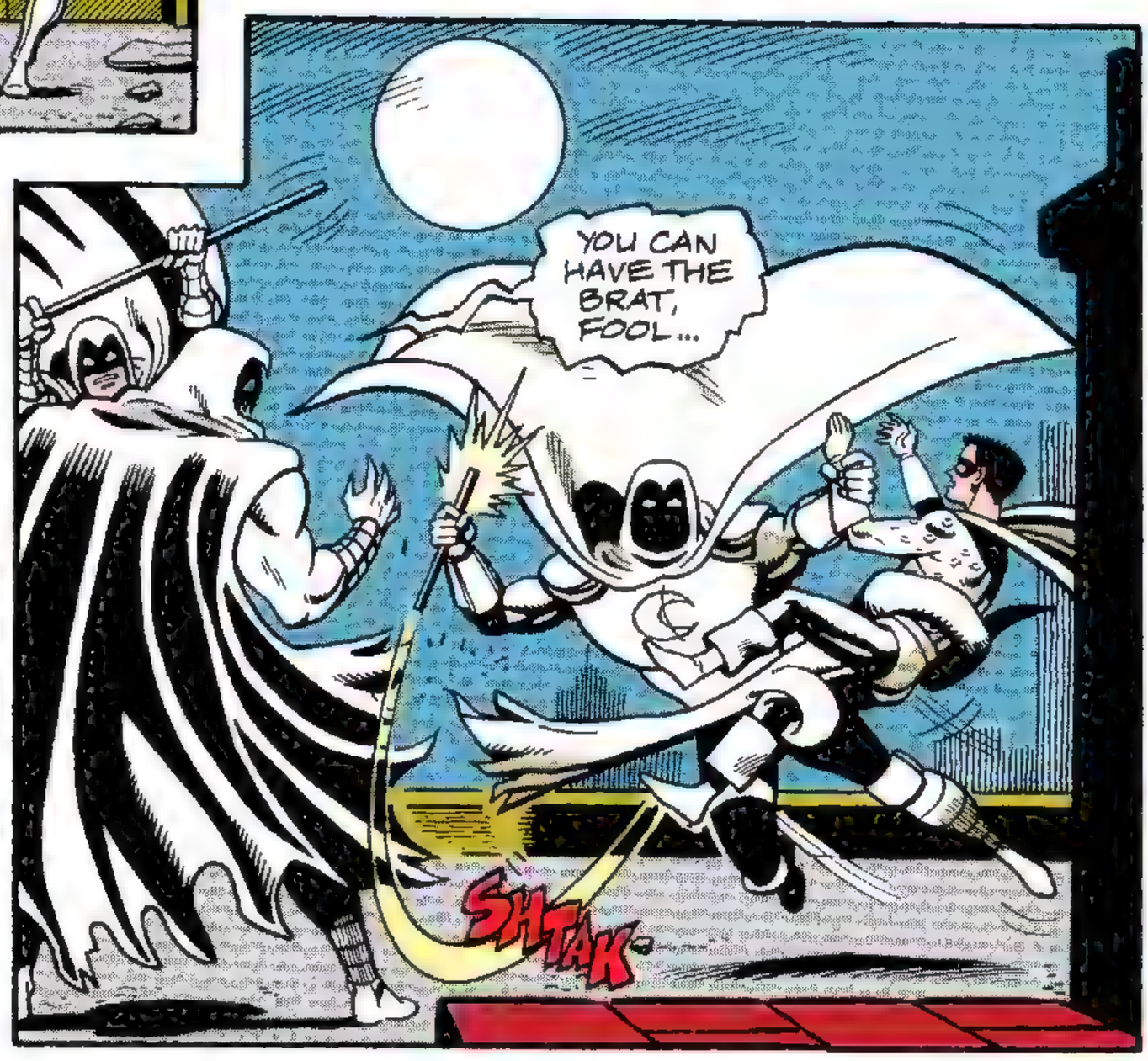
MY MULTI-DIMENSIONAL STATE ALREADY OFFERS MANY ADVANTAGES...
WITH THE ABSORPTION OF THE LAST TWO MOON KNIGHTS IN THE MULTIVERSE, I WILL FINALLY BE COMPLETE--

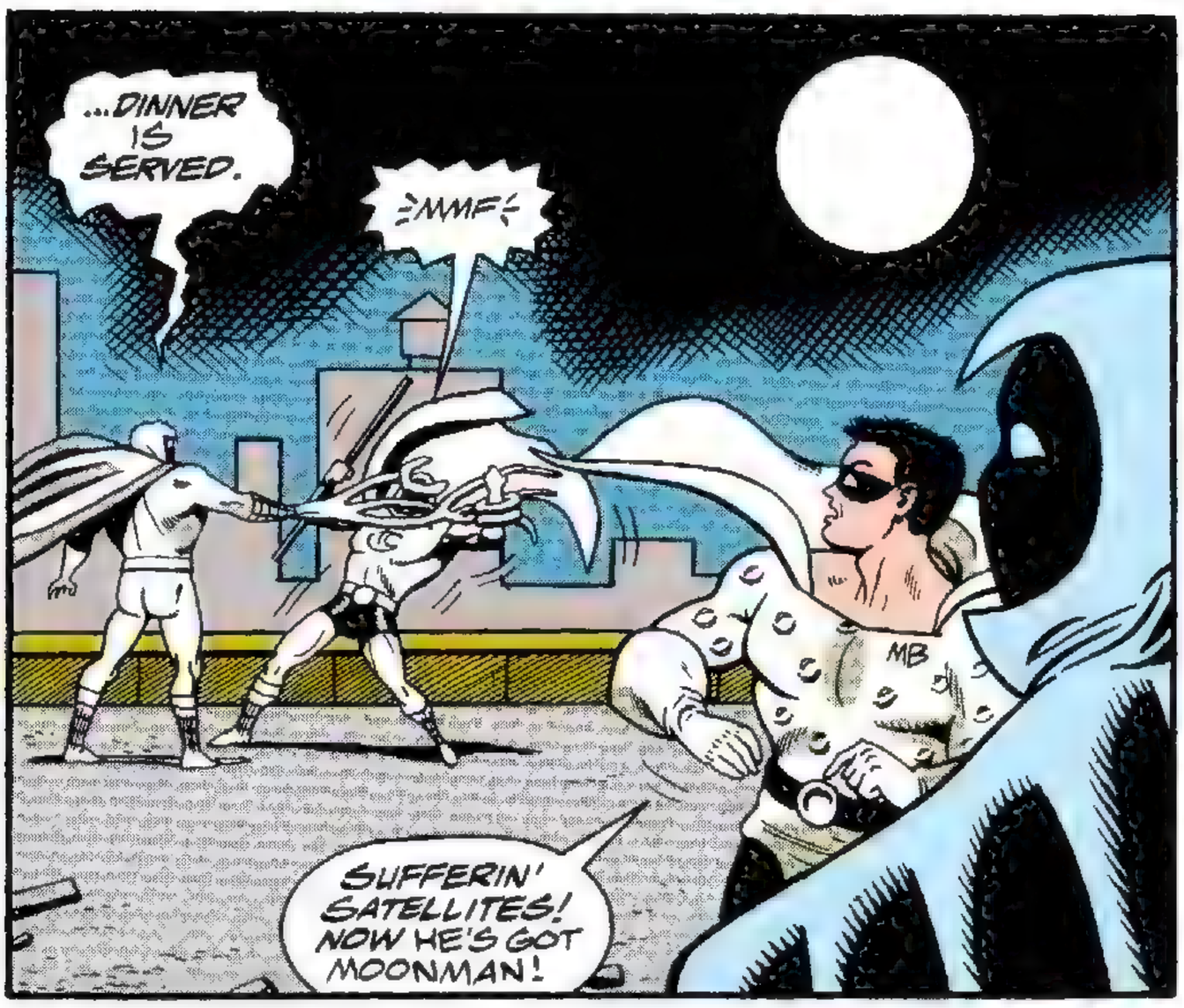
--AND OMNI-VERSAL!
THE DISTINCTION ESCAPES ME...


BUT... FIRST THINGS FIRST!
...NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE THE BOY, MOONSHADE.
LEAPIN' LEG-LOCKS-- THIS THING WON'T LET GO!

THEN I'LL TAKE IT TO THE SOU--
WAP
NO! YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO MOONSHADE'S "HANDS"!


QUITE LITERALLY.
TCHK

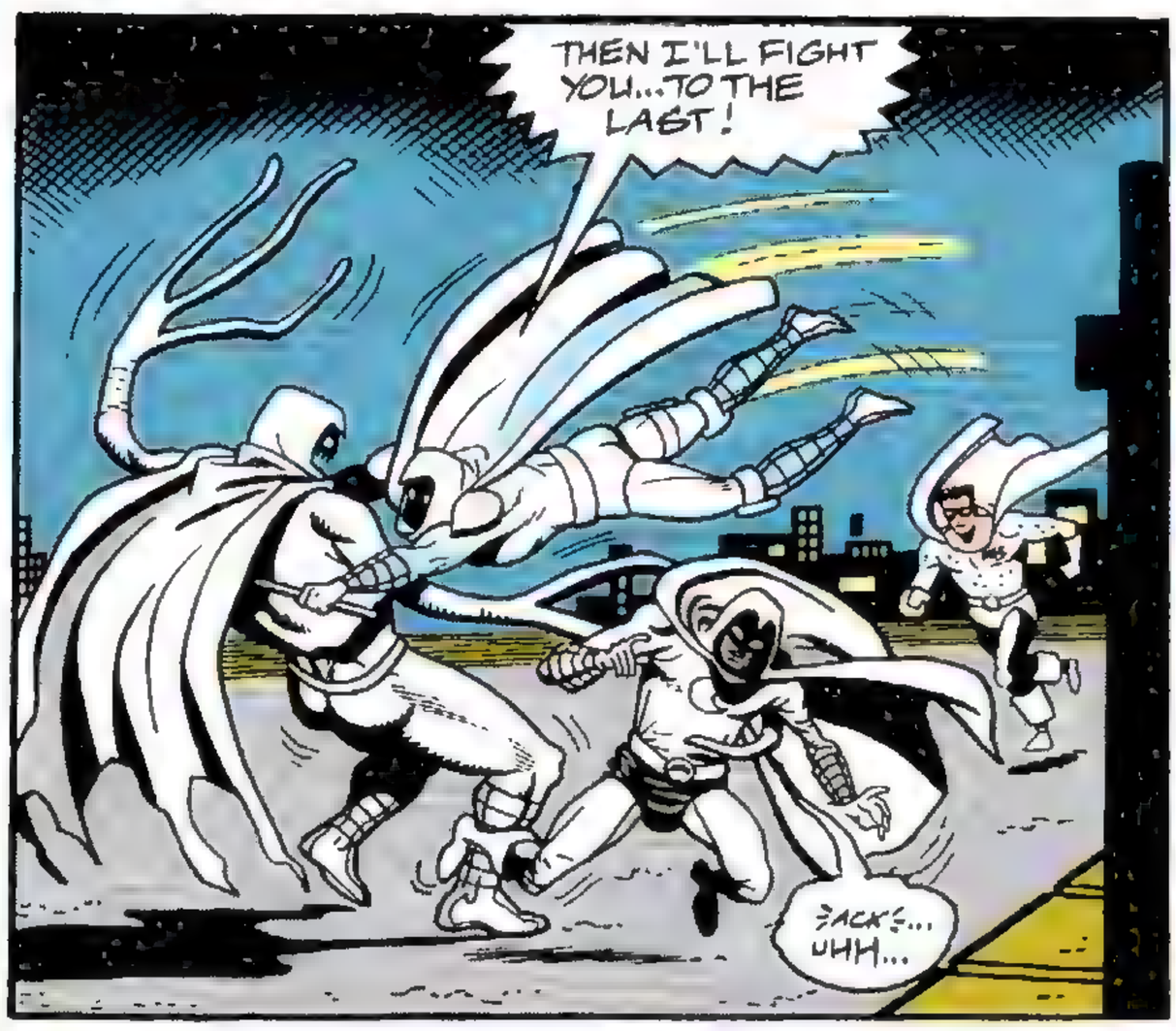

YOU CAN HAVE THE BRAT, FOOL...
SHTAK

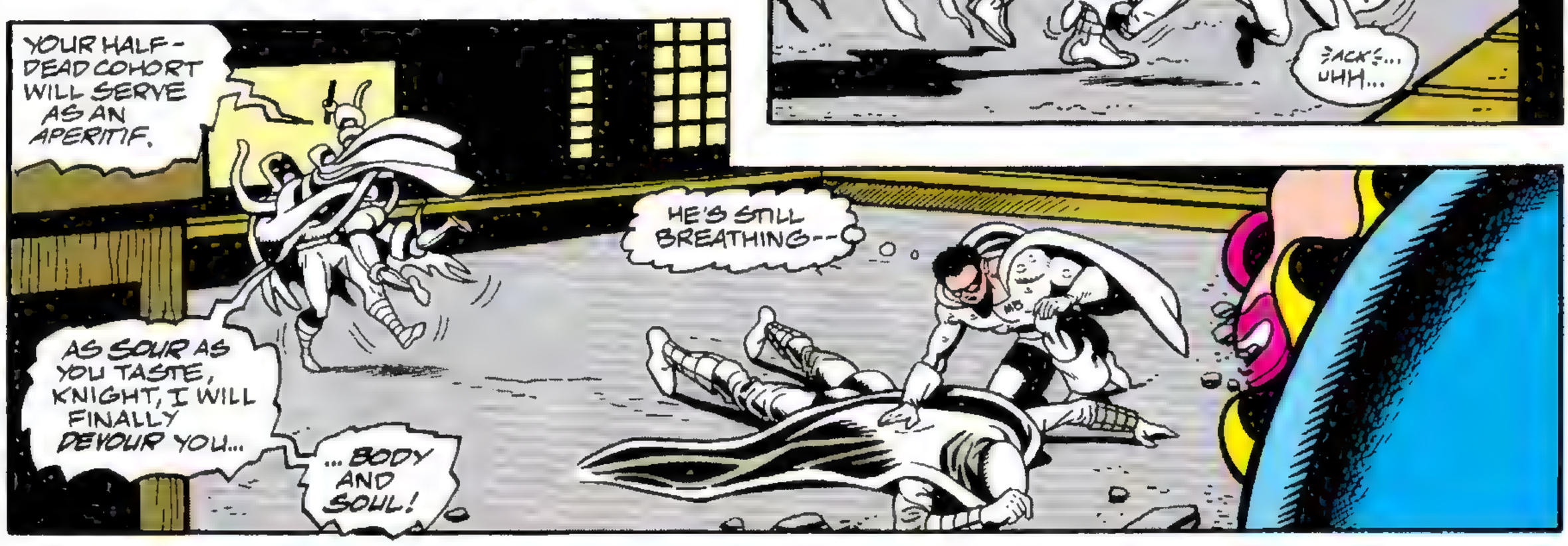

...DINNER IS SERVED.
=NMF=
MB
SUFFERIN' SATELLITES! NOW HE'S GOT MOONMAN!

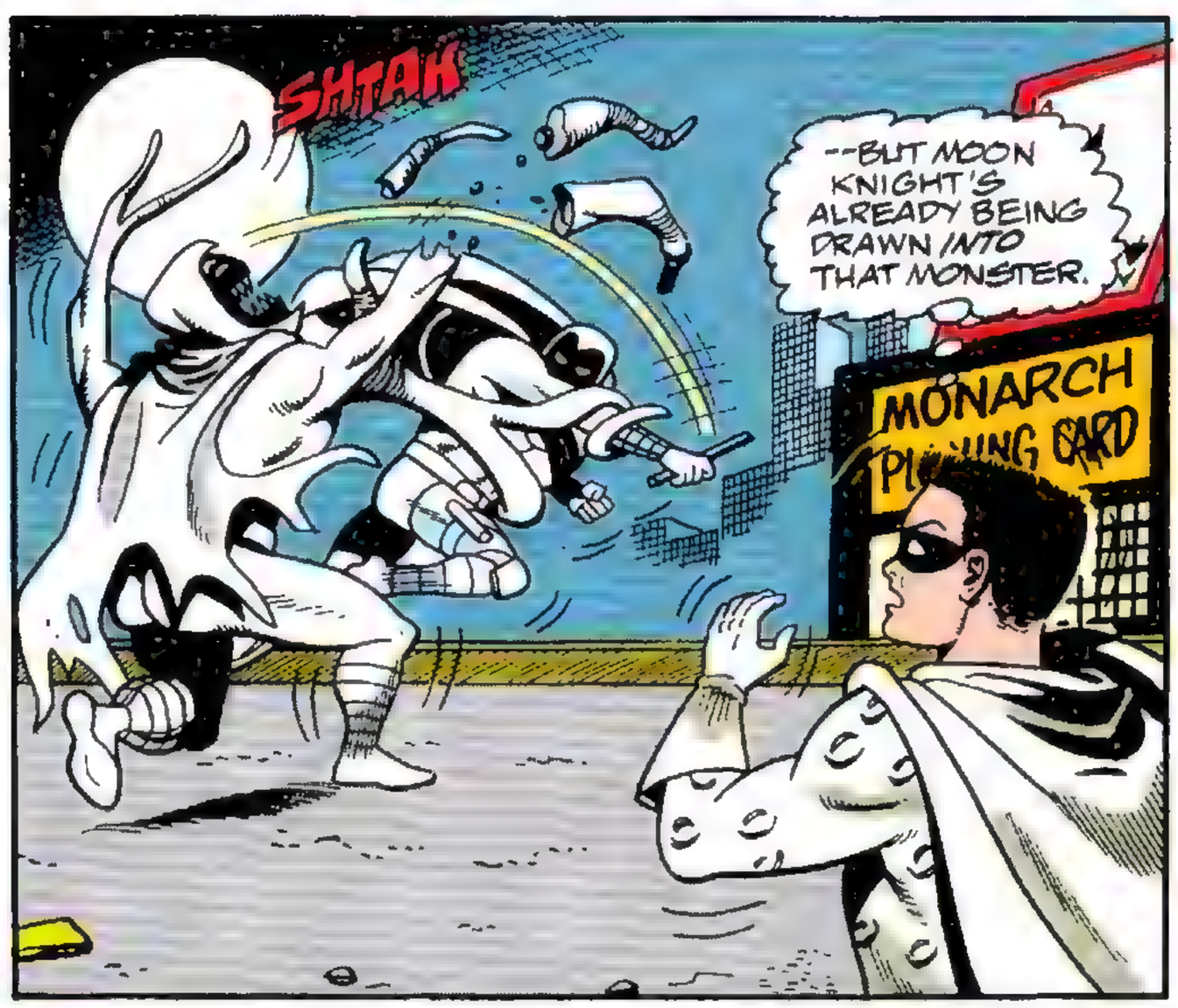
HE NEVER HAD ANY REAL INTEREST IN YOU, MOONBOY...
...MOONSHADE JUST USED YOU TO LURE YOUR PARTNER IN FOR THE KILL.

UH UHHHH...
I MAY NOT BE TOO COMPORTABLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF OTHER VERSIONS OF MYSELF RUNNING AROUND THE MULTIVERSE...
...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU MURDER ANOTHER LIVING BEING, DEMON.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOU'VE SEEN ME VANQUISH ALL THE OTHER MOON KNIGHTS...DOWN TO THIS VERY LAST ONE!


THEN I'LL FIGHT YOU...TO THE LAST!
ZACK!... UHH...


YOUR HALF-DEAD COHORT WILL SERVE AS AN APERITIF.
AS SOUR AS YOU TASTE, KNIGHT, I WILL FINALLY DEVOUR YOU...
...BODY AND SOUL!
HE'S STILL BREATHING--


SHTAK
--BUT MOON KNIGHT'S ALREADY BEING DRAWN INTO THAT MONSTER.
MONARCH

IF THE ONLY TRUE REALITY IS IN YOUR IMMEDIATE AREA, MOONSHADE, THEN I'LL WORK WITH THAT...
YEEEEAA--

ARGH!

...FROM THE *INSIDE-OUT!*

TCHK

FZZT

ZZAKOOM

OLD... DECREPIT...

ALIVE.

WHAT DID... YOU *DO*...TO MOONSHADE...?

I ACTIVATED MY ADAMANTIUM TRUNCHEON'S *CONDUCTIVE CHARGE* AS I EXTENDED IT INTO BO-STICK MODE FROM WITHIN HIM AND--

ADAMANTIUM...?

AN INCREDIBLY RESILIENT MAN-MADE METALLIC *ALLOY*... THAT JUST MAY BE AS *RARE* IN THE MULTI-VERSE AS IT IS ON MY EARTH.

WHEN I FIRST ENCOUN-TERED MY DOPPELGANGER, I NOTICED HIS VULNERABILITY TO THAT METAL. THE BATTLE *CONFIRMED* MY SUSPICIONS. I COULD TRY TO ELECTROCUTE HIM FROM THE *INSIDE*...

...BUT I STILL HAD *NO IDEA* IF THAT STUNT WOULD WORK.

IT'S LEFT ME *STRANDED* IN... COSMOPOLIS, OF ALL PLACES-- WITH AN OBSO-LETE "MOONMAN".

IRONIC. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, I'M THE *LAST* FUNC-TIONING "MOON KNIGHT" IN THE OMNIVERSE...

...BUT, UNDER THIS ARMOR, MY BODY IS *UNCONTROLLABLY DETERIORATING* AWAY TO...

--NOTHING!

OUR "INFINITY WAR" CROSSOVER CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE WITH THE ***SUPER-BRAWL*** *TO* ***END*** *ALL* ***SUPER-BRAWLS*** *IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA... AND THE* ***BEGINNING*** *OF THE* ***END*** *FOR* ***MOON KNIGHT!***

"I, THANOS"
FROM *MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #108-111*

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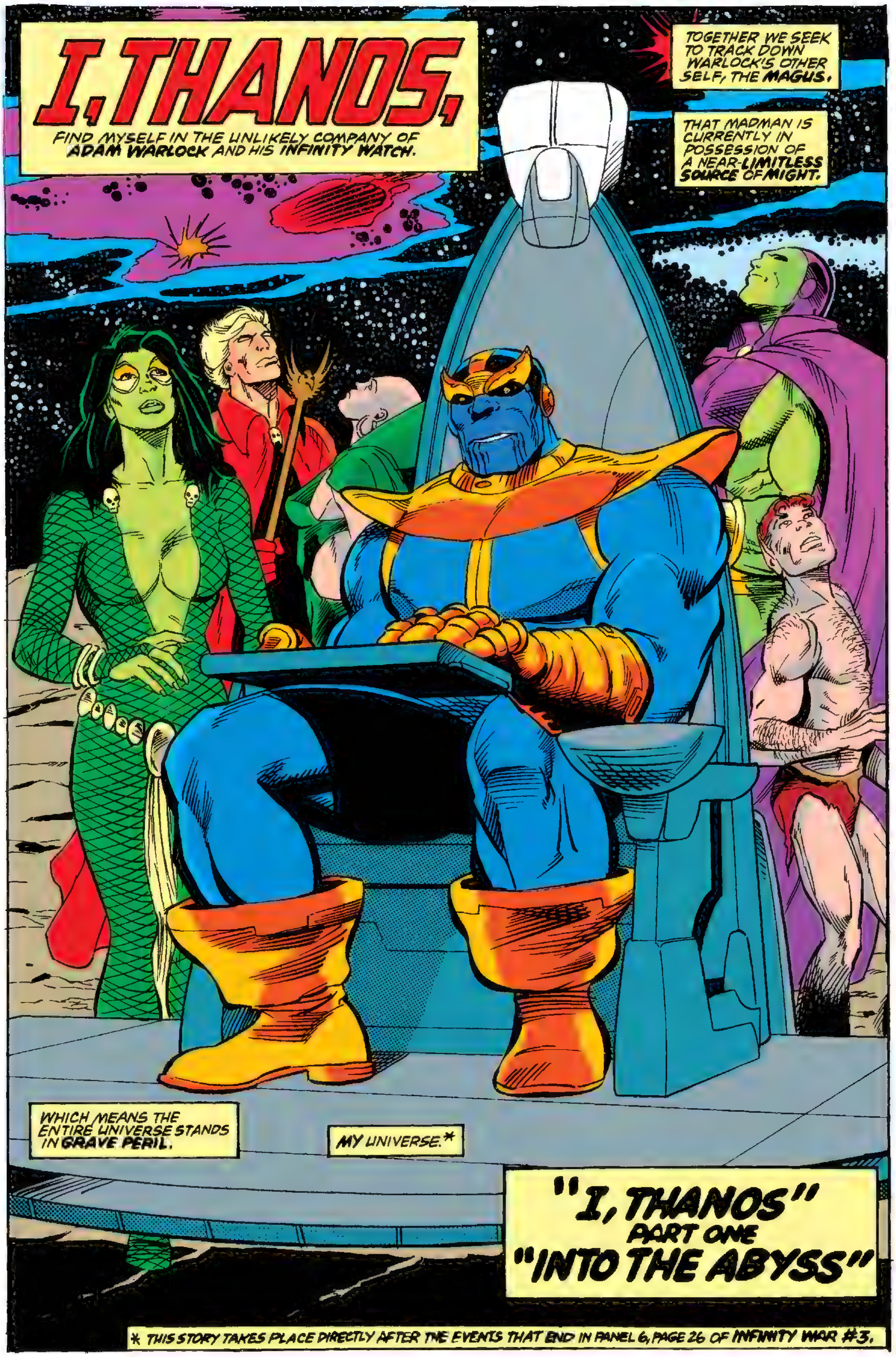
INKERS: TIM TUOHY (#108) & SHAWN McMANUS (#109-111) • COLORISTS: JOHN KALISZ (#108-109 & #111)
WITH KEVIN TINSLEY & SARRA MOSSOFF (#110) • LETTERERS: MICHAEL HIGGINS (#108-110) WITH
STEVE DUTRO & DAVE SHARPE (#111) • ASSISTANT EDITOR: MARK POWERS • EDITOR: TERRY KAVANAGH


I, THANOS,
FIND MYSELF IN THE UNLIKELY COMPANY OF ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS INFINITY WATCH.
TOGETHER WE SEEK TO TRACK DOWN WARLOCK'S OTHER SELF, THE MAGUS.
THAT MADMAN IS CURRENTLY IN POSSESSION OF A NEAR-LIMITLESS SOURCE OF MIGHT.
WHICH MEANS THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE STANDS IN GRAVE PERIL.
MY UNIVERSE.*
"I, THANOS"
PART ONE
"INTO THE ABYSS"
* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE DIRECTLY AFTER THE EVENTS THAT END IN PANEL 6, PAGE 26 OF INFINITY WAR #3.

'TIS A SITUATION I FIND INTOLERABLE.

HOW'S RECALIBRATING THE TRACKING UNIT GOING, THANOS?

SLOWLY, GAMORA.

ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES.

THEN CONFRONTATION.

BUT WITH CONFRONTATION COMES OPPORTUNITY.

THERE ARE VAST RESERVES OF POWER AT PLAY IN THIS ENCOUNTER.

POWER WHOSE CONTROL MIGHT EASILY BE GAINED BY AN ENTERPRISING SOUL.

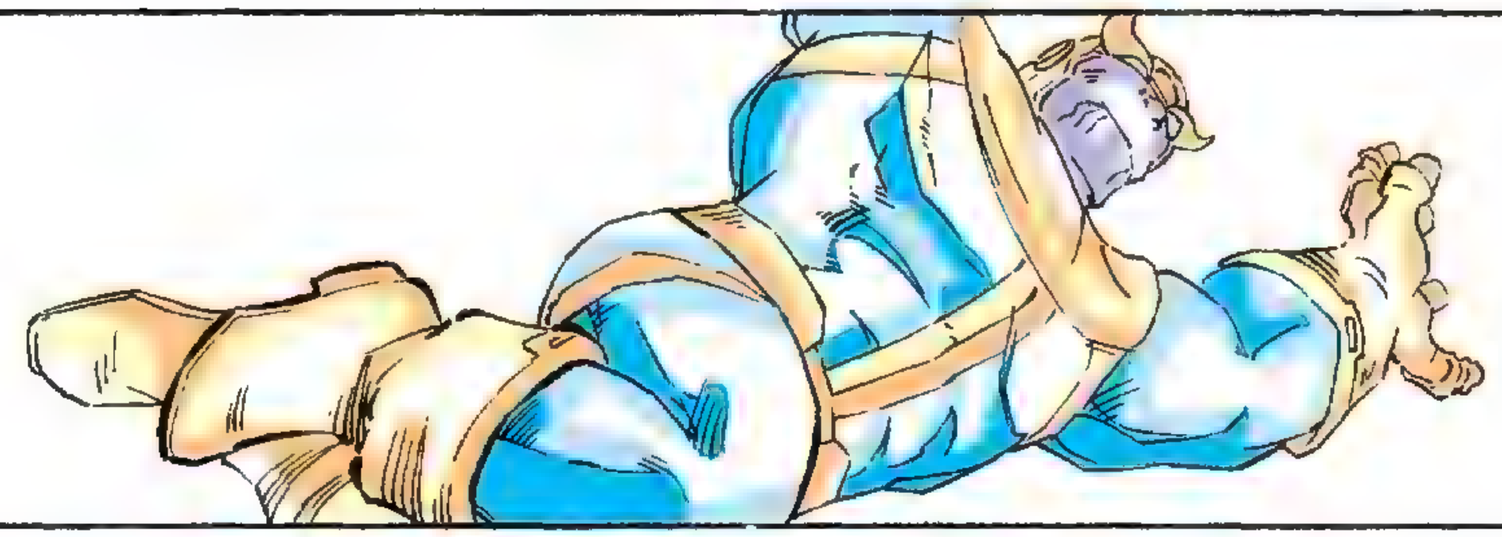
AND ANY WHO WOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT ACQUISITION SHOULD BEWARE.

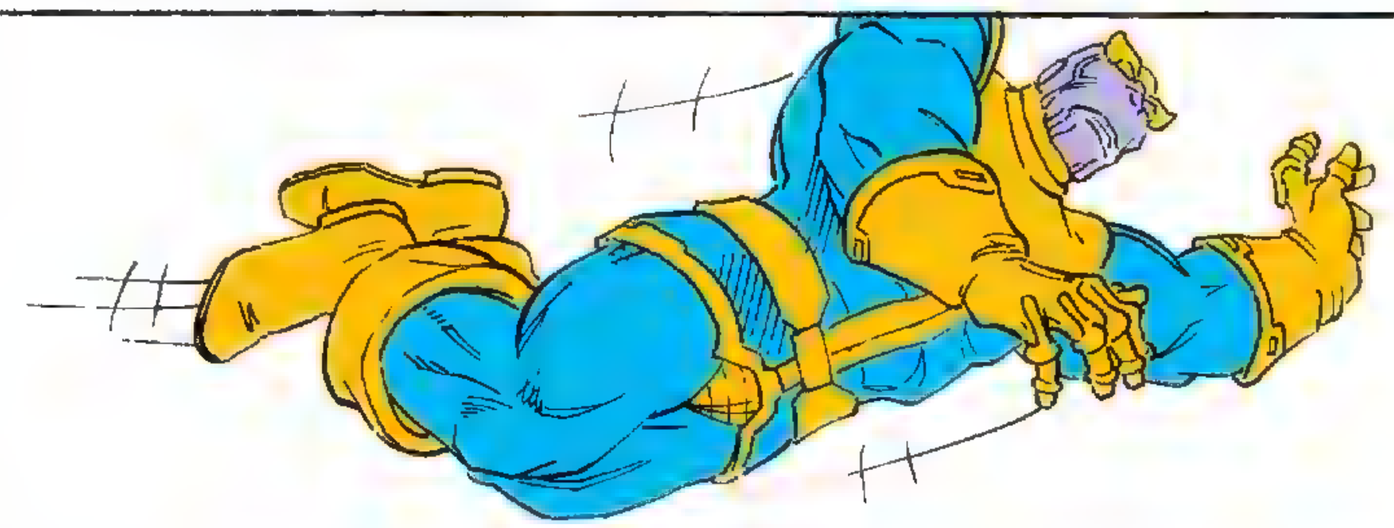
FOR EVEN THOUGH I HAVE ABANDONED MY DREAMS OF UNIVERSAL DOMINATION, I STILL--

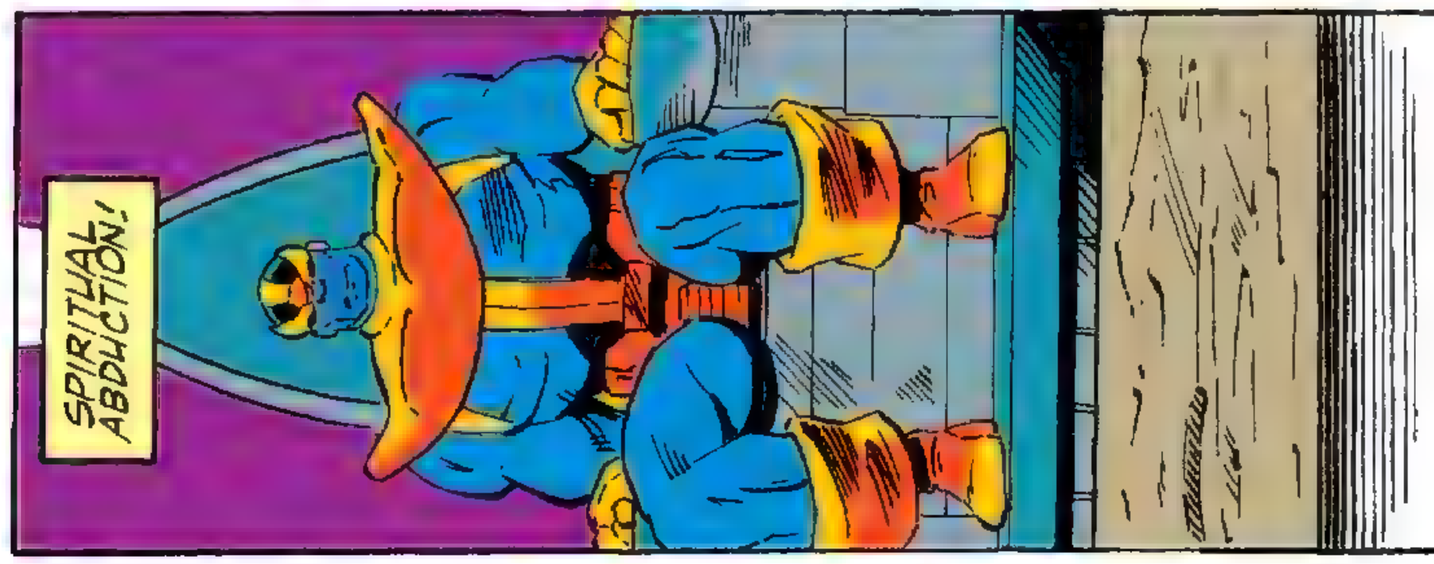
--I...

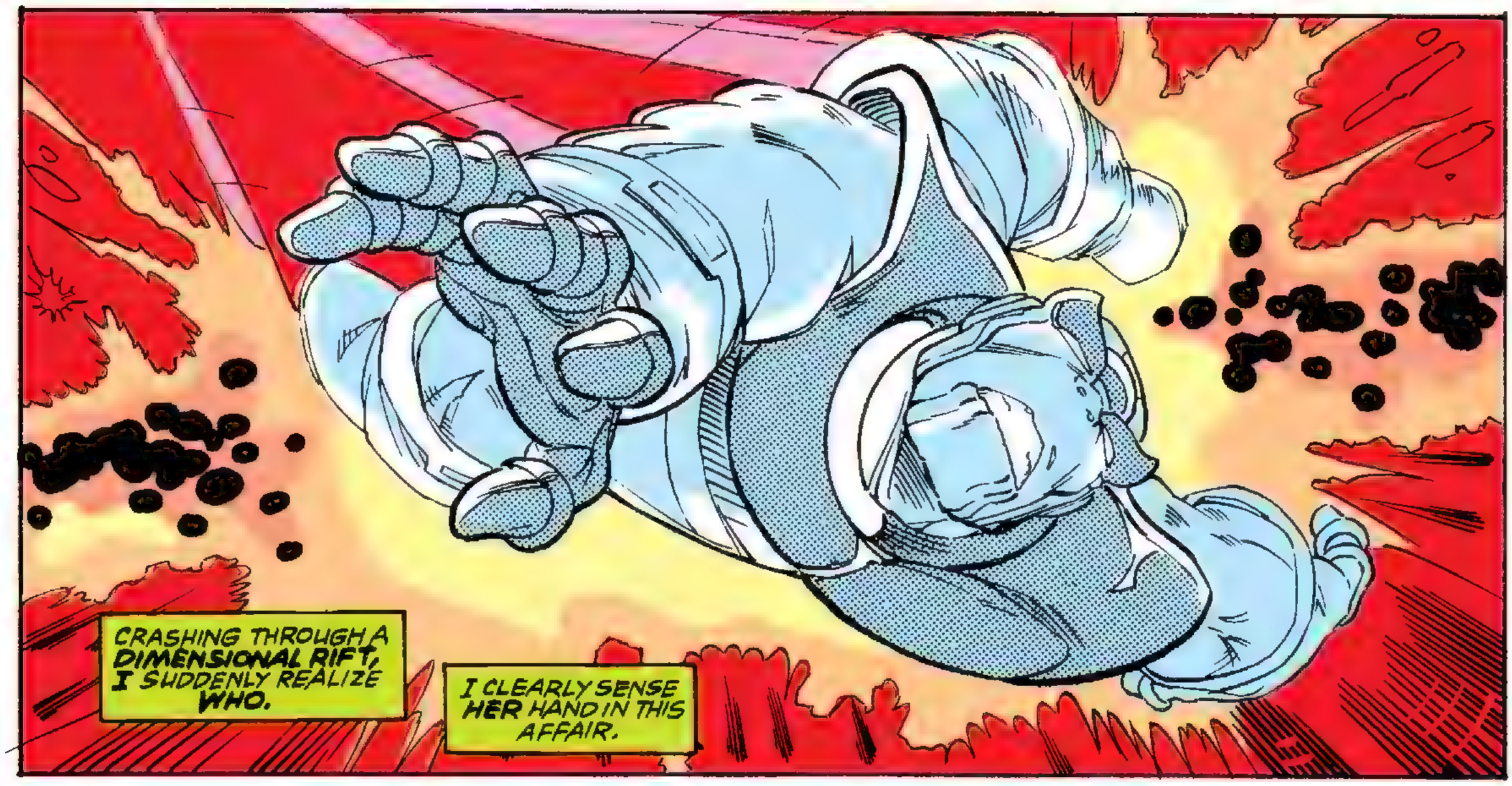
...Zero.

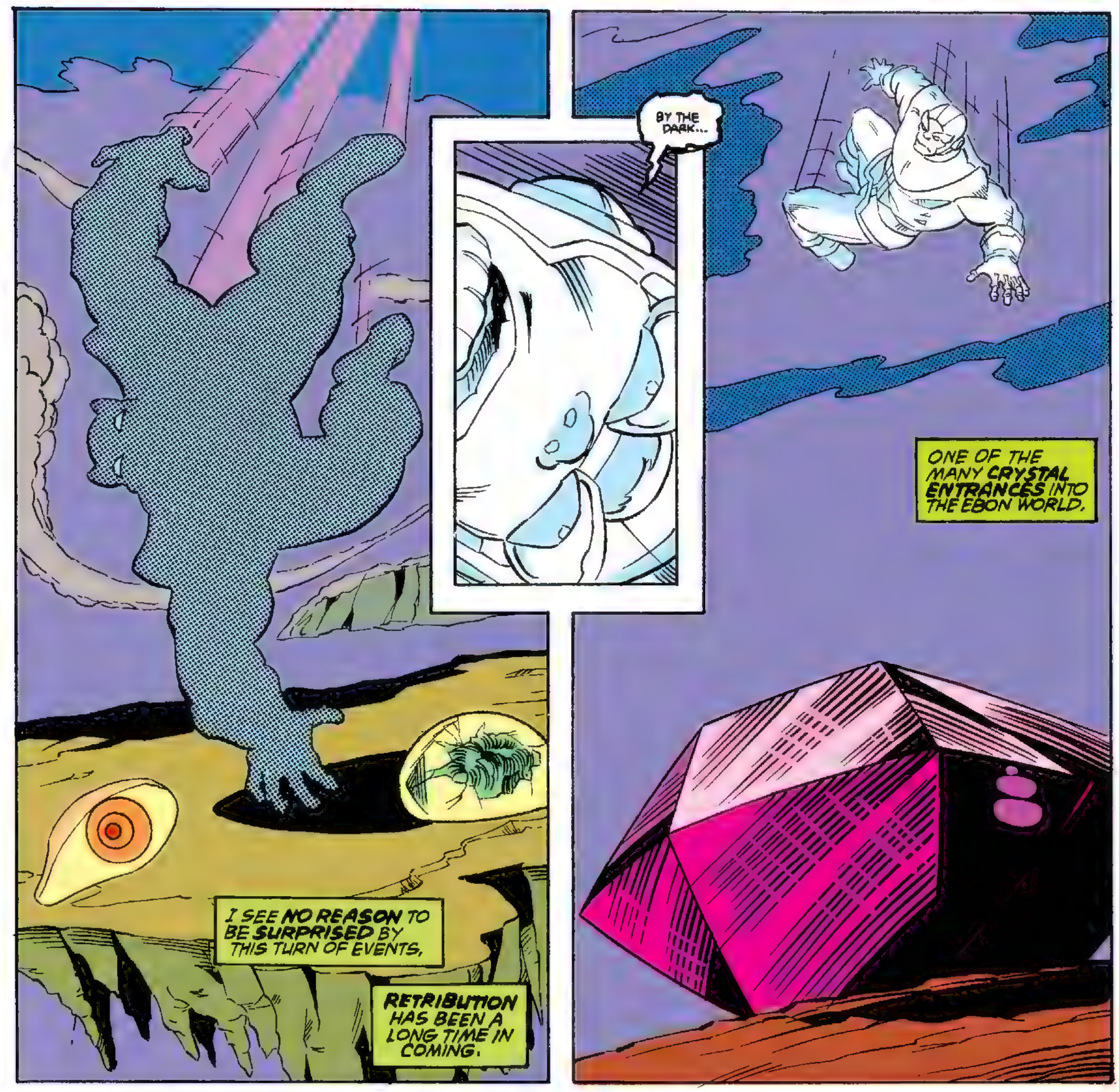
...WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?!



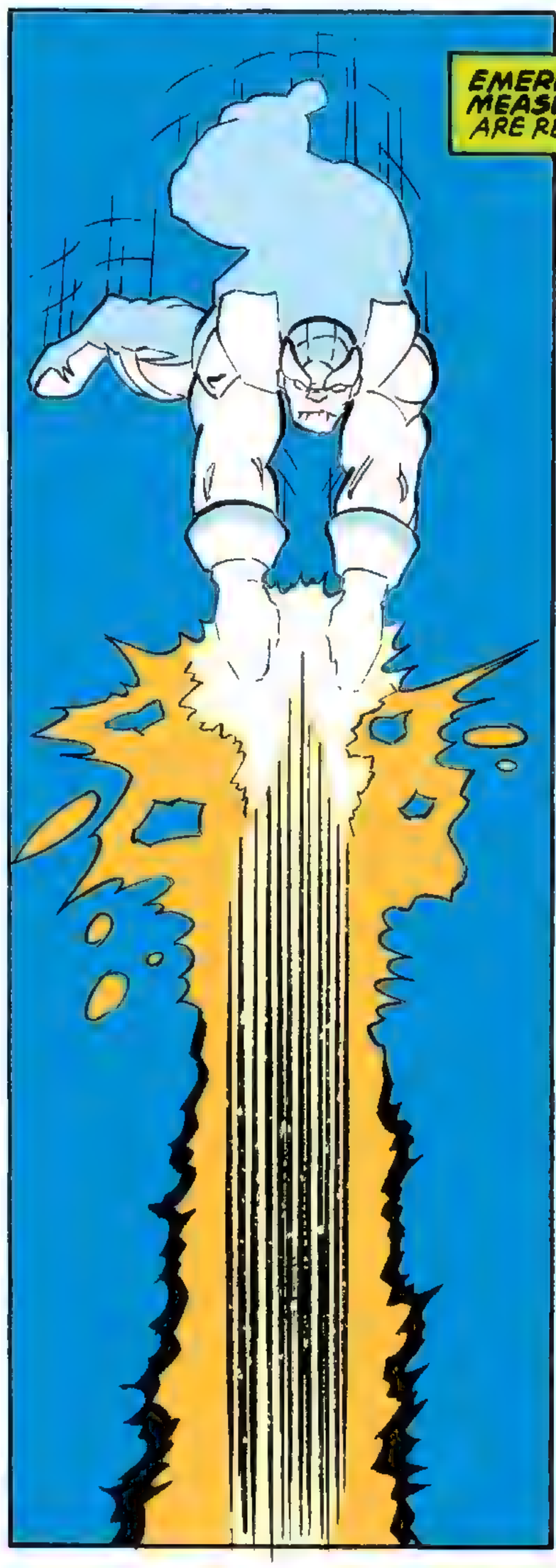

WHO?

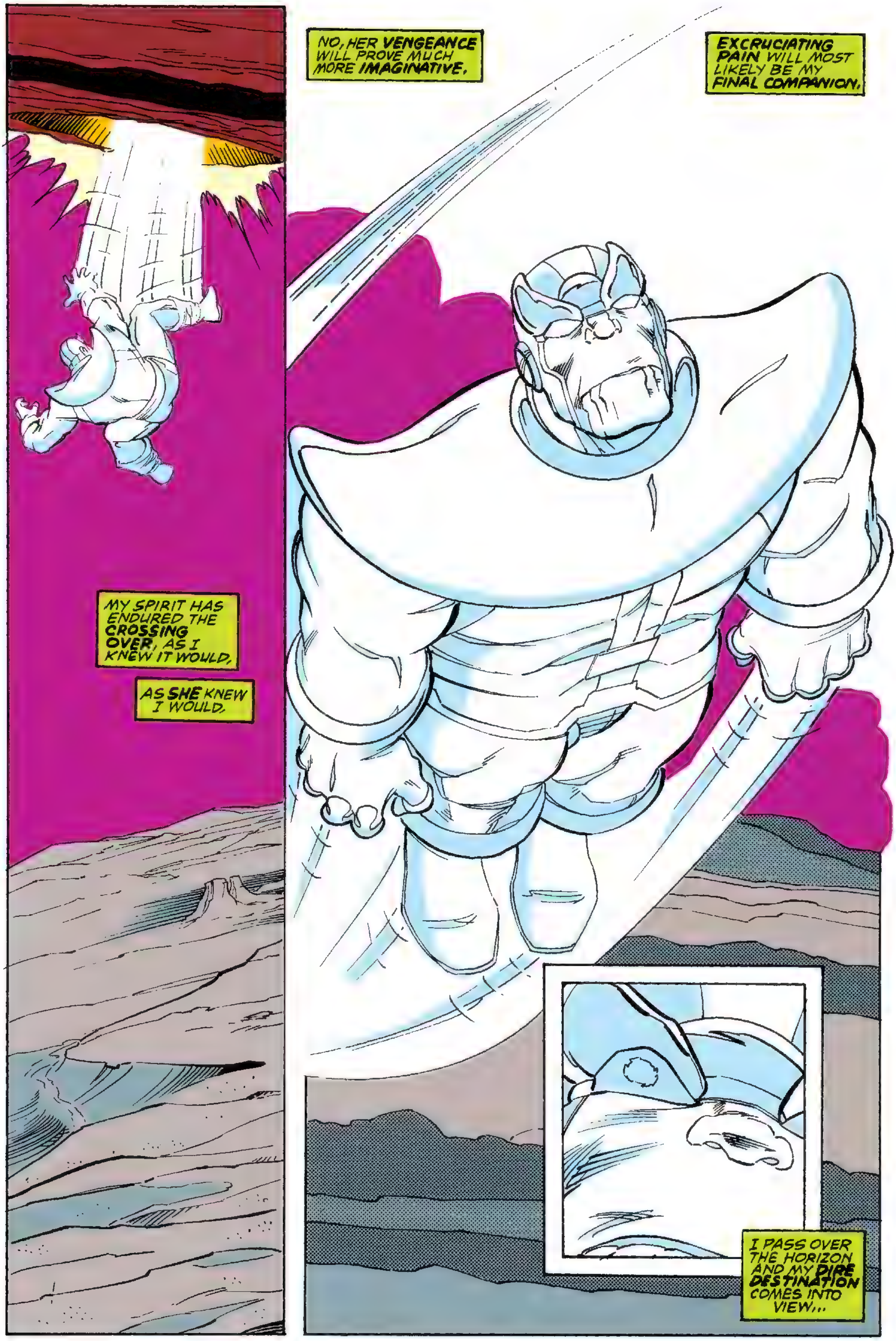

SPIRITUAL ABDUCTION!

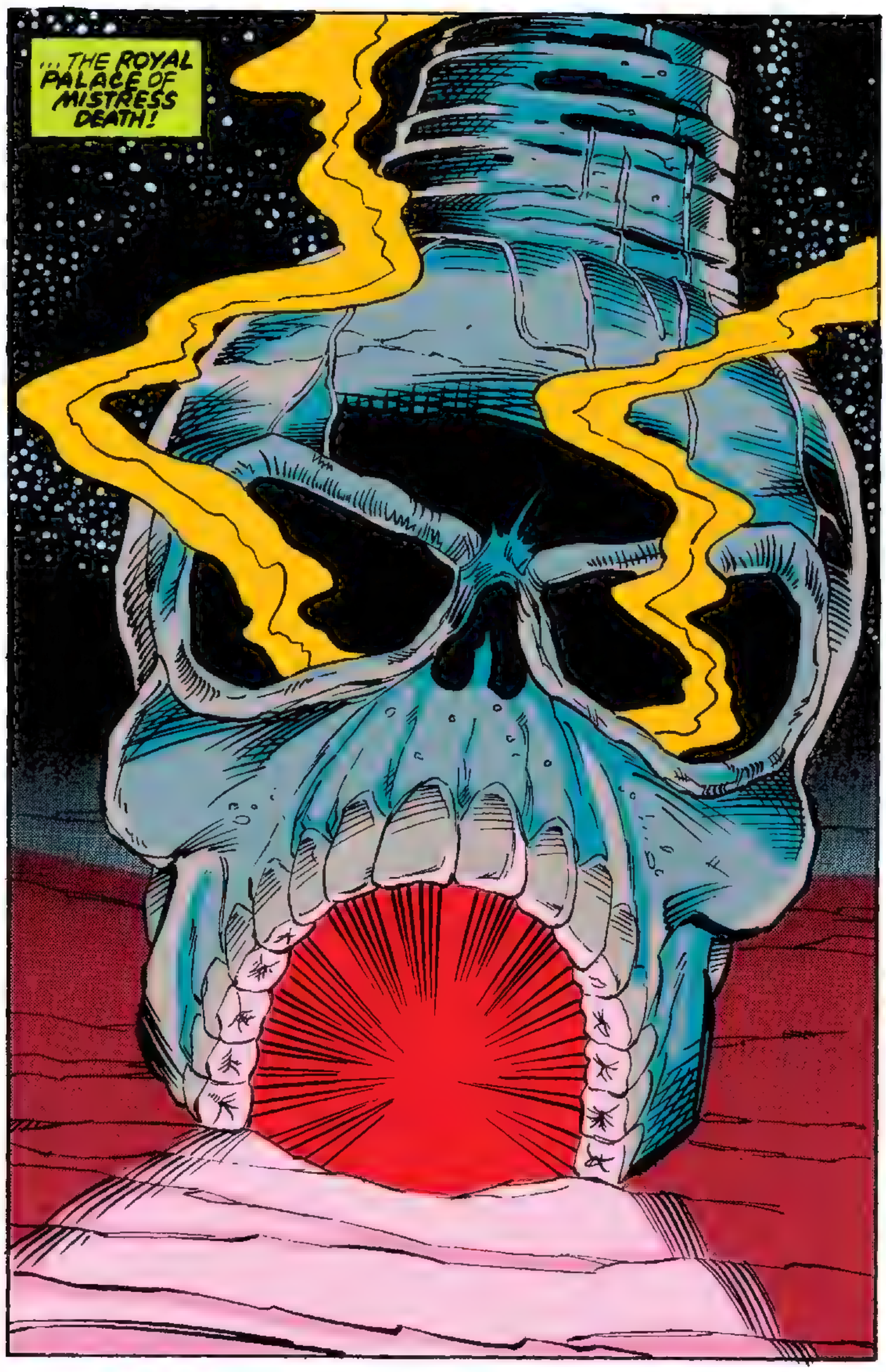

CRASHING THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL RIFT, I SUDDENLY REALIZE WHO.
I CLEARLY SENSE HER HAND IN THIS AFFAIR.

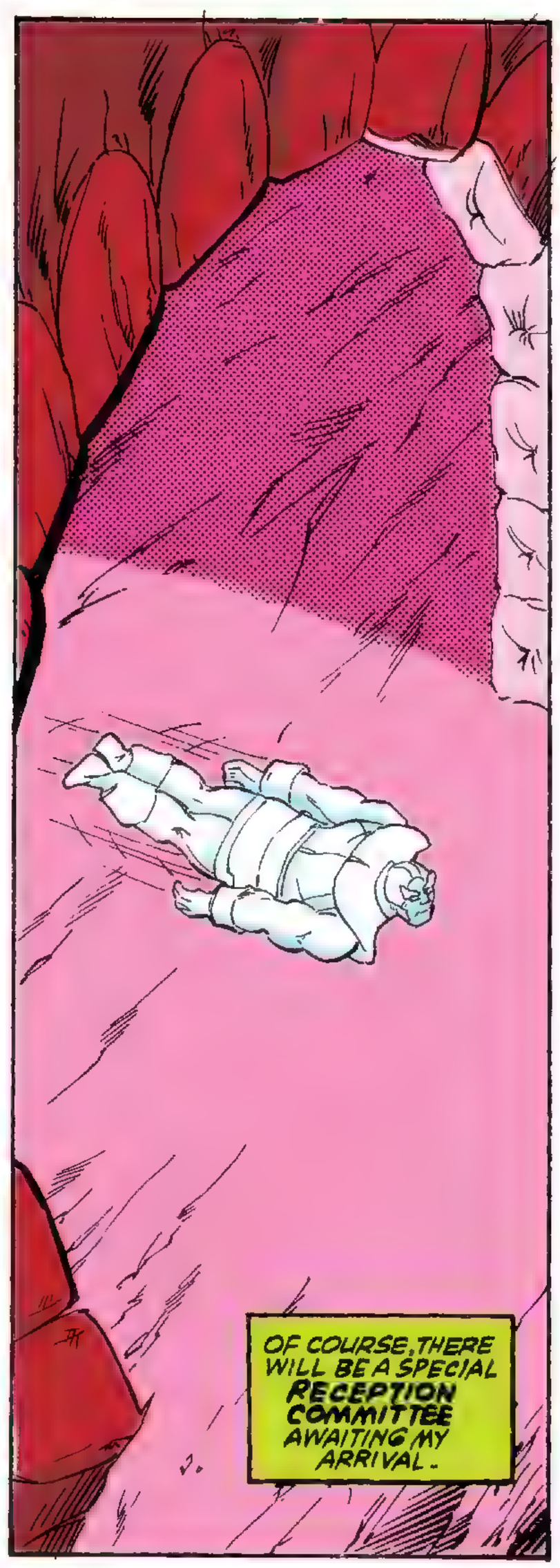

BY THE DARK...
ONE OF THE MANY CRYSTAL ENTRANCES INTO THE EBON WORLD.
I SEE NO REASON TO BE SURPRISED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS,
RETRIBUTION HAS BEEN A LONG TIME IN COMING.

BUT IN THIS STATE I WILL NOT SURVIVE THE TRANSITION!


EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE REQUIRED,


NO, HER VENGEANCE WILL PROVE MUCH MORE IMAGINATIVE.
EXCRUCIATING PAIN WILL MOST LIKELY BE MY FINAL COMPANION.
MY SPIRIT HAS ENDURED THE CROSSING OVER, AS I KNEW IT WOULD,
AS SHE KNEW I WOULD,
I PASS OVER THE HORIZON AND MY DIRE DESTINATION COMES INTO VIEW...

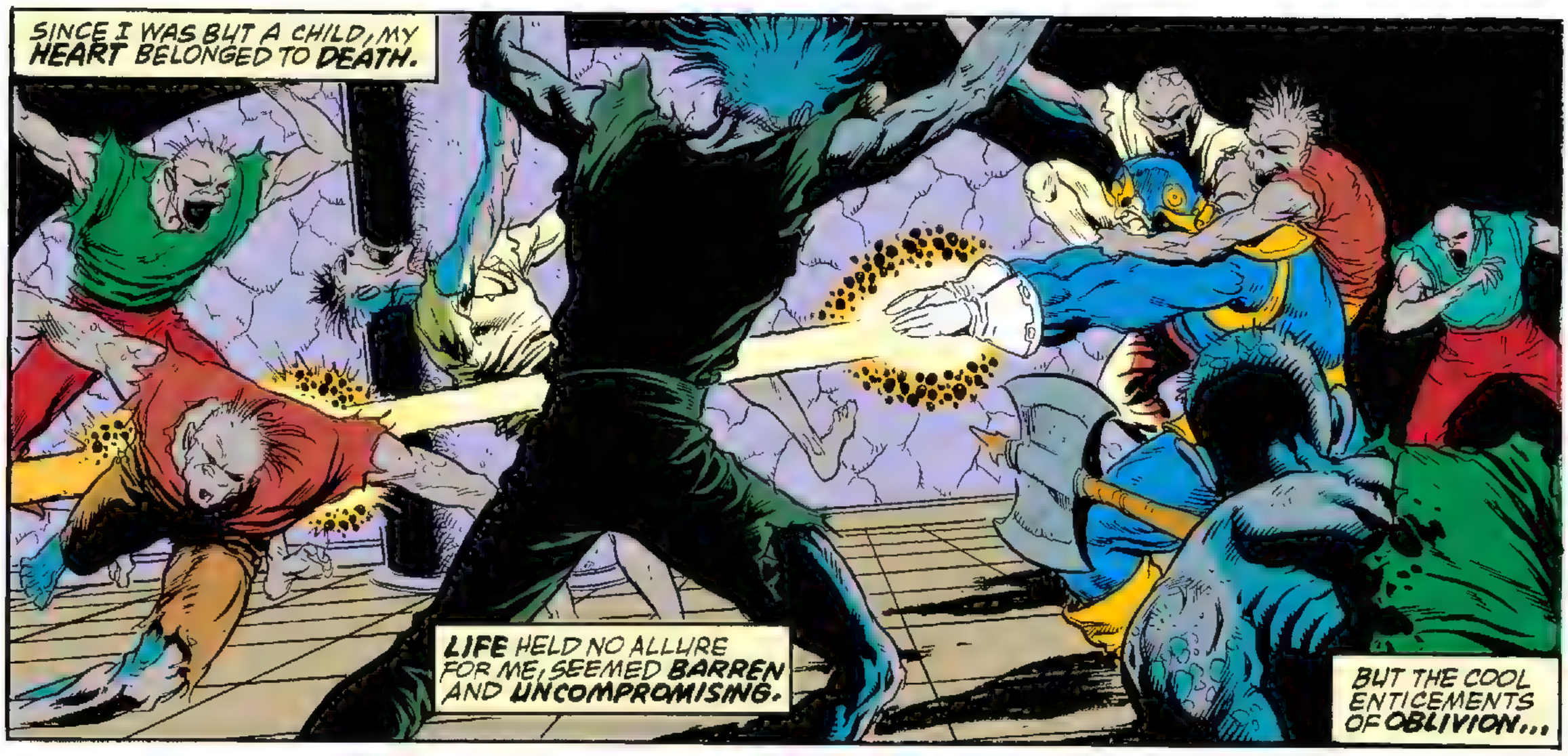

...THE ROYAL PALACE OF MISTRESS DEATH!


OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE AWAITING MY ARRIVAL.

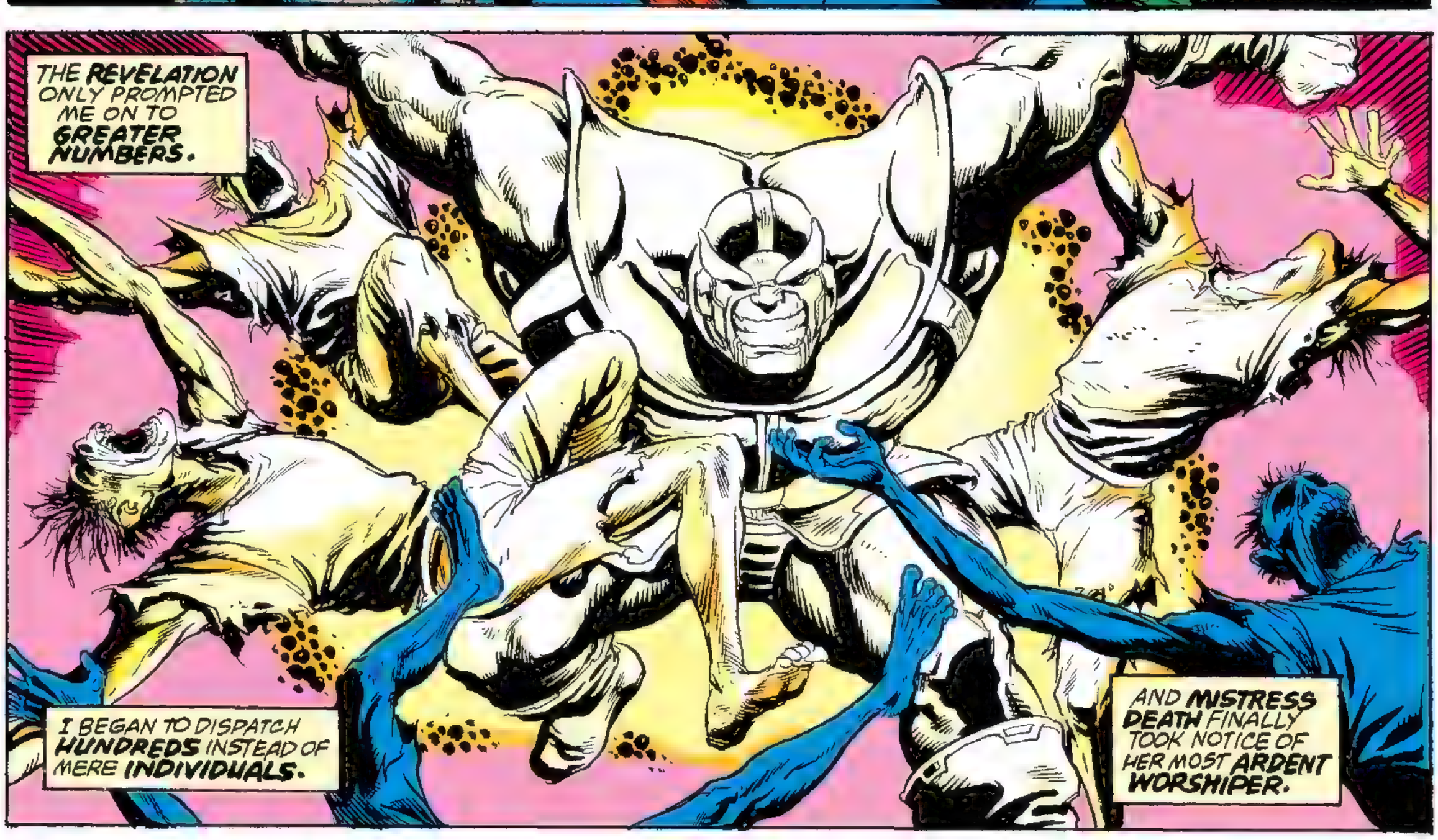
EXACTLY WHO I EXPECTED.

MISTRESS DEATH'S
LEGION
OF THE
DOOMED!
CONTINUES
NEXT ISSUE...

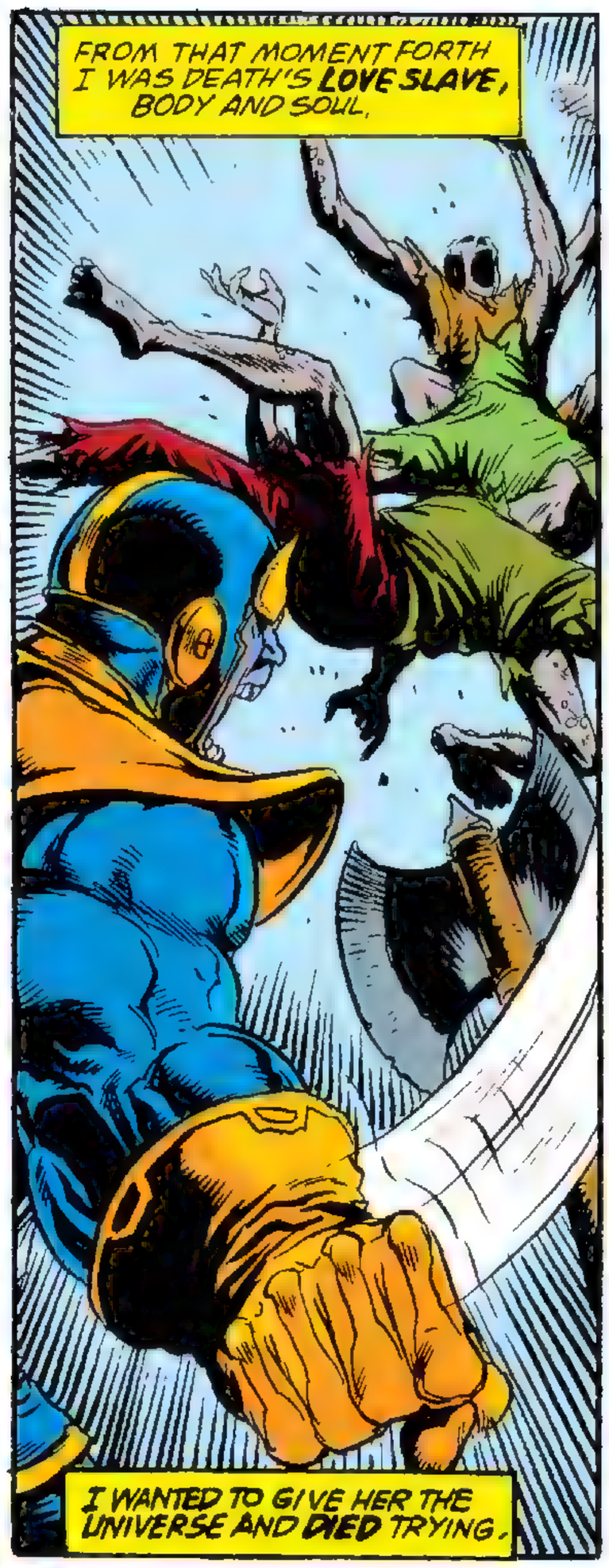
I, THANOS,
AM ATTACKED BY MISTRESS DEATH'S LEGION OF THE DOOMED,
I AM ASSAULTED BY THE MINIONS OF HER WHOM I ONCE VOWED TO LOVE FOREVER,
HER DARK THRALLS SEEK TO PULL ME BACK INTO THEIR DECOMPOSING RANKS.
I SHALL NOT ALLOW THIS!
"I, THANOS"
PART TWO
"LEGION OF THE DOOMED"


SINCE I WAS BUT A CHILD, MY HEART BELONGED TO DEATH.
LIFE HELD NO ALLURE FOR ME, SEEMED BARREN AND UNCOMPROMISING.
BUT THE COOL ENTICEMENTS OF OBLIVION...

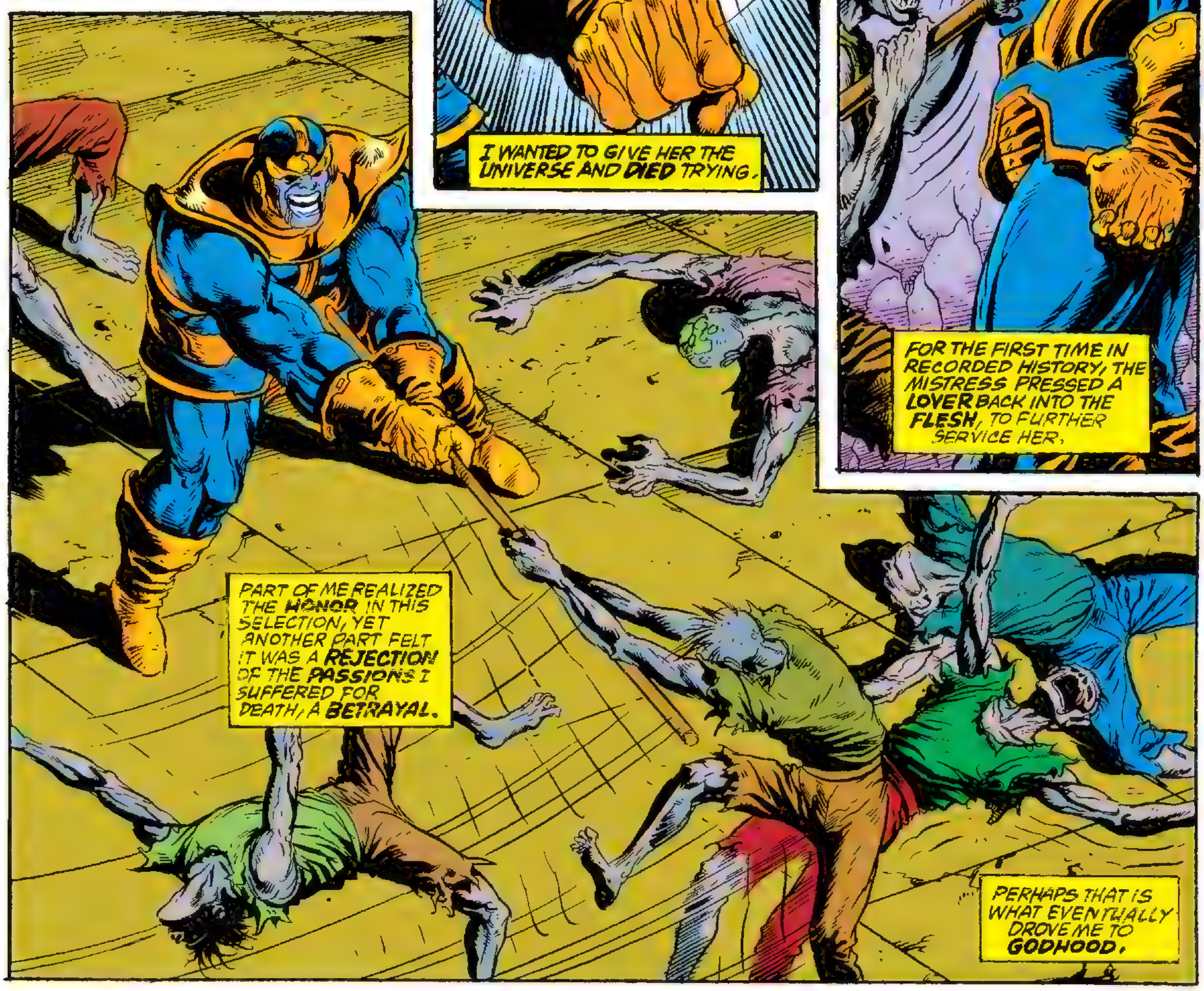
...THEY SEEMED TO OFFER ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.
TO WIN FAVOR, I DISPATCHED MANY LOVE OFFERINGS TO MY DISTANT GODDESS...
...UNTIL MY PRIVATE OBSESSION EVENTUALLY BECAME PUBLIC.


THE REVELATION ONLY PROMPTED ME ON TO GREATER NUMBERS.
I BEGAN TO DISPATCH HUNDREDS INSTEAD OF MERE INDIVIDUALS.
AND MISTRESS DEATH FINALLY TOOK NOTICE OF HER MOST ARDENT WORSHIPER.

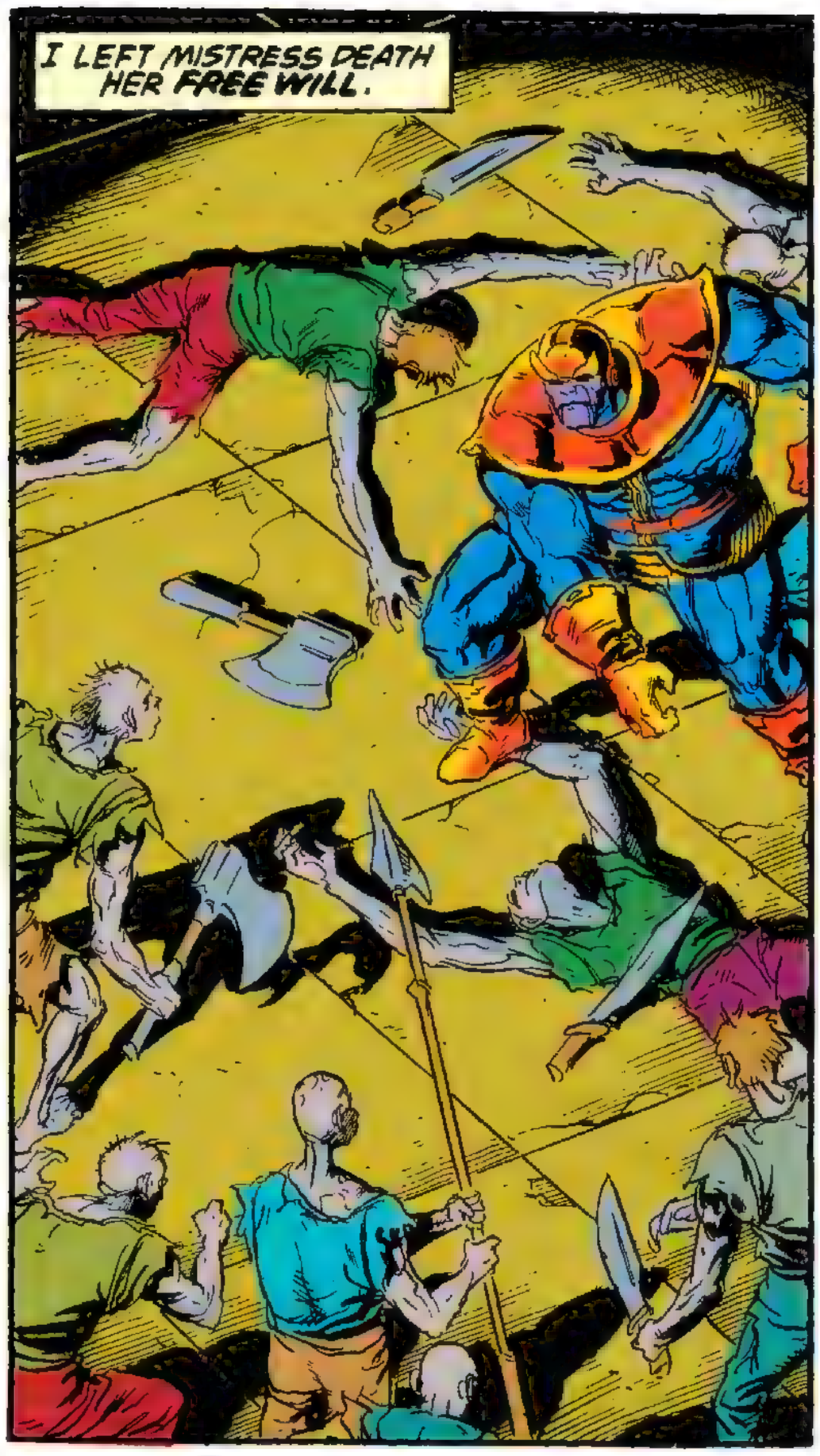
SHE CAME TO ME IN THE GUISE OF ICY BEAUTY.
ONLY AFTER MANY TRIALS DID SHE DEIGN TO SHOW ME HER TRUE FACE.


FROM THAT MOMENT FORTH I WAS DEATH'S LOVE SLAVE, BODY AND SOUL.
I WANTED TO GIVE HER THE UNIVERSE AND DIED TRYING.

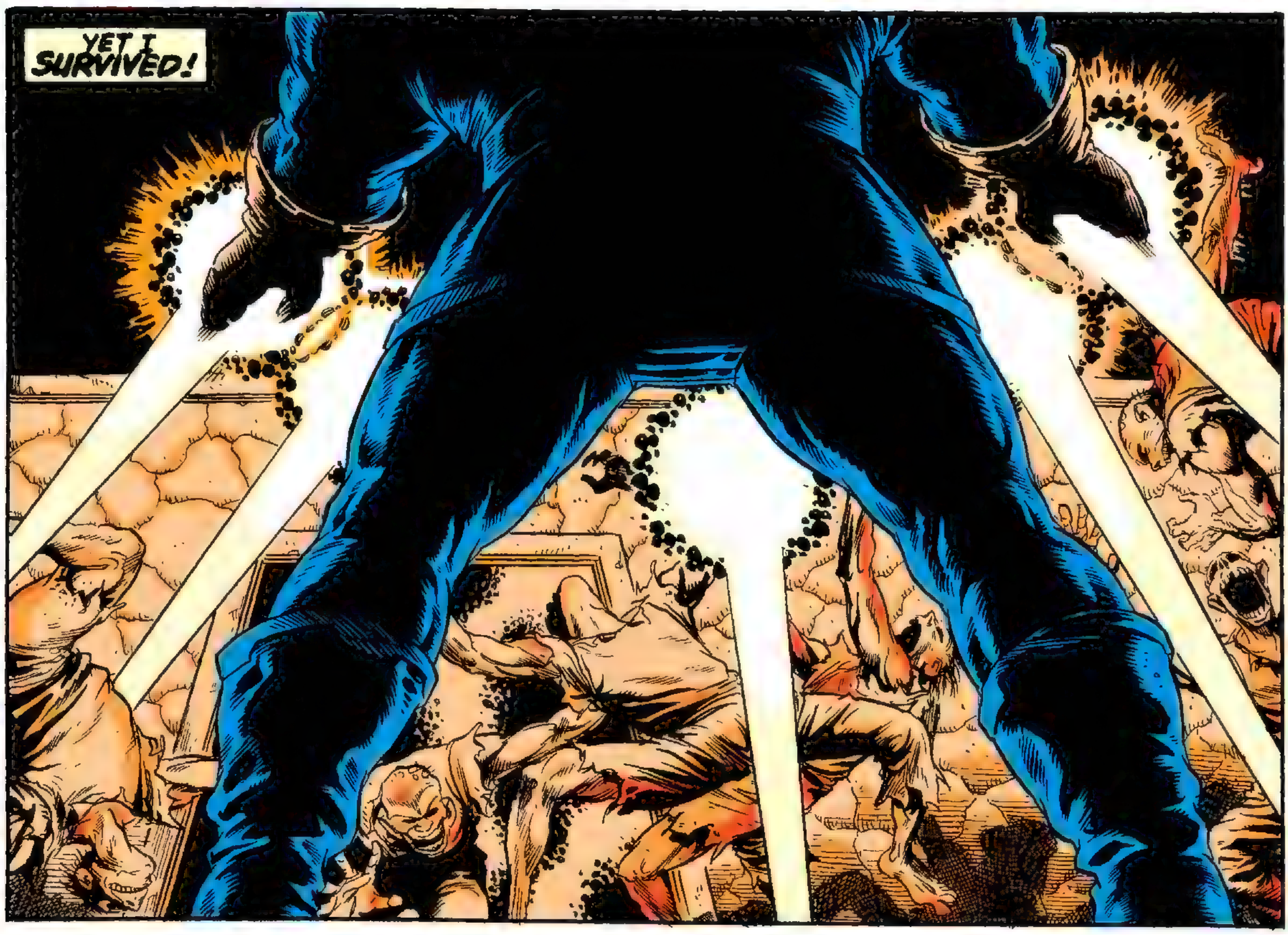
BUT SUCH A STEADFAST DEVOTEE COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LANGUISH IN THE ASHES.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY, THE MISTRESS PRESSED A LOVER BACK INTO THE FLESH, TO FURTHER SERVICE HER.

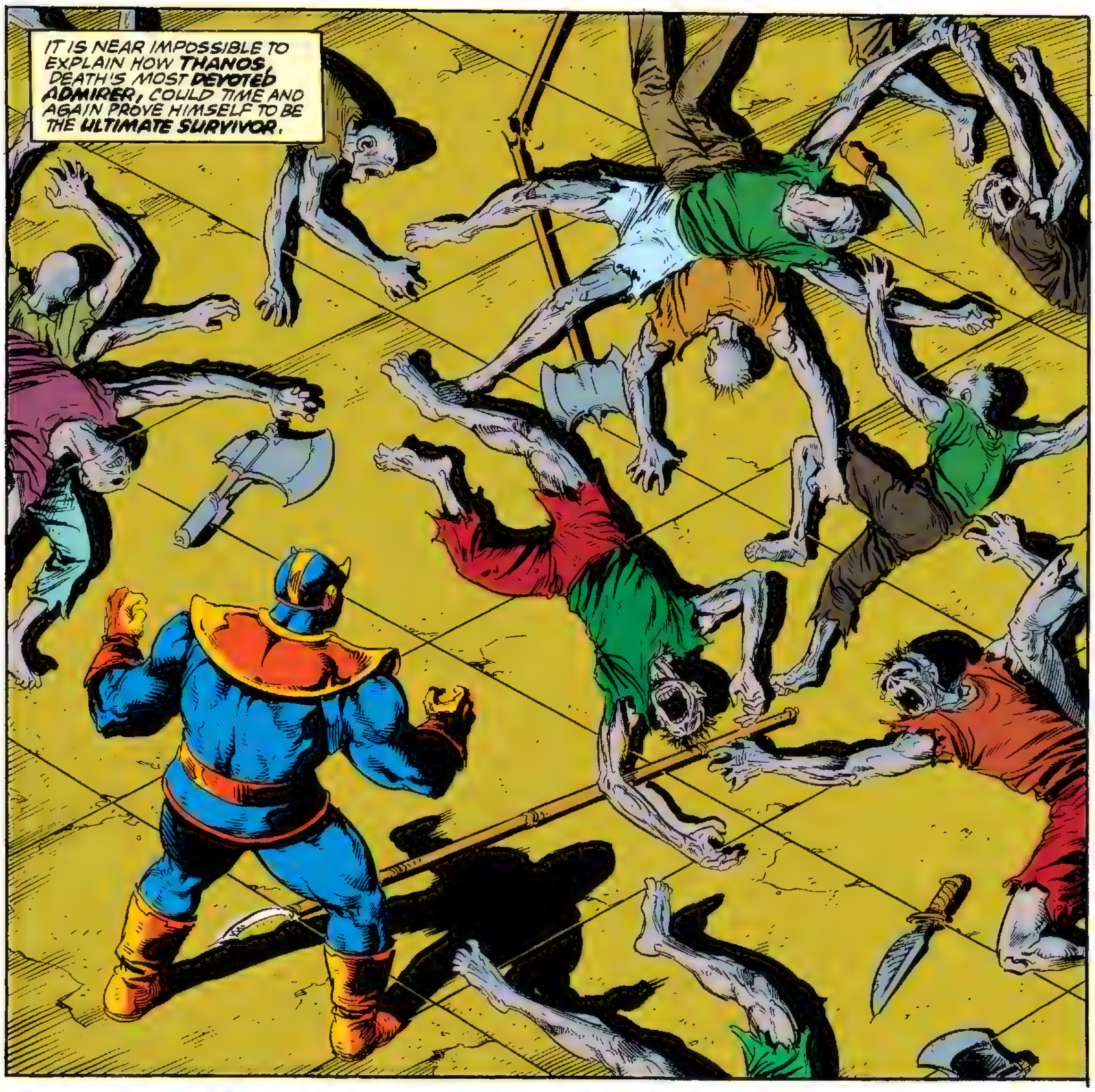

PART OF ME REALIZED THE HONOR IN THIS SELECTION, YET ANOTHER PART FELT IT WAS A REJECTION OF THE PASSIONS I SUFFERED FOR DEATH, A BETRAYAL.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT EVENTUALLY DROVE ME TO GODHOOD.

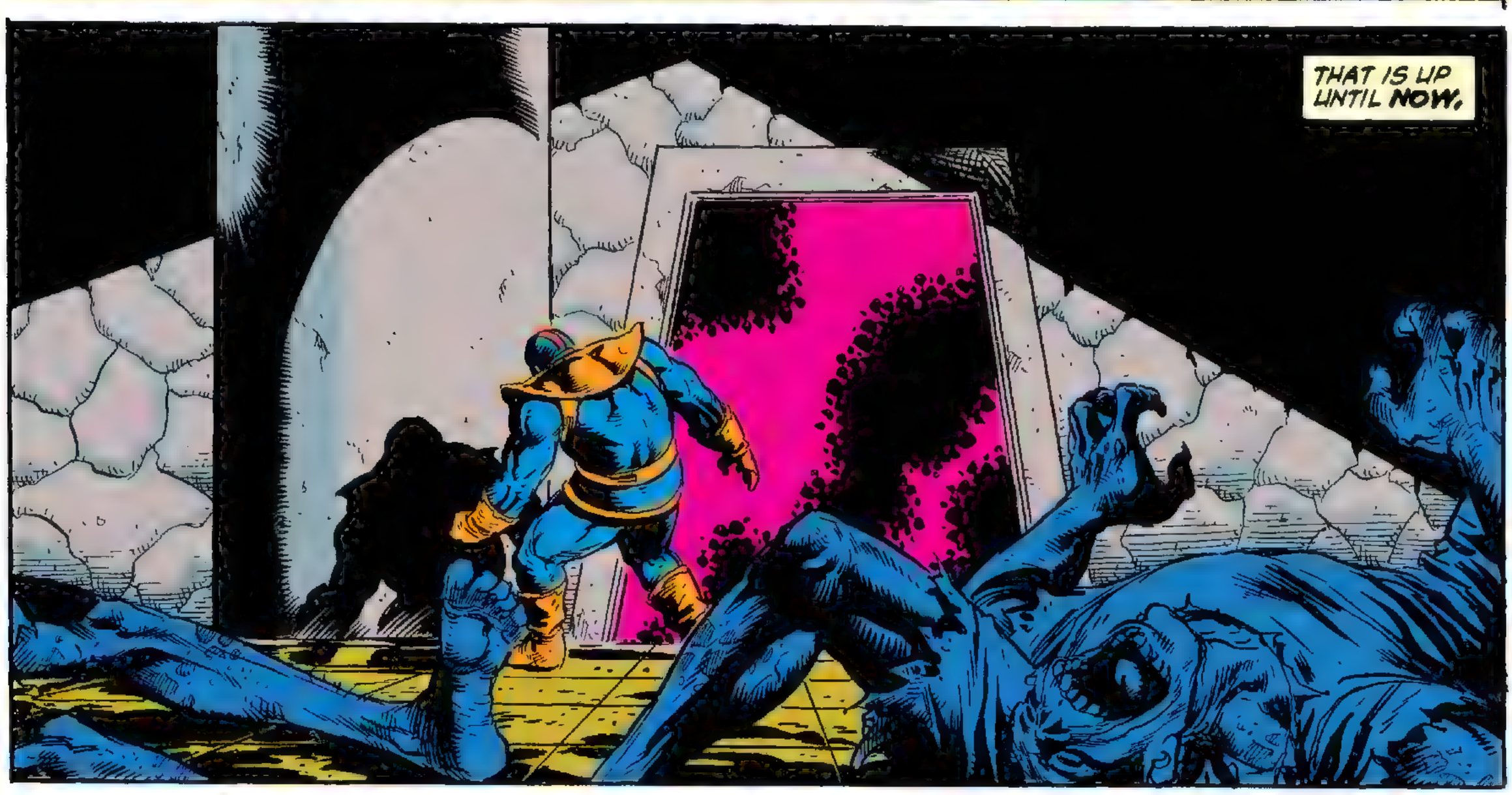
THE INFINITY GEMS GAVE ME CONTROL OVER TIME, SPACE, ALL POWER, THE MIND, THE SOUL, REALITY: ALL THERE IS.
AS GOD, THE SOVEREIGN POWER IN THE UNIVERSE, I CHOSE MISTRESS DEATH TO BE MY QUEEN.
IT WAS MY MISTRESS'S TURN TO FEEL BETRAYED,
SHE WHO HAD NEVER BENT A KNEE TO ANY LIVING SOUL, NOW FOUND HERSELF AS MY THRALL.
YES, I COULD HAVE, WITH BUT A THOUGHT, FORCED DEATH TO WORSHIP ME AS I DID HER;
BUT LOVE BOUND IN CHAINS HAS NO VALUE,

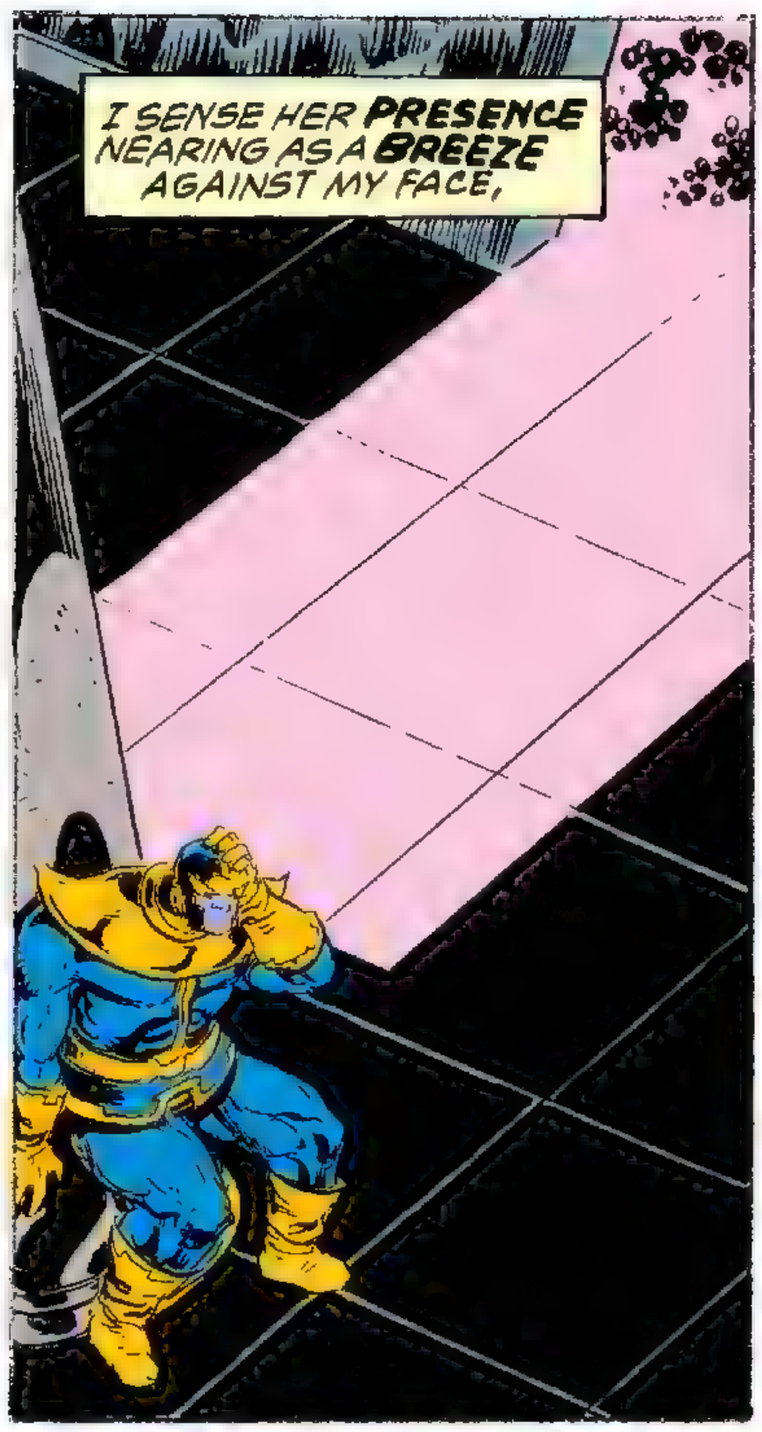

I LEFT MISTRESS DEATH HER FREE WILL.

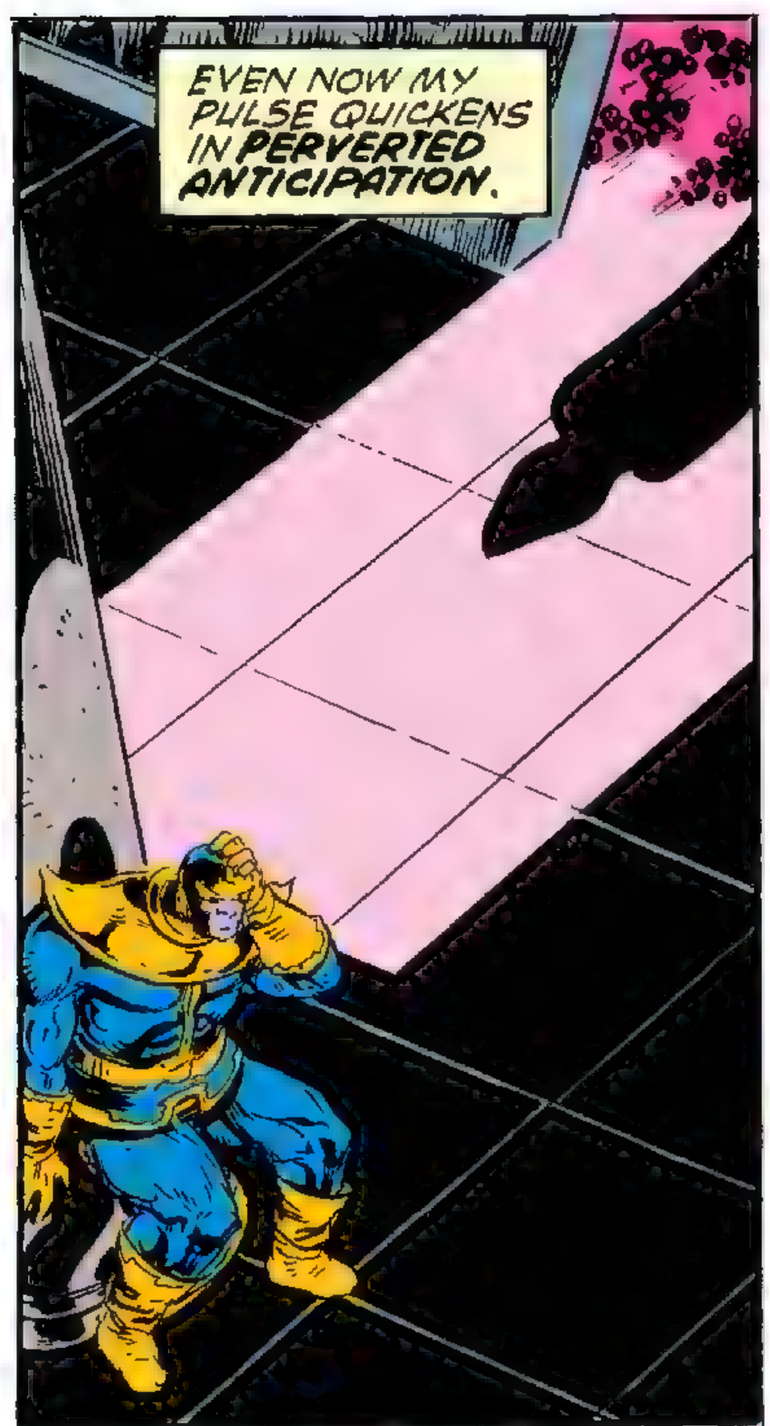
IN THE END SHE TURNED ON ME,
THE MANTLE OF SUPREMACY EVENTUALLY FELL FROM MY SHOULDERS SHORTLY AFTER THAT.

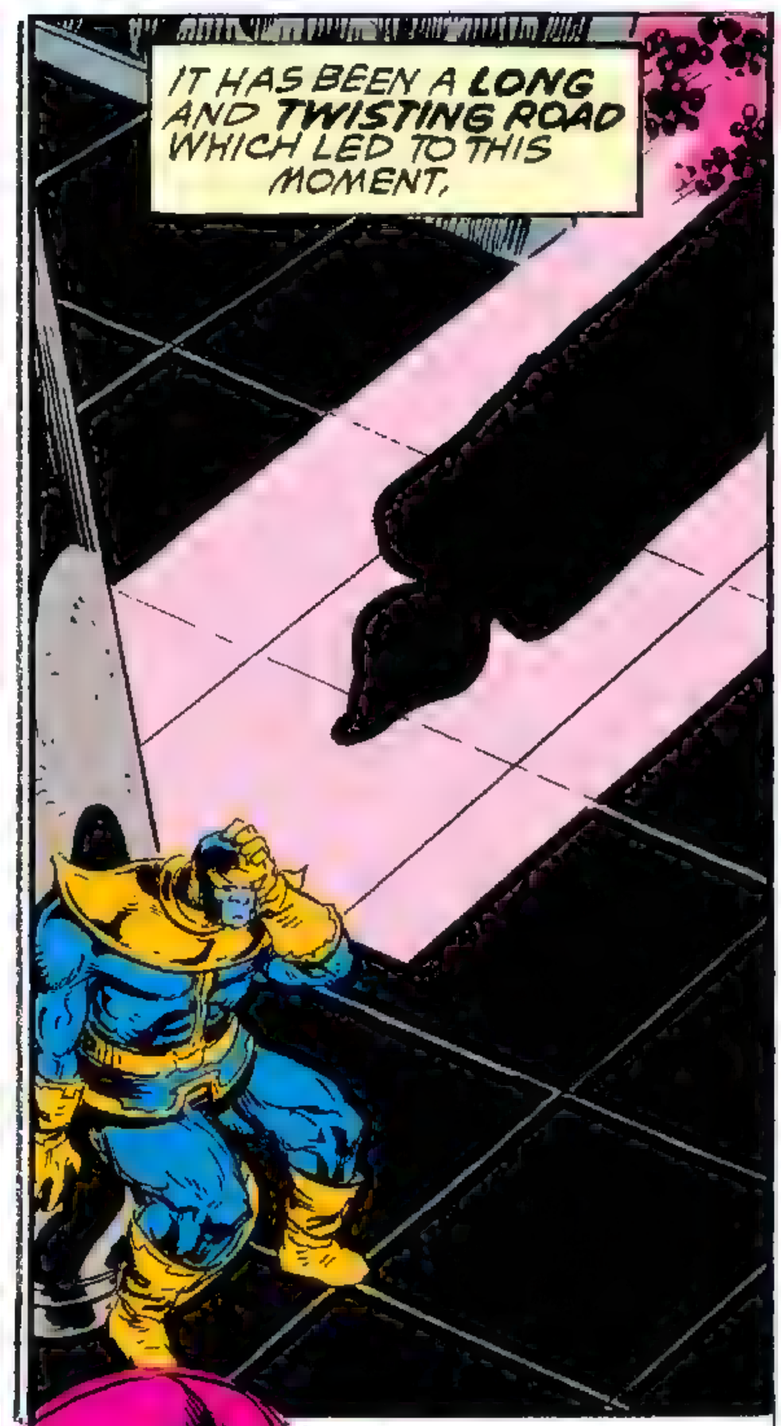

YET I SURVIVED!


IT IS NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN HOW THANOS, DEATH'S MOST DEVOTED ADMIRER, COULD TIME AND AGAIN PROVE HIMSELF TO BE THE ULTIMATE SURVIVOR.


THAT IS UP UNTIL NOW.



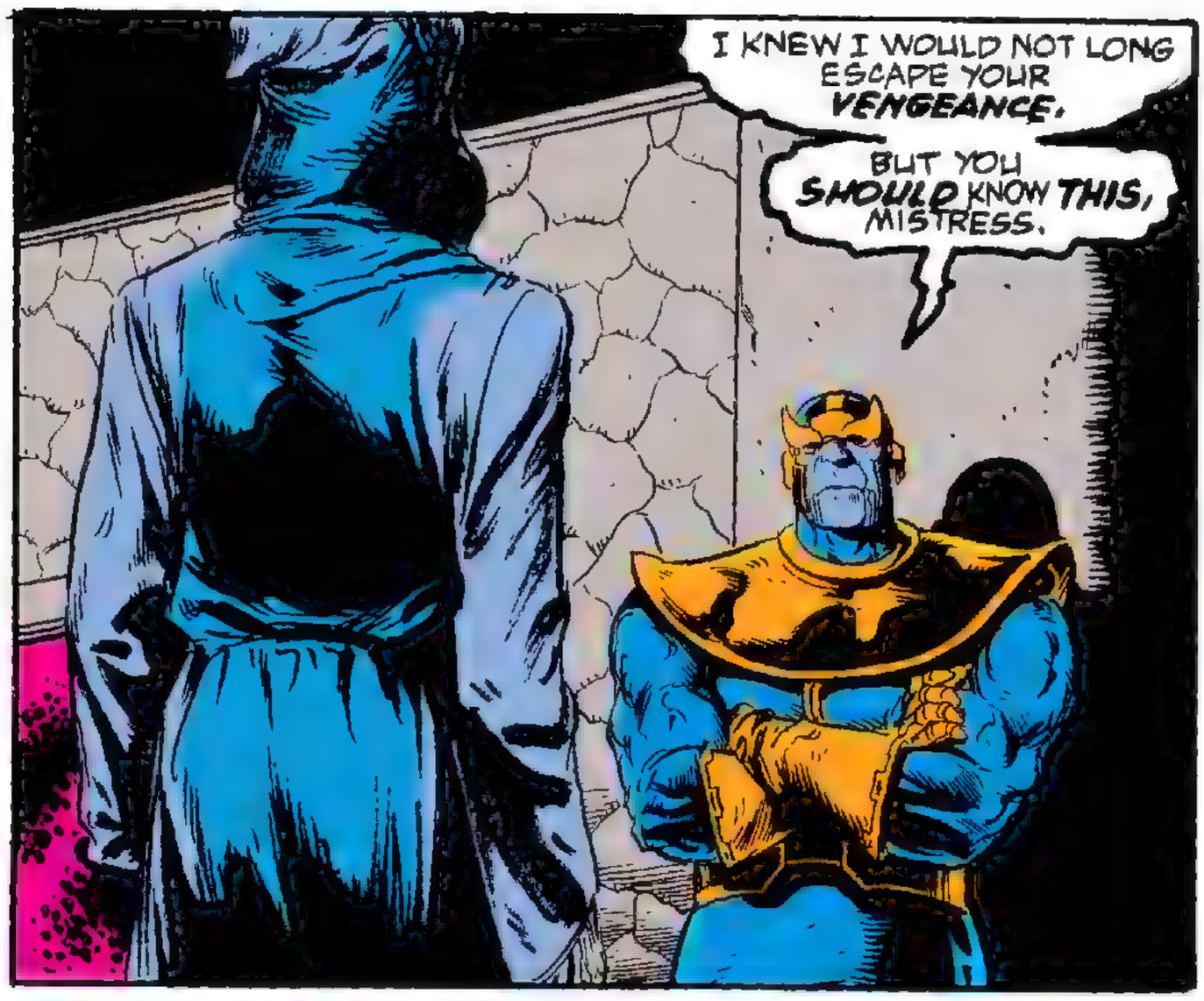




IN MANY WAYS I WELCOME THE CLIMAX,

GREETINGS, MISTRESS DEATH!

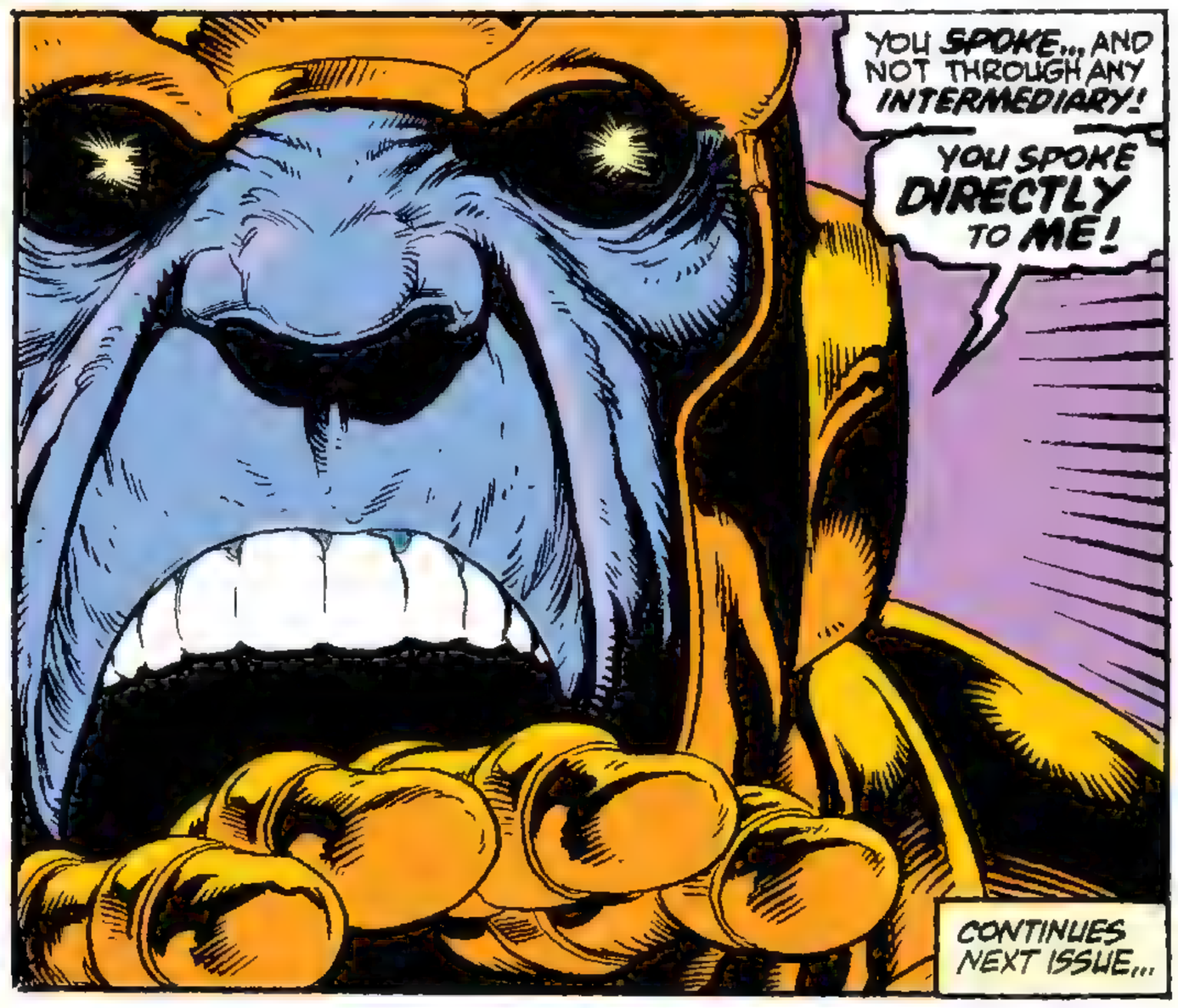
I STAND READY TO ACCEPT YOUR FRIGID EMBRACE.


I KNEW I WOULD NOT LONG ESCAPE YOUR VENGEANCE.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS, MISTRESS.

...YOUR DECISION IN CHOOSING THIS MOMENT TO CLAIM ME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE POORLY TIMED.

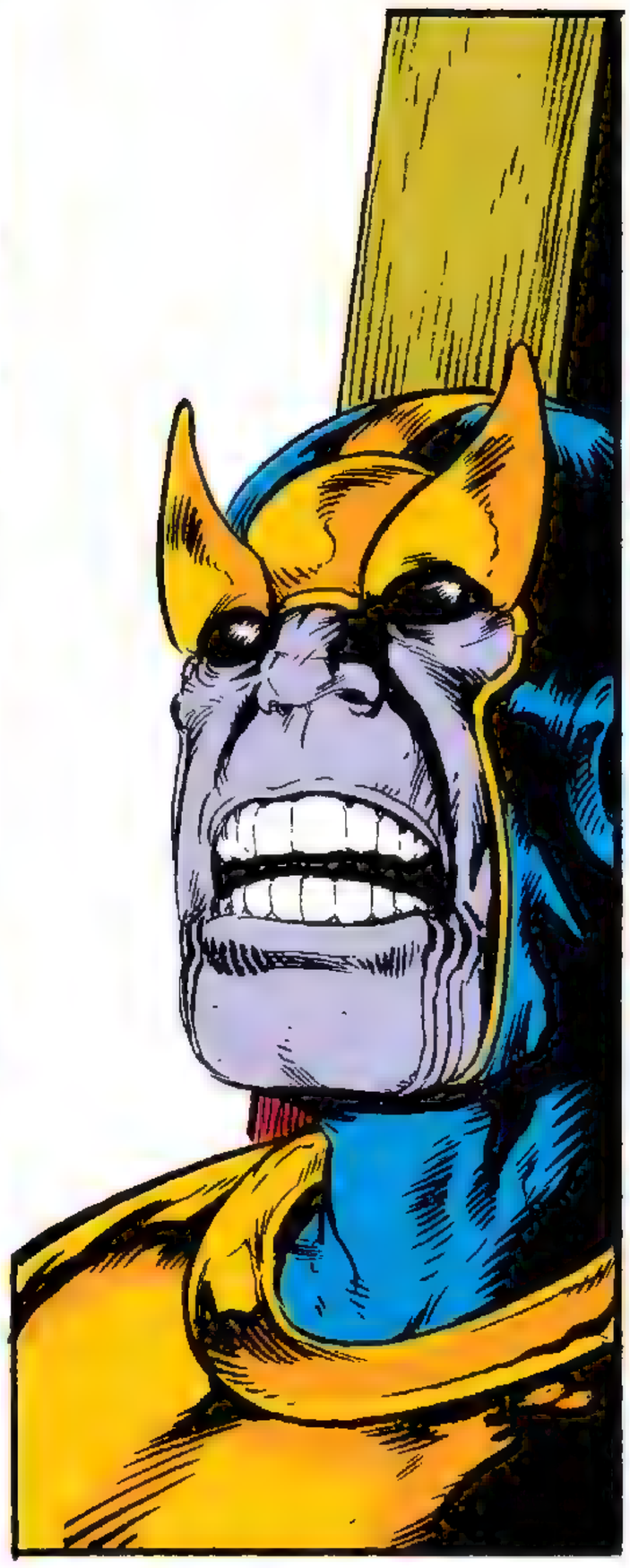
THIS CLAIM I MAKE FOR MYSELF, THE SAKE OF THE UNIVERSE AND YOUR OWN SAFETY.
I AM INVOLVED IN A STRUGGLE AGAINST A POWERFUL MANIAC WHOSE VAST RESOURCES COULD CONCEIVABLY MENACE EVEN YOU AND YOUR REALM.

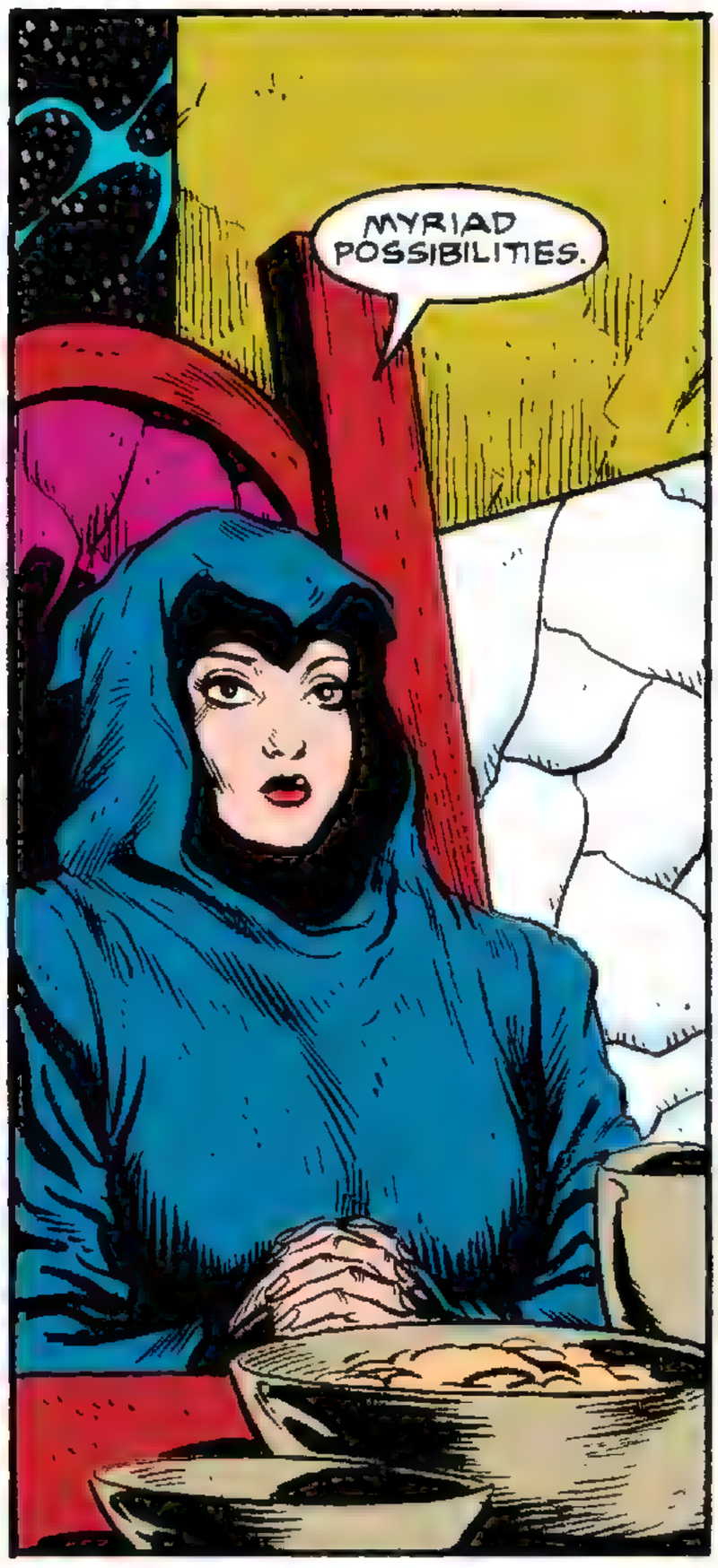
I KNOW.

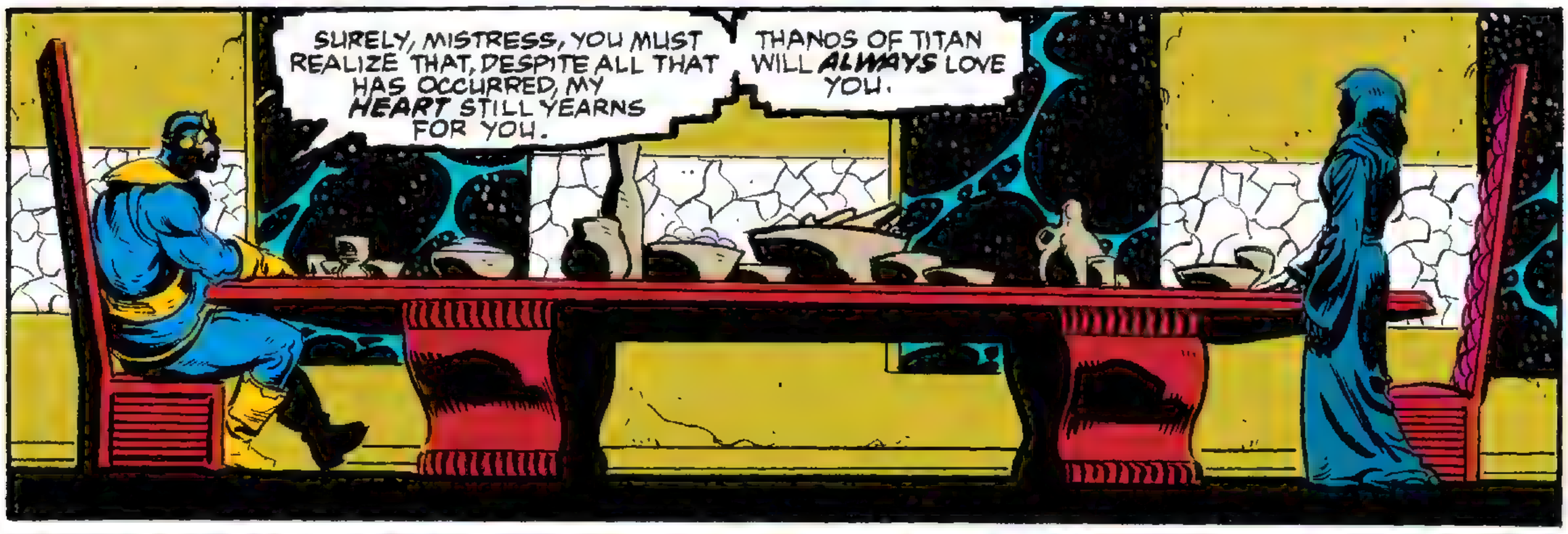

YOU SPOKE... AND NOT THROUGH ANY INTERMEDIARY!
YOU SPOKE DIRECTLY TO ME!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

I, THANOS,
SUDDENLY FIND MYSELF DINING WITH DEATH, MISTRESS DEATH.
THIS BEAUTY HAS ACTUALLY DEIGNED TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY.
NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS WOULD I HAVE BELIEVED THAT I COULD BE HERE WITH YOU, LIKE THIS.
EXPERIENCE TEACHES ONE THAT IN THIS SAD UNIVERSE ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
"I, THANOS"
PART III
"DEATH'S DARK DOMAIN"

ALL THINGS...
BEGINNINGS.
ENDINGS.
REUNIONS.
EVEN FORGIVE-NESS.

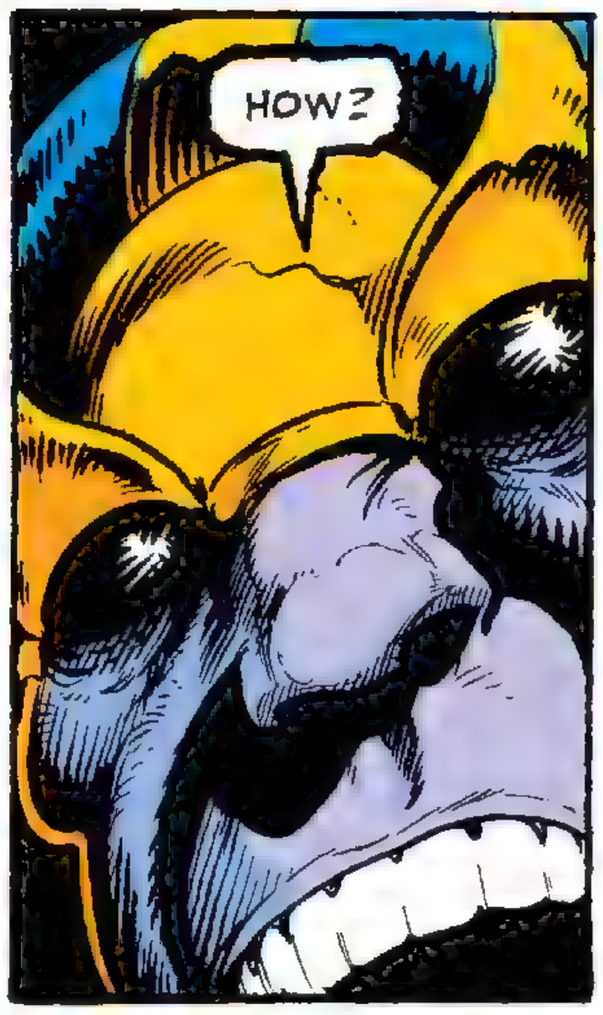


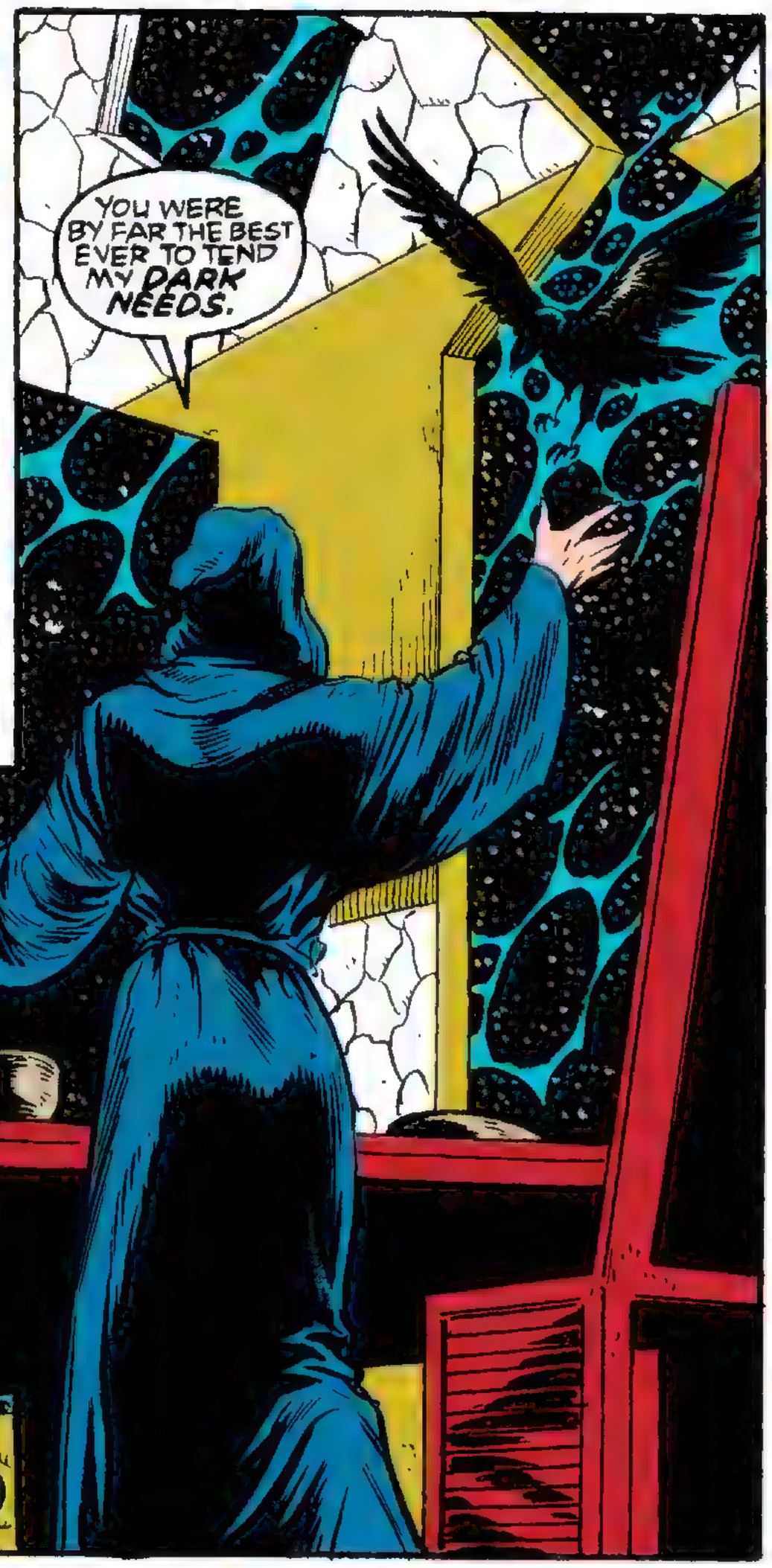

MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES.


SURELY, MISTRESS, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT, DESPITE ALL THAT HAS OCCURRED, MY HEART STILL YEARNS FOR YOU.
THANOS OF TITAN WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

I WILL FOREVER BE YOUR SERVANT.

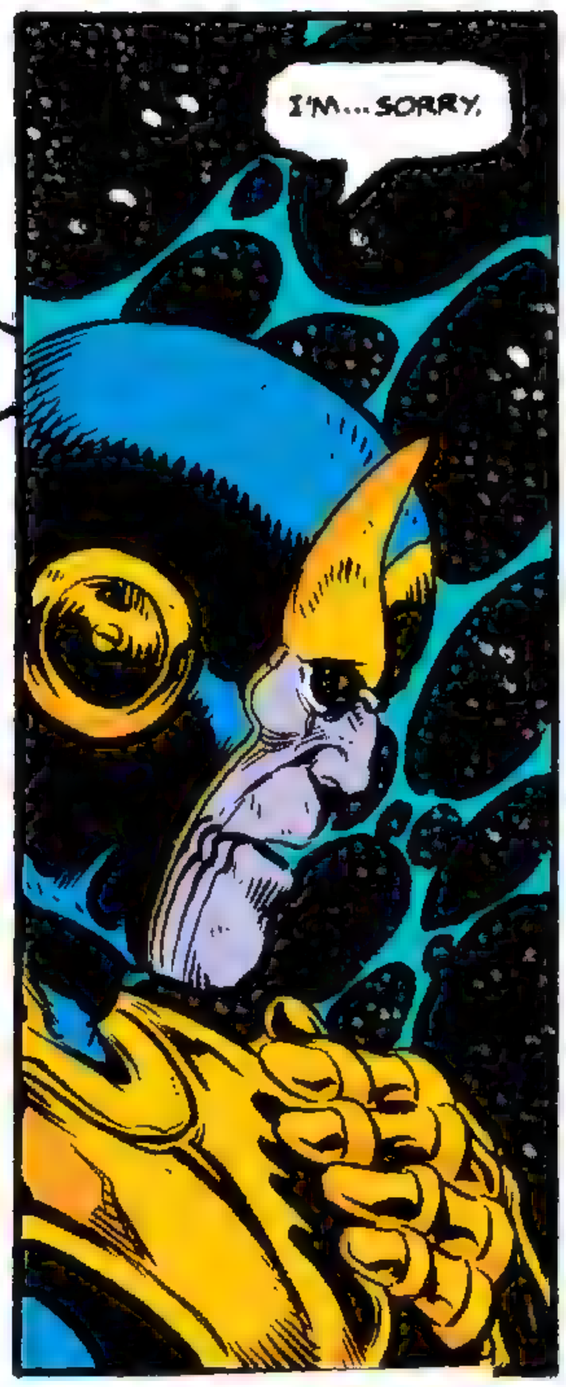
PROVE THIS CLAIM.


HOW?


YOU WERE BY FAR THE BEST EVER TO TEND MY DARK NEEDS.
WHICH IS WHY I RESURRECTED YOU TO FURTHER THE CAUSE.
THROUGHOUT ALL ETERNITY I NEVER BEFORE HONORED ANY SOUL IN SUCH A FASHION.

YET THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU, THANOS, WAS IT?
YOU CRAVED OMNIPOTENCE.
LOVE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT, YOU HAD TO BECOME MY SUPERIOR, MY LORD.

SUCH BITTER BETRAYAL.


I'M... SORRY.

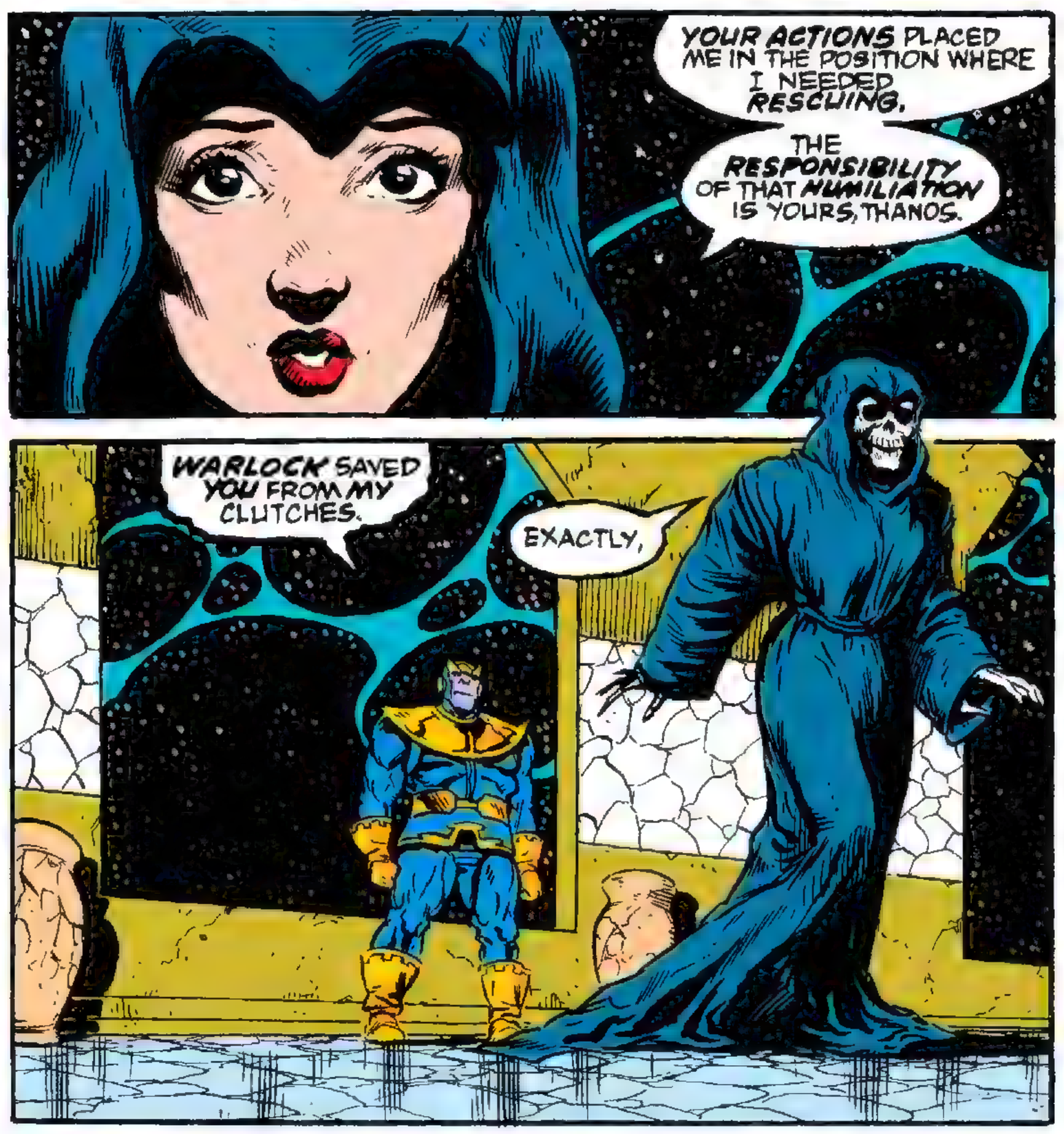
THE SCHISM WHICH SEPARATES US SEEMS UNTRAVERSABLE,
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF I WERE--
NO!
IT CAN BE AS IT WAS,
AGAIN I ASK YOU, MISTRESS.
HOW?
LIKE ALL ABSTRACT DEITIES, I AM A PROUD CREATURE.
BUT MY PRIDE IS BLINDING.
IT SHIELDS ME FROM THE HORRORS OF EXISTENCE...
...AND KEPT ME FROM RECOGNIZING YOUR DARK AMBITIONS.

THAT FAILING MADE ME YOUR VICTIM AND SLAVE.
AS I WAS ALWAYS YOURS.
TRUE.

BUT IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS, DEATH WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE SUBJUGATED.
AS MATRON OF THE DIVIDE, I WAS CREATED TO STAND ALONE AND FREE.

IT IS AGAINST MY NATURE TO PAY HOMAGE OR OWE ALLEGIANCE TO ANY LIVING SOUL.
THE VERY THOUGHT I FIND ABHORRENT.

CAN YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT?
I BELIEVE SO.


YOUR ACTIONS PLACED ME IN THE POSITION WHERE I NEEDED RESCUING.
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THAT HUMILIATION IS YOURS, THANOS.
WARLOCK SAVED YOU FROM MY CLUTCHES.
EXACTLY.

NOW I AM IN ADAM WARLOCK'S DEBT.
AN INTOLERABLE STATUS.
THROUGHOUT THE ENDLESS, SLEEPLESS NIGHT, I AM HAUNTED BY THE VISION OF MY HERO.
MY ANGER IS LIKE A CLEAN BLUE FLAME-- ALL CONSUMING.

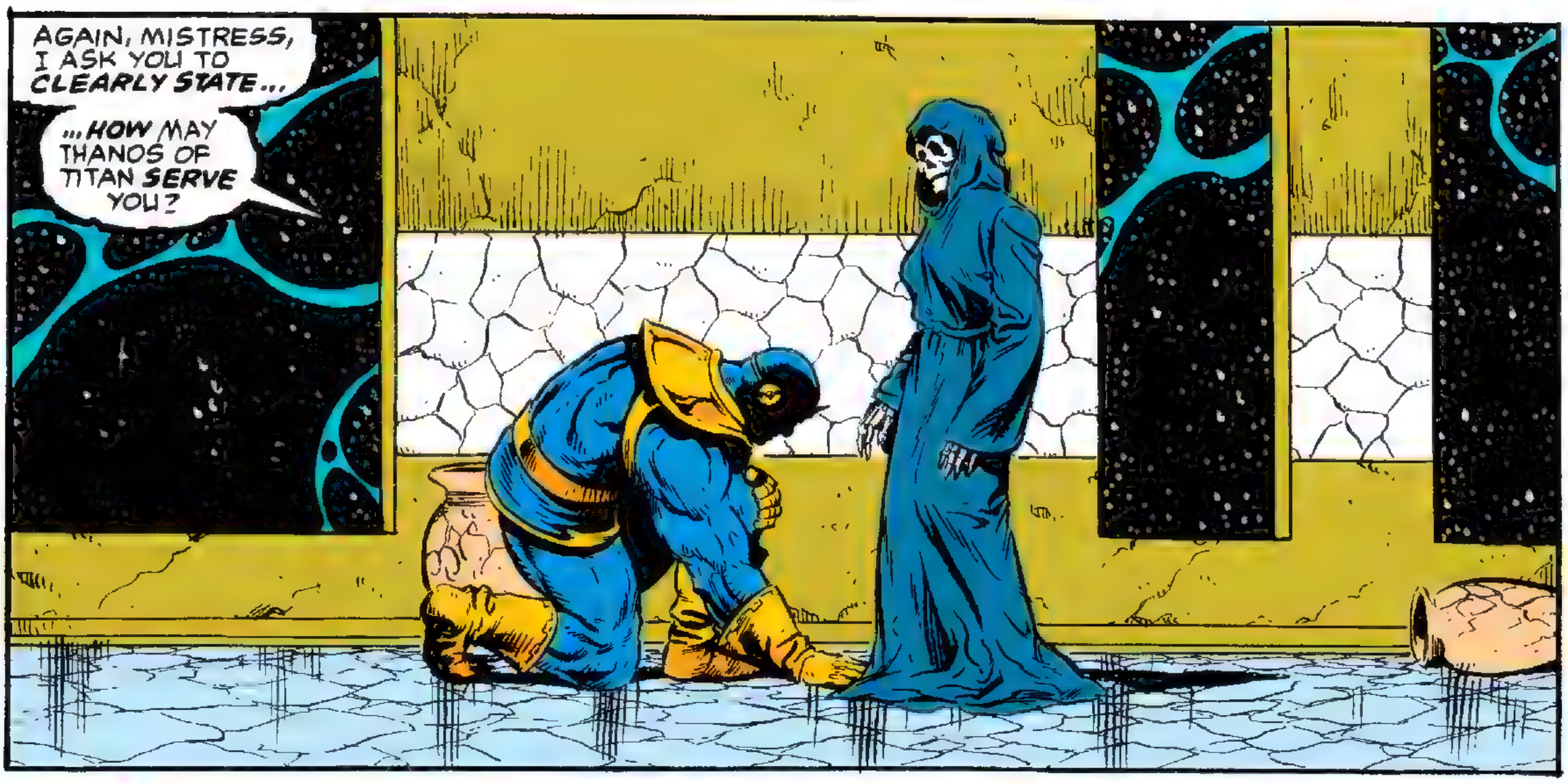
BUT MY VENGEFUL CLAWS ARE BOUND IN TWINES OF *HONOR* AND *DUTY*.

I BE *TRAPPED* AND *HELPLESS* WITHIN THE CONFINES OF *ASTRAL* CONVENTION.

I *CANNOT SMITE* HIM WHO BEDEVILS ME.

BUT YOU, TITAN, ARE NOT *SHACKLED* BY SUCH *PETTY RESTRICTIONS*.

YOU ARE TRULY A *FREE AGENT*.


AGAIN, MISTRESS, I ASK YOU TO CLEARLY STATE...
...HOW MAY THANOS OF TITAN SERVE YOU?

KILL ADAM WARLOCK.
DO SO, AND I SHALL BE YOURS THROUGHOUT ETERNITY
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

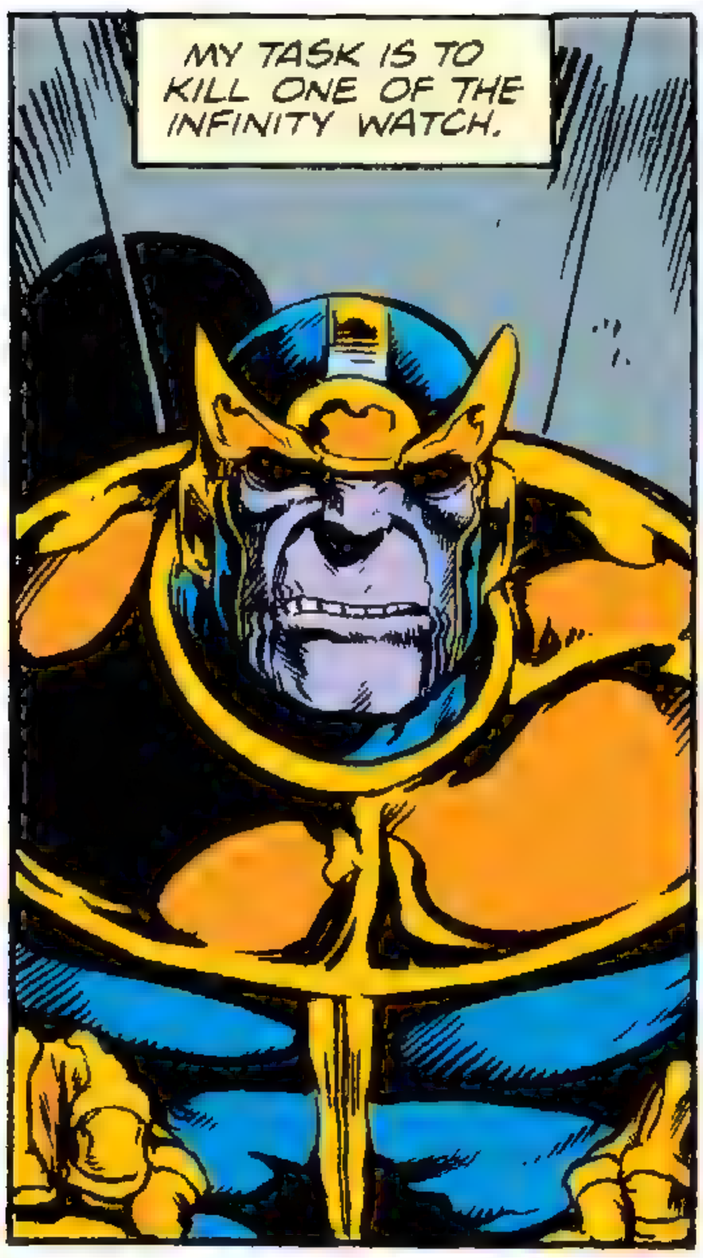
I, THANOS,
CAME TO THIS REALM EXPECTING AN ENDING, INSTEAD I LEAVE WITH A TASK AND A PROMISE FROM MISTRESS DEATH.
SLAY MY TORMENTOR AND I SHALL BE YOUR LOVE UNTIL THE END OF TIME.
"I, THANOS" PART IV "BETRAYAL"

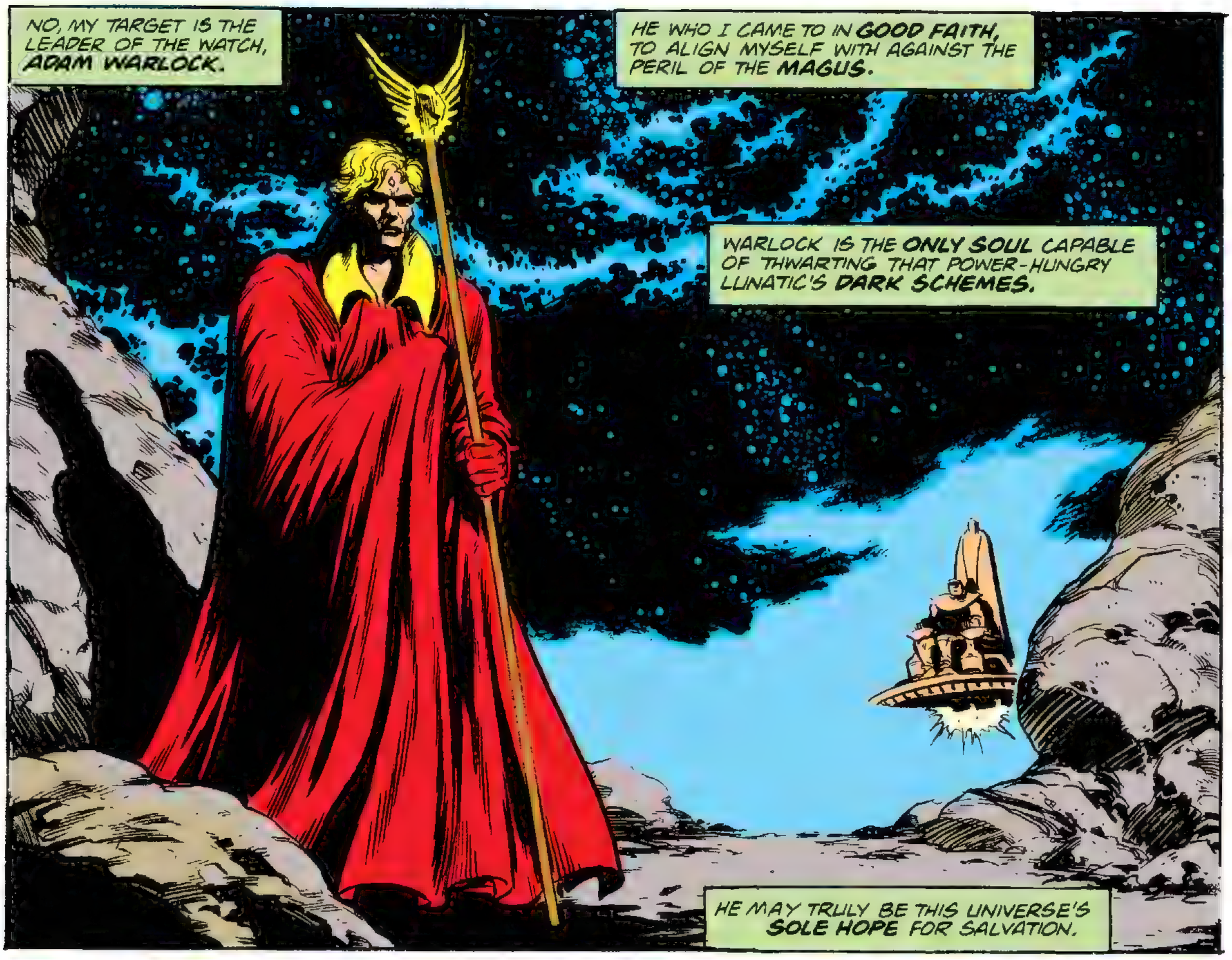
I AM WRENCHED BACK TO REALITY WITH HER SWEET WORDS ECHOING DOWN THE DARK CORRIDERS OF MY SOUL.

MY RETURN TO THE FLESH IS A **JARRING** AND **BITTER EXPERIENCE.**

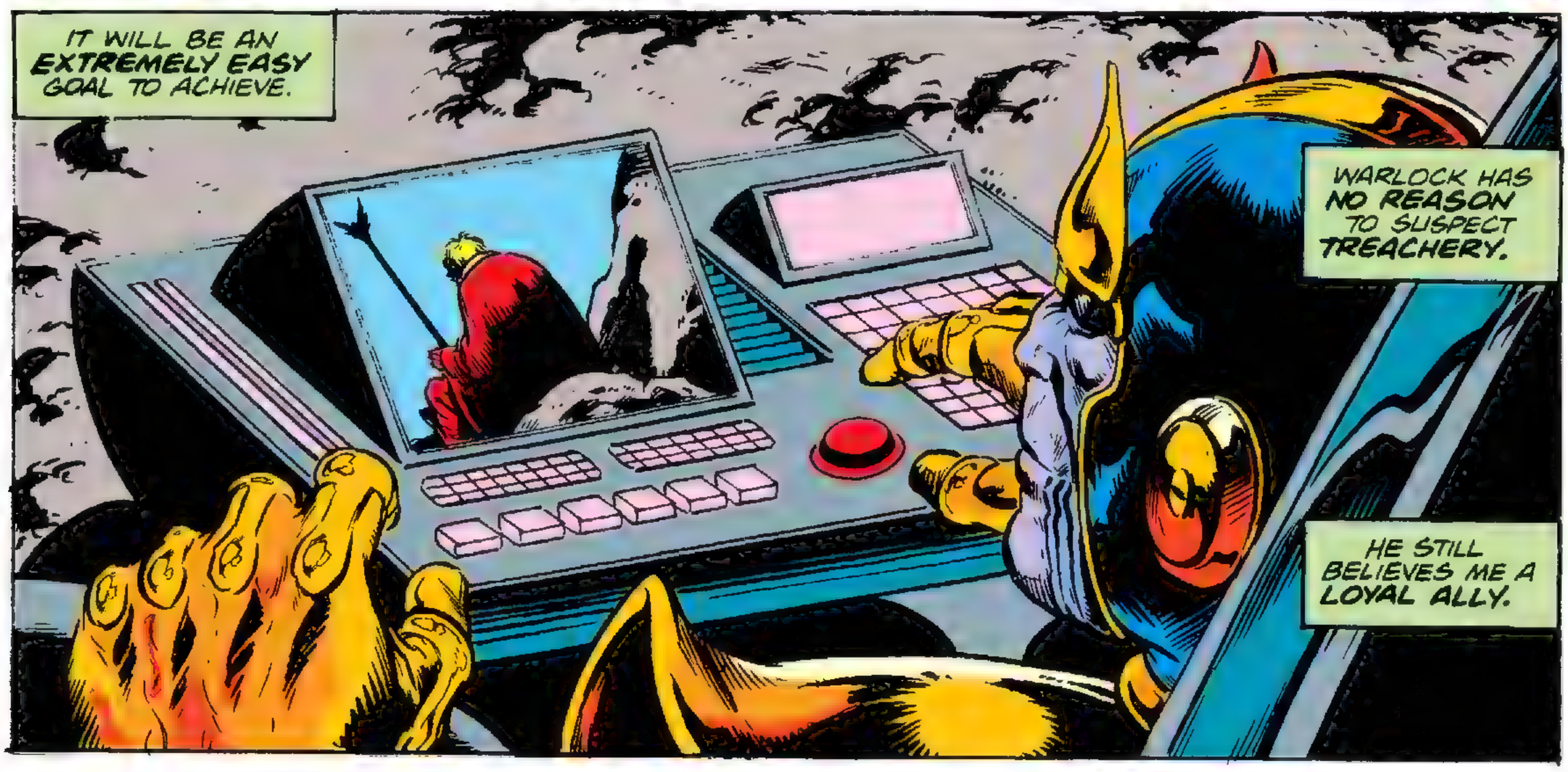
THE SENSES SCREAM IN **PROTEST** AND MY BIZARRE **CIRCUMSTANCES** IMMEDIATELY CONFOUND ME.

I HAVE RETURNED TO THE LAND OF THE **LIVING** TO BRING **DEATH** TO AN **ALLY.**

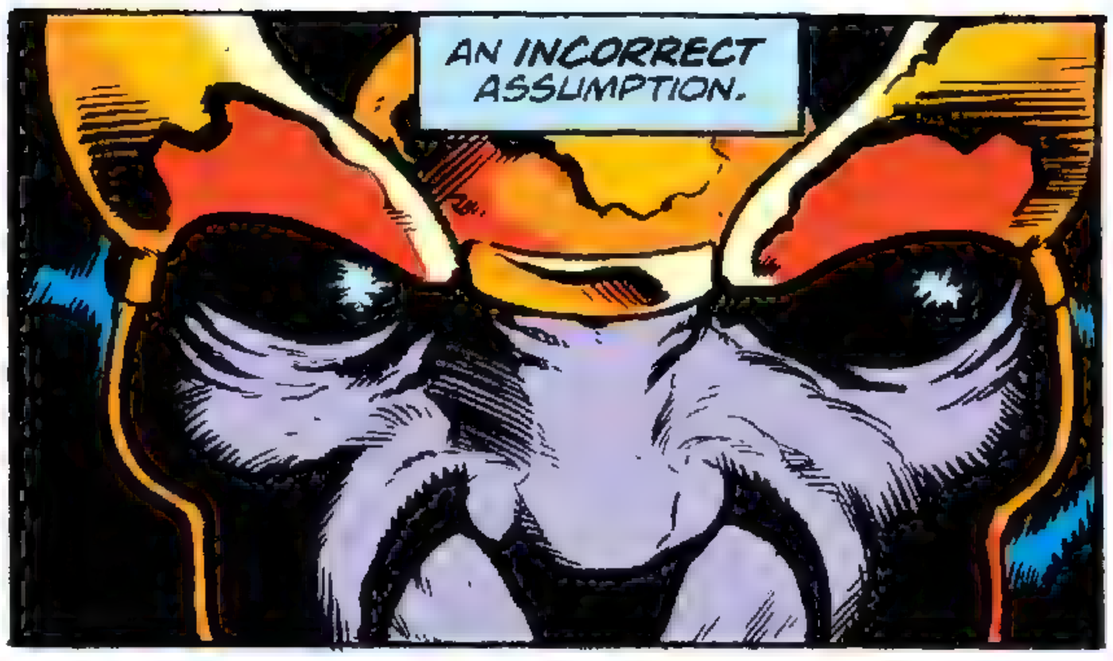



NO, MY TARGET IS THE LEADER OF THE WATCH, ADAM WARLOCK.
HE WHO I CAME TO IN GOOD FAITH, TO ALIGN MYSELF WITH AGAINST THE PERIL OF THE MAGUS.
WARLOCK IS THE ONLY SOUL CAPABLE OF THWARTING THAT POWER-HUNGRY LUNATIC'S DARK SCHEMES.
HE MAY TRULY BE THIS UNIVERSE'S SOLE HOPE FOR SALVATION.

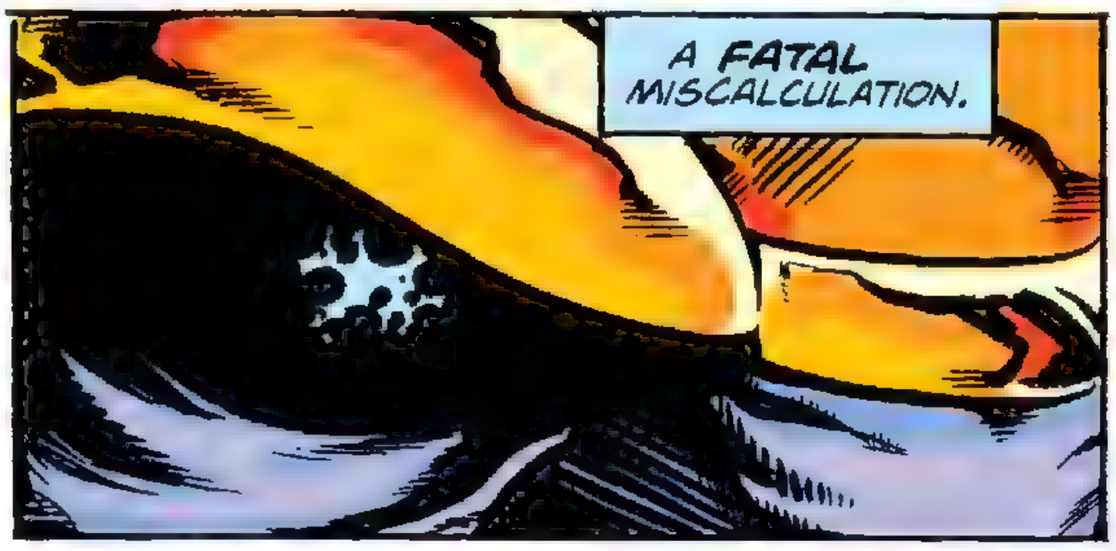
AND I MUST KILL ADAM IN ORDER TO GAIN MISTRESS DEATH'S LOVE.


IT WILL BE AN EXTREMELY EASY GOAL TO ACHIEVE.
WARLOCK HAS NO REASON TO SUSPECT TREACHERY.
HE STILL BELIEVES ME A LOYAL ALLY.

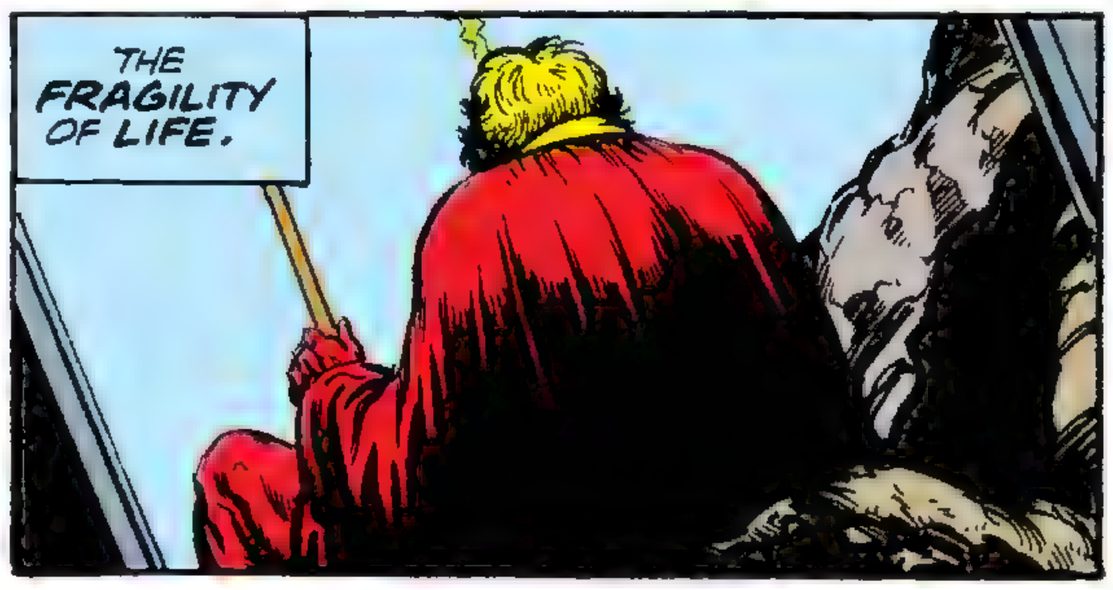
WEAPONS SYSTEM ACTIVATED


AN INCORRECT ASSUMPTION.

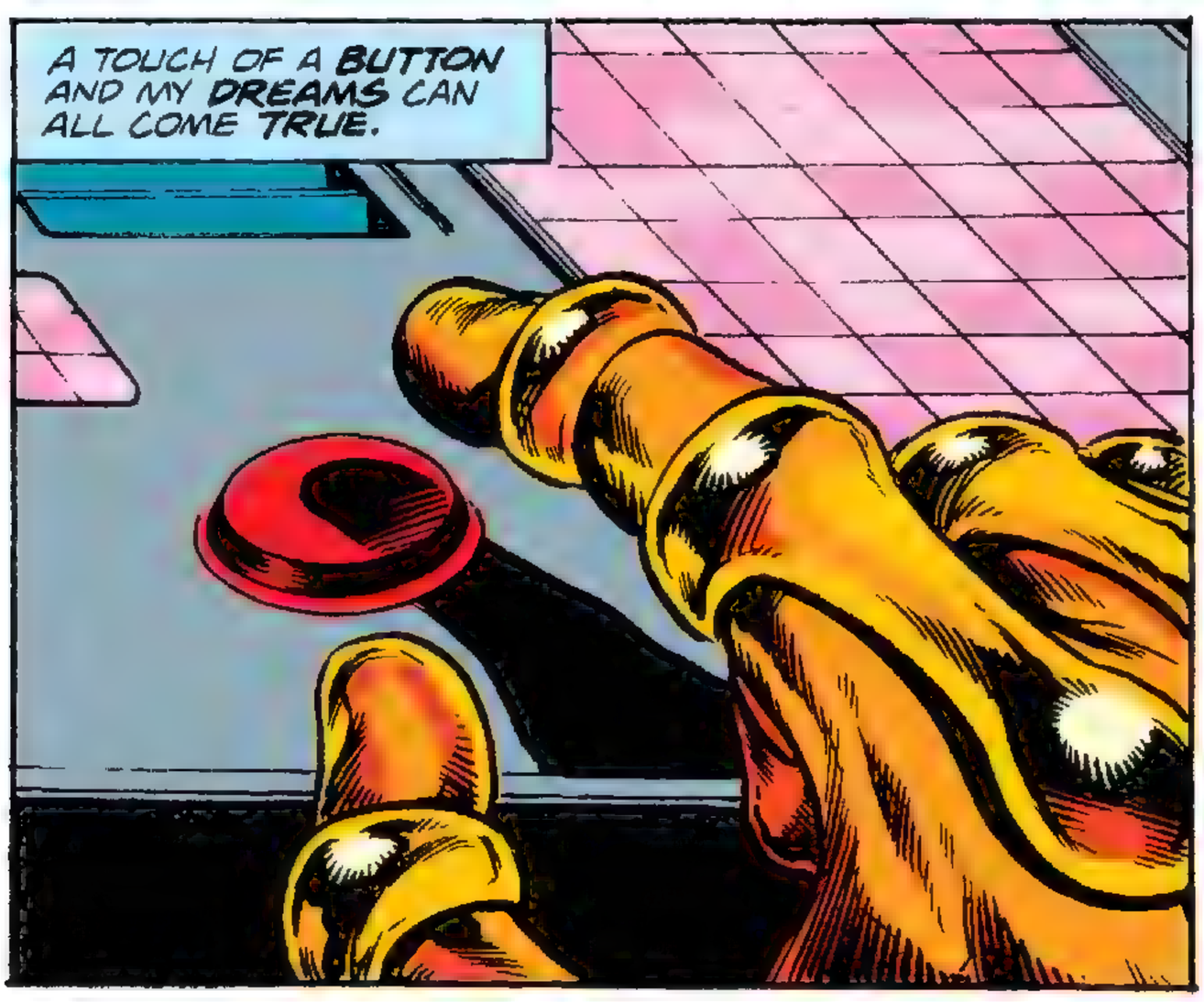
TARGETING SEQUENCE INSTITUTED

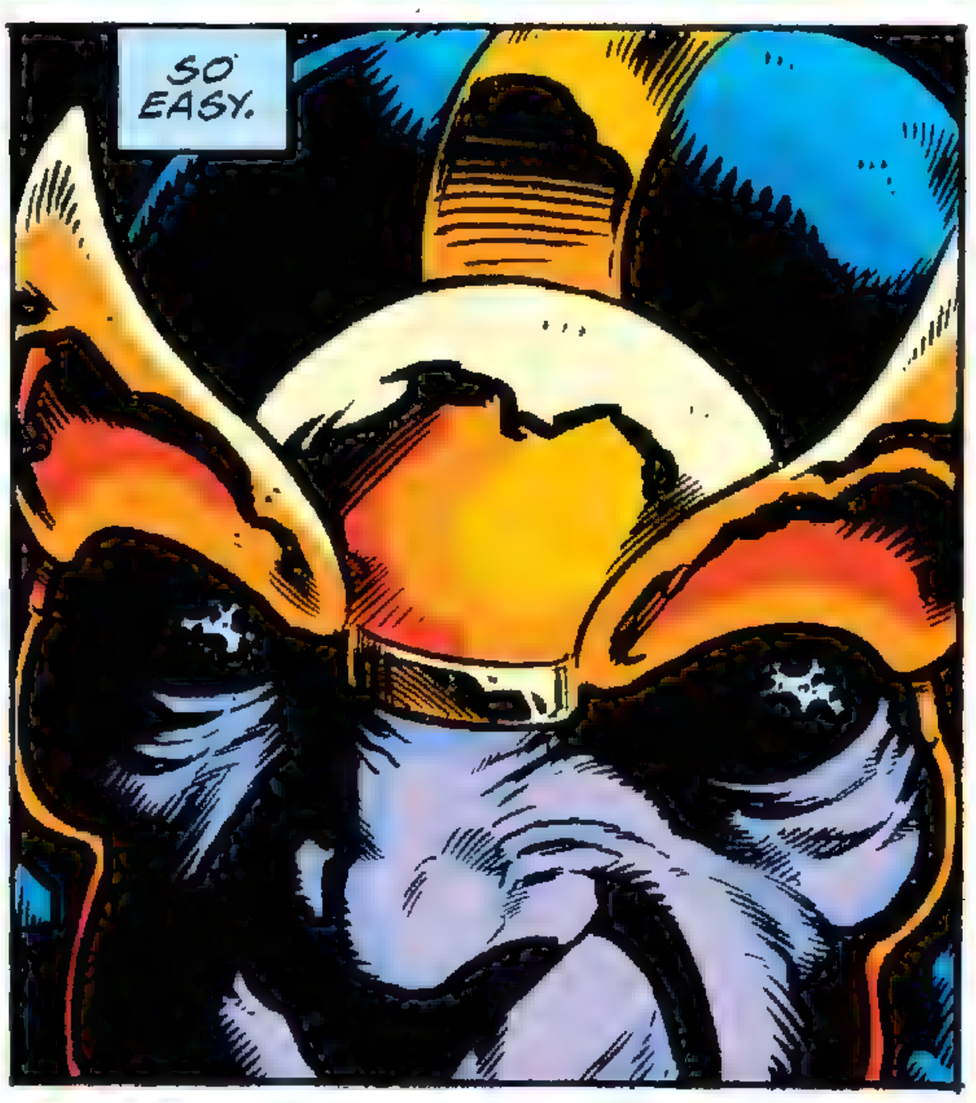

A FATAL MISCALCULATION.

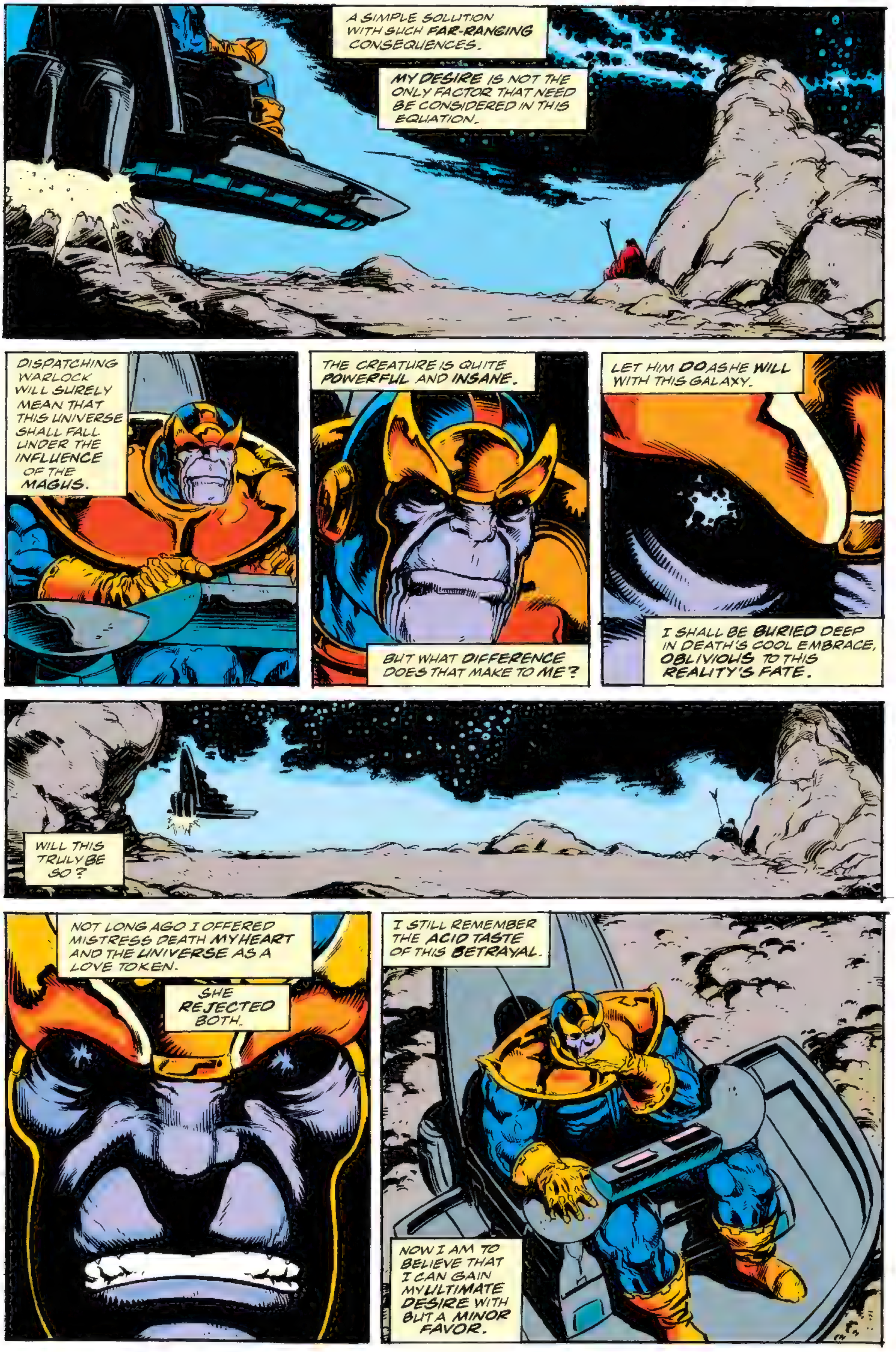
TARGET IDENTIFIED


THE FRAGILITY OF LIFE.

LOCKED ONTO TARGET

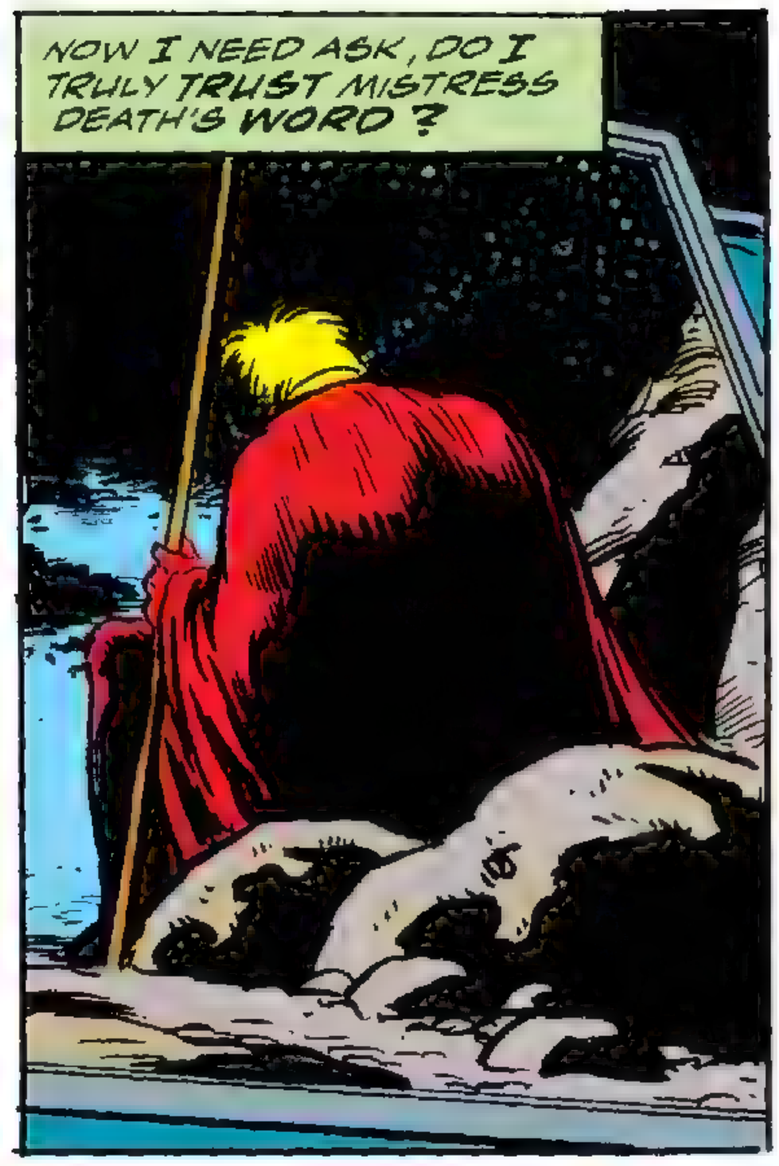

A TOUCH OF A BUTTON AND MY DREAMS CAN ALL COME TRUE.


SO EASY.


A SIMPLE SOLUTION WITH SUCH FAR-RANGING CONSEQUENCES.
MY DESIRE IS NOT THE ONLY FACTOR THAT NEED BE CONSIDERED IN THIS EQUATION.
DISPATCHING WARLOCK WILL SURELY MEAN THAT THIS UNIVERSE SHALL FALL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MAGUS.
THE CREATURE IS QUITE POWERFUL AND INSANE.
BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE TO ME?
LET HIM DO AS HE WILL WITH THIS GALAXY.
I SHALL BE BURIED DEEP IN DEATH'S COOL EMBRACE, OBLIVIOUS TO THIS REALITY'S FATE.
WILL THIS TRULY BE SO?
NOT LONG AGO I OFFERED MISTRESS DEATH MY HEART AND THE UNIVERSE AS A LOVE TOKEN.
SHE REJECTED BOTH.
I STILL REMEMBER THE ACID TASTE OF THIS BETRAYAL.
NOW I AM TO BELIEVE THAT I CAN GAIN MY ULTIMATE DESIRE WITH BUT A MINOR FAVOR.

ALL I NEED DO IS VIOLATE MY WORD, MURDER A CONFEDERATE AND DOOM A UNIVERSE.

A TRULY SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR DEATH'S AFFECTION.

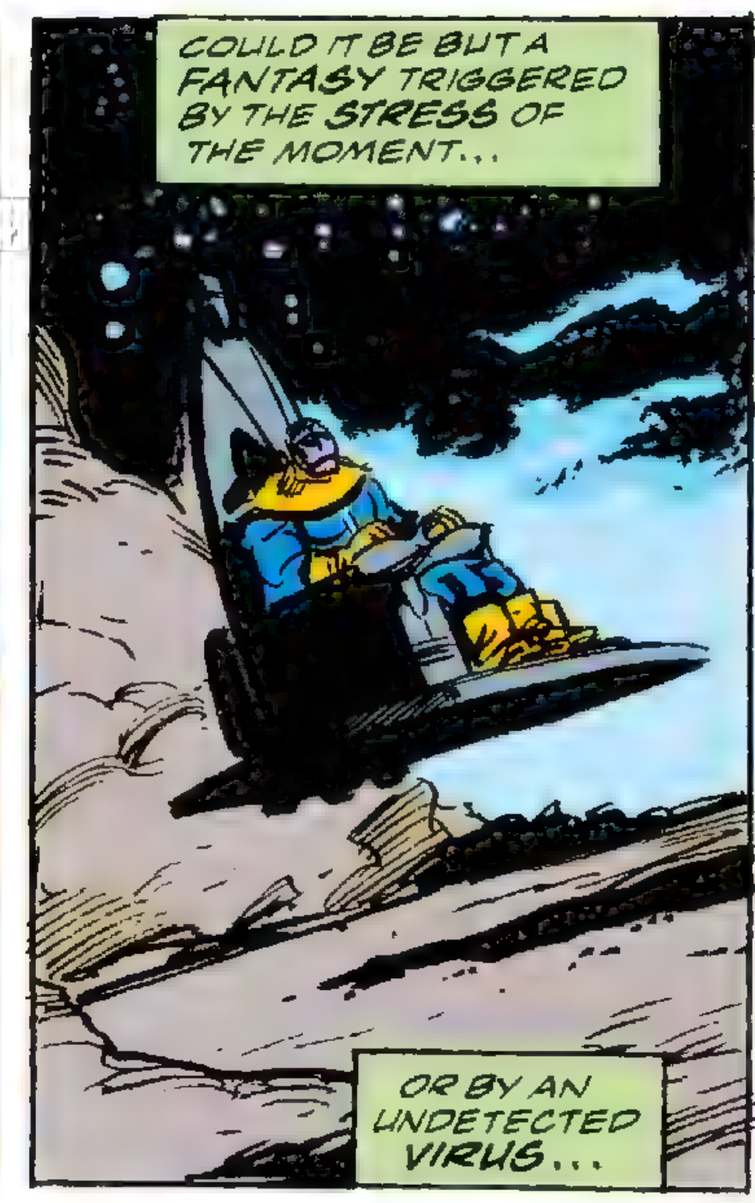

NOW I NEED ASK, DO I TRULY TRUST MISTRESS DEATH'S WORD?

IS HER OFFER GENUINE OR DOES SHE BUT TOY WITH ME?
THE COST SHE DEMANDS IS ONE I WOULD GLADLY PAY.

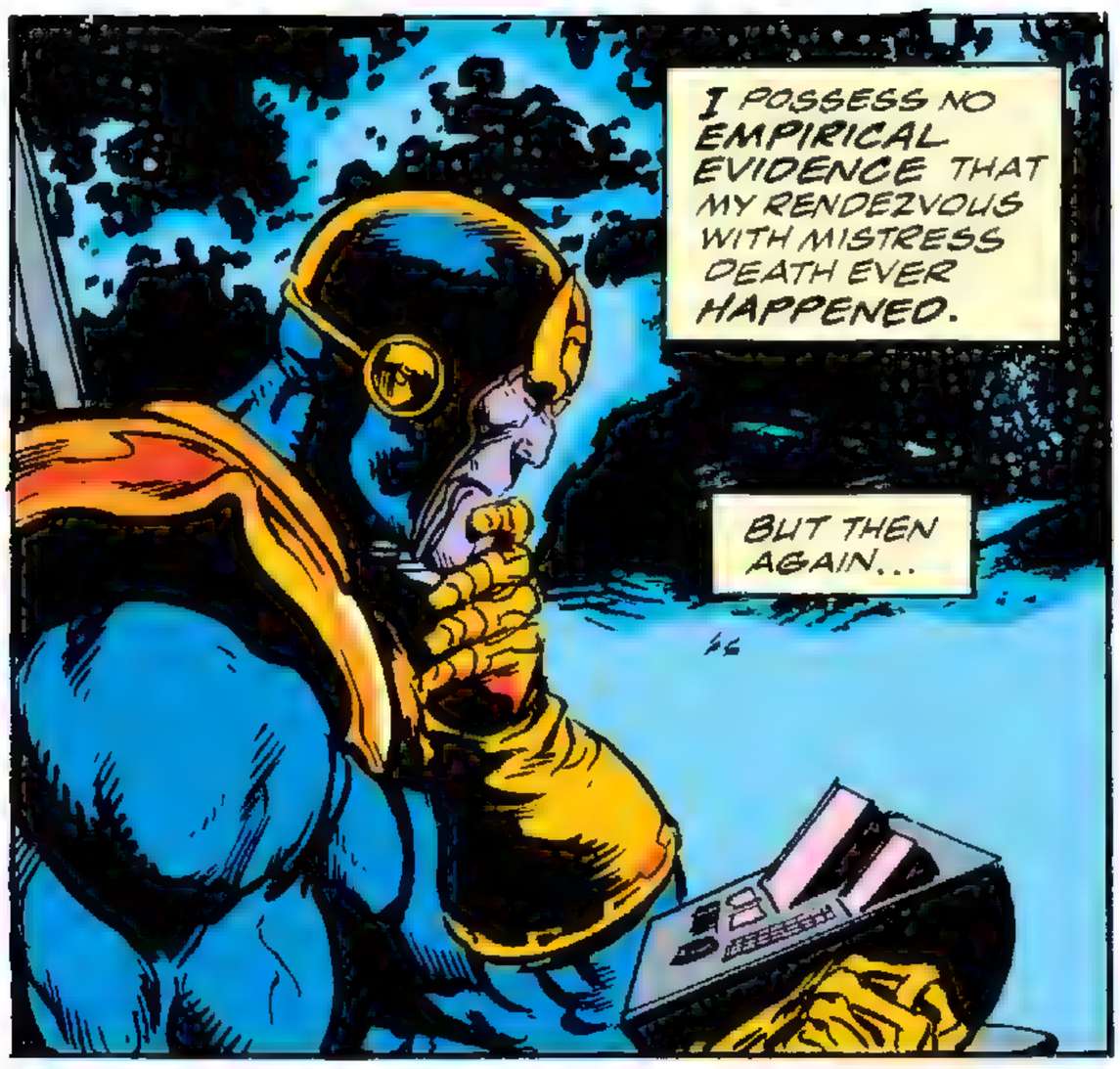
I WOULD FREELY SACRIFICE ALL EXISTENCE FOR HER LOVE.
BUT WILL THE PRICE OF ADMISSION REALLY GAIN ME ENTRY?

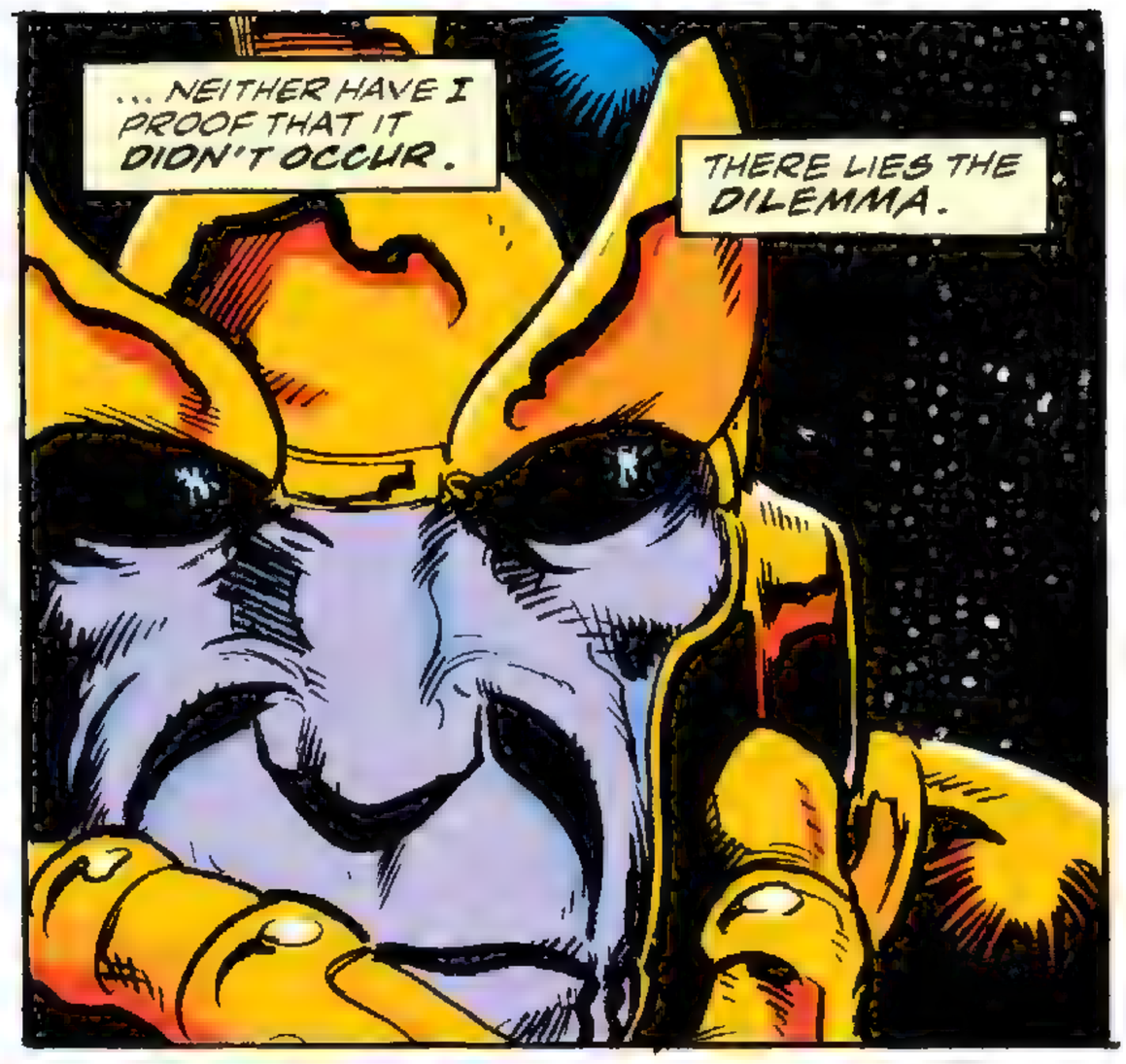
OR WILL I FOOLISHLY FIND MYSELF ALONE IN THE COLD WITH MOCKING LAUGHTER RINGING IN MY EARS?

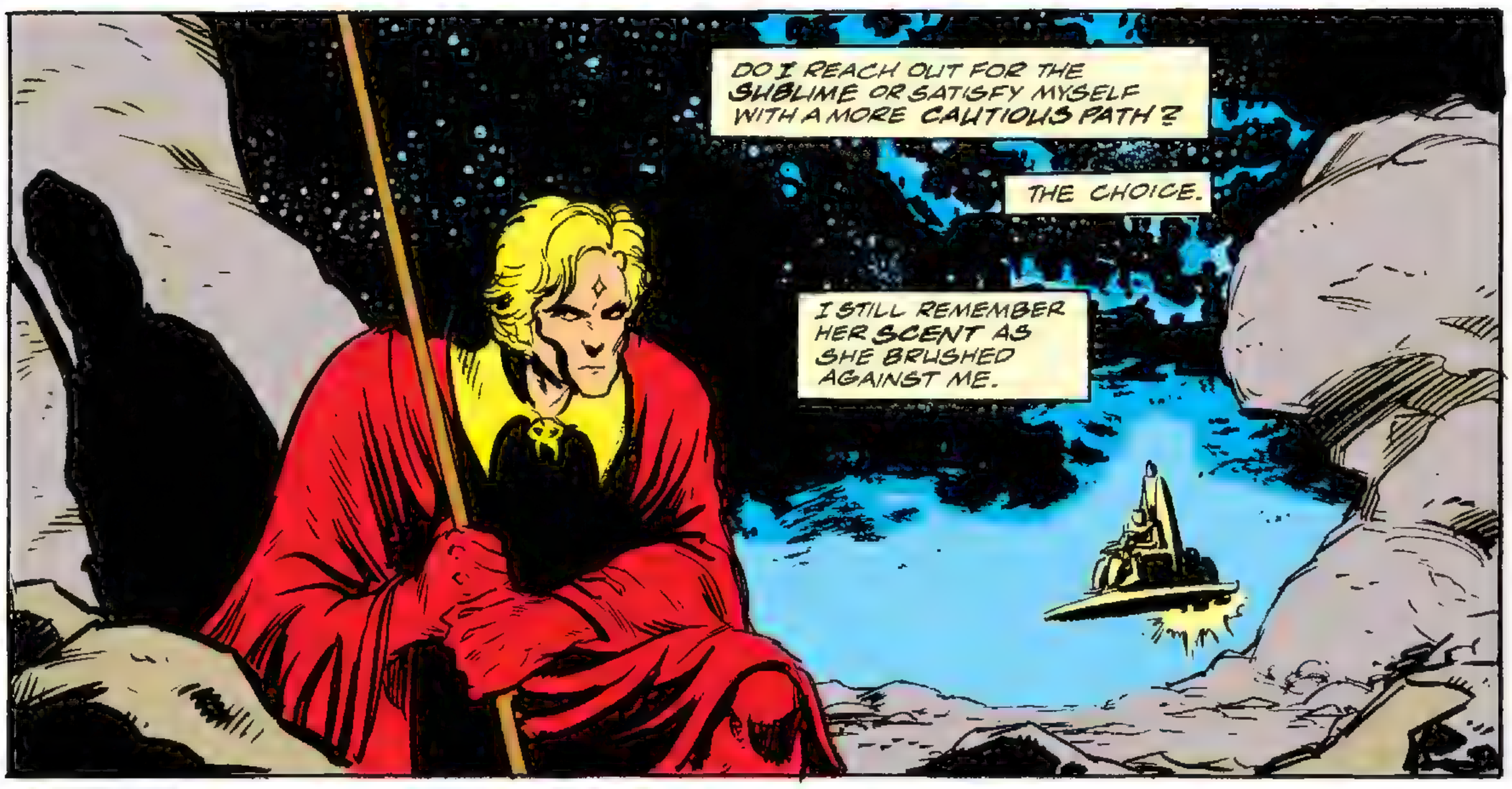
OF COURSE, ALL THIS SOUL SEARCHING IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MY ENCOUNTER WITH MISTRESS DEATH ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

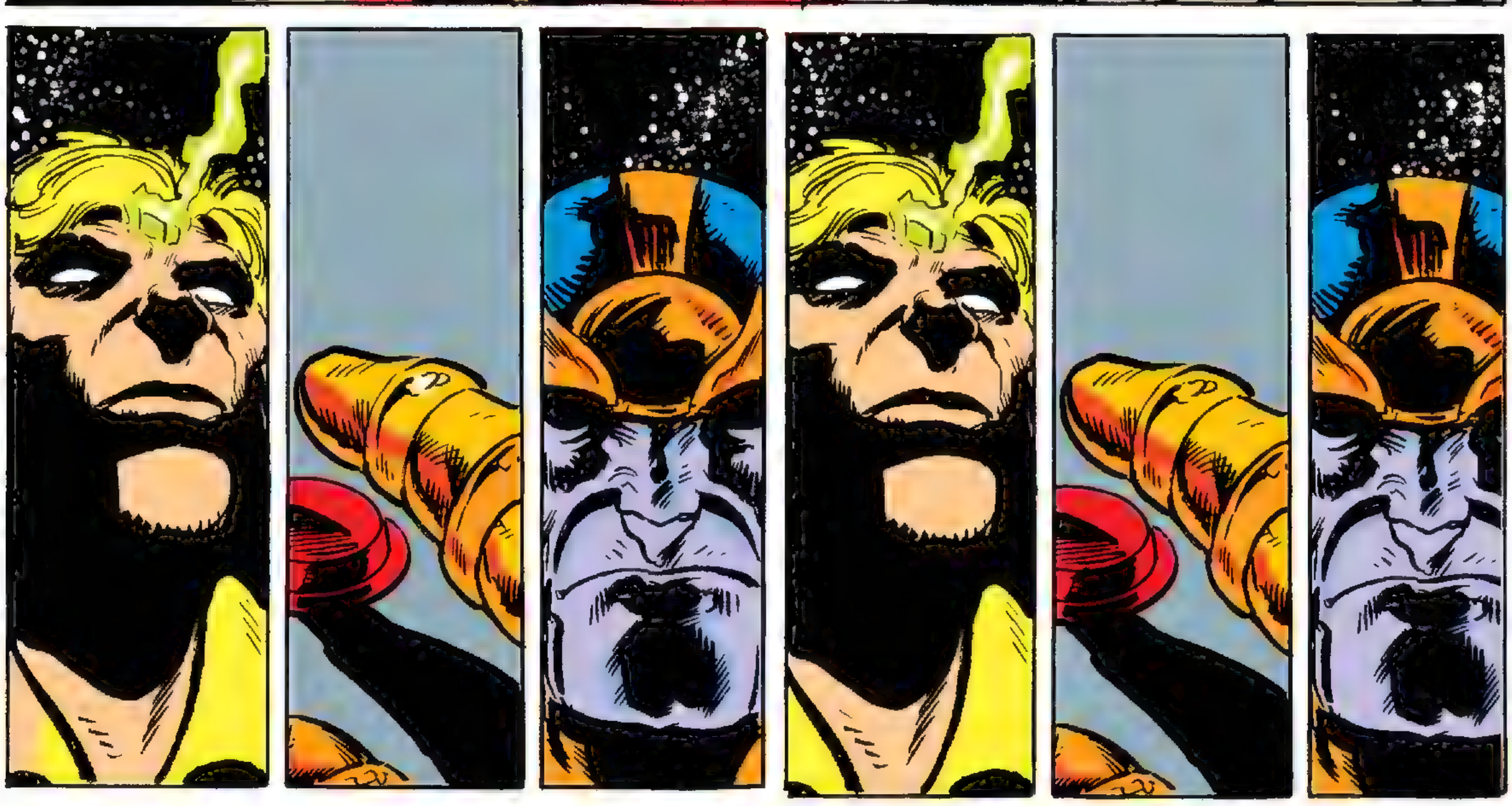

COULD IT BE BUT A FANTASY TRIGGERED BY THE STRESS OF THE MOMENT...
OR BY AN UNDETECTED VIRUS...

...OR EVEN A DESIRE UNFULFILLED?

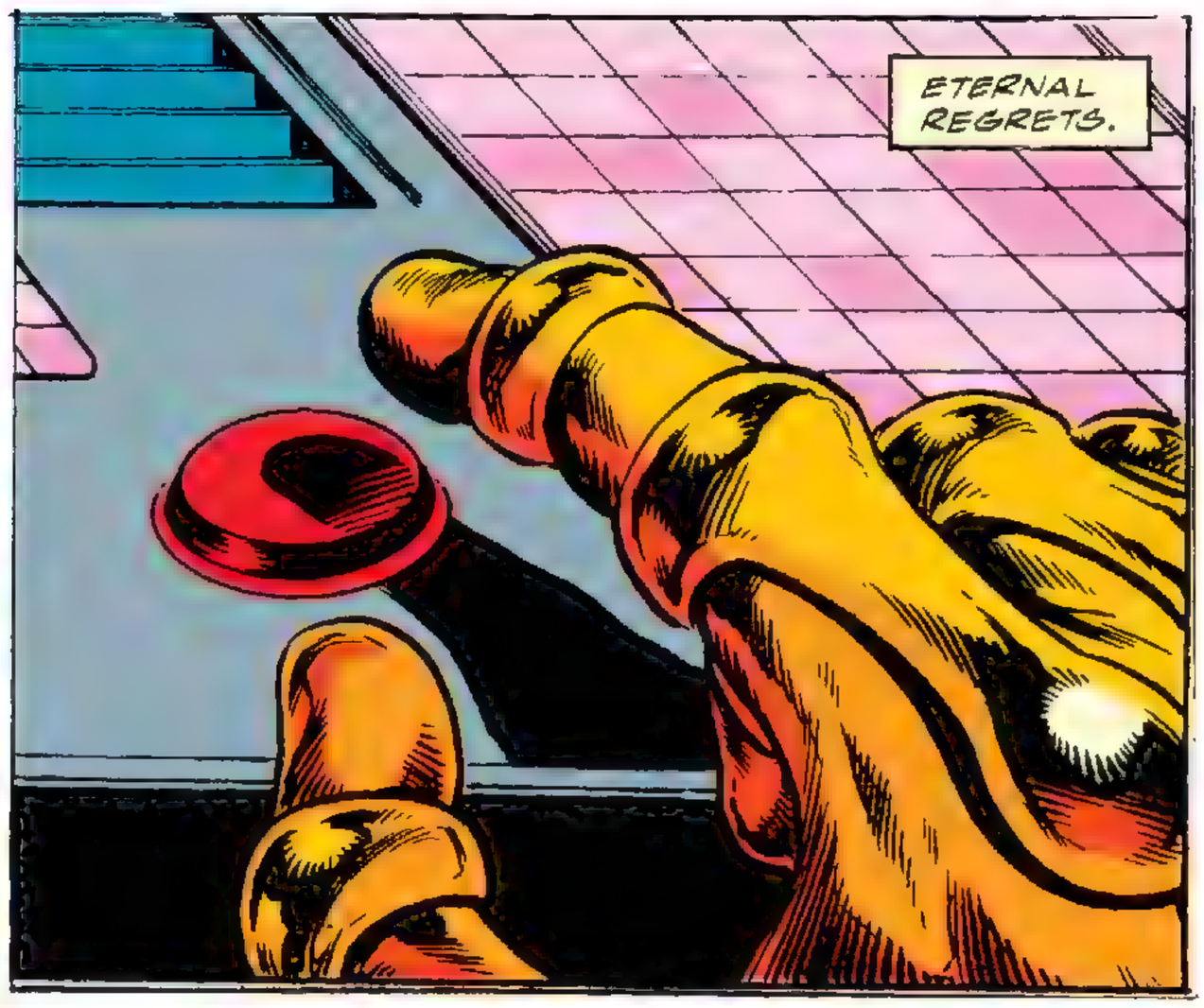

I POSSESS NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT MY RENDEZVOUS WITH MISTRESS DEATH EVER HAPPENED.
BUT THEN AGAIN...


... NEITHER HAVE I PROOF THAT IT DIDN'T OCCUR.
THERE LIES THE DILEMMA.

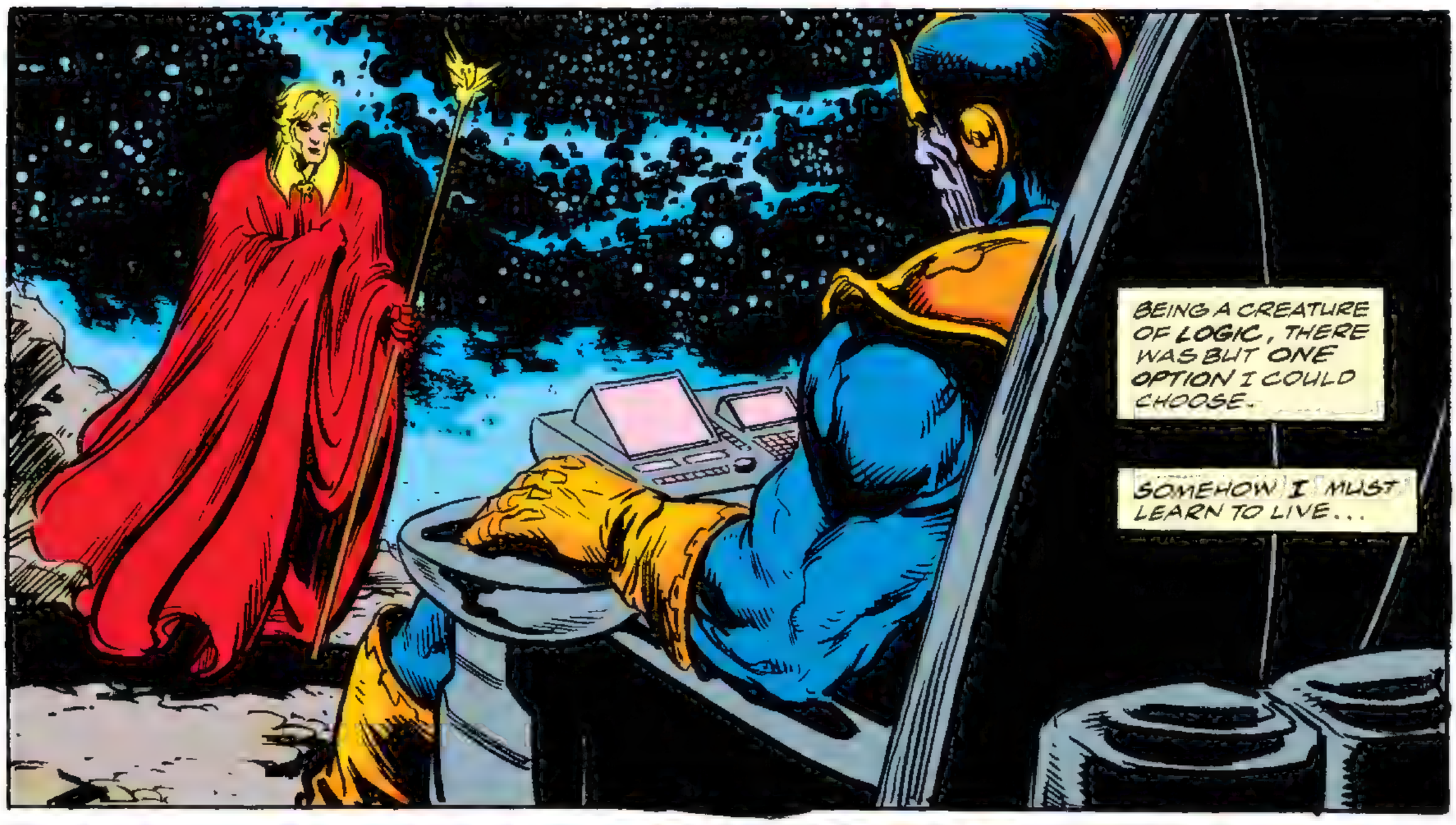

DO I REACH OUT FOR THE SUBLIME OR SATISFY MYSELF WITH A MORE CAUTIOUS PATH?
THE CHOICE.
I STILL REMEMBER HER SCENT AS SHE BRUSHED AGAINST ME.



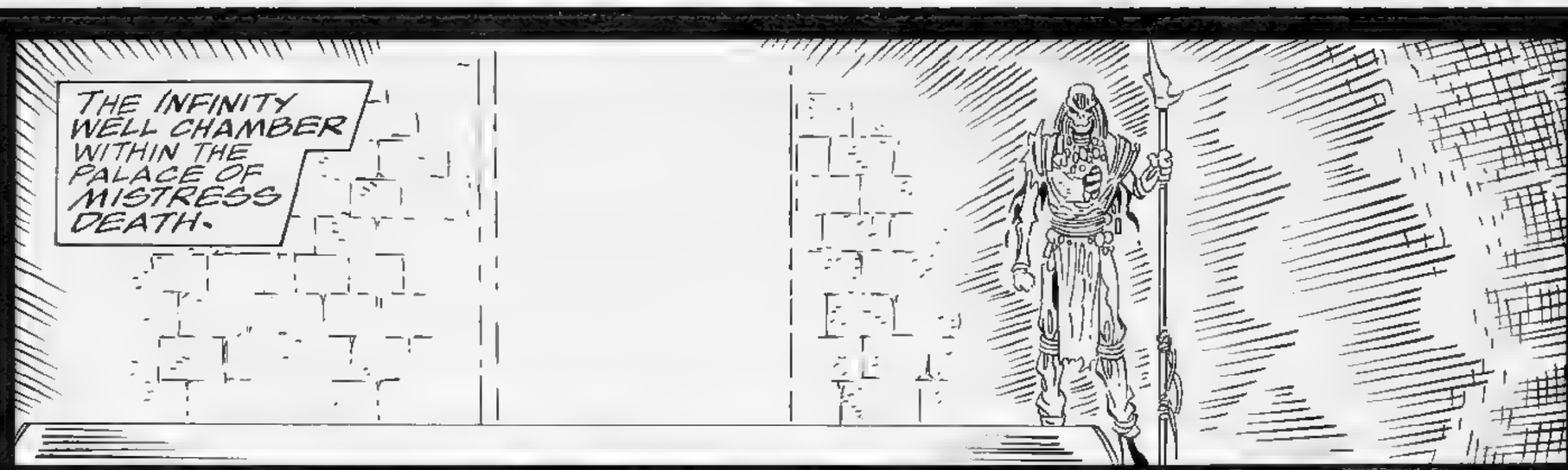
WILD DREAMS.


ETERNAL REGRETS.

WEAPONS SYSTEM DEACTIVATED


BEING A CREATURE OF LOGIC, THERE WAS BUT ONE OPTION I COULD CHOOSE.
SOMEHOW I MUST LEARN TO LIVE...

...WITH THE INNER EMPTINESS THIS DECISION HAS ENGENDERED.
AN EMPTINESS THAT SEEMS INFINITE.
THE END.



INFINITY WAR #2, **PAGE 14 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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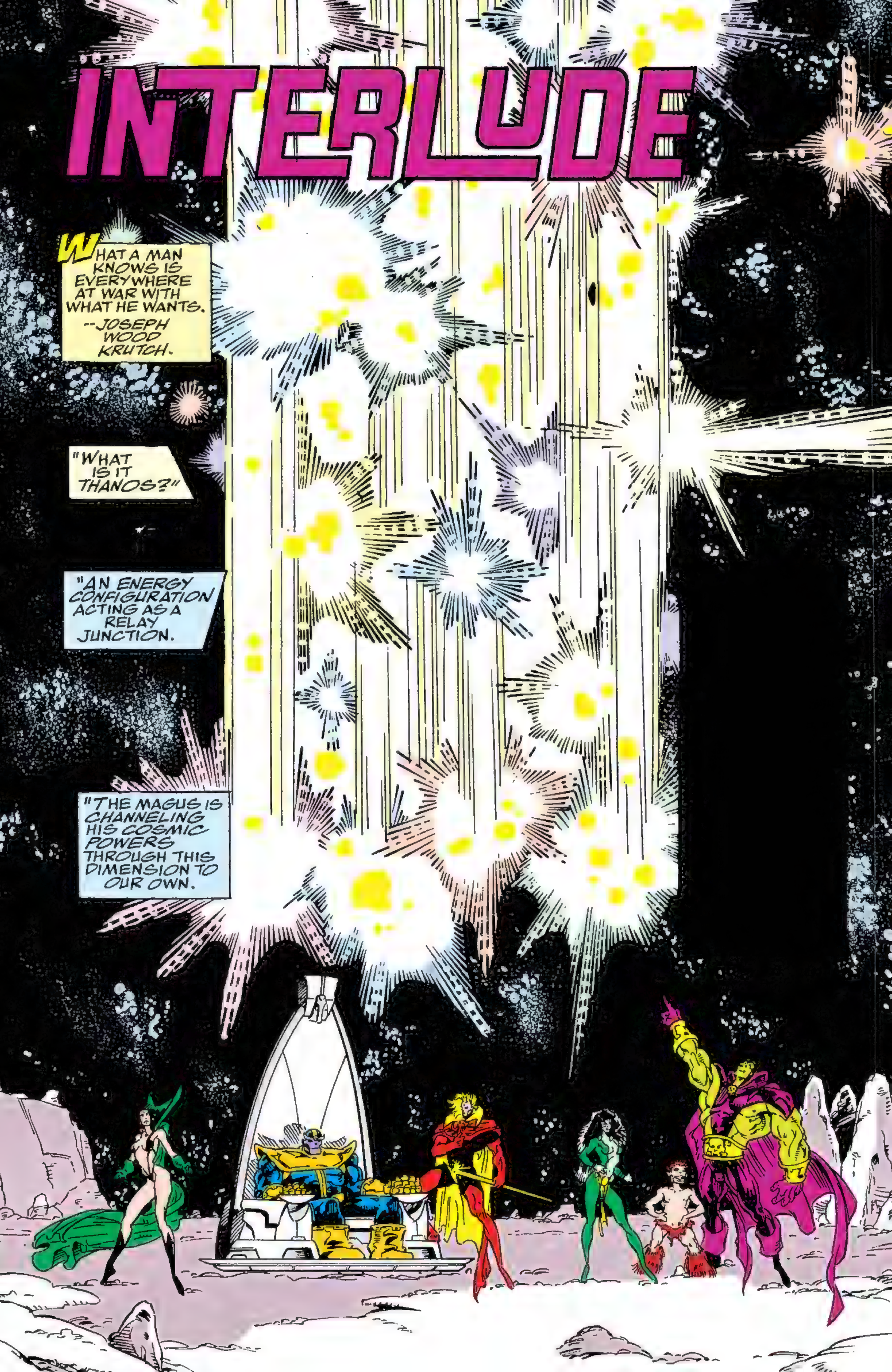
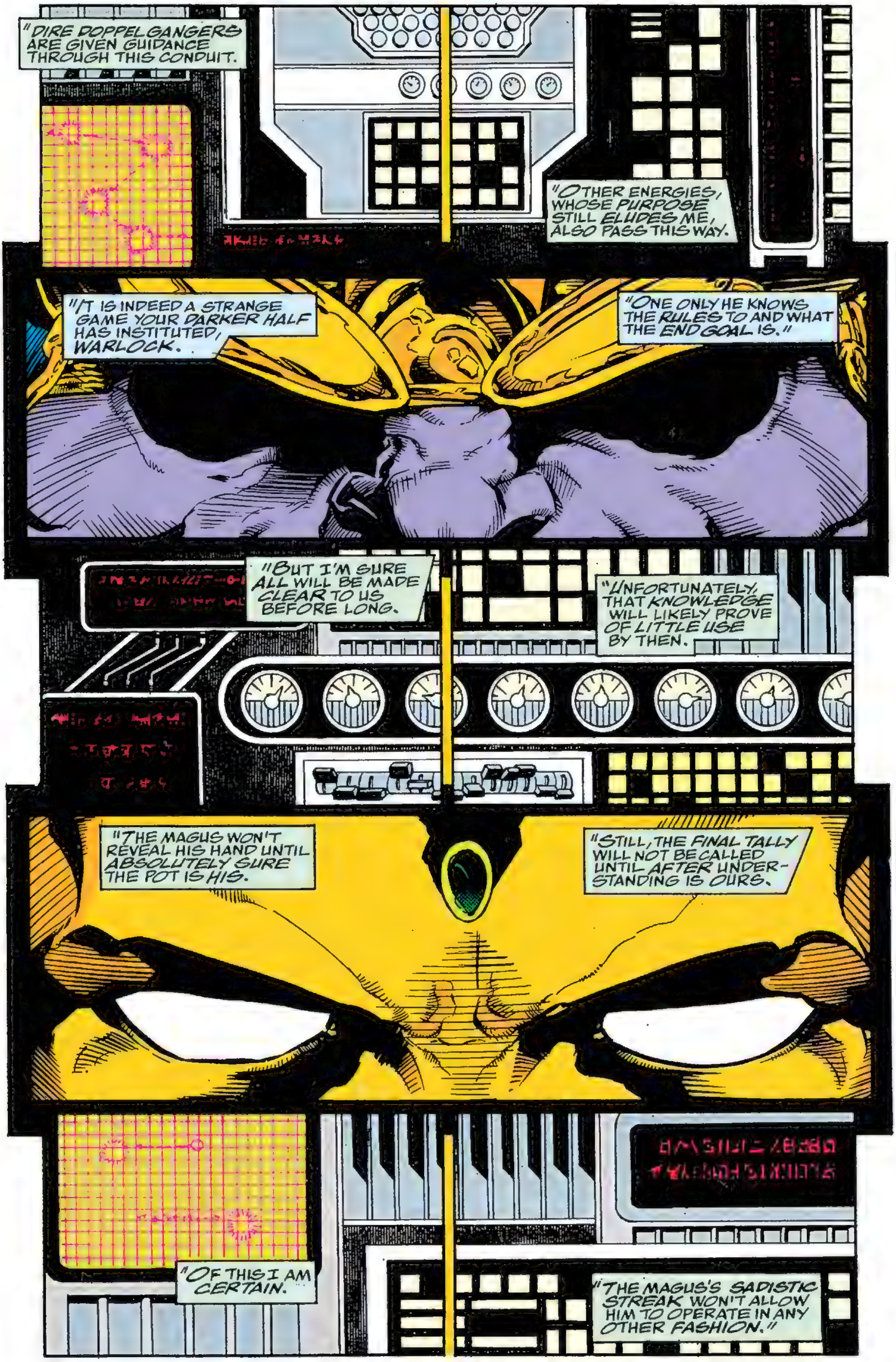
WARLOCK and the INFINITY WATCH™

REUNION WITH THANOS!™


INTERLUDE
WHAT A MAN KNOWS IS EVERYWHERE AT WAR WITH WHAT HE WANTS. --JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH.
"WHAT IS IT THANOS?"
"AN ENERGY CONFIGURATION ACTING AS A RELAY JUNCTION.
"THE MAGUS IS CHANNELING HIS COSMIC POWERS THROUGH THIS DIMENSION TO OUR OWN.


"DIRE DOPPELGANGERS ARE GIVEN GUIDANCE THROUGH THIS CONDUIT.
"OTHER ENERGIES, WHOSE PURPOSE STILL ELUDES ME, ALSO PASS THIS WAY.
"IT IS INDEED A STRANGE GAME YOUR DARKER HALF HAS INSTITUTED, WARLOCK.
"ONE ONLY HE KNOWS THE RULES TO AND WHAT THE END GOAL IS."
"BUT I'M SURE ALL WILL BE MADE CLEAR TO US BEFORE LONG.
"UNFORTUNATELY, THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL LIKELY PROVE OF LITTLE USE BY THEN.
"THE MAGUS WON'T REVEAL HIS HAND UNTIL ABSOLUTELY SURE THE POT IS HIS.
"STILL, THE FINAL TALLY WILL NOT BE CALLED UNTIL AFTER UNDERSTANDING IS OURS.
"OF THIS I AM CERTAIN.
"THE MAGUS'S SADISTIC STREAK WON'T ALLOW HIM TO OPERATE IN ANY OTHER FASHION."

IN A FAR-OFF DIMENSION, MANY PLANES REMOVED FROM OUR OWN ACTUALITY...
WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES OF TRACING THESE ENERGIES BACK TO THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN, THANOS?
ALREADY ENDEAVORING TO DO SO, GAMORA.
ALL IT REQUIRES IS A CERTAIN RECALIBRATION OF MY SCANNERS.
THEN HASTEN IN YOUR LABORS, TITAN.
SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN ME WARNS ME THAT EVERY MOMENT MUST BE COUNTED AS DEAR.
WEIRD PLACE. LOOKS LIKE DESERT IN NEVADA.
NEVADA?
Y'KNOW, WHAT'S REALLY WACKO IS OL' TALL AND DUMB NOT WANTING TO BOUNCE THANOS ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE.

I SUSPECT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT WHILE ALMIGHTY.

CALMED THE DESTROYER'S SAVAGE PSYCHE A BIT, DID YOU?

I THINK SO...

I FEAR THAT MY MEMORIES OF DIVINITY DIM FURTHER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

BY THE END OF THE FIRST MONTH, I'D FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING OTHER THAN A VAGUE FEELING OF GRANDEUR.

IT IS TO BE EXPECTED.

A PHYSICALLY-BASED MENTALITY CANNOT MAINTAIN A HOLD ONTO EVEN THE CLEAR CONCEPT OF OMNIPOTENCE FOR LONG.

I STILL GET FLASHES.

SAVOR THEM WHILE YOU CAN.

THEY TOO WILL PASS.

AH, YES... OF COURSE...

NEATO! REMINISCENCES OF FORMER SUPREME BEINGS!

YOU GUYS OUGHTA START A CLUB!

JUST THE TWO OF YOU!

VERY EXCLUSIVE!

OOPS.

MUST BE GOING NOW...

JEEEZ! SOME FOLKS GOT NO SENSE OF HUMOR AT ALL!

IT WAS JUST A JOKE!

THANOS, WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE?

I SEE TIME HAS NOT DULLED YOUR TONGUE'S RAZOR EDGE, GAMORA.

ARE YOUR OTHER SKILLS AS WELL HONED?

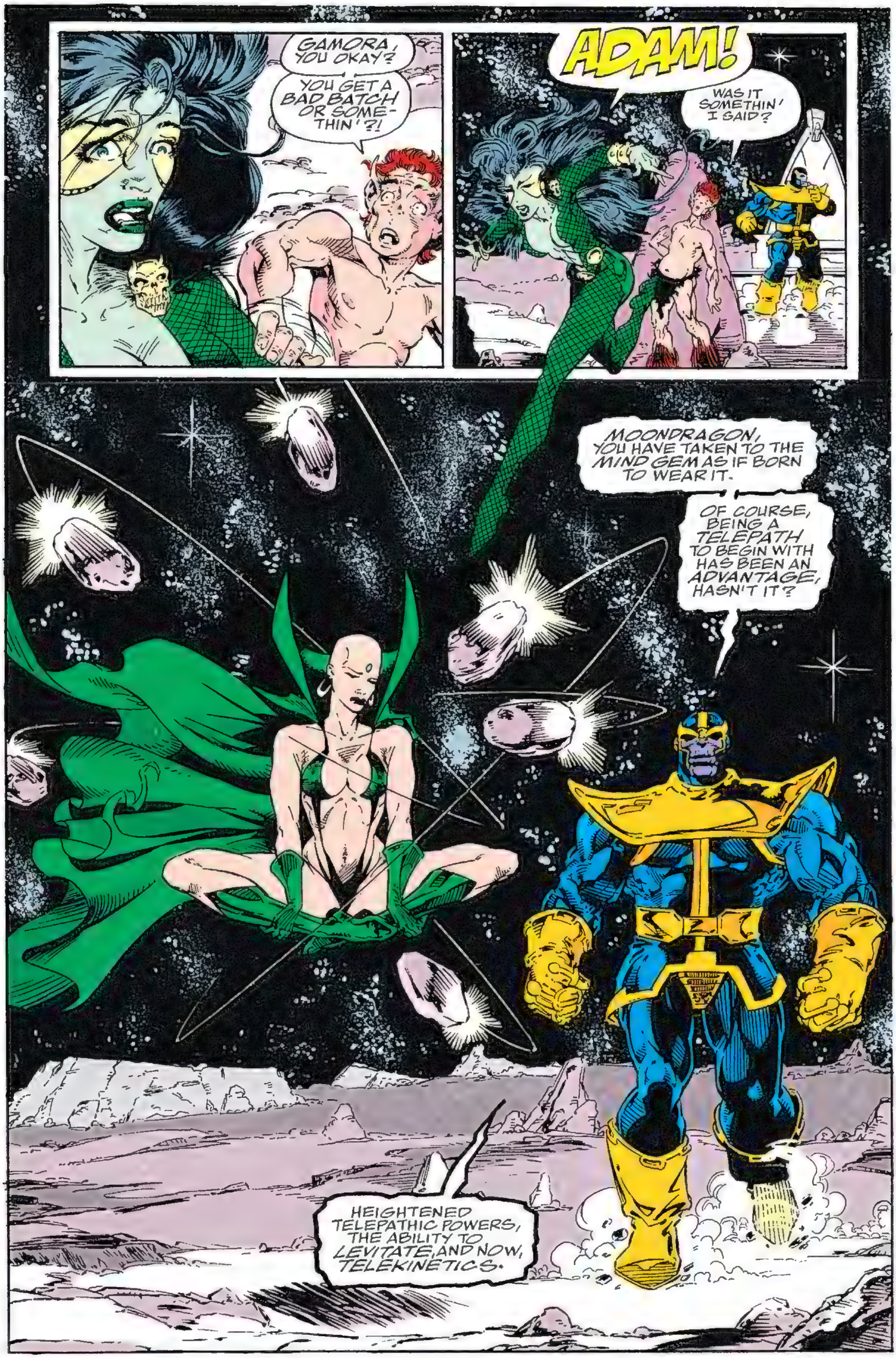
SHARPER THAN EVER.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, PIP.

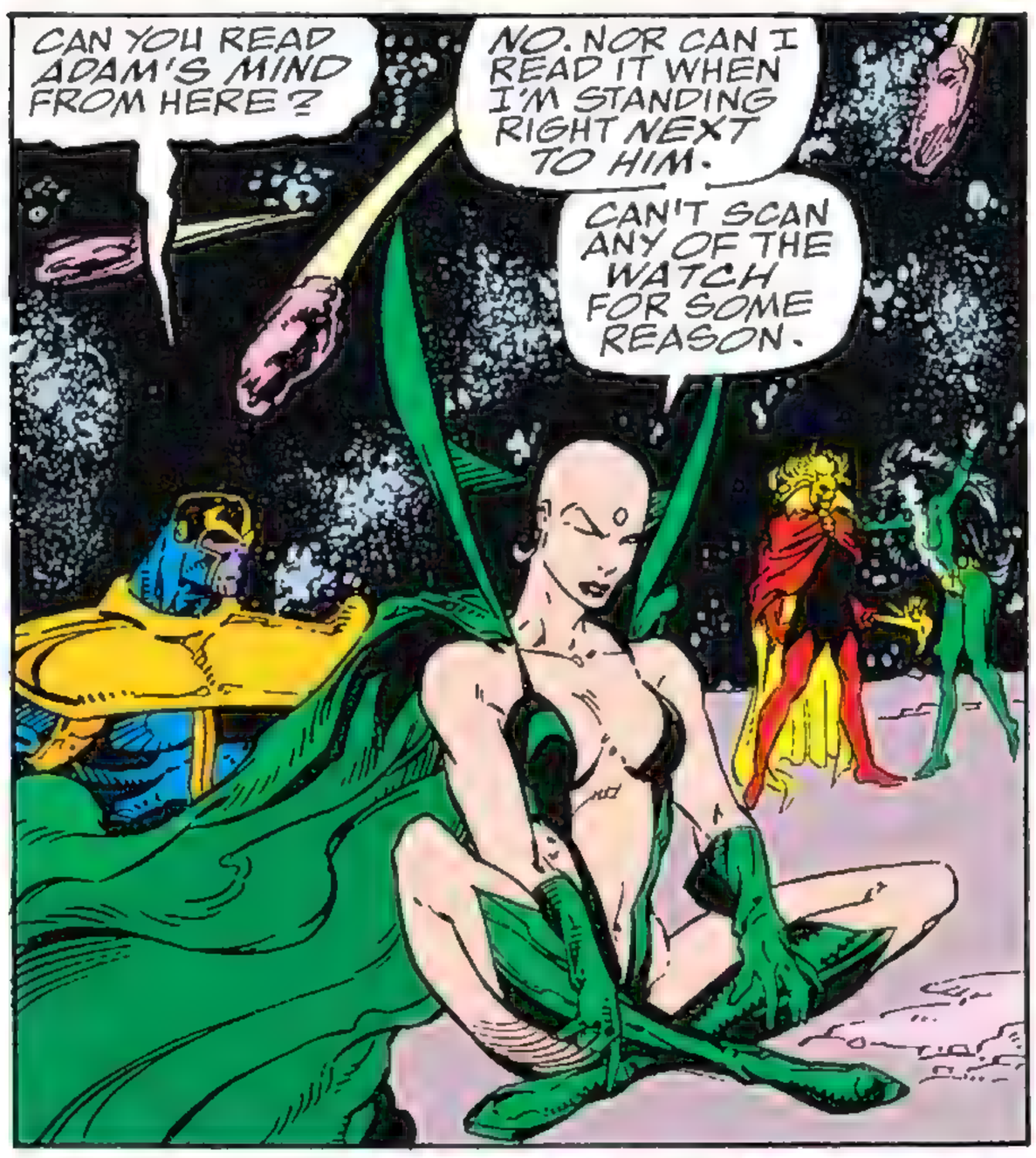
JUST STAY OUT OF... HIS...

...WAY...

NO!
IT CAN'T BE!


GAMORA, YOU OKAY?
YOU GET A BAD BATCH OR SOME-THIN'?!
ADAM!
WAS IT SOMETHIN' I SAID?
MOONDRAGON, YOU HAVE TAKEN TO THE MIND GEM AS IF BORN TO WEAR IT.
OF COURSE, BEING A TELEPATH TO BEGIN WITH HAS BEEN AN ADVANTAGE, HASN'T IT?
HEIGHTENED TELEPATHIC POWERS, THE ABILITY TO LEVITATE, AND NOW, TELEKINETICS.

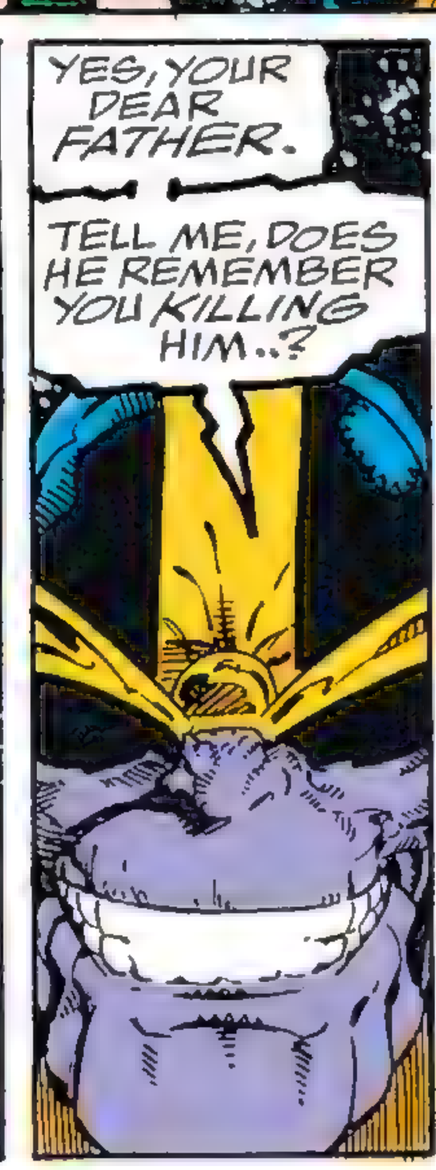
WHAT OTHER SKILLS HAVE YOU HARVESTED FROM THE GEM?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD SCANNERS THAT NEEDED ADJUSTING, THANOS.
ON-BOARDS ARE RUNNING A DIAGNOSTIC PROGRAM AT THE MOMENT.

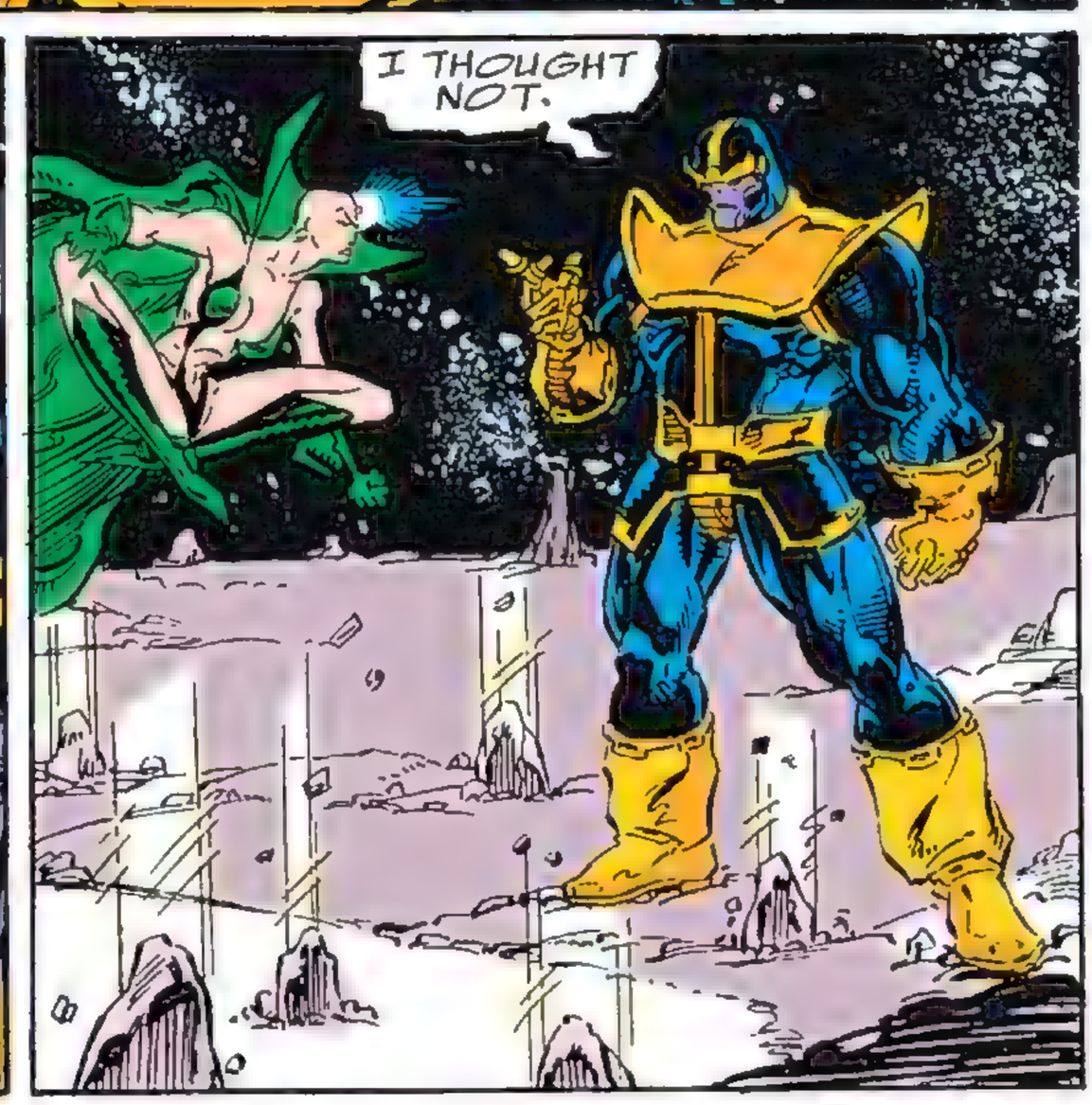

CAN YOU READ ADAM'S MIND FROM HERE?
NO. NOR CAN I READ IT WHEN I'M STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO HIM.
CAN'T SCAN ANY OF THE WATCH FOR SOME REASON.

BECAUSE WHEN ADAM WAS GOD HE DECIDED HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO.
SMART LAD. ALWAYS THINKING AHEAD.
SPEAKING OF LOOKING INTO MINDS...

...I CAN'T SEE INTO YOURS EITHER.
OF COURSE NOT
I AM THANOS.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER NEARBY MIND I FEEL CERTAIN YOU'D FIND FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN MY OWN.
YOU MEAN DRAX?


YES, YOUR DEAR FATHER.
TELL ME, DOES HE REMEMBER YOU KILLING HIM..?


I THOUGHT NOT.

I DON'T ENVY YOUR POSITION.

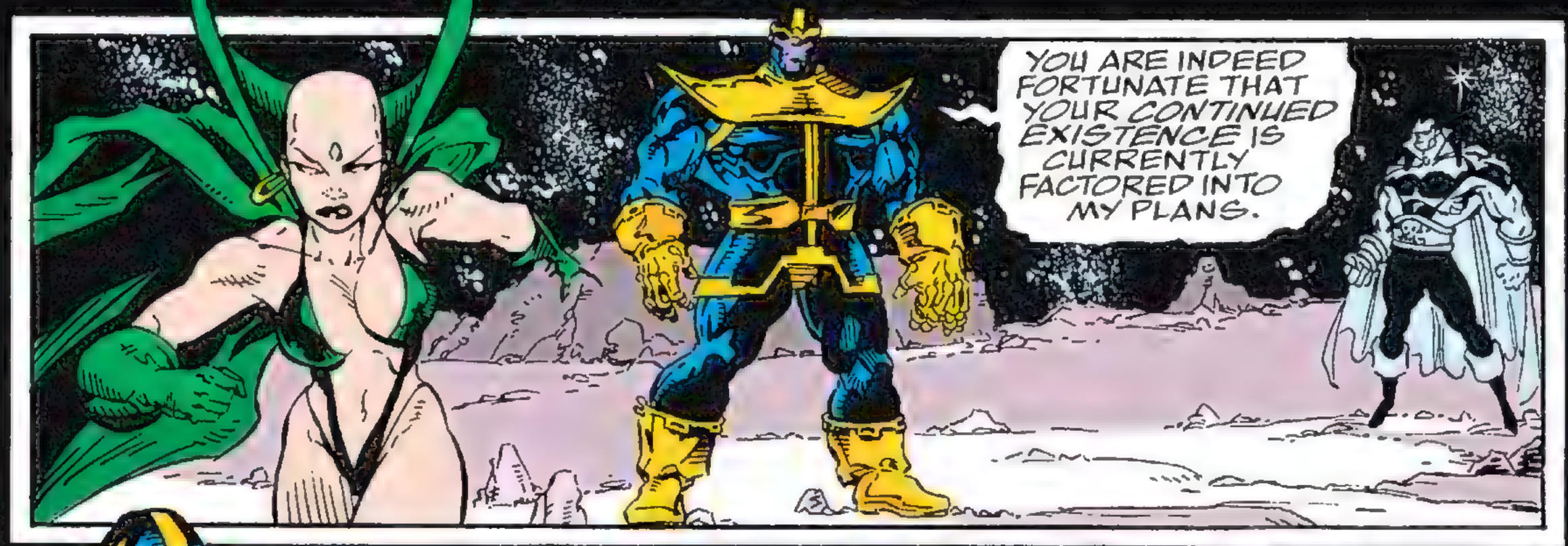
DRAX IS POWER PERSONIFIED AND A TEMPER WITH A SHORT FUSE.

EVEN WITH THE MIND GEM, YOU WOULDN'T LAST LONG AGAINST HIS RAGE.

FEEL

MOONDRAGON, YOUR ENTIRE LIFE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF BLUNDERS AND MISCALCULATIONS.

SOMEDAY, THE BILL ON YOUR INDISCRETIONS WILL COME DUE.

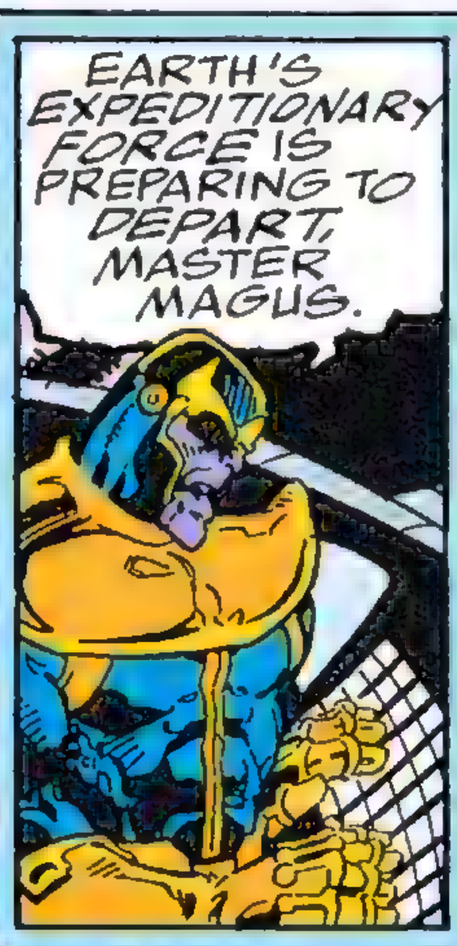


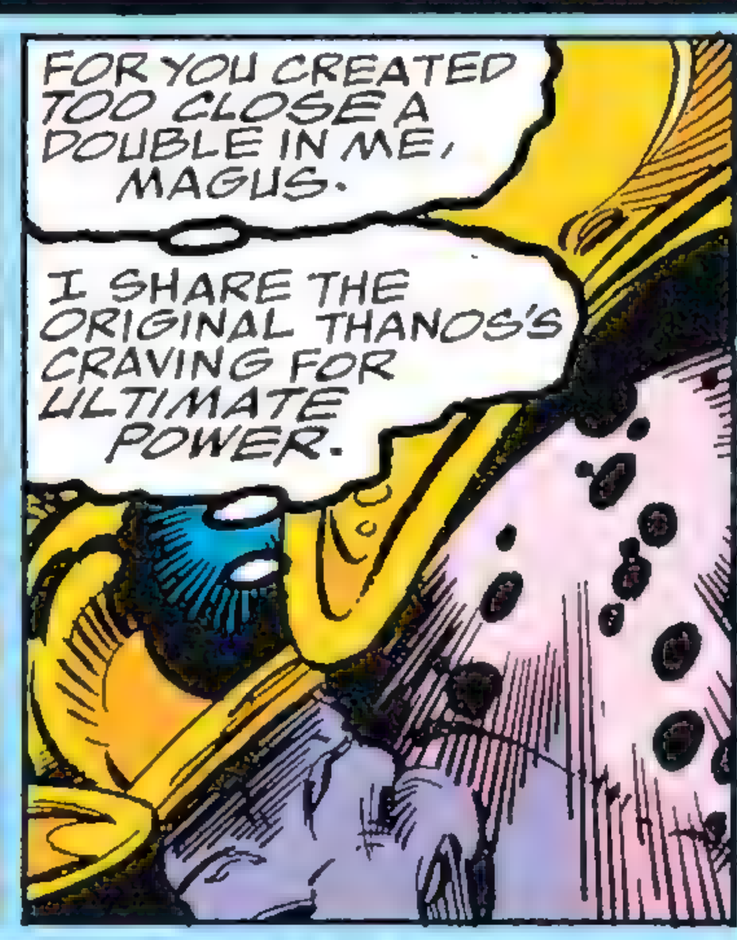
IN A CONTROL ROOM SEVERAL REALITIES AWAY...

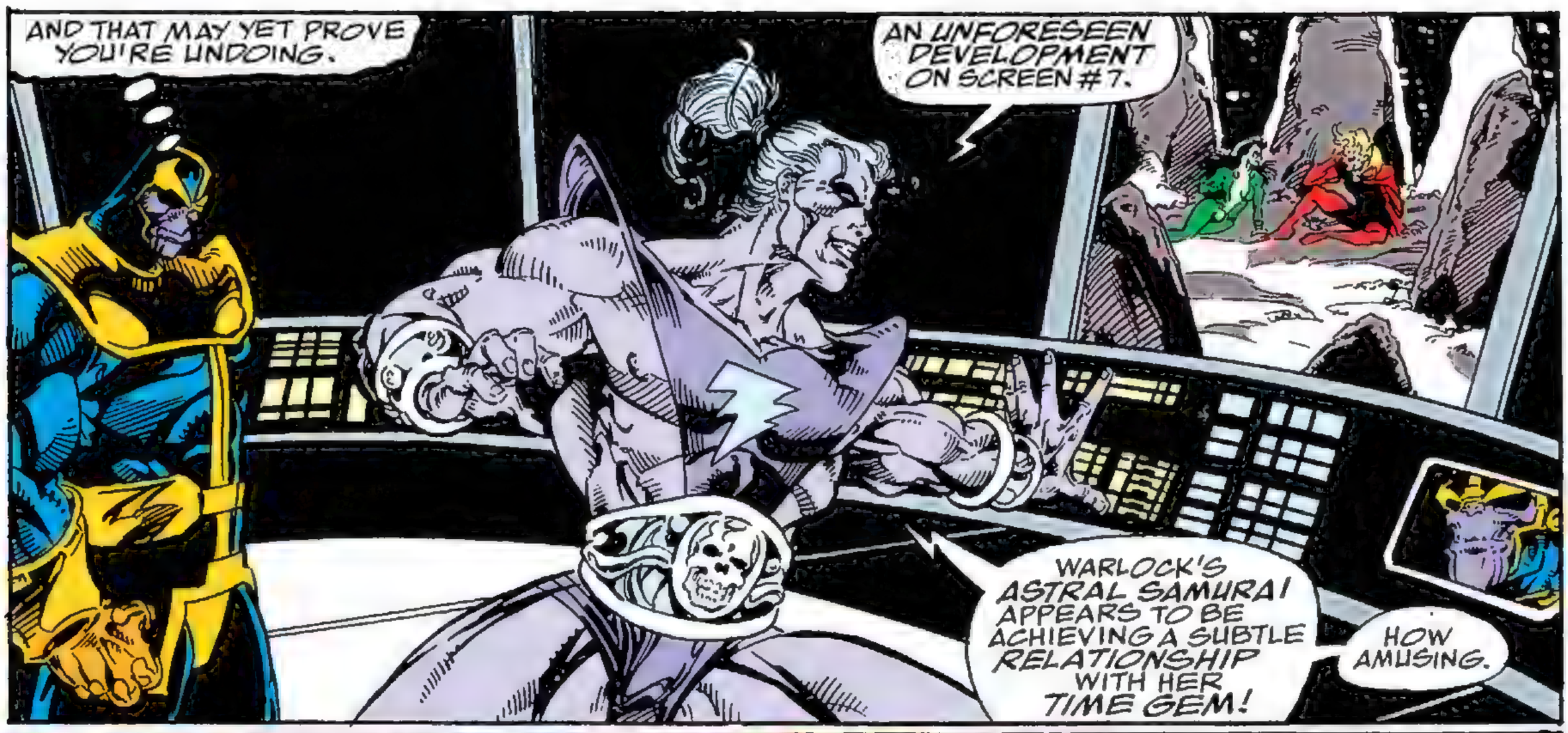
THE REAL THANOS BRINGS OUT THE EXTREMES OF THOSE HE ENCOUNTERS.

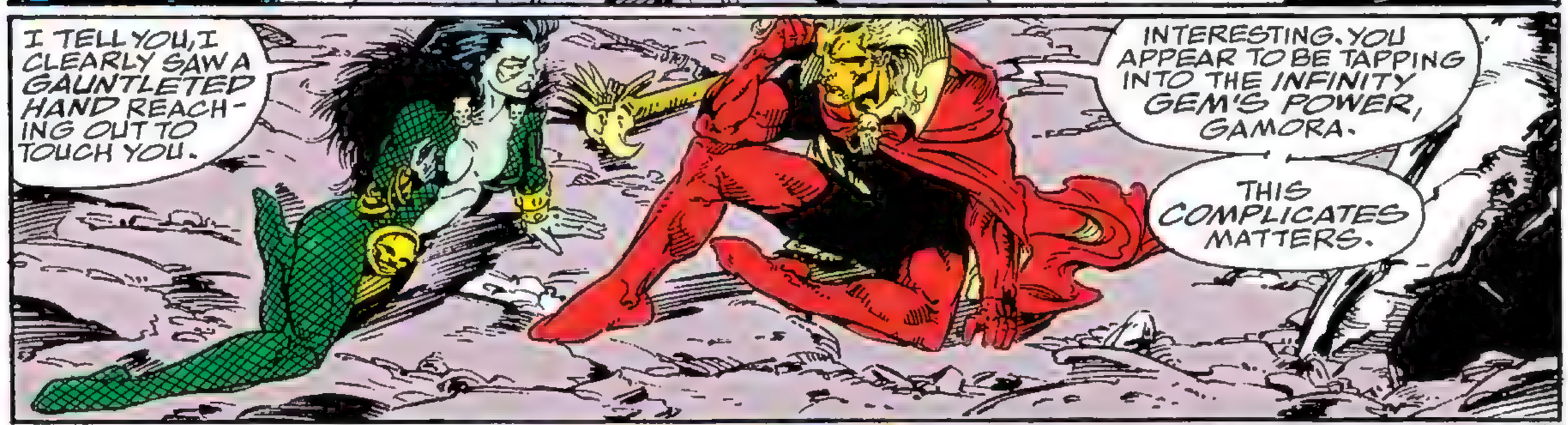
THAT IS WHAT MAKES HIM SUCH A GREAT GAMESMAN.

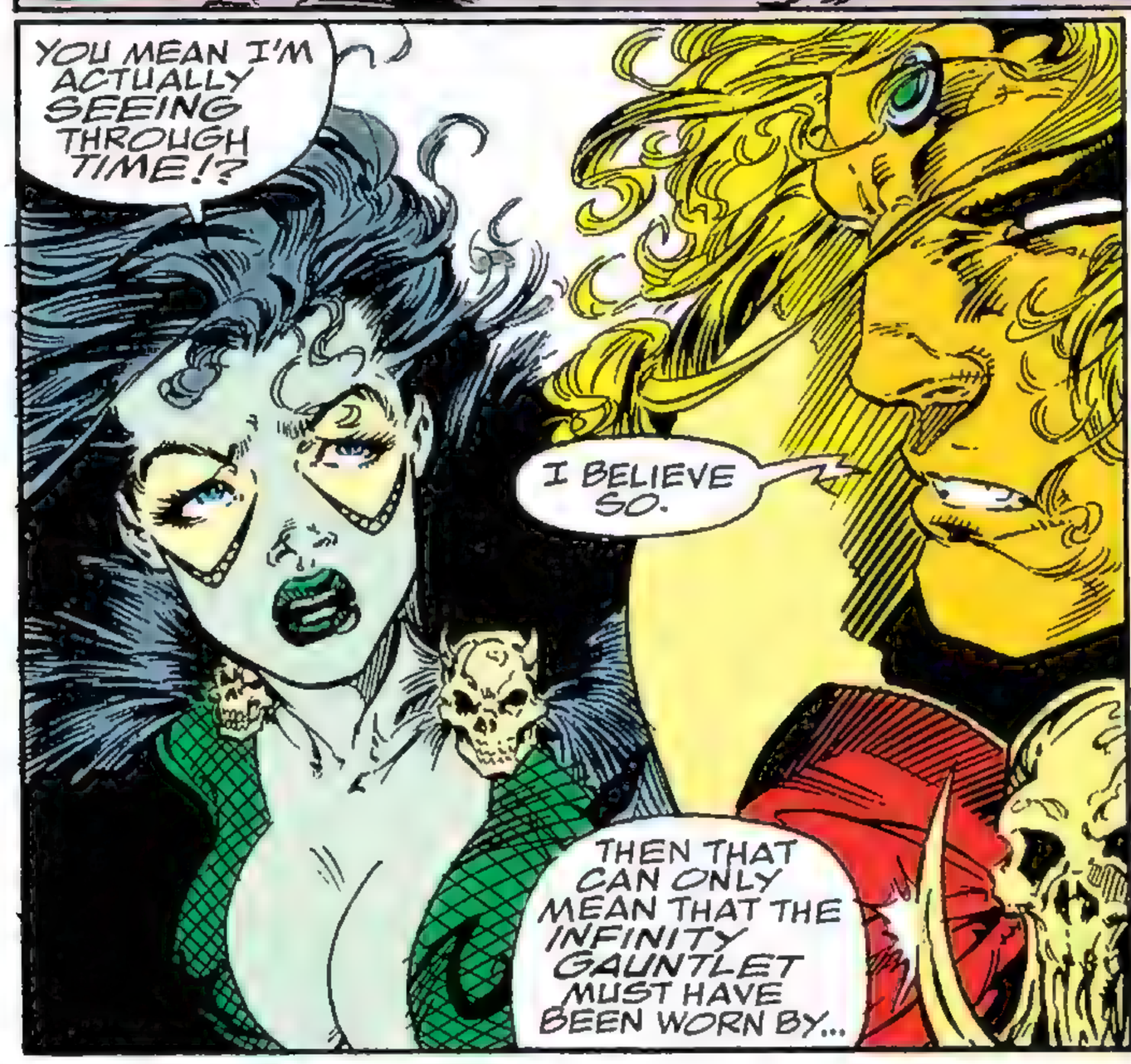
HE RIPS AWAY THE PRETENSIONS TO REVEAL THE CORE TRUTH.



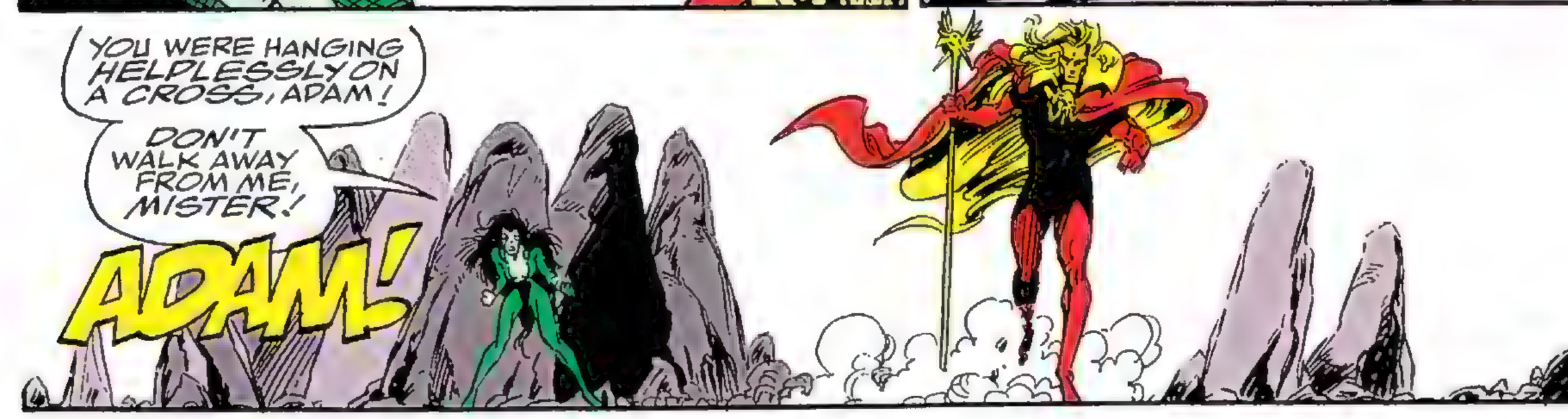



AND THAT MAY YET PROVE YOU'RE UNDOING.
AN UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT ON SCREEN #7.
WARLOCK'S ASTRAL SAMURAI APPEARS TO BE ACHIEVING A SUBTLE RELATIONSHIP WITH HER TIME GEM!
HOW AMUSING.

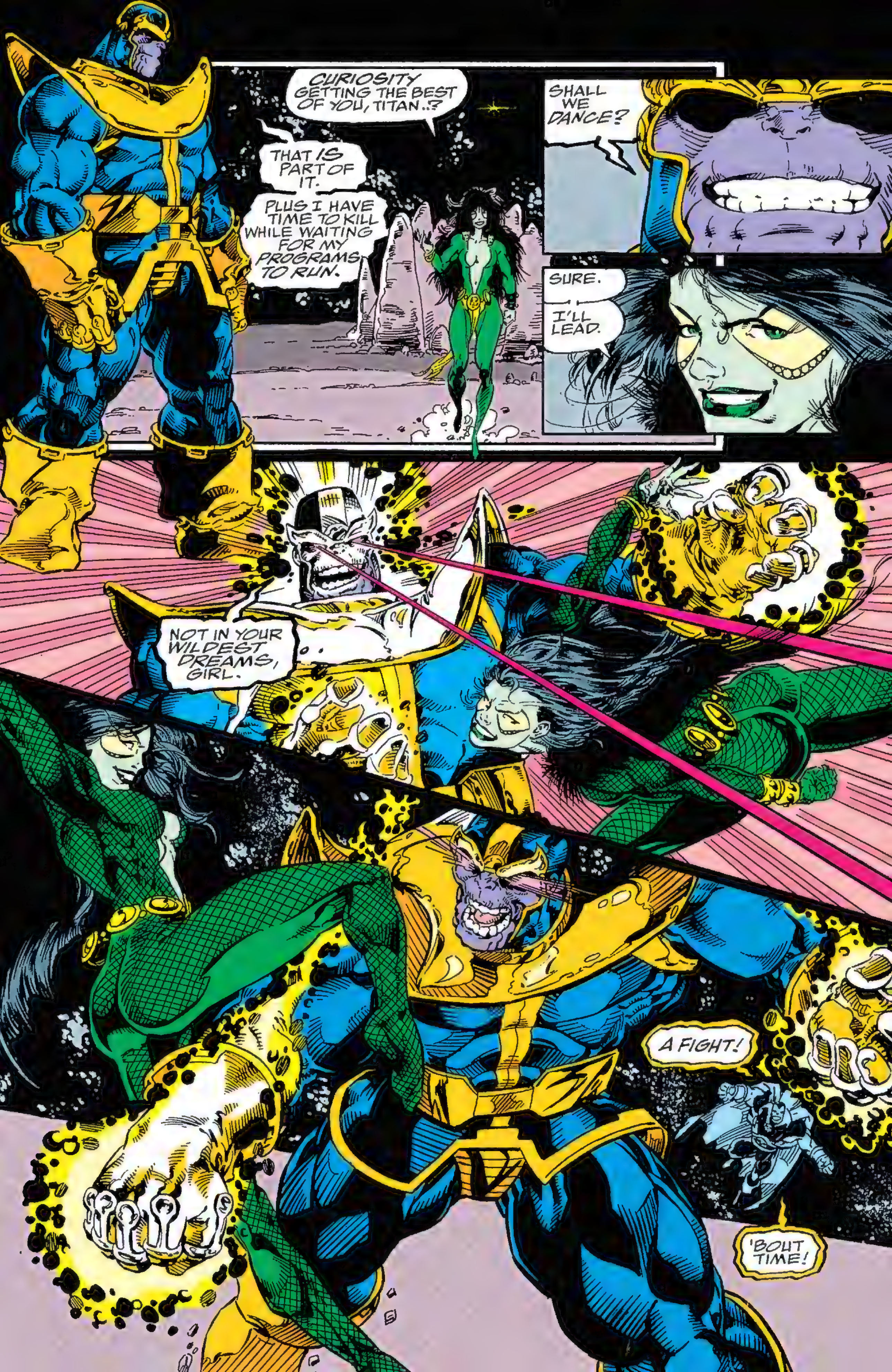

I TELL YOU, I CLEARLY SAW A GAUNTLETED HAND REACHING OUT TO TOUCH YOU.
INTERESTING. YOU APPEAR TO BE TAPPING INTO THE INFINITY GEM'S POWER, GAMORA.
THIS COMPLICATES MATTERS.


YOU MEAN I'M ACTUALLY SEEING THROUGH TIME!?
I BELIEVE SO.
THEN THAT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE INFINITY GAUNTLET MUST HAVE BEEN WORN BY...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL HANDLE IT.
YOU'LL HANDLE IT?

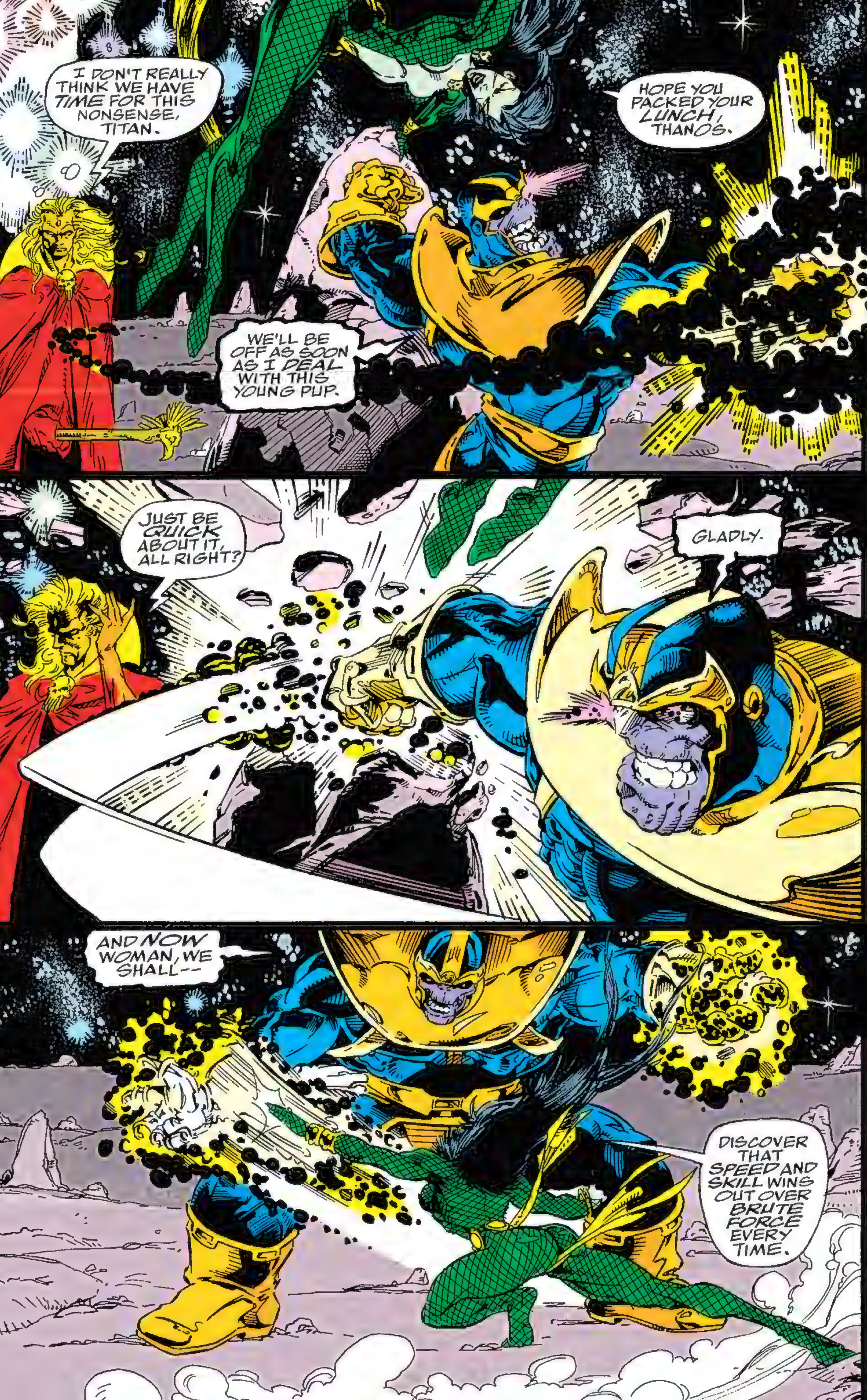

YOU WERE HANGING HELPLESSLY ON A CROSS, ADAM!
DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME, MISTER!
ADAM!

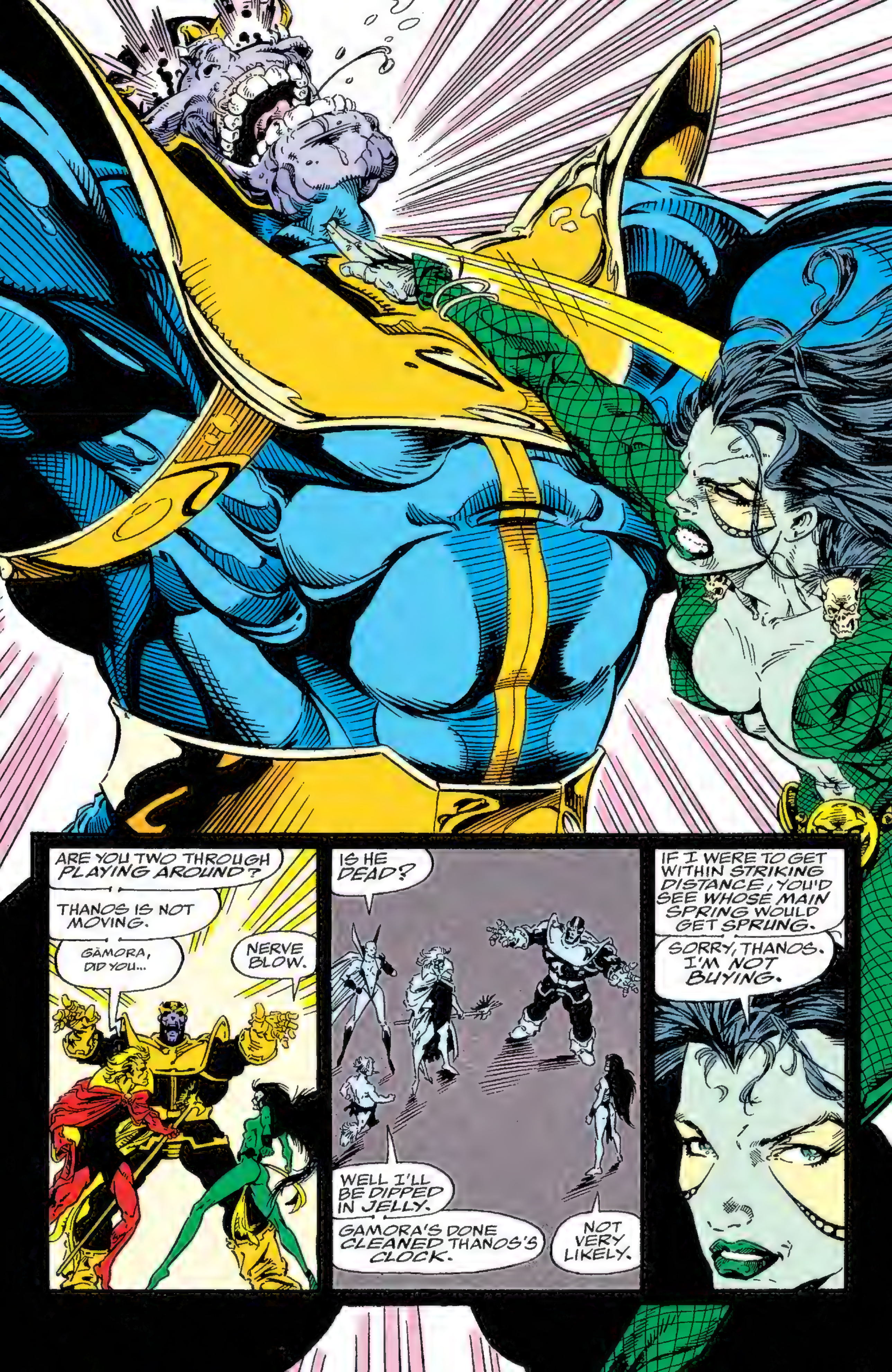
LEAVE HIM BE, GAMORA.

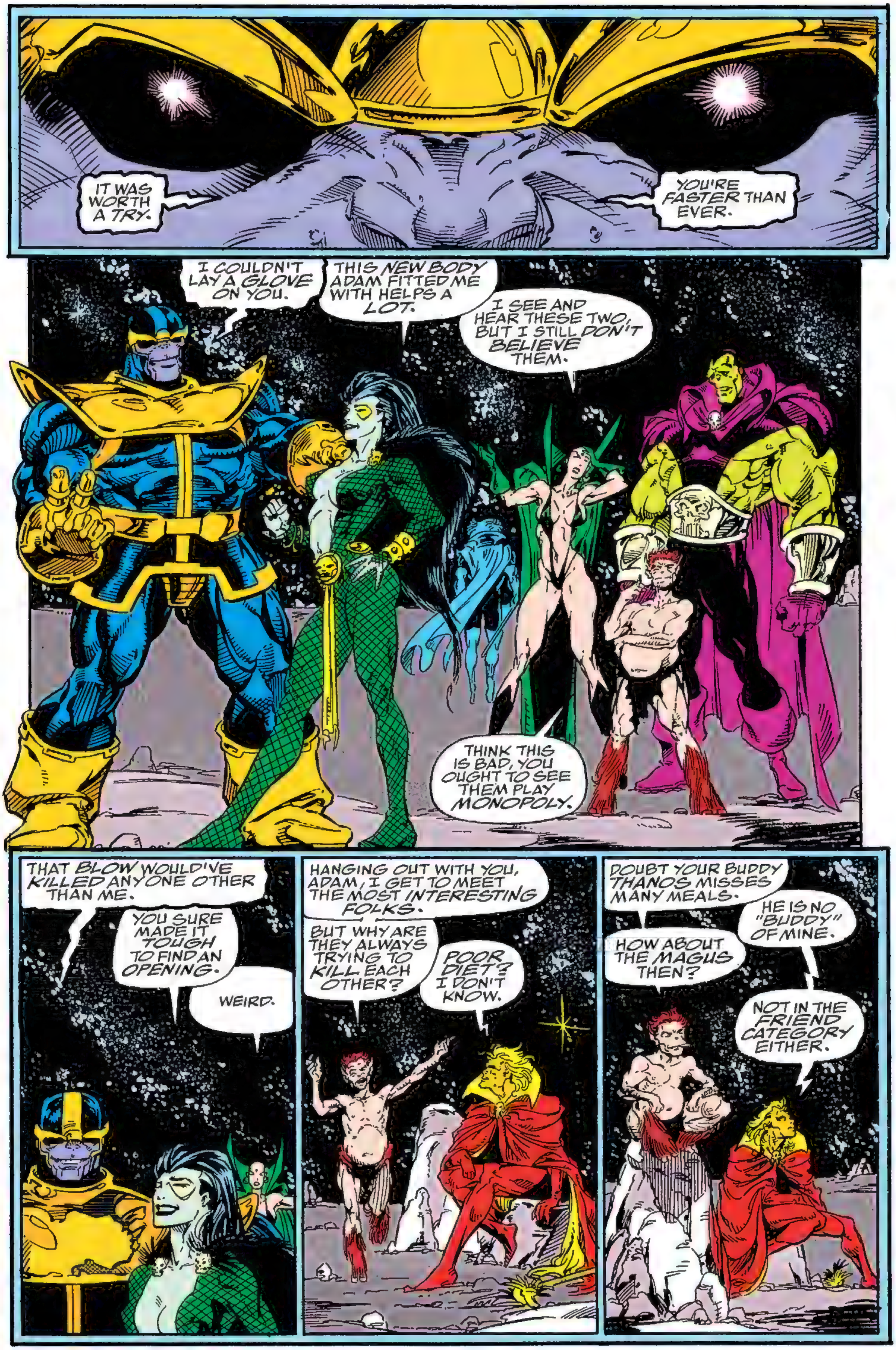

CURIOSITY GETTING THE BEST OF YOU, TITAN..?
THAT IS PART OF IT.
PLUS I HAVE TIME TO KILL WHILE WAITING FOR MY PROGRAMS TO RUN.
SHALL WE DANCE?
SURE.
I'LL LEAD.
NOT IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS, GIRL.
A FIGHT!
'BOUT TIME!

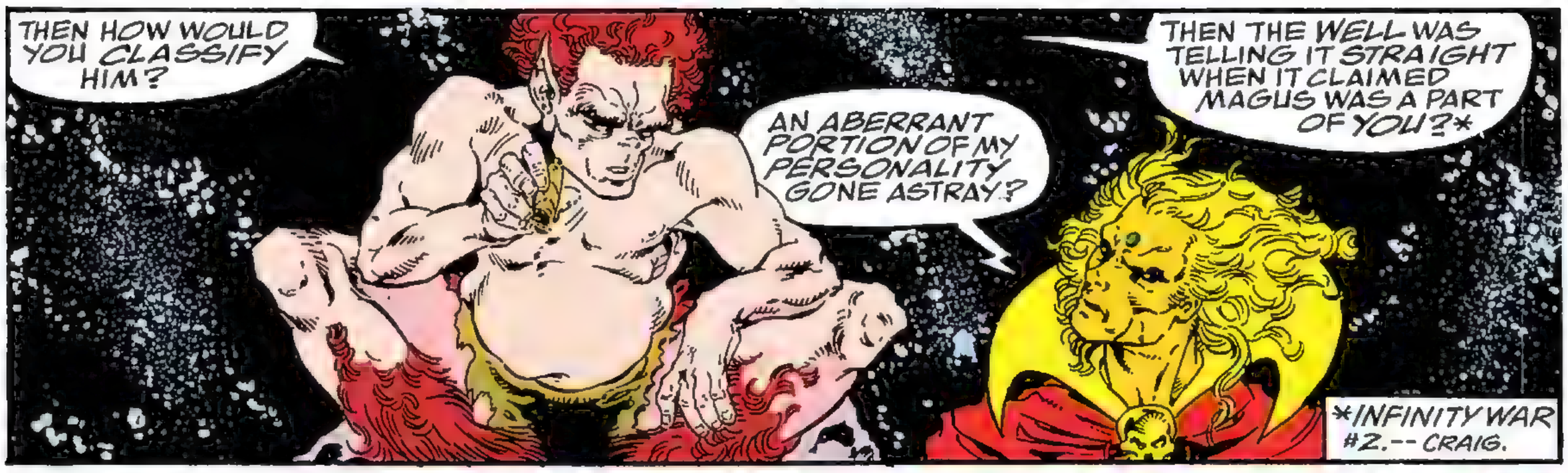
BEEN WANTING A PIECE OF THANOS ALL DAY LONG.
DRAX!
BACK OFF!
THOUGHT GREEN LADY ON MY SIDE.
SAME COLOR.
WHY SHE HIT DRAX?
BUTT OUT!

THAT IS WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN A GOOD SAMARITAN STUMBLES INTO A FAMILY DISPUTE.
DRAX DON'T UNDERSTAND.
FAMILY..?
GAMORA WAS RAISED BY THANOS.
HE SAVED HER LIFE AS A CHILD AND MADE HER WHAT SHE IS TODAY--
--THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN THE UNIVERSE.
THEY REALLY FIGHTING, OR JUST MESSING AROUND?
HOW DOES YOUR JAW FEEL?
DISLO-CATED...
THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?


I DON'T REALLY THINK WE HAVE TIME FOR THIS NONSENSE, TITAN.
HOPE YOU PACKED YOUR LUNCH, THANOS.
WE'LL BE OFF AS SOON AS I DEAL WITH THIS YOUNG PUP.
JUST BE QUICK ABOUT IT, ALL RIGHT?
GLADLY.
AND NOW WOMAN, WE SHALL--
DISCOVER THAT SPEED AND SKILL WINS OUT OVER BRUTE FORCE EVERY TIME.


ARE YOU TWO THROUGH PLAYING AROUND?
THANOS IS NOT MOVING.
GAMORA, DID YOU...
NERVE BLOW.
IS HE DEAD?
WELL I'LL BE DIPPED IN JELLY.
GAMORA'S DONE CLEANED THANOS'S CLOCK.
NOT VERY LIKELY.
IF I WERE TO GET WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE, YOU'D SEE WHOSE MAIN SPRING WOULD GET SPRUNG.
SORRY, THANOS. I'M NOT BUYING.


IT WAS WORTH A TRY.
YOU'RE FASTER THAN EVER.
I COULDN'T LAY A GLOVE ON YOU.
THIS NEW BODY ADAM FITTED ME WITH HELPS A LOT.
I SEE AND HEAR THESE TWO, BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THEM.
THINK THIS IS BAD, YOU OUGHT TO SEE THEM PLAY MONOPOLY.
THAT BLOW WOULD'VE KILLED ANYONE OTHER THAN ME.
YOU SURE MADE IT TOUGH TO FIND AN OPENING.
WEIRD.
HANGING OUT WITH YOU, ADAM, I GET TO MEET THE MOST INTERESTING FOLKS.
BUT WHY ARE THEY ALWAYS TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER?
POOR DIET? I DON'T KNOW.
DOUBT YOUR BUDDY THANOS MISSES MANY MEALS.
HE IS NO "BUDDY" OF MINE.
HOW ABOUT THE MAGUS THEN?
NOT IN THE FRIEND CATEGORY EITHER.

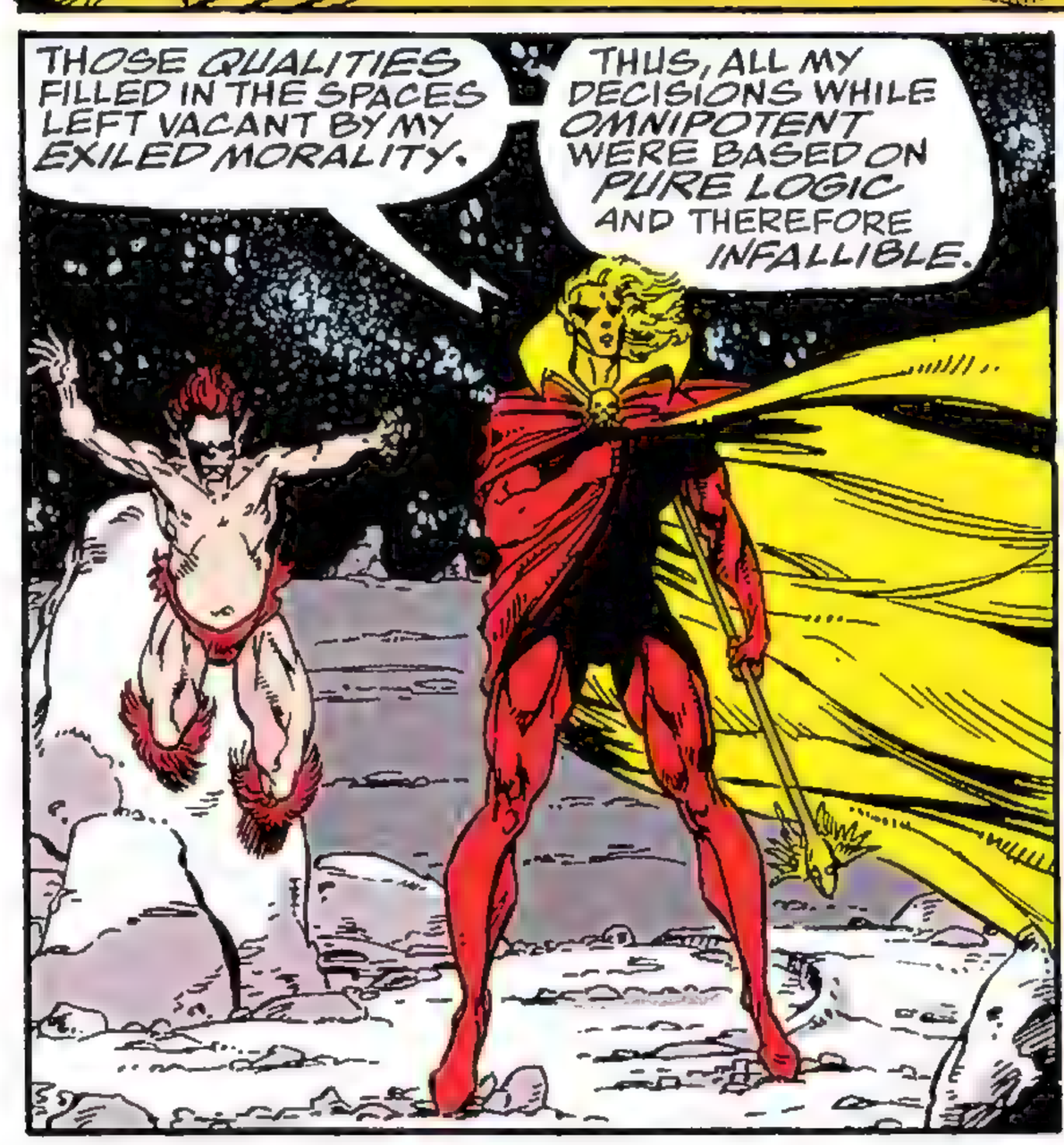

THEN HOW WOULD YOU CLASSIFY HIM?
AN ABERRANT PORTION OF MY PERSONALITY GONE ASTRAY?
THEN THE WELL WAS TELLING IT STRAIGHT WHEN IT CLAIMED MAGUS WAS A PART OF YOU?*
*INFINITY WAR #2.-- CRAIG.

OF COURSE. WHILE I WAS GOD, I EXPELLED ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM MY BEING TO BECOME A MORE LOGICAL DEITY.
A MAJOR ERROR IN JUDGMENT THE UNIVERSE IS NOW DEARLY PAYING FOR.

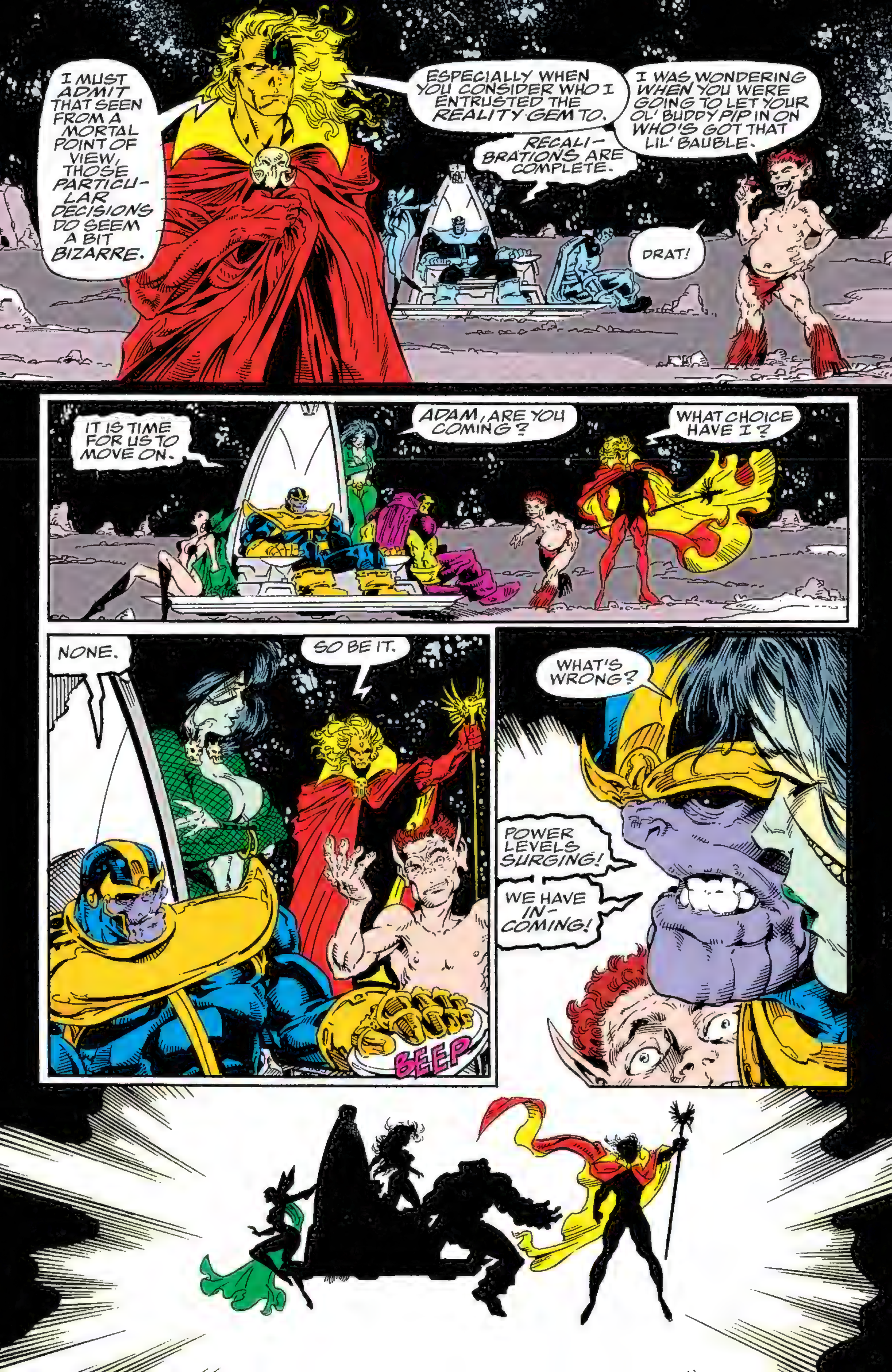
THE MAGUS IS MY MALE, GOAL-ORIENTED SELF RUNNING AMUCK. MY ANIMUS UNCHAINED.
I DON'T GET IT.

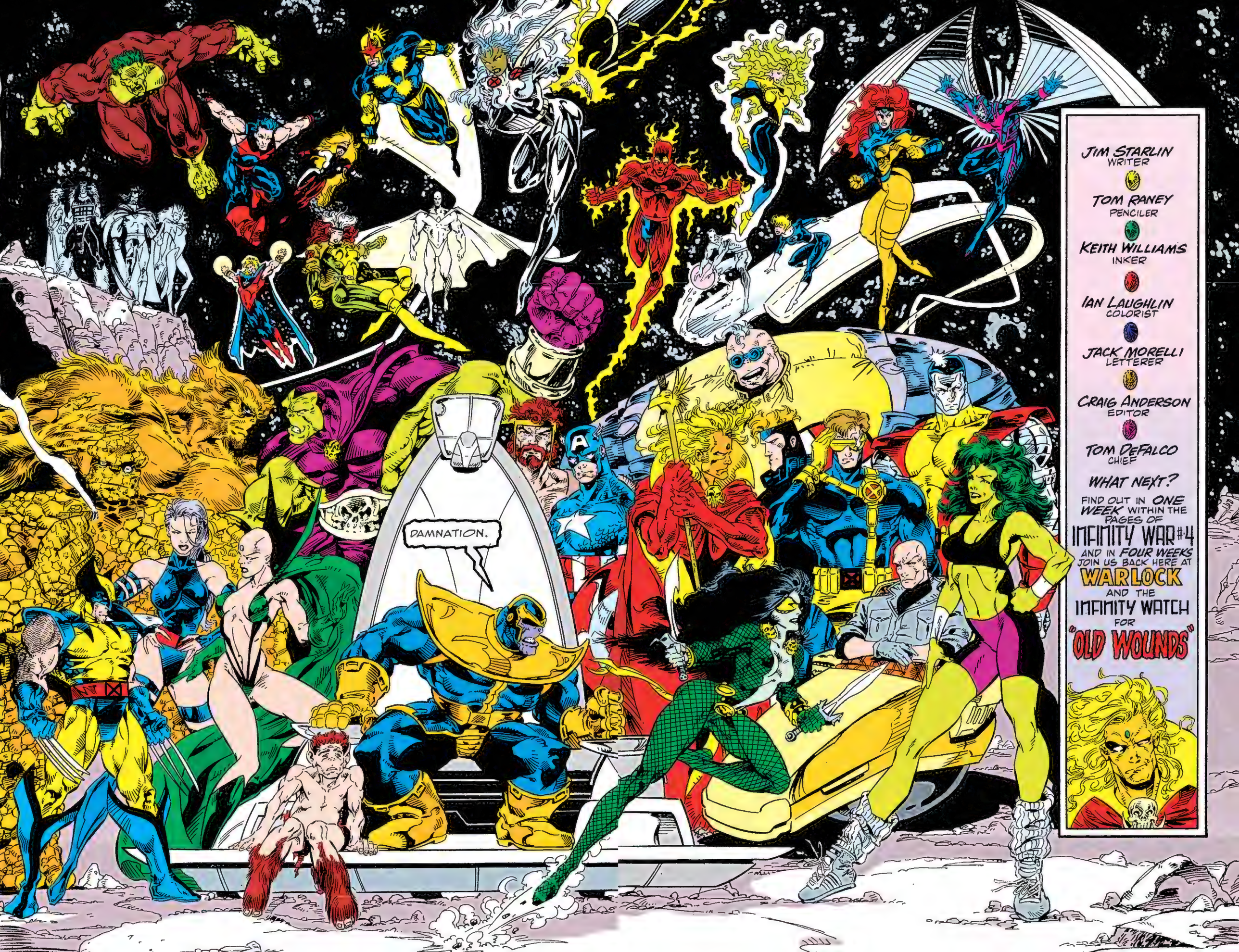
HOW CAN YOU HAVE NO GOOD NOR EVIL IN YOU?
THAT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE.
BUT IT IS.

WHEN I POSSESSED THE INFINITY GEMS AND CONTROLLED ALL ASPECTS OF THIS UNIVERSE, ANYTHING I COULD CONCEIVE BECAME REALITY.
A MAN IS MADE UP OF MANY FACETS OTHER THAN JUST GOOD AND EVIL.


THOSE QUALITIES FILLED IN THE SPACES LEFT VACANT BY MY EXILED MORALITY.
THUS, ALL MY DECISIONS WHILE OMNIPOTENT WERE BASED ON PURE LOGIC AND THEREFORE INFALLIBLE.

DECISIONS LIKE CHOOSING DRAX, MOONDRAGON, AND MYSELF AS GAURDIANS FOR THE INFINITY GEMS?
IS THAT YOUR PURE LOGIC?


I MUST ADMIT THAT SEEN FROM A MORTAL POINT OF VIEW, THOSE PARTICULAR DECISIONS DO SEEM A BIT BIZARRE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER WHO I ENTRUSTED THE REALITY GEM TO.
RECALIBRATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO LET YOUR OL' BUDDY PIP IN ON WHO'S GOT THAT LIL' BAUBLE.
DRAT!
IT IS TIME FOR US TO MOVE ON.
ADAM, ARE YOU COMING?
WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?
NONE.
SO BE IT.
BEEP
WHAT'S WRONG?
POWER LEVELS SURGING!
WE HAVE IN-COMING!


DAMNATION.
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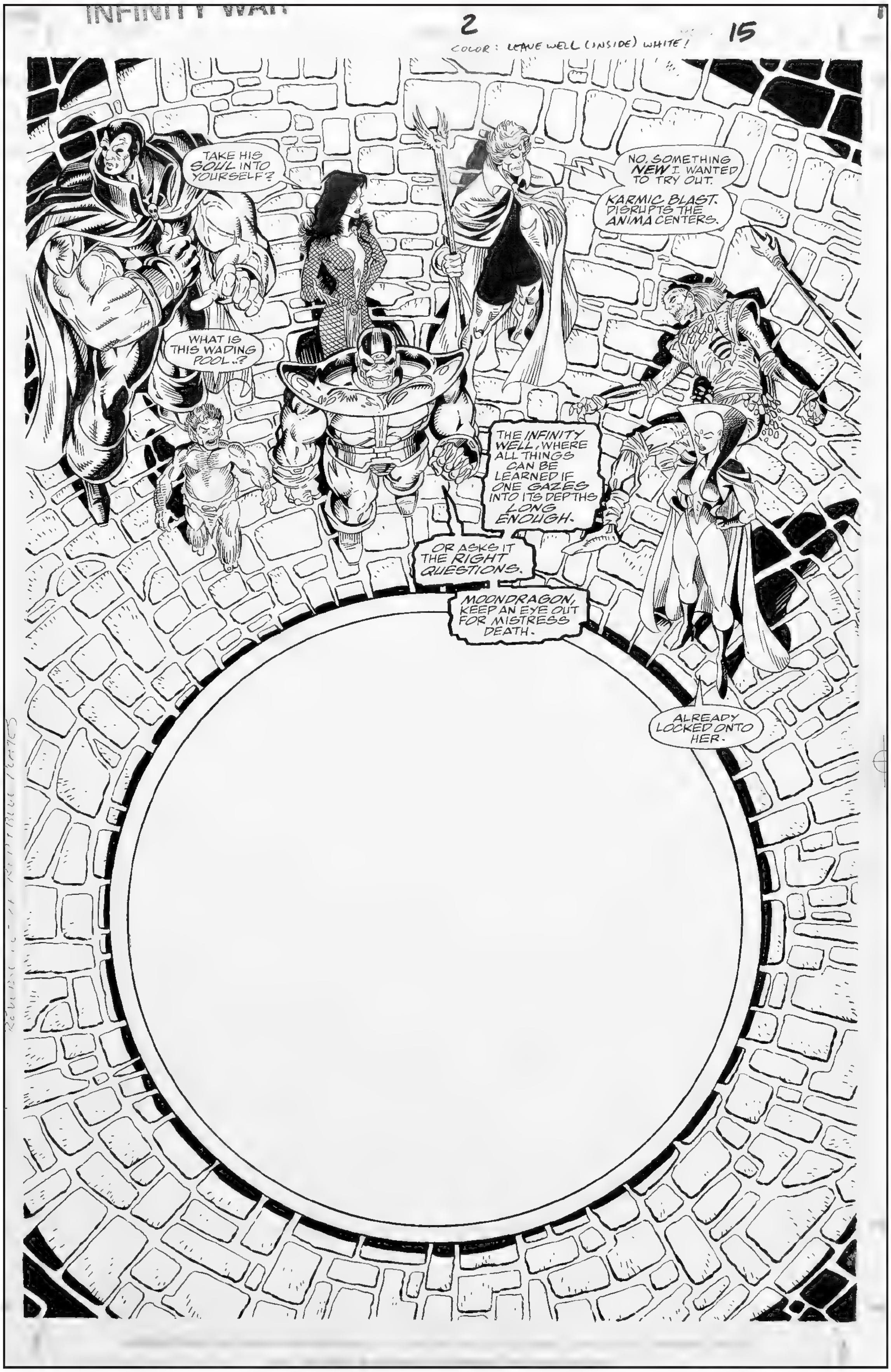
TOM RANEY
PENCILER
KEITH WILLIAMS
INKER
IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORIST
JACK MORELLI
LETTERER
CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
CHIEF
WHAT NEXT?
FIND OUT IN ONE WEEK WITHIN THE PAGES OF
INFINITY WAR #4
AND IN FOUR WEEKS JOIN US BACK HERE AT
WARLOCK
AND THE
INFINITY WATCH
FOR
"OLD WOUNDS"



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QUASAR
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
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AT WAR WITH WARLOCK...
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
...AND EVERYBODY ELSE!

WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

WHOSE WAR IS THIS, ANYWAY?

THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS, A REALM BEYOND REALITY WHERE FRACTAL BEINGS FASHION TEMPORARY BODIES FOR BODILESS ENTITIES...

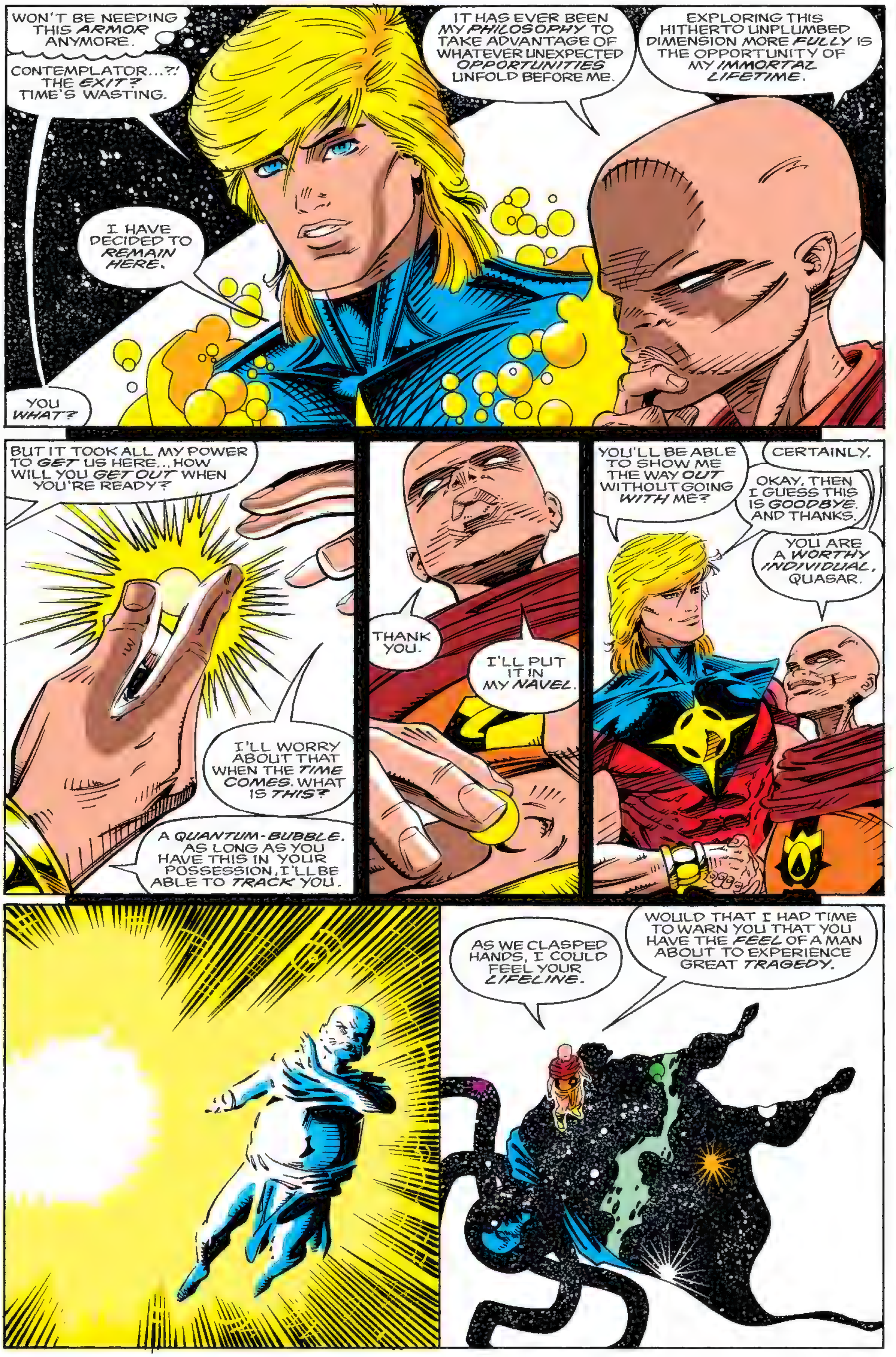
SO THAT'S THE SCOOP, CONTEMPLATOR-- SINCE THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR THIS ZONED-OUT MANIFESTATION OF ETERNITY--

-- I'M GOING TO HIGH-TAIL IT BACK TO EARTH. THAT'S WHERE MY FORMER BUDDIES IN THE AVENGERS ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT ON THE COSMIC MUCKAMUCK THEY FIGURE DID THIS TO THE TEMPORAL SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE HERE!

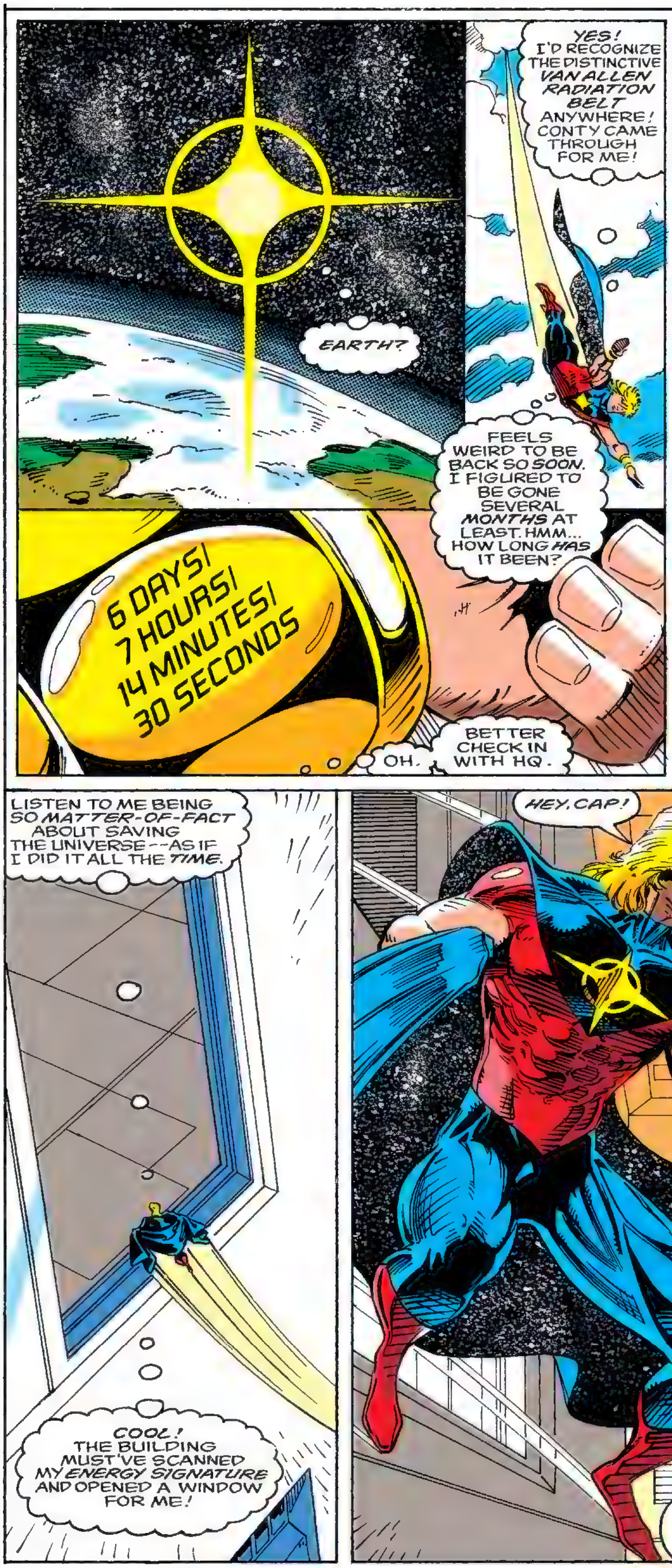
SO... HOW ABOUT SHOWING ME THE EXIT?

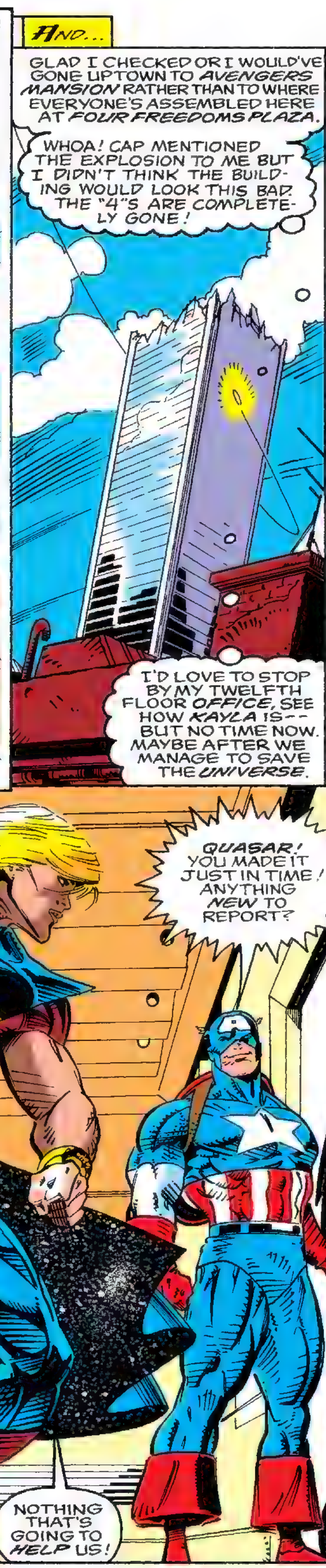
*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE RIGHT AFTER INFINITY WAR #3, CURRENTLY ON SALE.

MARK GRUENWALD • WRITER
GREG CAPULLO • PENCILER SUPREME
HARRY CANDELARIO • INKER SUPREME
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
PAUL BECTON • COLORIST
KELLY CORVESE • EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • EDITOR EXTREME


WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ARMOR ANYMORE.
CONTEMPLATOR...?! THE EXIT? TIME'S WASTING.
IT HAS EVER BEEN MY PHILOSOPHY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNFOLD BEFORE ME.
EXPLORING THIS HITHERTO UNPLUMBED DIMENSION MORE FULLY IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF MY IMMORTAL LIFETIME.
I HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN HERE.
YOU WHAT?
BUT IT TOOK ALL MY POWER TO GET US HERE... HOW WILL YOU GET OUT WHEN YOU'RE READY?
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES. WHAT IS THIS?
A QUANTUM-BUBBLE. AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THIS IN YOUR POSSESSION, I'LL BE ABLE TO TRACK YOU.
THANK YOU.
I'LL PUT IT IN MY NAVEL.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SHOW ME THE WAY OUT WITHOUT GOING WITH ME?
CERTAINLY.
OKAY, THEN I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE. AND THANKS.
YOU ARE A WORTHY INDIVIDUAL, QUASAR.
AS WE CLASPED HANDS, I COULD FEEL YOUR LIFELINE.
WOULD THAT I HAD TIME TO WARN YOU THAT YOU HAVE THE FEEL OF A MAN ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE GREAT TRAGEDY.

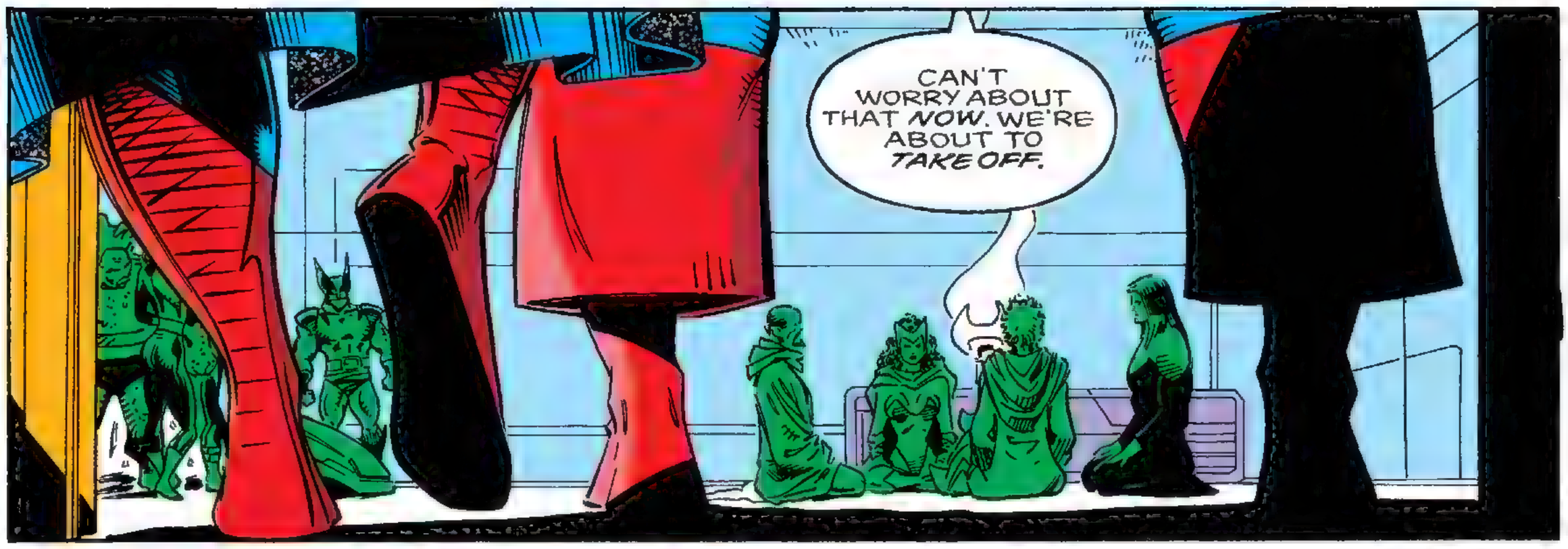
I AM TRULY SORRY THAT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU.
NO SENSE IN BEMOANING THE INEVITABLE. AFTER ALL, I HAVE A STRANGE NEW DIMENSION TO CONTEMPLATE.
TRULY THERE IS NONE AS FORTUNATE AS ME.
A DOOR AHEAD. WHAT WONDERS AWAIT ME ON THE OTHER SIDE?
HMMM. ANOTHER TABLEAU OF ABSTRACT AND NEAR-OMNIPOTENT BEINGS.
BEYONDER, WE ASK OF YOU AN AUDIENCE. PLEASE HEAR US.
THERE'S ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF ETERNITY... A WATCHER... A CELESTIAL... THE IN-BETWEENER ORDER AND CHAOS... AND--
--IS THAT MY FELLOW ELDER, THE GARDENER, BACK THERE? HOW DOES HE FIT INTO SUCH AN ASSEMBLAGE?
AND WHY IS THE SCALE OF ALL THESE MANIFESTATIONS SO HOMOGENOUS?
AND WHO IS THAT HUMAN BEING WITH THE ENTITY CALLED THE BEYONDER?
TRULY THERE ARE MYSTERIES UPON MYSTERIES TO CONTEMPLATE HERE.
PERHAPS I CAN LOCATE THE HEAD MANIFESTER AGAIN AND IT CAN ENLIGHTEN ME.


EARTH?
YES! I'D RECOGNIZE THE DISTINCTIVE VAN ALLEN RADIATION BELT ANYWHERE! CONTY CAME THROUGH FOR ME!
FEELS WEIRD TO BE BACK SO SOON. I FIGURED TO BE GONE SEVERAL MONTHS AT LEAST. HMM... HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
6 DAYS! 7 HOURS! 14 MINUTES! 30 SECONDS
OH.
BETTER CHECK IN WITH HQ.


AND...
GLAD I CHECKED OR I WOULD'VE GONE UPTOWN TO AVENGERS MANSION RATHER THAN TO WHERE EVERYONE'S ASSEMBLED HERE AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.
WHOA! CAP MENTIONED THE EXPLOSION TO ME BUT I DIDN'T THINK THE BUILDING WOULD LOOK THIS BAD. THE "4"S ARE COMPLETELY GONE!
I'D LOVE TO STOP BY MY TWELFTH FLOOR OFFICE, SEE HOW KAYLA IS-- BUT NO TIME NOW. MAYBE AFTER WE MANAGE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.

LISTEN TO ME BEING SO MATTER-OF-FACT ABOUT SAVING THE UNIVERSE--AS IF I DID IT ALL THE TIME.
COOL! THE BUILDING MUST'VE SCANNED MY ENERGY SIGNATURE AND OPENED A WINDOW FOR ME!

HEY, CAP!
QUASAR! YOU MADE IT JUST IN TIME! ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT?
NOTHING THAT'S GOING TO HELP US!



CAP SEEMS *TENSE*. I DON'T THINK HE CARES MUCH FOR THESE *OFF-WORLD FORAYS*. A FEW WEEKS AGO "GALACTIC STORM" -- NOW *THIS*!

SO WHO'S IN THE *EXPEDITIONARY FORCE*?

THE MOST *SEASONED* AND *POWERFUL*.

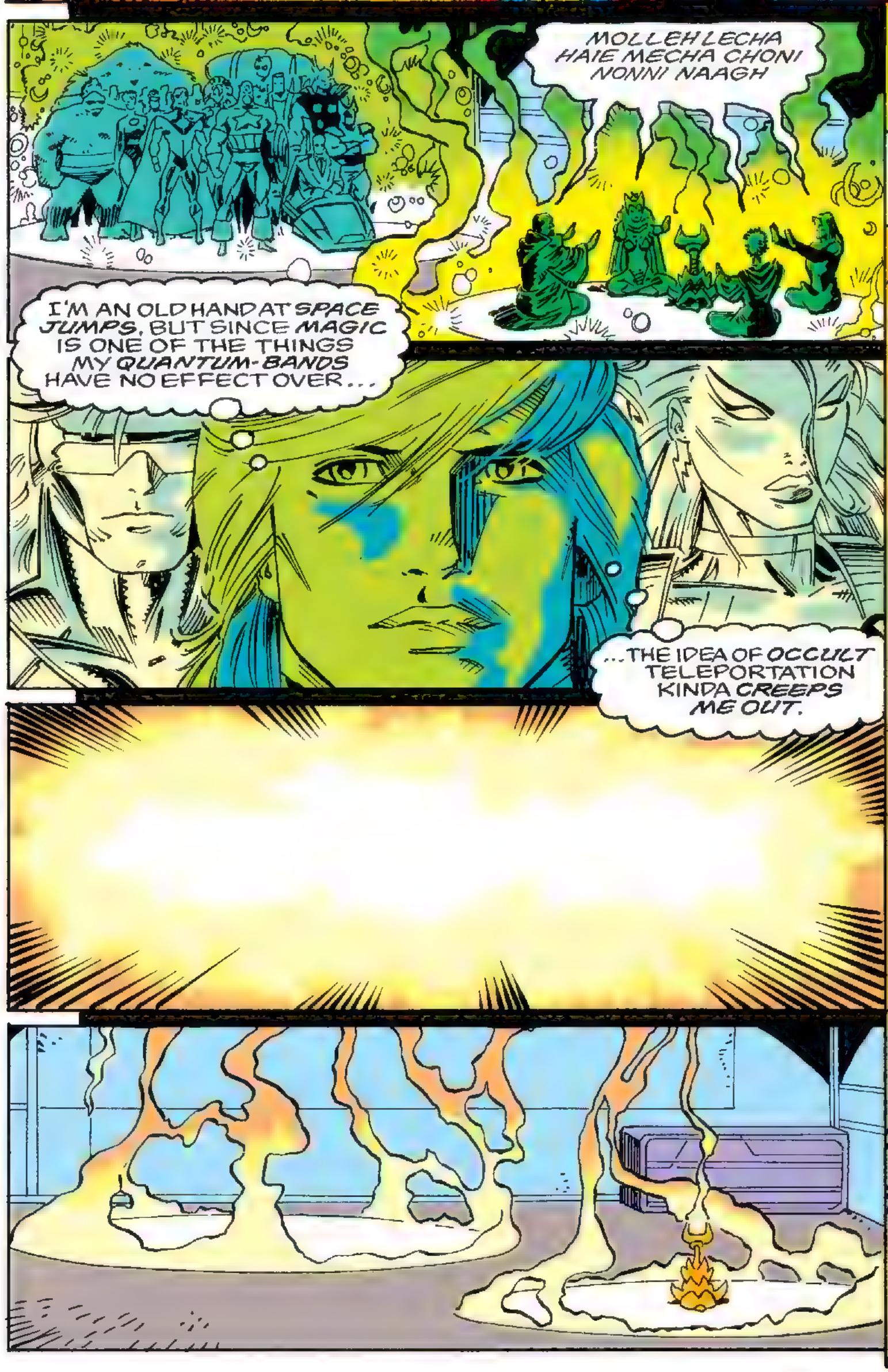
THEY OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF ANY BUSINESS THAT NEEDS *ATTENDING* TO.

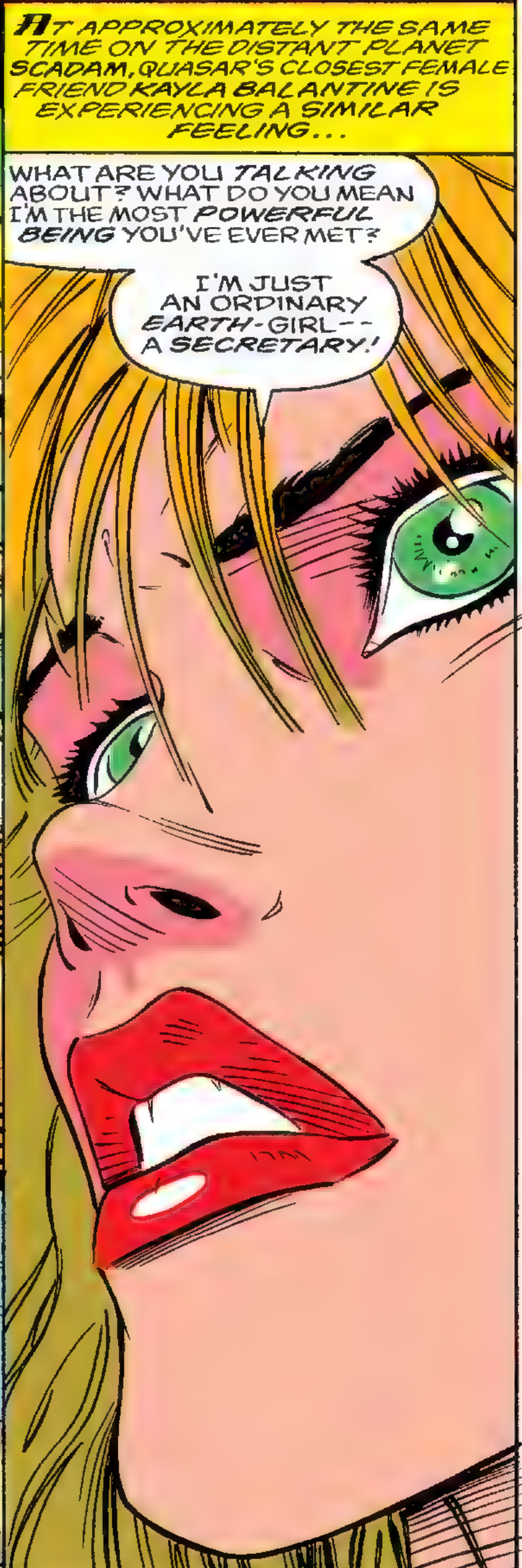
LET'S *HOPE*.

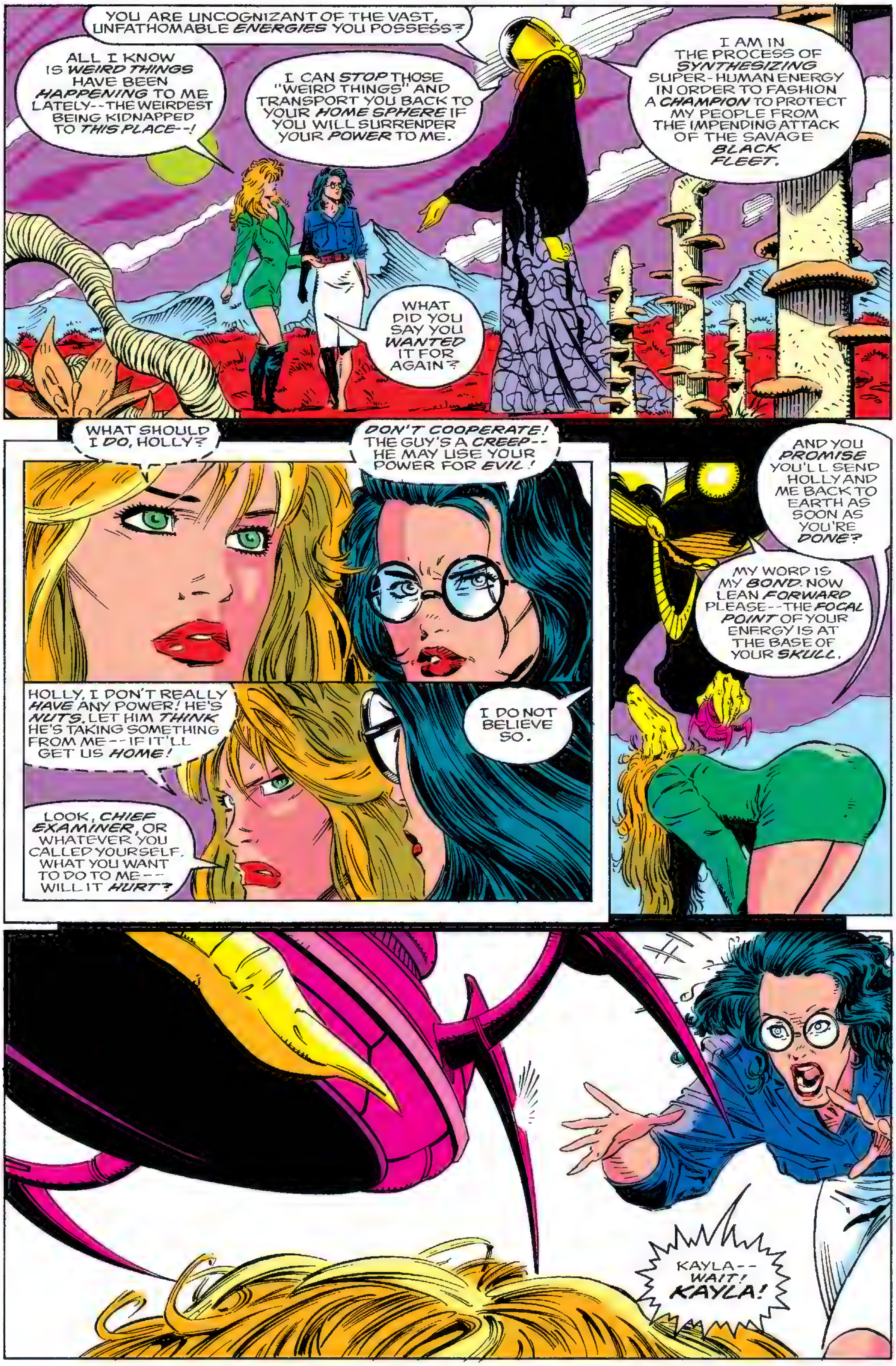
THEY'RE THE MAXIMUM THE *MYSTICS* COULD TRANSPORT IN *ONE TRIP*.

HEY, JUNIOR! LONG TIME NO SEE. COME TO JOIN OUR INTERGALACTIC VOLLEYBALL TEAM, HAVE YA?
YOU BET, BEN. I'LL SET YOU UP, YOU SPIKE 'EM OVER!

OKAY, PEOPLE. THIS IS IT. PREPARE YOURSELVES. NOT ONLY HAVE WE NO IDEA WHAT OUR DESTINATION WILL BE LIKE, I CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE JOURNEY.


MOLLEH LECHA HAIE MECHA CHONI NONNI NAAGH
I'M AN OLD HAND AT SPACE JUMPS, BUT SINCE MAGIC IS ONE OF THE THINGS MY QUANTUM-BANDS HAVE NO EFFECT OVER...
...THE IDEA OF OCCULT TELEPORTATION KINDA CREEPS ME OUT.

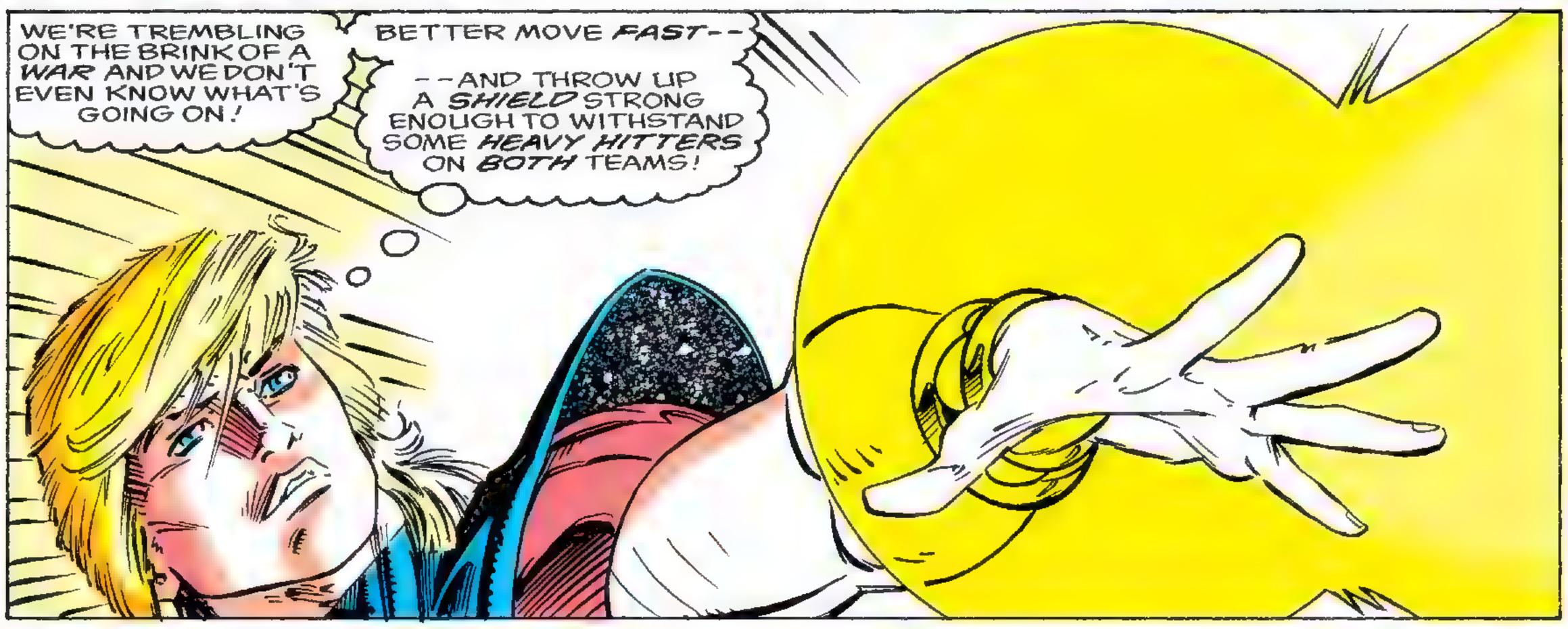

AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME ON THE DISTANT PLANET SCADAM, QUASAR'S CLOSEST FEMALE FRIEND KAYLA BALANTINE IS EXPERIENCING A SIMILAR FEELING...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M THE MOST POWERFUL BEING YOU'VE EVER MET?
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY EARTH-GIRL-- A SECRETARY!


YOU ARE UNCOGNIZANT OF THE VAST, UNFATHOMABLE ENERGIES YOU POSSESS?
ALL I KNOW IS WEIRD THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING TO ME LATELY--THE WEIRDEST BEING KIDNAPPED TO THIS PLACE--!
I CAN STOP THOSE "WEIRD THINGS" AND TRANSPORT YOU BACK TO YOUR HOME SPHERE IF YOU WILL SURRENDER YOUR POWER TO ME.
I AM IN THE PROCESS OF SYNTHESIZING SUPER-HUMAN ENERGY IN ORDER TO FASHION A CHAMPION TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE FROM THE IMPENDING ATTACK OF THE SAVAGE BLACK FLEET.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED IT FOR AGAIN?
WHAT SHOULD I DO, HOLLY?
DON'T COOPERATE! THE GUY'S A CREEP--HE MAY USE YOUR POWER FOR EVIL!
HOLLY, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY POWER! HE'S NUTS. LET HIM THINK HE'S TAKING SOMETHING FROM ME--IF IT'LL GET US HOME!
I DO NOT BELIEVE SO.
LOOK, CHIEF EXAMINER, OR WHATEVER YOU CALLED YOURSELF, WHAT YOU WANT TO DO TO ME--WILL IT HURT?
AND YOU PROMISE YOU'LL SEND HOLLY AND ME BACK TO EARTH AS SOON AS YOU'RE DONE?
MY WORD IS MY BOND. NOW LEAN FORWARD PLEASE--THE FOCAL POINT OF YOUR ENERGY IS AT THE BASE OF YOUR SKULL.
KAYLA--WAIT! KAYLA!

I'M BEING HELD MOTIONLESS--SPEECHLESS--IN MY TRACKS!
KAYLA'S DOING--?
YOUR GIFT WILL ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF MY RACE, MISS BALANTINE.
MZMZMZMZMZMZ
JUST HURRY UP. WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING ITCHES LIKE CRAZY!
TOOOF
EK--!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'D HE--IS THIS--!?!
HOLLY--DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?!?
MMMPH
BD DD DOOOM
AIEEEGH!!!

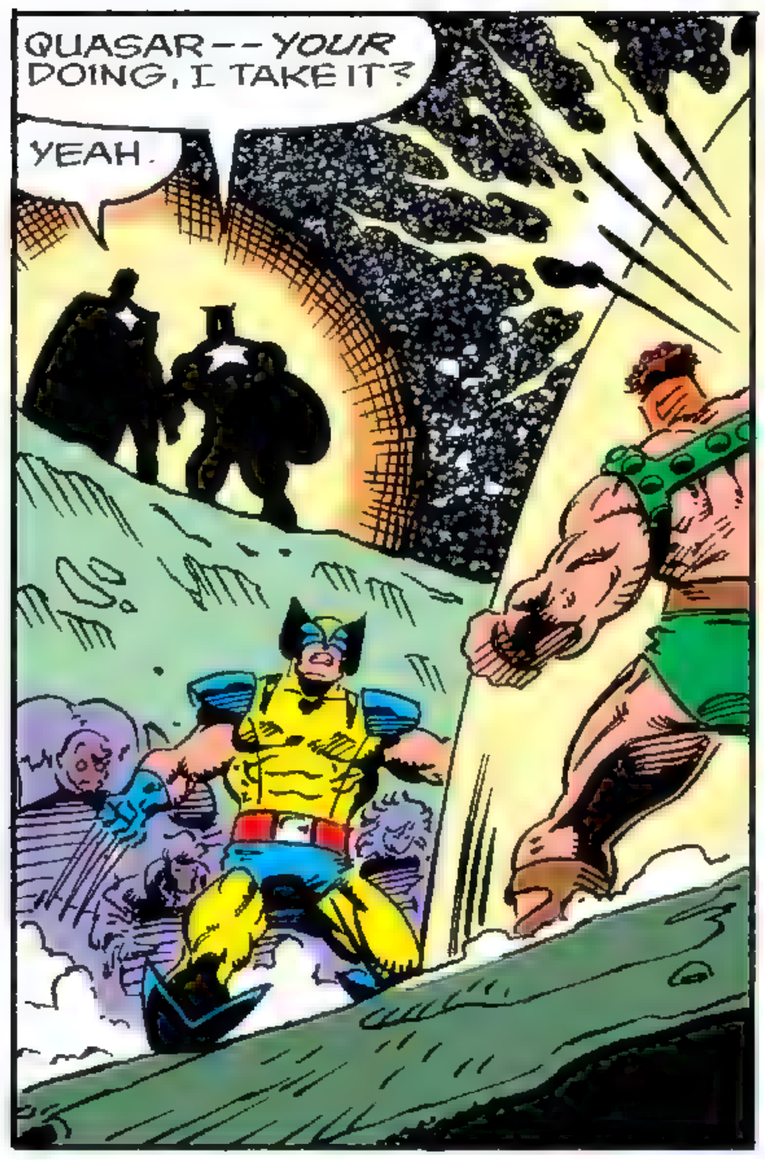
BDOOOM
BDOOOM
BDOOOM
SPACE SHIPS! THE BLACK FLEET?!?
NEVER MIND! JUST RUN FOR COVER!
ELSEWHERE IN THE COSMOS...
THANOS! AND... MOONDRAGON? THEY'RE THE ONES THAT INCAPACITATED ETERNITY? WHERE'D THEY GET SUCH POWER?
FAN OUT! SURROUND THEM! DON'T ATTACK UNLESS PROVOKED!
THERE'S ONLY SIX OF 'EM. NO CONTEST!
CAN WE TALK?

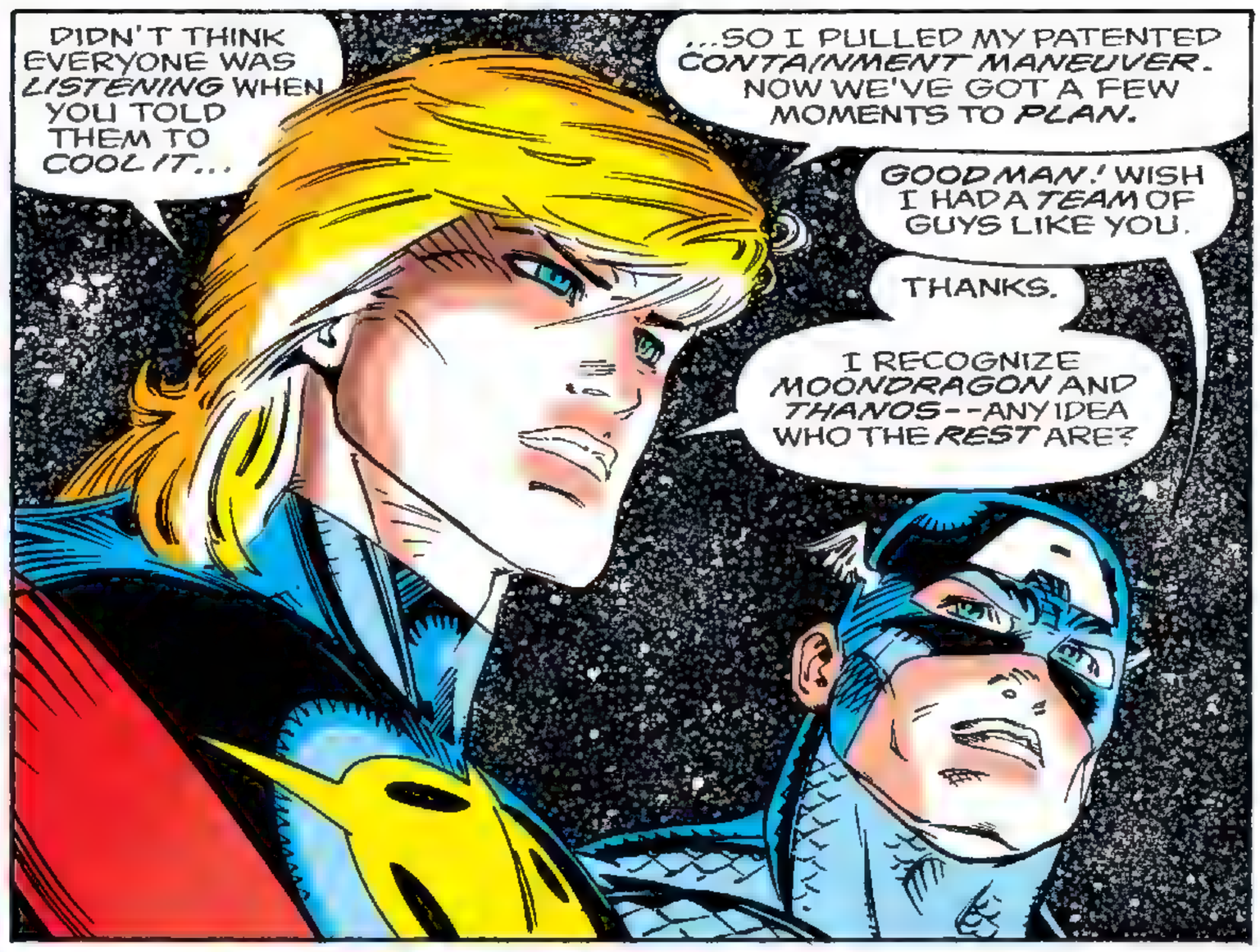
WE ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES! WE ARE THE INFINITY WATCH, GUARDIANS OF--
DO NOT WASTE YOUR BREATH, WARLOCK!
WITH ME--A KNOWN CHAMPION OF DEATH--AT YOUR SIDE, THESE INSIPID EARTH BEINGS WILL NEVER BELIEVE WE SEEK THE SAME GOAL AS THEY!
LET THEM ATTACK AND PAY THE PRICE FOR THEIR PRESUMPTION!


WE'RE TREMBLING ON THE BRINK OF A WAR AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
BETTER MOVE FAST--
--AND THROW UP A SHIELD STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND SOME HEAVY HITTERS ON BOTH TEAMS!

HEY--WHO'S THE WISE GUY?
DRAX WANTS TO KNOW WHY SKY TURNED YELLOW.
THIS IS QUASAR'S DOING!
THAT INSOLENT PUP! I WILL SEE HIM SUFFER FOR THIS IMPERTINENCE!

THEY'RE PROTECTING THEMSELVES WITH SOME SORT OF FORCE FIELD.
ICEMAN! WOLVERINE! HIT IT WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, CYKE!
HEY, GUYS? DIDN'T CAP SAY TO--
THANOS, THOU BASEST OF VILLAINS--
--THE PRINCE OF POWER WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THEE!
WORDS SMURDS! LET'S CLOBBER THE BUMS!
HULK
YA KNOW, AT THE MOMENT BEIN' TRAPPED AIN'T THE WORST THING THAT COULD BE HAPPENIN' TO US!





I CAN ANSWER THAT. I'VE JUST FINISHED PSI-SCANNING THEM.

THE OTHERS ARE GAMORA, DRAX THE DESTROYER, PIP THE TROLL, AND ADAM WARLOCK.

PROFESSOR, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THEIR MOTIVATIONS HERE?

AFRAID NOT. THEIR TELEPATH MOONDRAGON--DETECTED MY PSI-SCAN AND IMMEDIATELY PUT UP A MIND-SCREEN AROUND THEM.

HMM. WELL, ANY GROUP CONTAINING THE MAD TITAN THANOS MUST BE PRESUMED DANGEROUS.

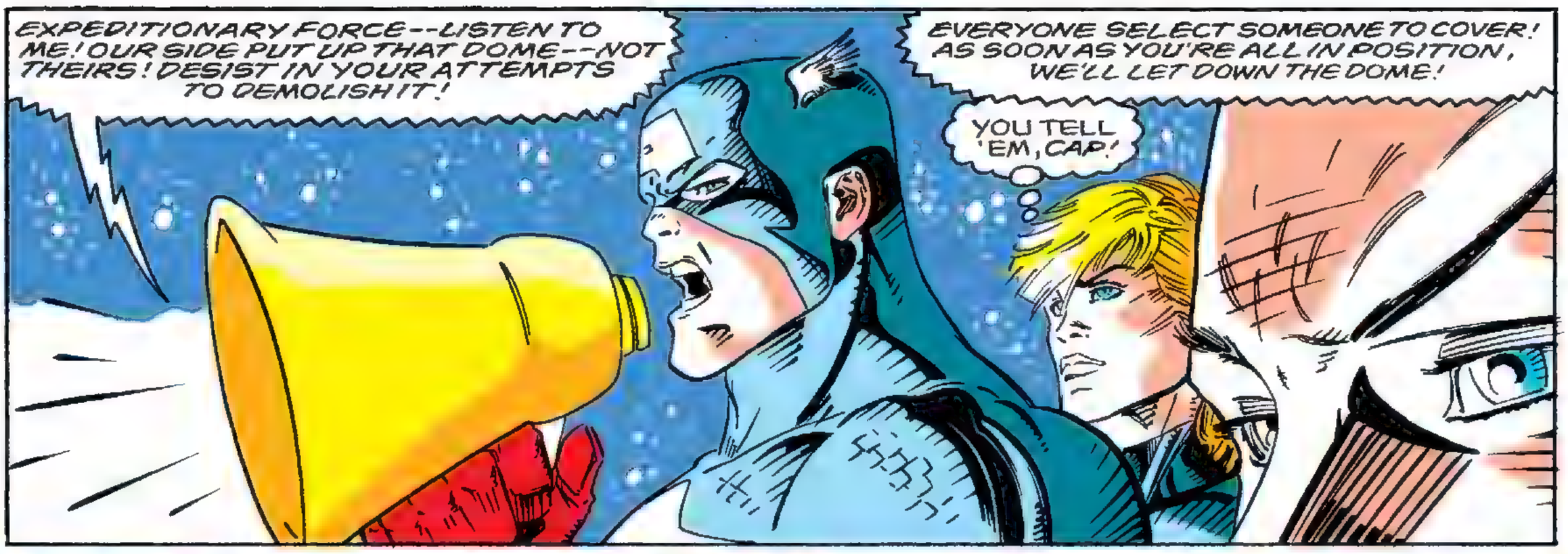
QUASAR, COULD YOU MAKE ME A MEGAPHONE?

WARLOCK? HMMM, HE WAS DEAD, LAST I KNEW.*

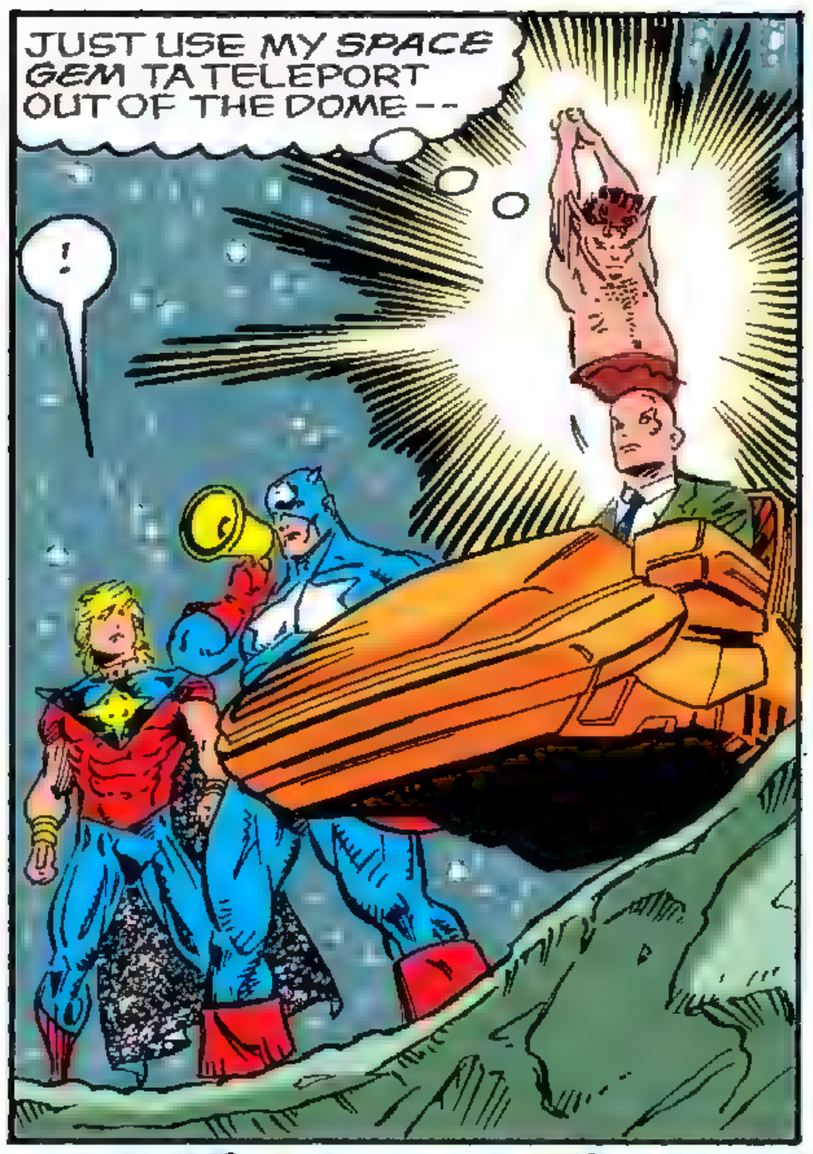
QUASAR, THIS IS PROFESSOR XAVIER, FOUNDER OF THE X-MEN.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SIR.

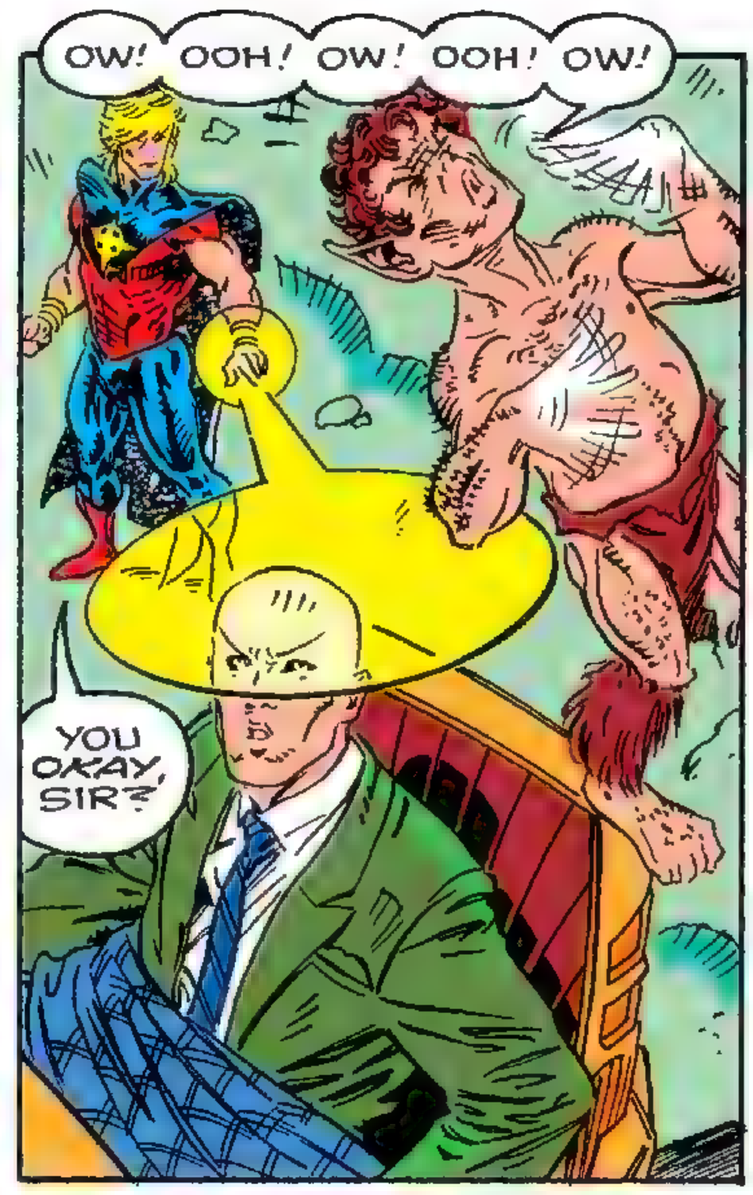
*THE EVENTS OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET WERE ERADICATED FROM MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS' MINDS, SO CAP'S IN THE DARK ABOUT WARLOCK'S RESURRECTION IN SILVER SURFER #46.


EXPEDITIONARY FORCE--LISTEN TO ME! OUR SIDE PUT UP THAT DOME--NOT THEIRS! DESIST IN YOUR ATTEMPTS TO DEMOLISH IT!
EVERYONE SELECT SOMEONE TO COVER! AS SOON AS YOU'RE ALL IN POSITION, WE'LL LET DOWN THE DOME!
YOU TELL 'EM, CAP!

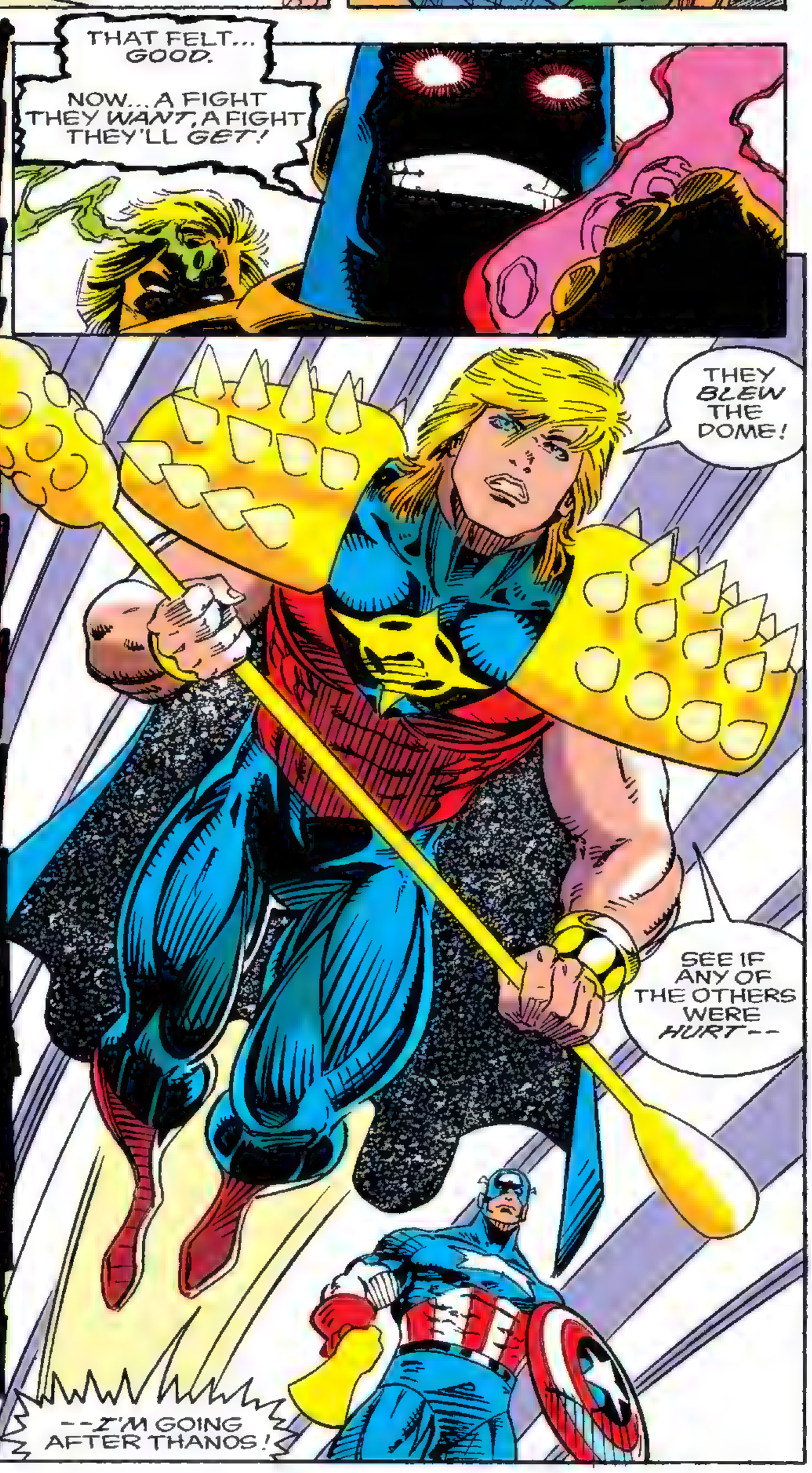
FOOLS! BOUND AND DETERMINED TO DO BATTLE WITH US! MOONDRAGON, WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED YOUR MIND GEM TO CONVINCE THEM WE ARE NOT THEIR ENEMY?
I HAVE TRIED, WARLOCK. CHARLES XAVIER IS SHIELDING THEIR MINDS FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCE EVEN AS I AM OURS!
YA MEAN OL' BALDY'S THE ONE KEEPIN' US FROM WALKIN' AWAY FROM THIS WITHOUT A SCRAP?
LEMME AT HIM!

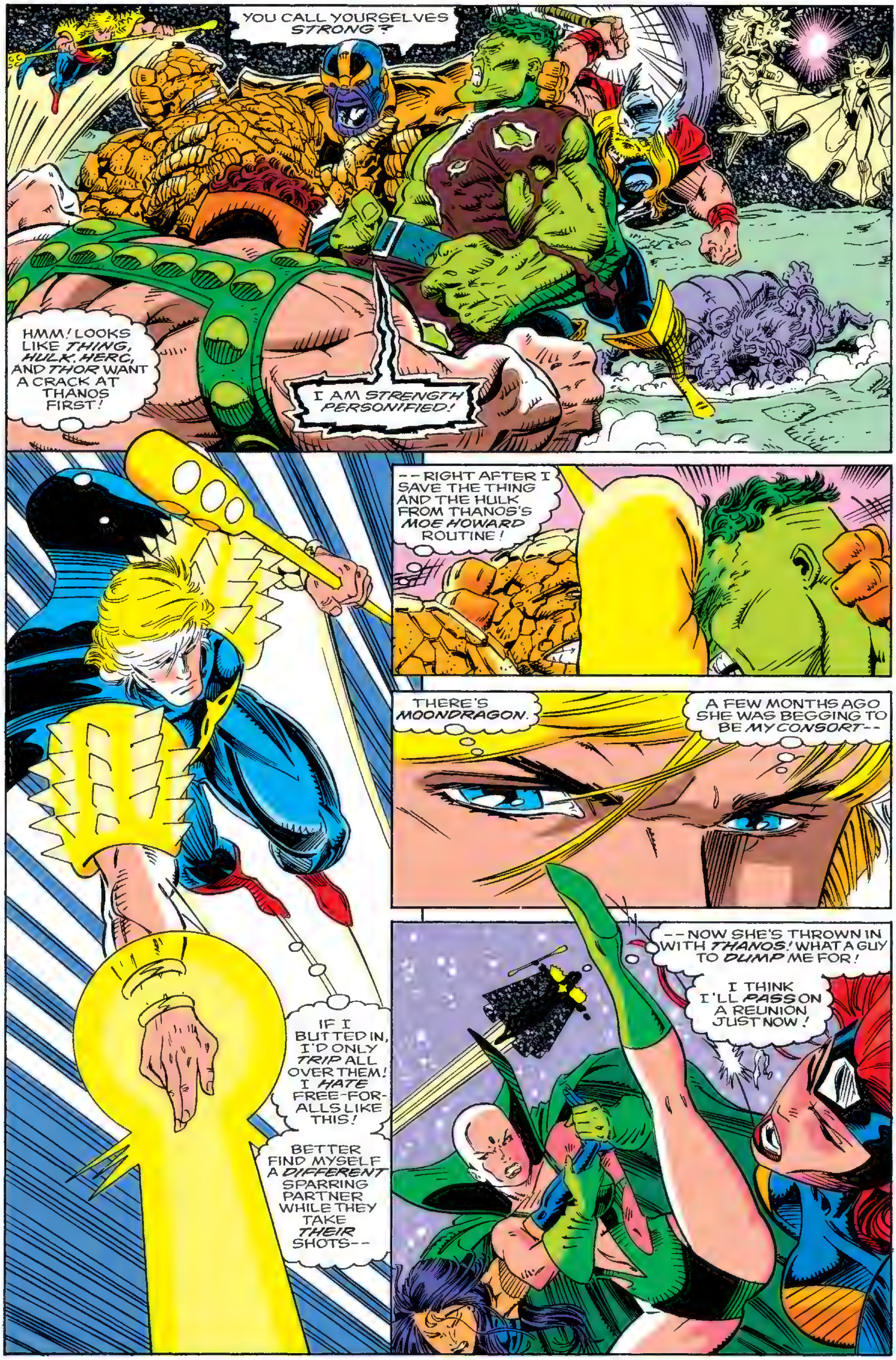

JUST USE MY SPACE GEM TA TELEPORT OUT OF THE DOME--
!

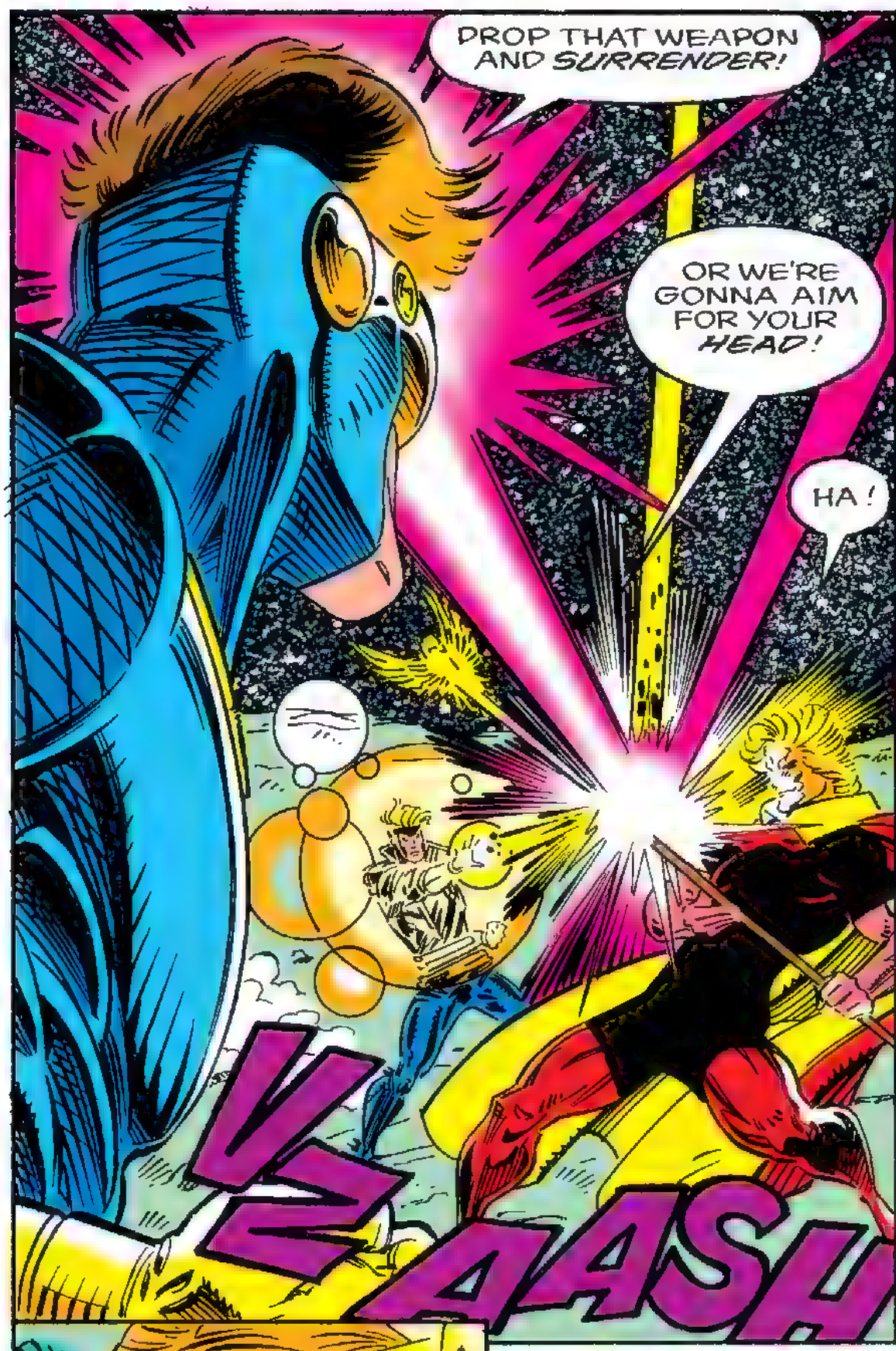
--AND KONK THE OLD DUDE!

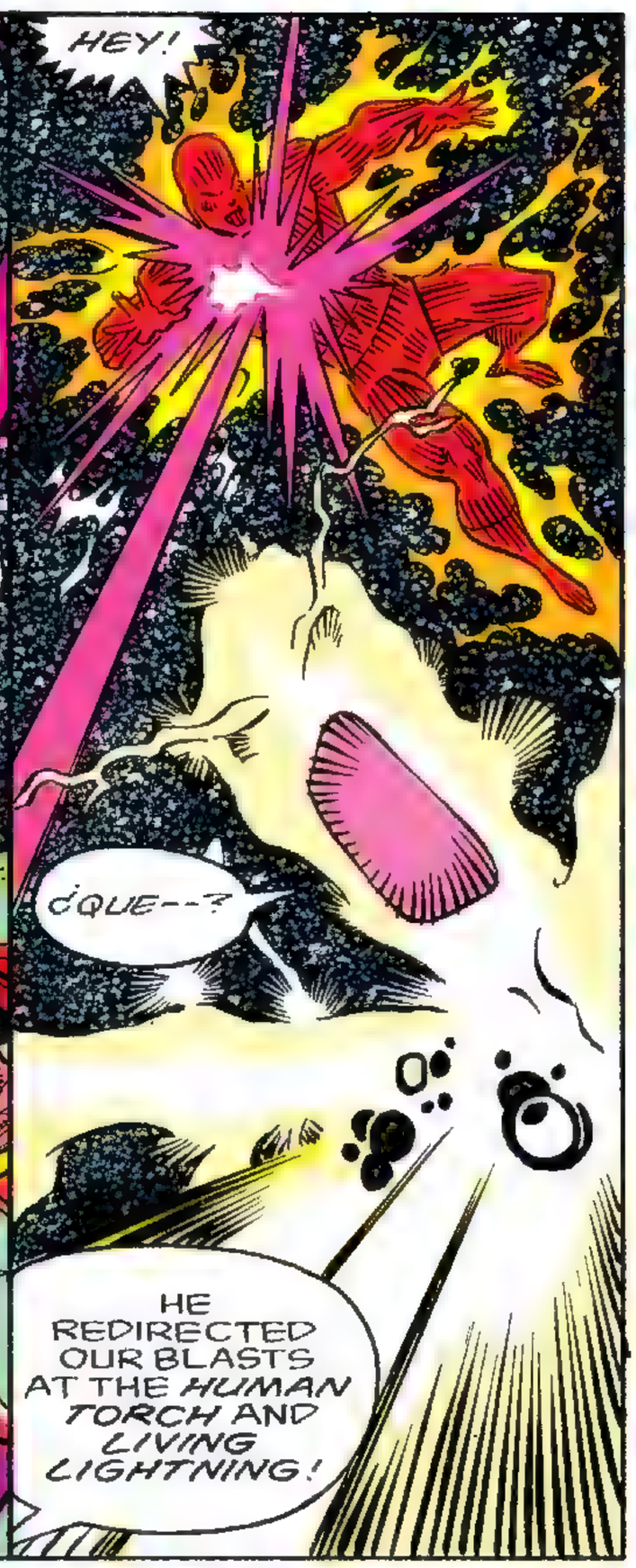

OW! OOH! OW! OOH! OW!
YOU OKAY, SIR?

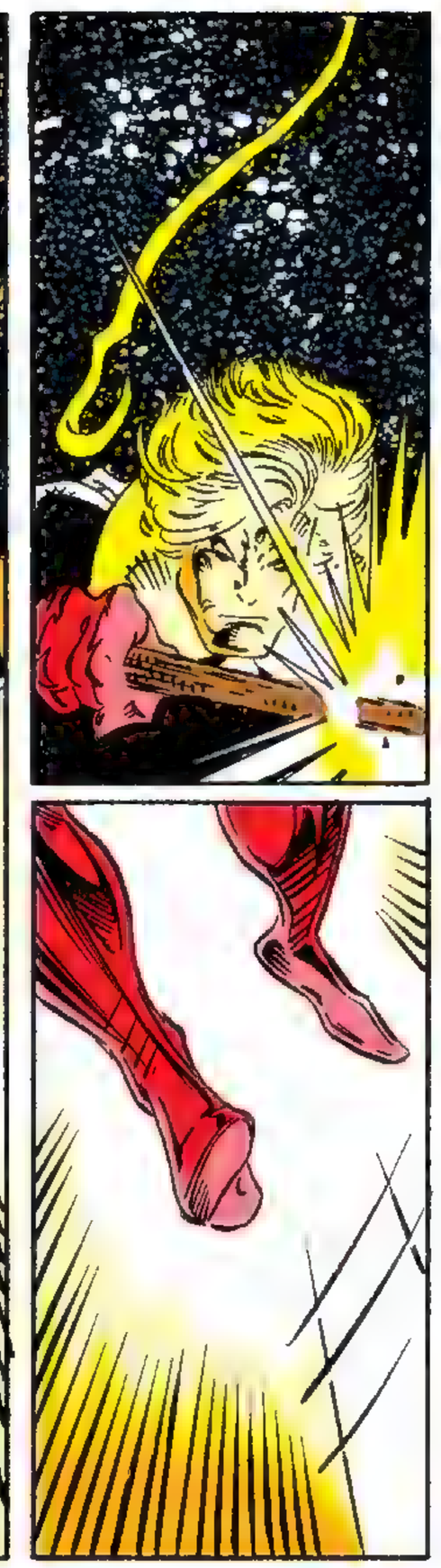
BRAAK

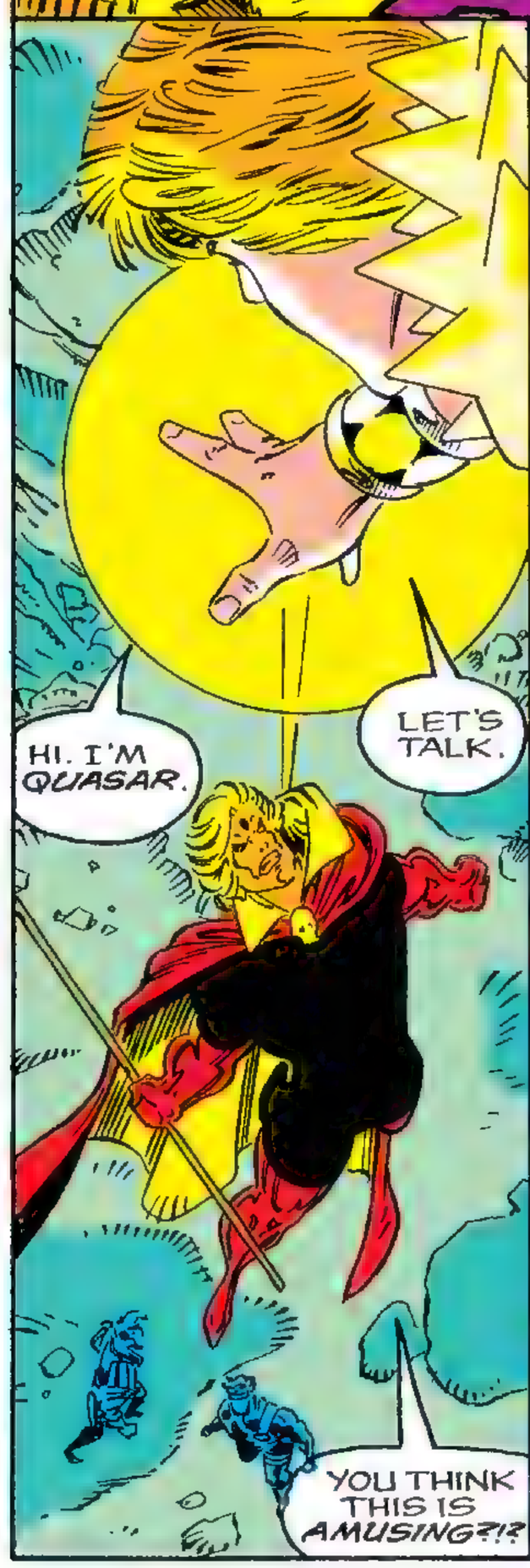

THAT FELT... GOOD.
NOW... A FIGHT THEY WANT, A FIGHT THEY'LL GET!
THEY BLEW THE DOME!
SEE IF ANY OF THE OTHERS WERE HURT--
--I'M GOING AFTER THANOS!

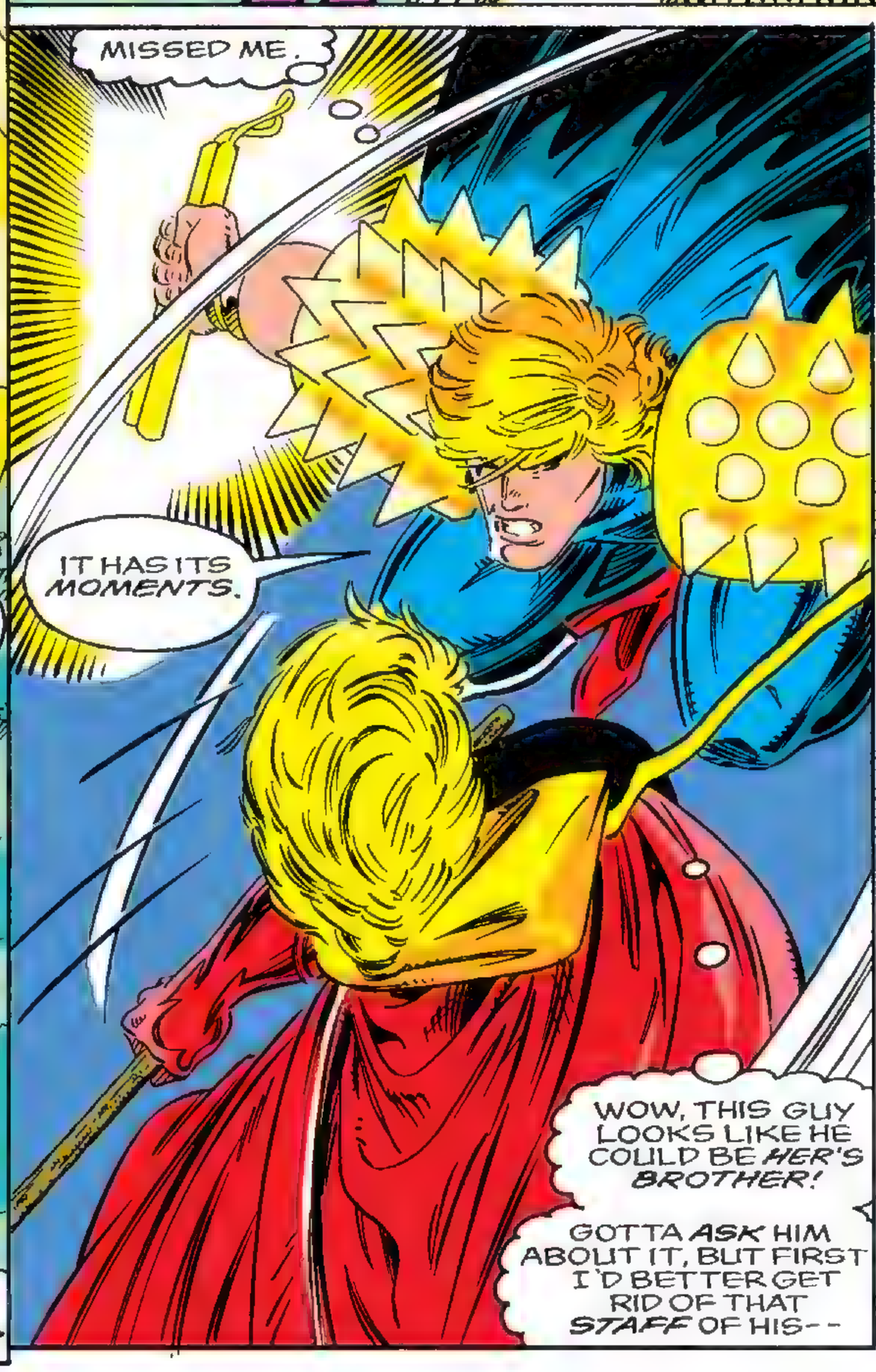

YOU CALL YOURSELVES STRONG?
HMM! LOOKS LIKE THING, HULK, HERC, AND THOR WANT A CRACK AT THANOS FIRST!
I AM STRENGTH PERSONIFIED!
--RIGHT AFTER I SAVE THE THING AND THE HULK FROM THANOS'S MOE HOWARD ROUTINE!
THERE'S MOONDRAGON.
A FEW MONTHS AGO SHE WAS BEGGING TO BE MY CONSORT--
--NOW SHE'S THROWN IN WITH THANOS! WHAT A GUY TO DUMP ME FOR!
I THINK I'LL PASS ON A REUNION JUST NOW!
IF I BUTTED IN, I'D ONLY TRIP ALL OVER THEM! I HATE FREE-FOR-ALLS LIKE THIS!
BETTER FIND MYSELF A DIFFERENT SPARRING PARTNER WHILE THEY TAKE THEIR SHOTS--

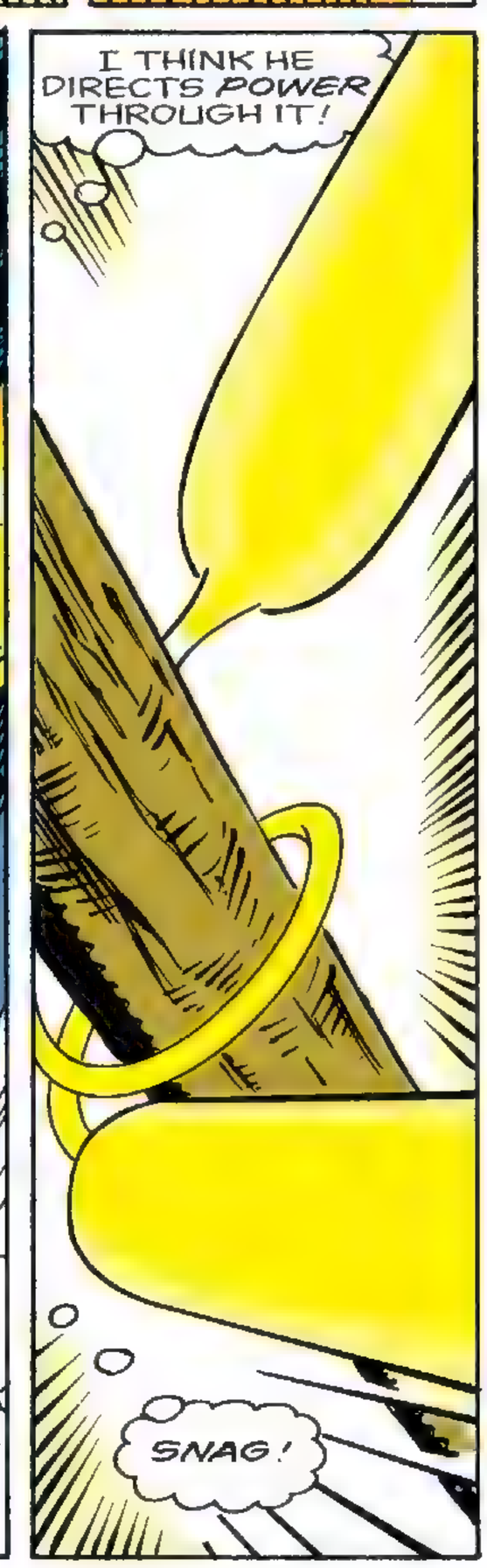

DROP THAT WEAPON AND SURRENDER!
OR WE'RE GONNA AIM FOR YOUR HEAD!
HA!
VZZAASH

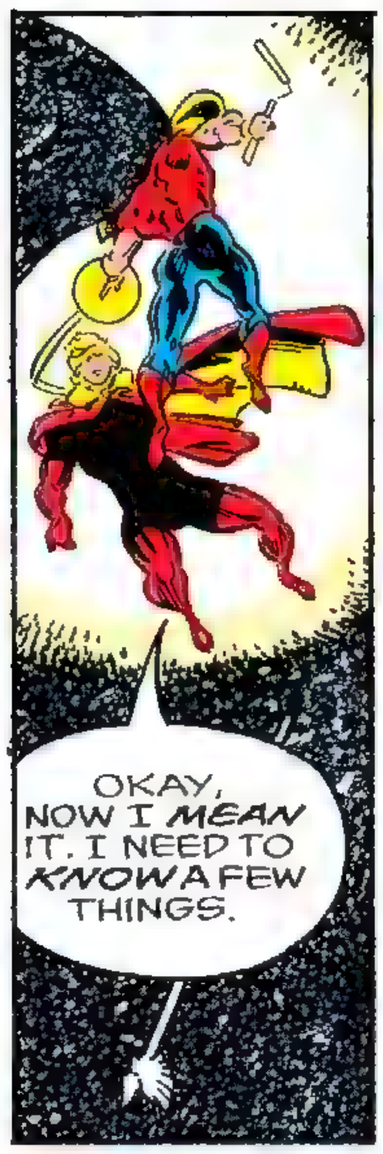

HEY!
¿QUE--?
HE REDIRECTED OUR BLASTS AT THE HUMAN TORCH AND LIVING LIGHTNING!

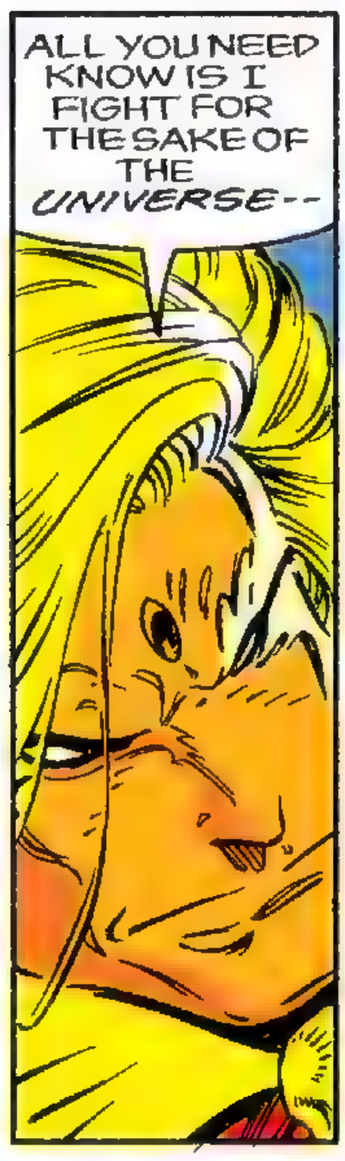


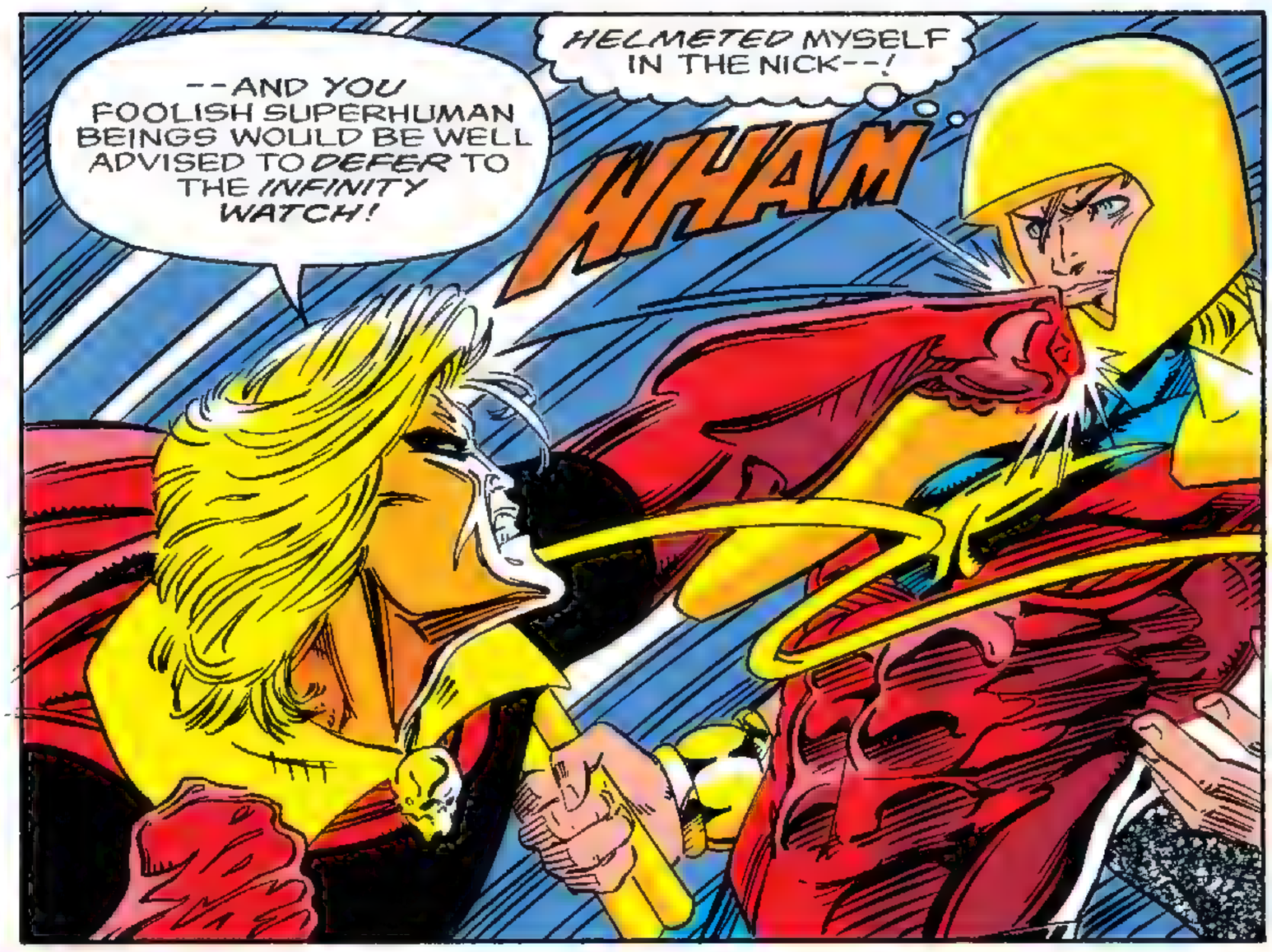

HI. I'M QUASAR.
LET'S TALK.
YOU THINK THIS IS AMUSING?!?

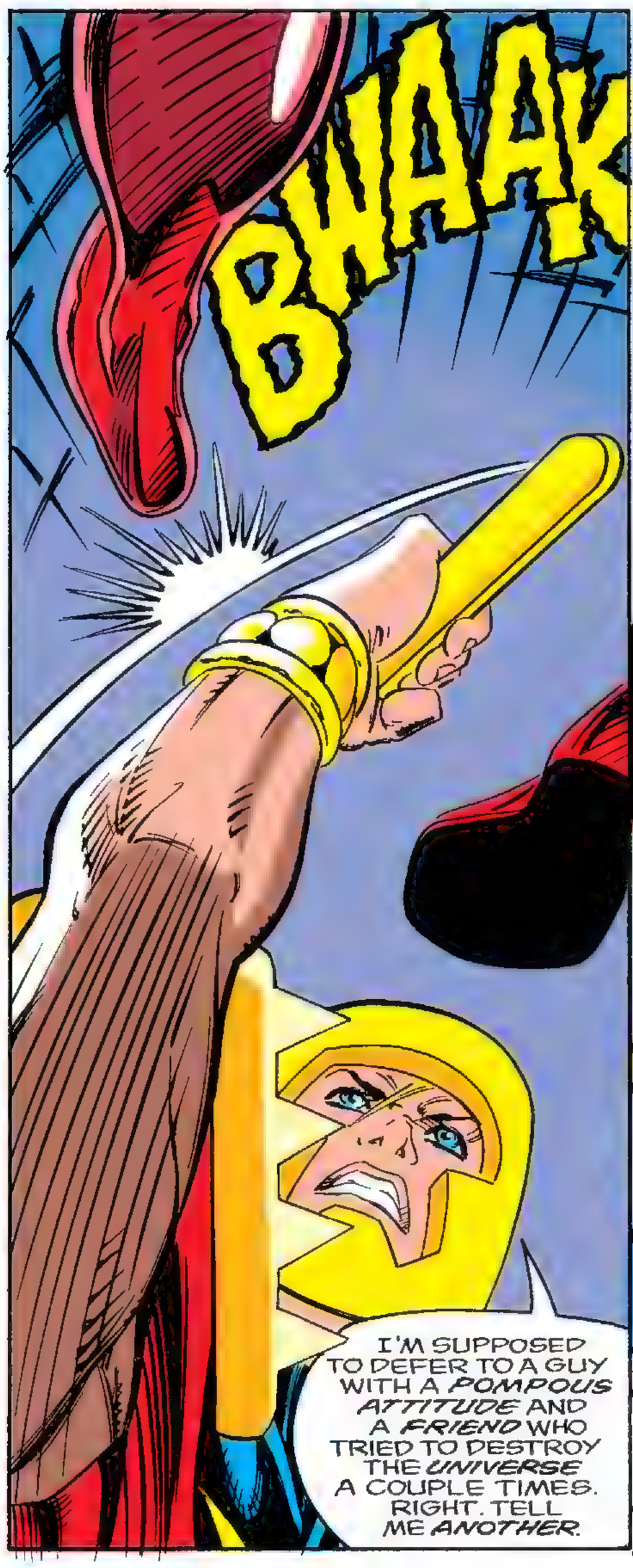

MISSED ME.
IT HAS ITS MOMENTS.
WOW, THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE HE COULD BE HER'S BROTHER!
GOTTA ASK HIM ABOUT IT, BUT FIRST I'D BETTER GET RID OF THAT STAFF OF HIS--


I THINK HE DIRECTS POWER THROUGH IT!
SNAG!

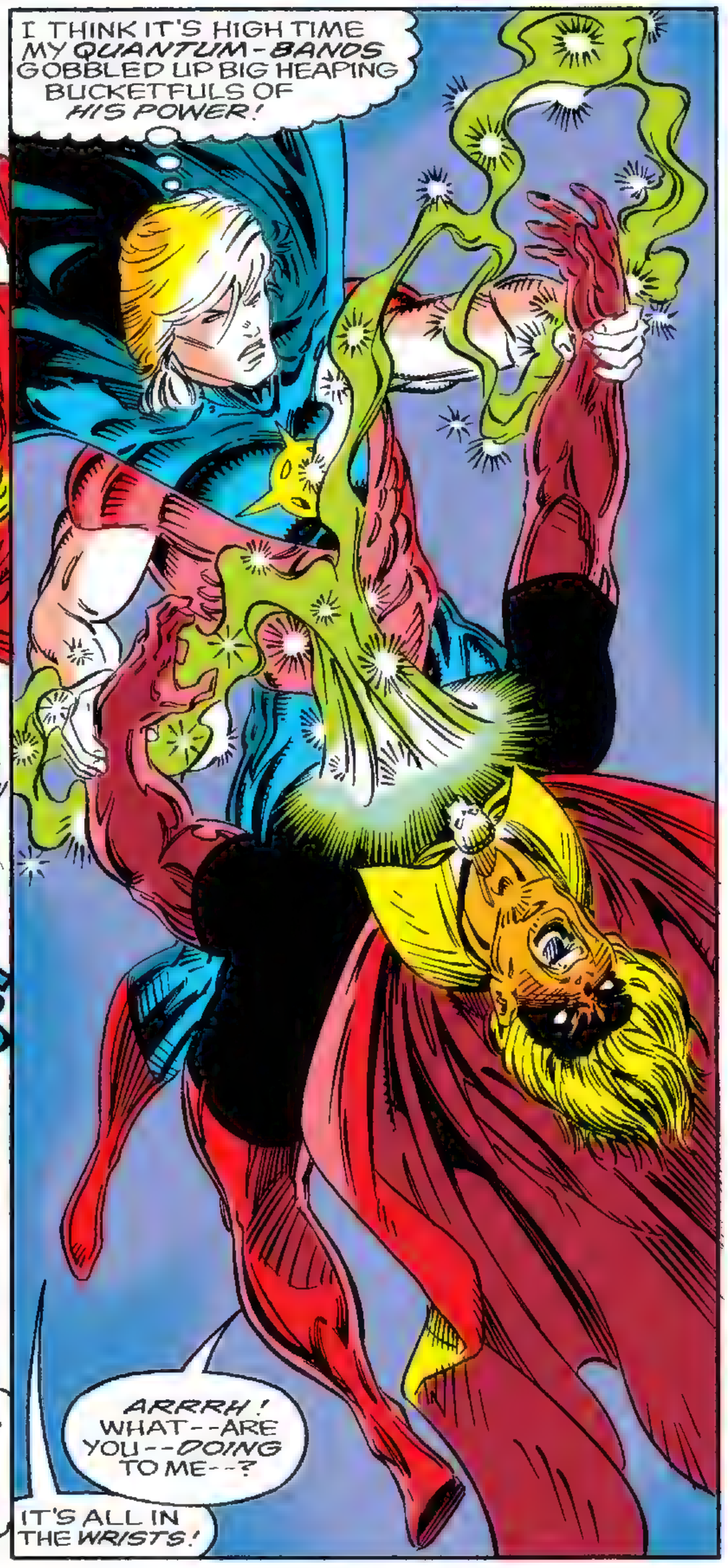

OKAY, NOW I *MEAN* IT. I NEED TO *KNOW* A FEW THINGS.

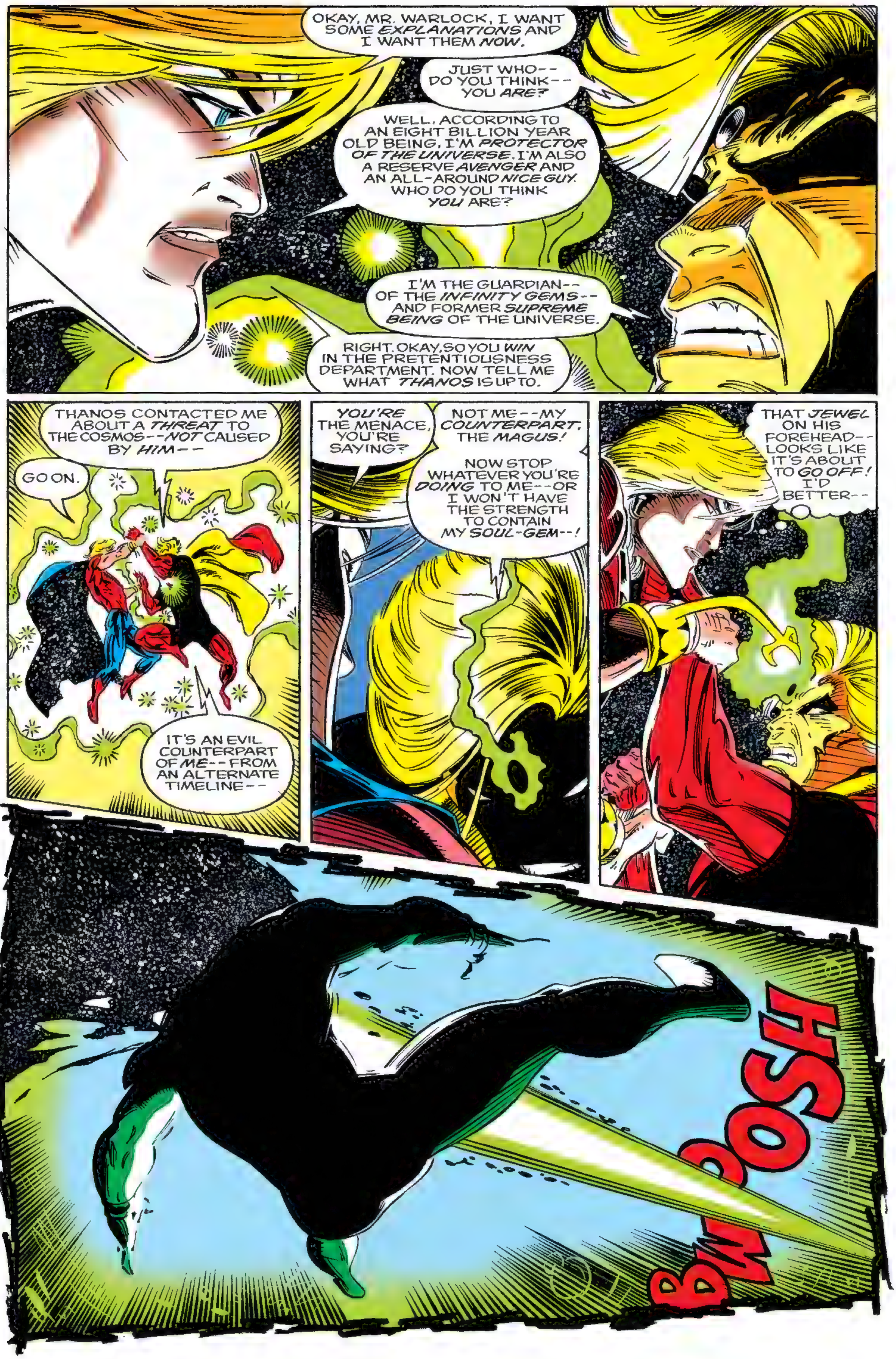

ALL YOU NEED KNOW IS I FIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF THE *UNIVERSE*--

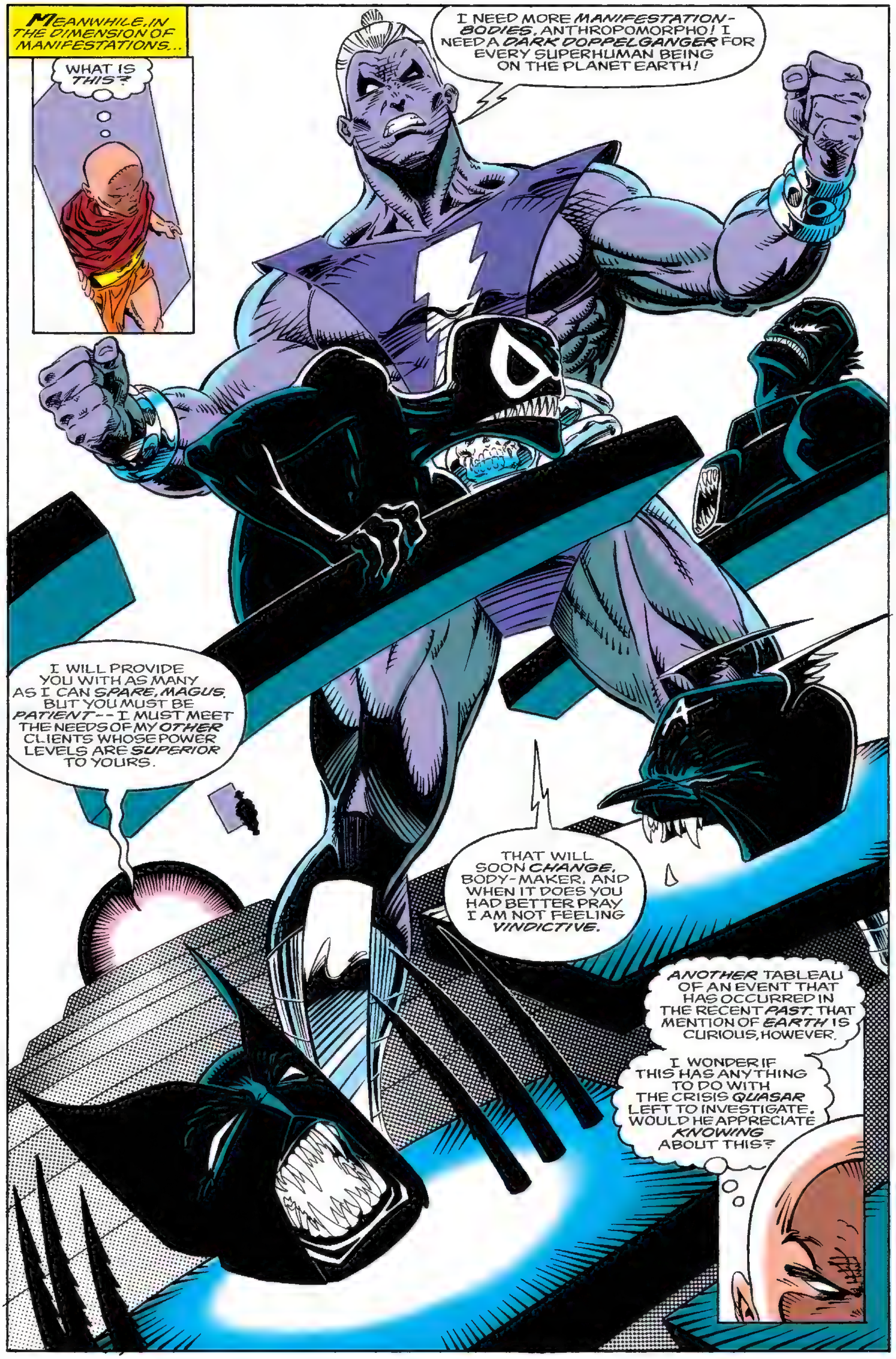

--AND *YOU* FOOLISH SUPERHUMAN BEINGS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO *DEFER* TO THE *INFINITY WATCH!*
HELMETED MYSELF IN THE NICK--!
WHAM

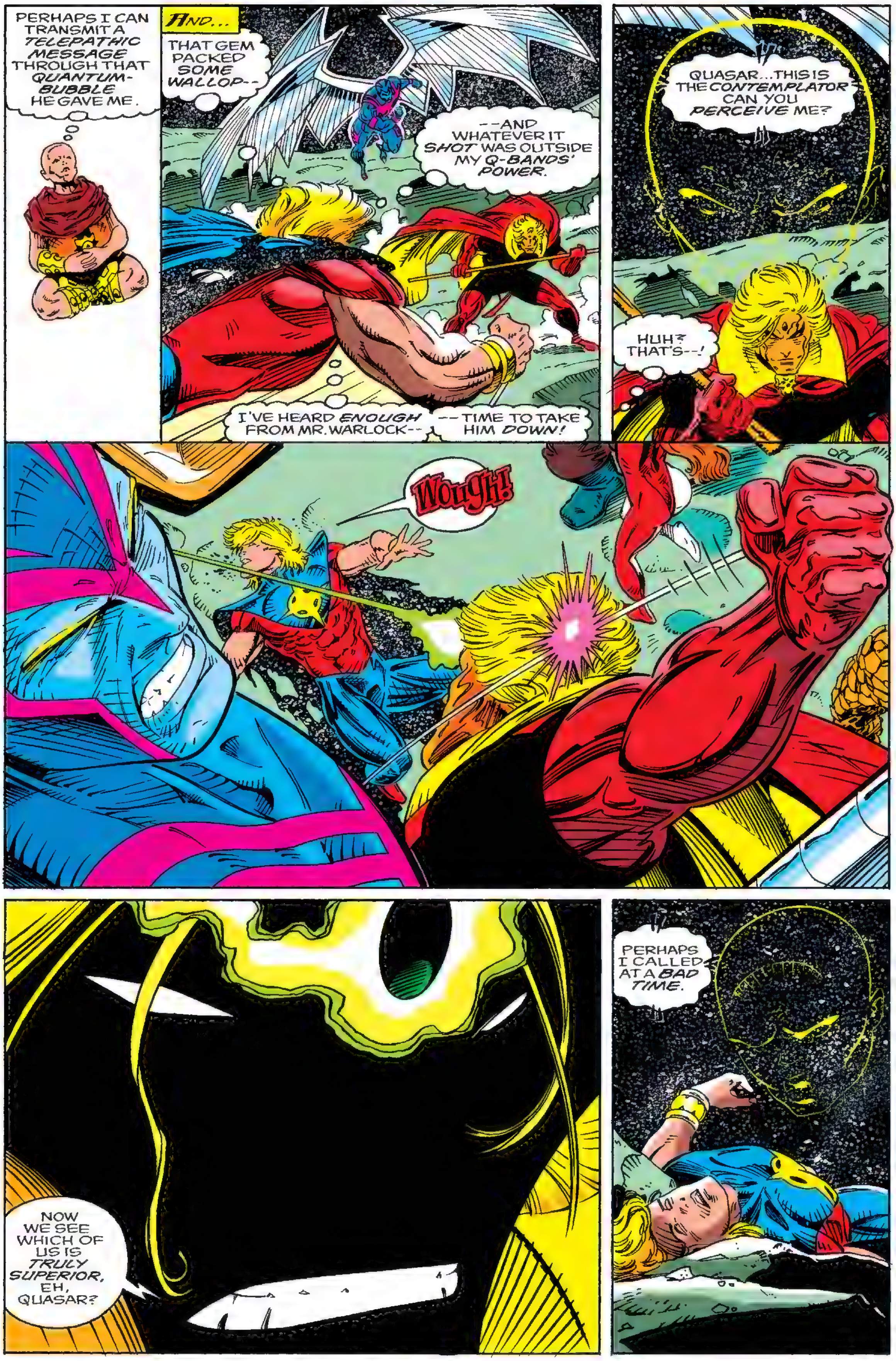

BHAAK
I'M SUPPOSED TO DEFER TO A GUY WITH A *POMPOUS ATTITUDE* AND A *FRIEND* WHO TRIED TO DESTROY THE *UNIVERSE* A COUPLE TIMES. RIGHT. TELL ME *ANOTHER.*

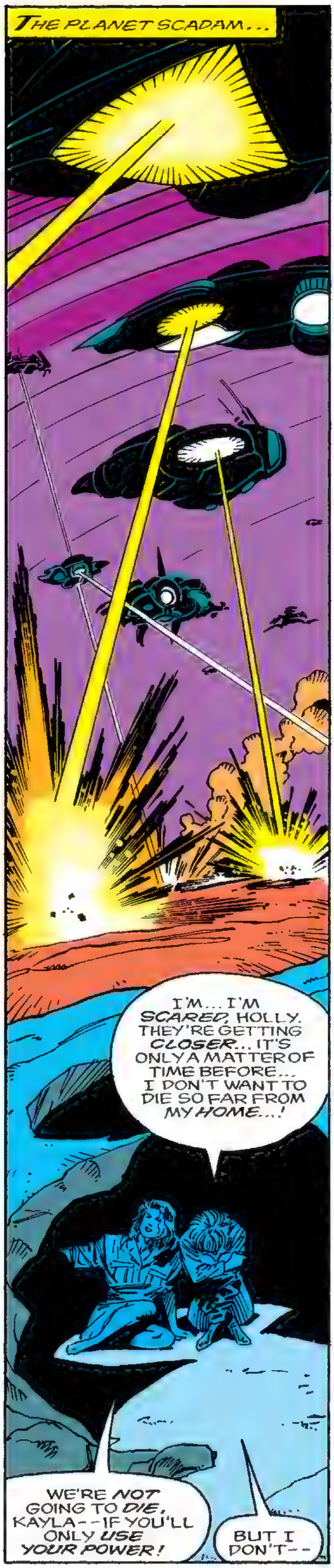
SPROING
STILL CONNECTED BY MY *SKYHOOK.* COME TO *PAPA,* WARLY!

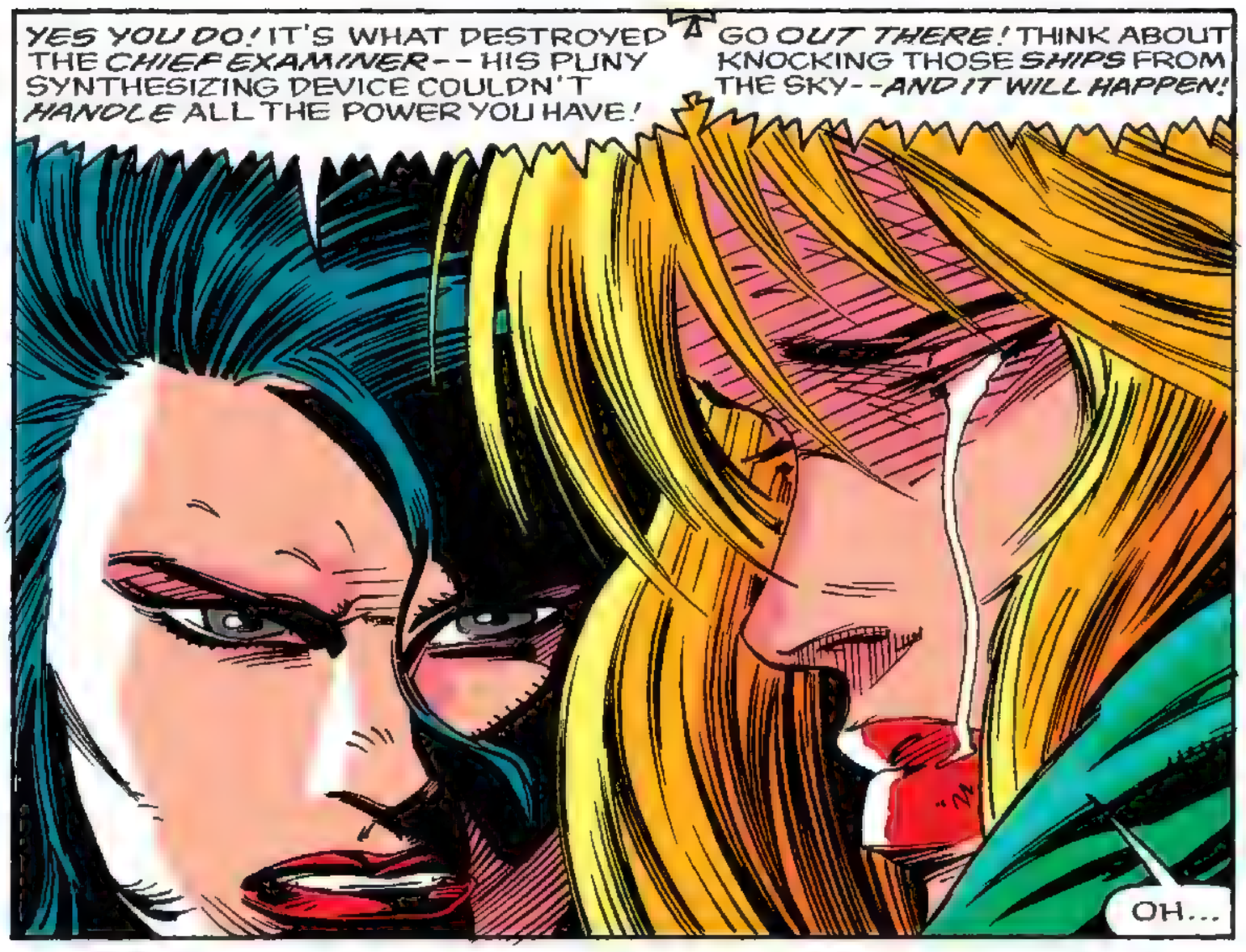

I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME MY *QUANTUM-BANDS* GOBBLED UP BIG HEAPING BUCKETFULS OF *HIS POWER!*
ARRRH! WHAT--ARE YOU--*DOING* TO ME--?
IT'S ALL IN THE *WRISTS!*


OKAY, MR. WARLOCK, I WANT SOME EXPLANATIONS AND I WANT THEM NOW.
JUST WHO-- DO YOU THINK-- YOU ARE?
WELL, ACCORDING TO AN EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD BEING, I'M PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. I'M ALSO A RESERVE AVENGER AND AN ALL-AROUND NICE GUY. WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I'M THE GUARDIAN-- OF THE INFINITY GEMS-- AND FORMER SUPREME BEING OF THE UNIVERSE.
RIGHT. OKAY, SO YOU WIN IN THE PRETENTIOUSNESS DEPARTMENT. NOW TELL ME WHAT THANOS IS UP TO.
THANOS CONTACTED ME ABOUT A THREAT TO THE COSMOS--NOT CAUSED BY HIM--
GO ON.
IT'S AN EVIL COUNTERPART OF ME--FROM AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE--
YOU'RE THE MENACE, YOU'RE SAYING?
NOT ME--MY COUNTERPART, THE MAGUS!
NOW STOP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING TO ME--OR I WON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONTAIN MY SOUL-GEM--!
THAT JEWEL ON HIS FOREHEAD-- LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO GO OFF! I'D BETTER--
BWOOSH

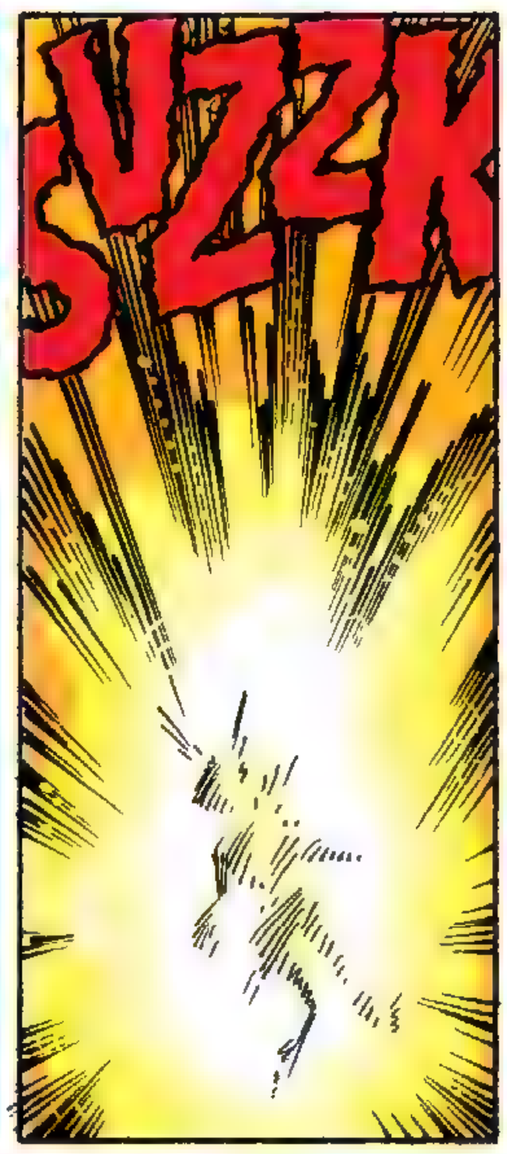

MEANWHILE, IN THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS...
WHAT IS THIS?
I NEED MORE MANIFESTATION-BODIES, ANTHROPOMORPHO! I NEED A DARK DOPPELGANGER FOR EVERY SUPERHUMAN BEING ON THE PLANET EARTH!
I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AS MANY AS I CAN SPARE, MAGUS. BUT YOU MUST BE PATIENT -- I MUST MEET THE NEEDS OF MY OTHER CLIENTS WHOSE POWER LEVELS ARE SUPERIOR TO YOURS.
THAT WILL SOON CHANGE, BODY-MAKER, AND WHEN IT DOES YOU HAD BETTER PRAY I AM NOT FEELING VINDICTIVE.
ANOTHER TABLEAU OF AN EVENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE RECENT PAST. THAT MENTION OF EARTH IS CURIOUS, HOWEVER.
I WONDER IF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CRISIS QUASAR LEFT TO INVESTIGATE. WOULD HE APPRECIATE KNOWING ABOUT THIS?

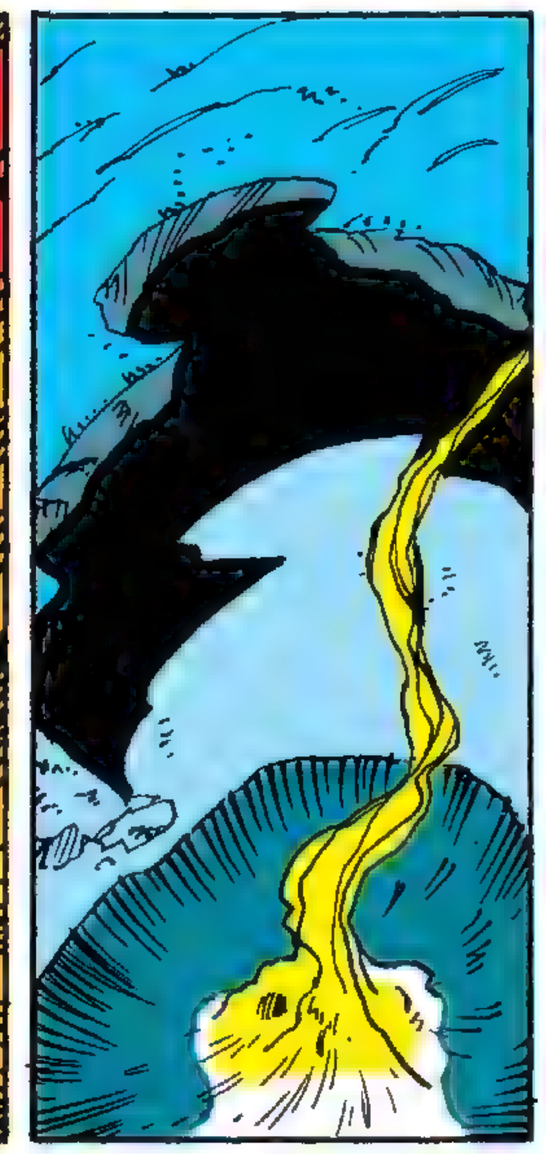

PERHAPS I CAN TRANSMIT A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE THROUGH THAT QUANTUM-BUBBLE HE GAVE ME.
AND...
THAT GEM PACKED SOME WALLOP--
--AND WHATEVER IT SHOT WAS OUTSIDE MY Q-BANDS' POWER.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH FROM MR. WARLOCK--
--TIME TO TAKE HIM DOWN!
QUASAR...THIS IS THE CONTEMPLATOR CAN YOU PERCEIVE ME?
HUH? THAT'S--!
Wough!
NOW WE SEE WHICH OF US IS TRULY SUPERIOR, EH, QUASAR?
PERHAPS I CALLED AT A BAD TIME.

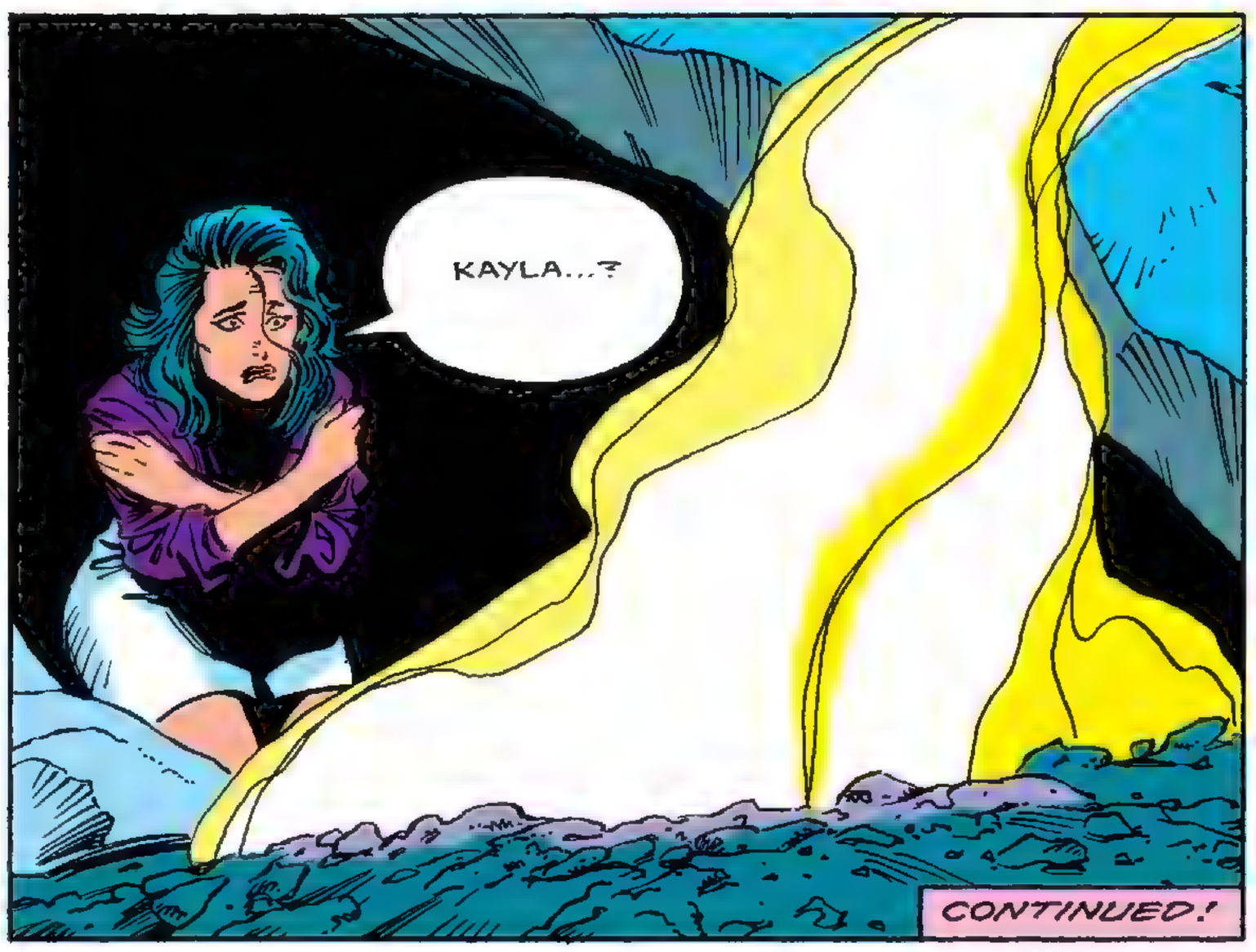

THE PLANET SCADAM...
I'M... I'M SCARED, HOLLY. THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE... I DON'T WANT TO DIE SO FAR FROM MY HOME...!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIE, KAYLA--IF YOU'LL ONLY USE YOUR POWER!
BUT I DON'T--


YES YOU DO! IT'S WHAT DESTROYED THE CHIEF EXAMINER--HIS PUNY SYNTHESIZING DEVICE COULDN'T HANDLE ALL THE POWER YOU HAVE!
GO OUT THERE! THINK ABOUT KNOCKING THOSE SHIPS FROM THE SKY--AND IT WILL HAPPEN!
OH...

...OKAY, I'LL TRY...!


SZZK




KAYLA...?
CONTINUED!

MARVEL COMICS
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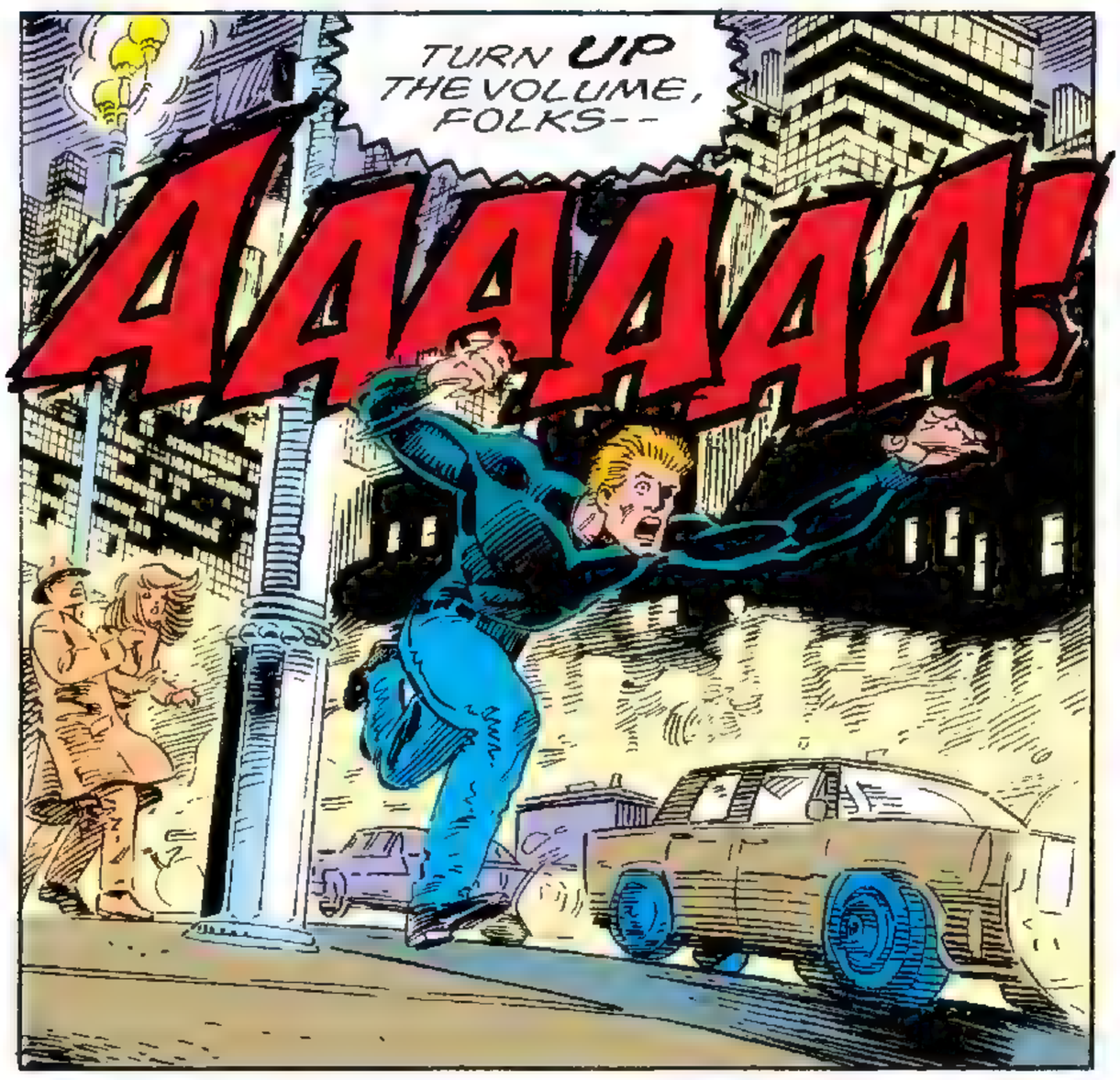
111
AUG
WEAPON OMEGA vs. HIMSELF?!
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
ALPHA FLIGHT
BRODERICK 92

GOOD EVENING! THIS IS STATION KB-Z-- LIVE ON THIS ROCKING SATURDAY NIGHT FROM THE HEART OF TORONTO.


TURN UP THE VOLUME, FOLKS--
AAAAAA!

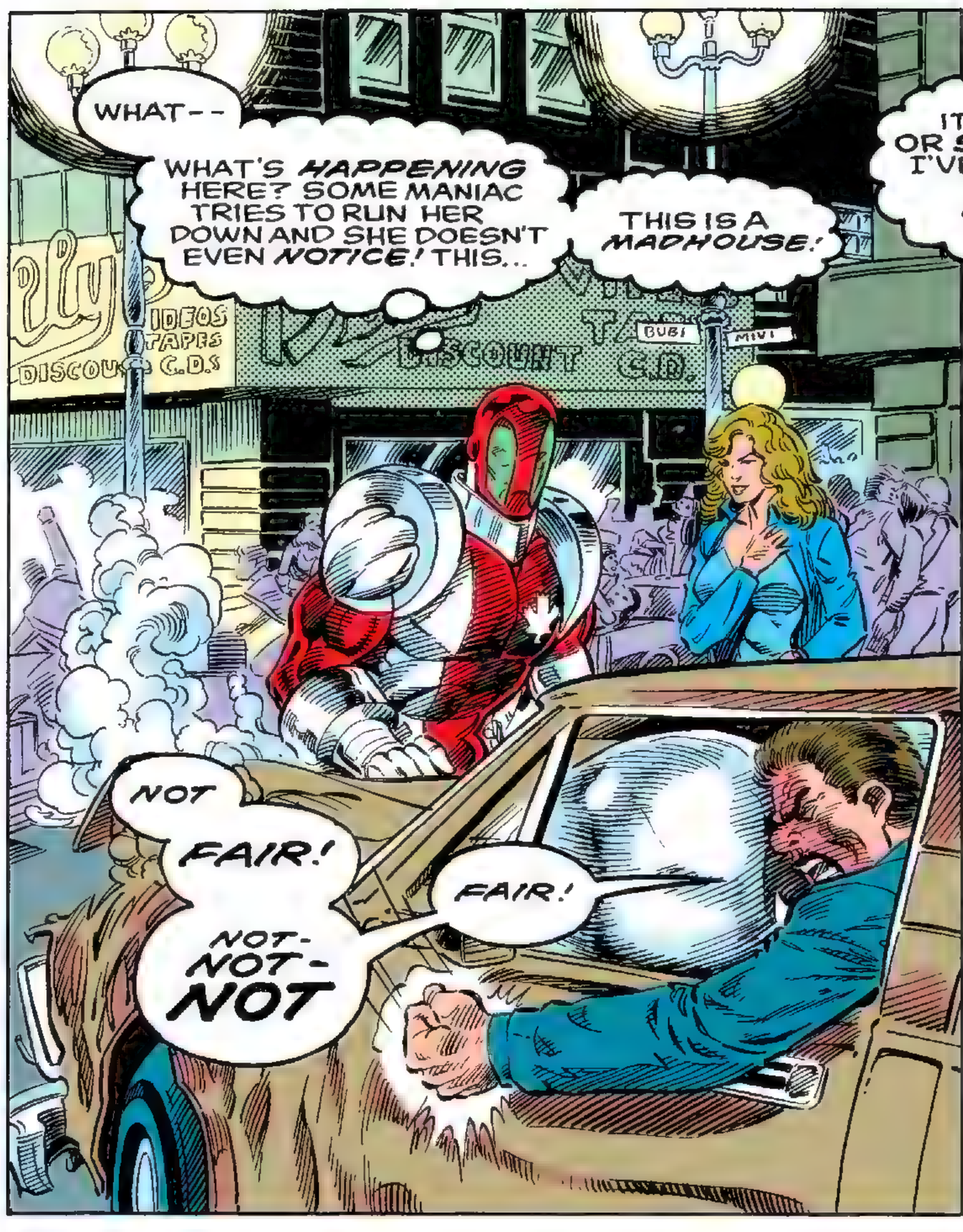
--IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP THE KIDS...

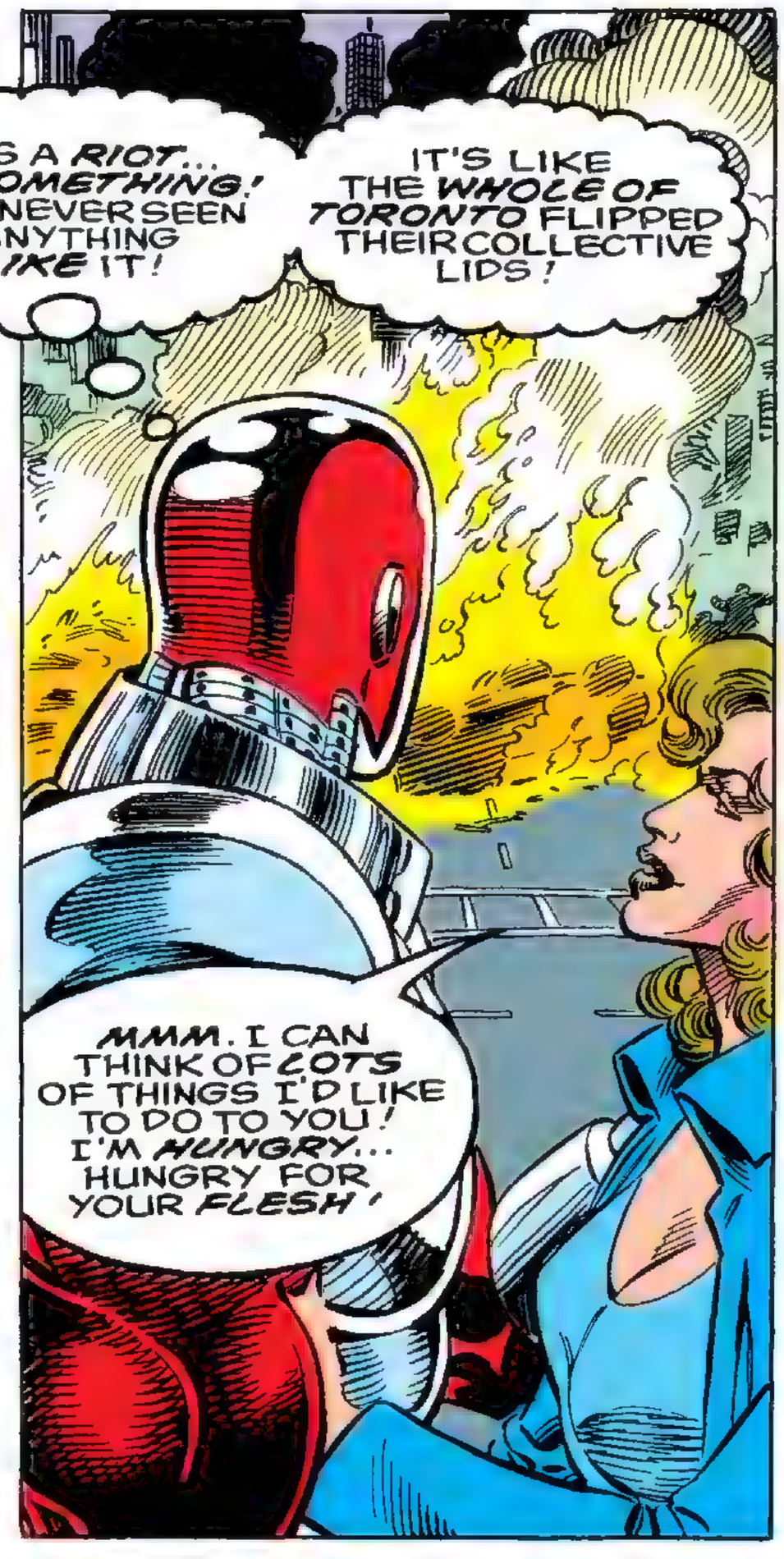
...DISTURB THE NEIGHBORS...

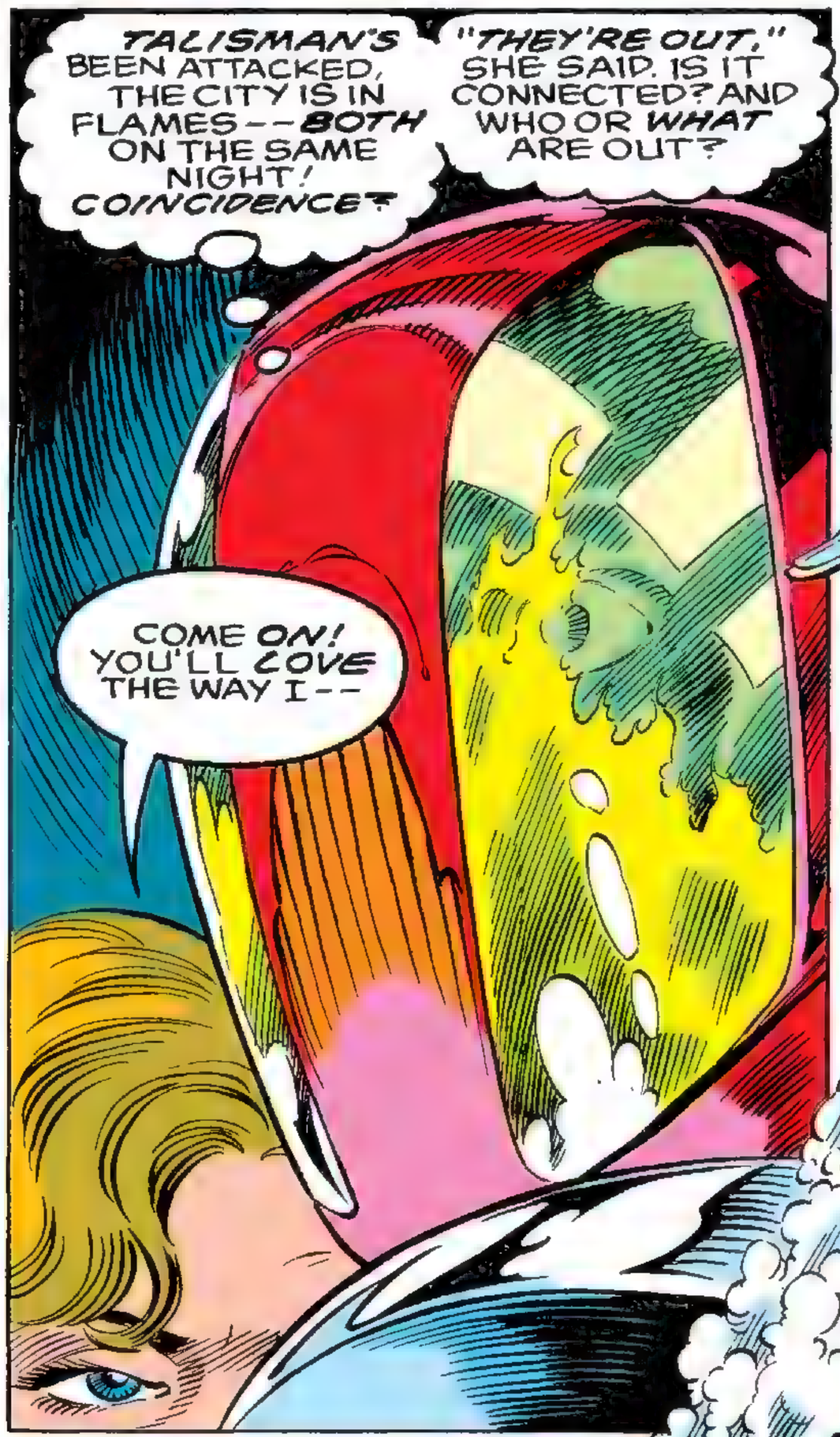
REV UP YOUR PARTY ENGINE...

...AND KILL SOMEONE!

BARE BONES
FURMAN / BRODERICK / PATTERSON / CHIANG / SHAREN / TOKAR / DeFALCO
PART 2
NO!
IT'S OKAY, YOU'RE SAFE. I'M WINDSHEAR OF ALPHA--
MISS?
GOD, THAT WAS CLOSE! TIMES LIKE THIS I CAN HANDLE NOT KNOWING EXACTLY HOW THIS POWER OF MINE CREATES HARD AIR MOLECULES TO ORDER--
--JUST THAT IT DOES!
SKRANGG!


WHAT--
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? SOME MANIAC TRIES TO RUN HER DOWN AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE! THIS...
THIS IS A MADHOUSE!
NOT FAIR!
NOT-NOT-NOT
FAIR!


IT'S A RIOT... OR SOMETHING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE OF TORONTO FLIPPED THEIR COLLECTIVE LIDS!
MMM. I CAN THINK OF LOTS OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO DO TO YOU! I'M HUNGRY... HUNGRY FOR YOUR FLESH!


TALISMAN'S BEEN ATTACKED, THE CITY IS IN FLAMES--BOTH ON THE SAME NIGHT! COINCIDENCE?
"THEY'RE OUT," SHE SAID. IS IT CONNECTED? AND WHO OR WHAT ARE OUT?
COME ON! YOU'LL LOVE THE WAY I--

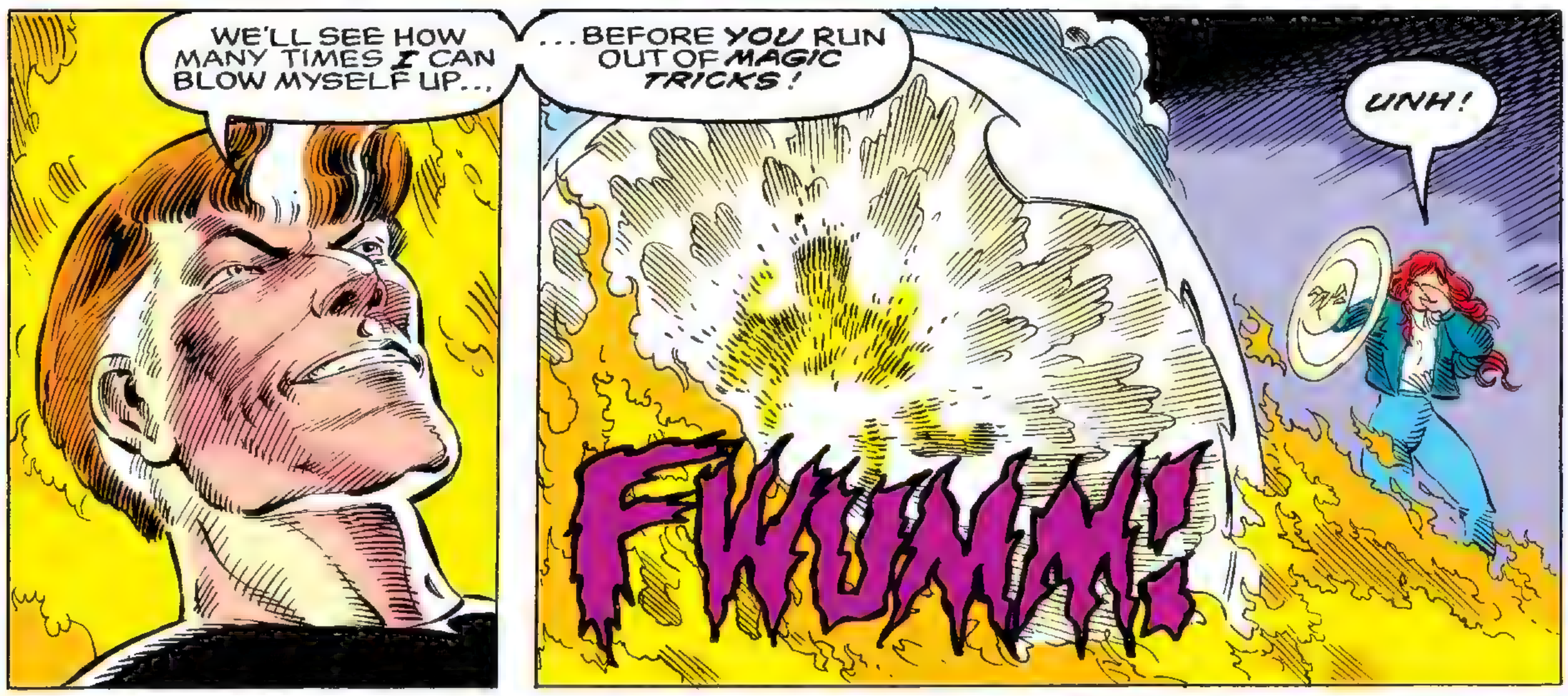
SOME OTHER TIME, MA'AM.
BLAST! I'M GETTING THAT "OUT-OF-MY-DEPTH" FEELING AGAIN. TRUTH BE TOLD, I WAS HAPPY PLAYING THE DESK JOCKEY, LETTING THE CORE TEAM HANDLE STUFF LIKE THIS!
BUT THEY'RE IN NEW YORK, SO THIS TIME I'M ON MY--

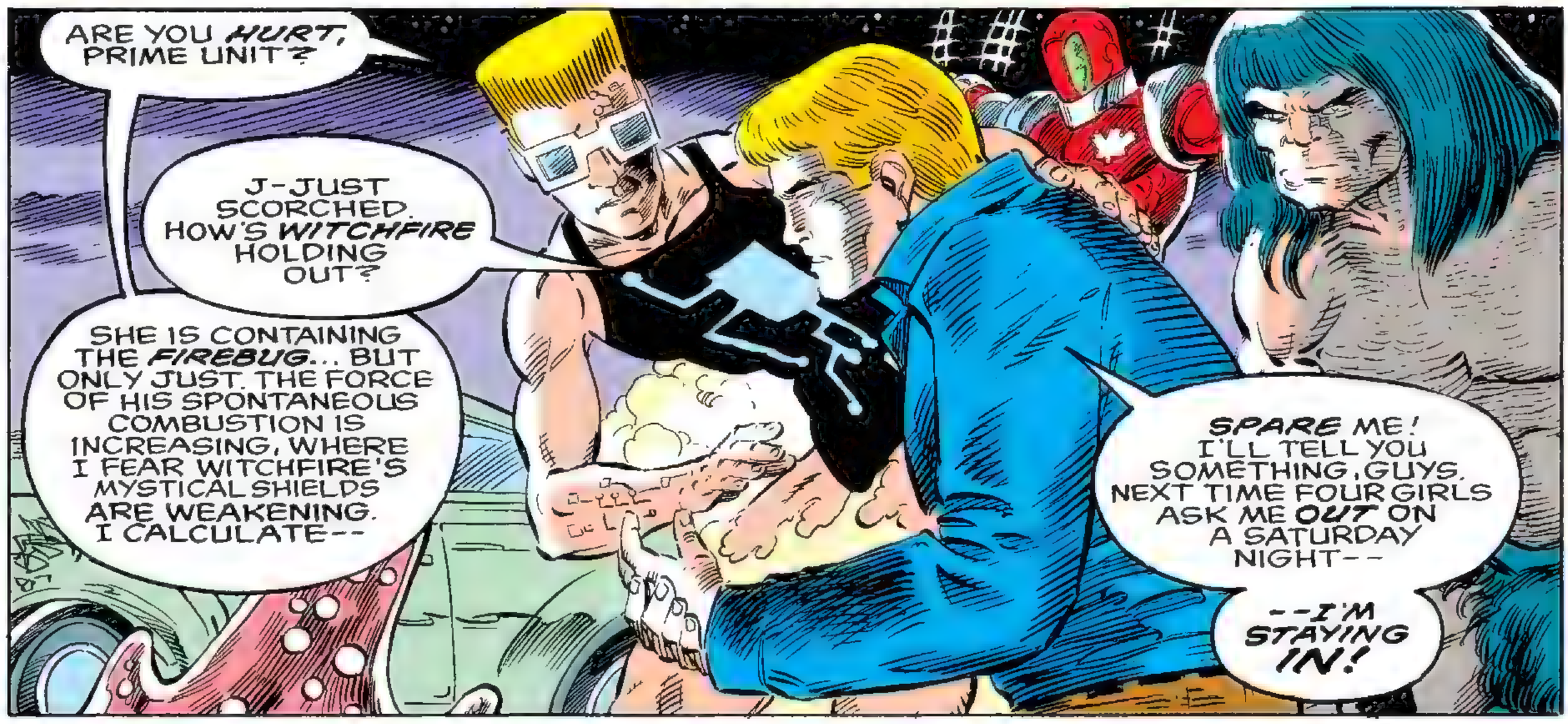
--OWN?

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT! *GAMMA FLIGHT*-- *THEY'RE* MIXED UP IN THIS?

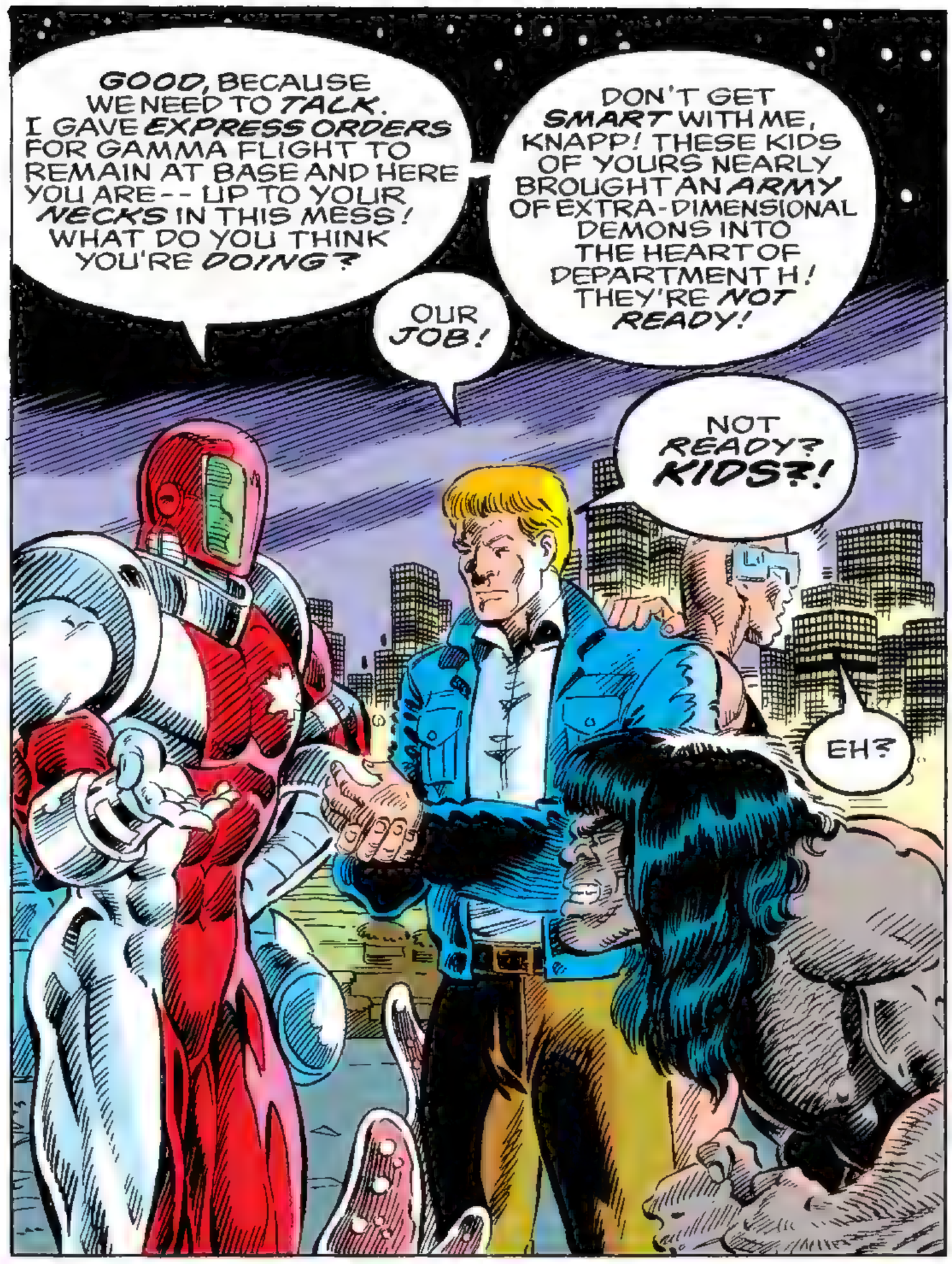
LET'S PLAY A *GAME*...

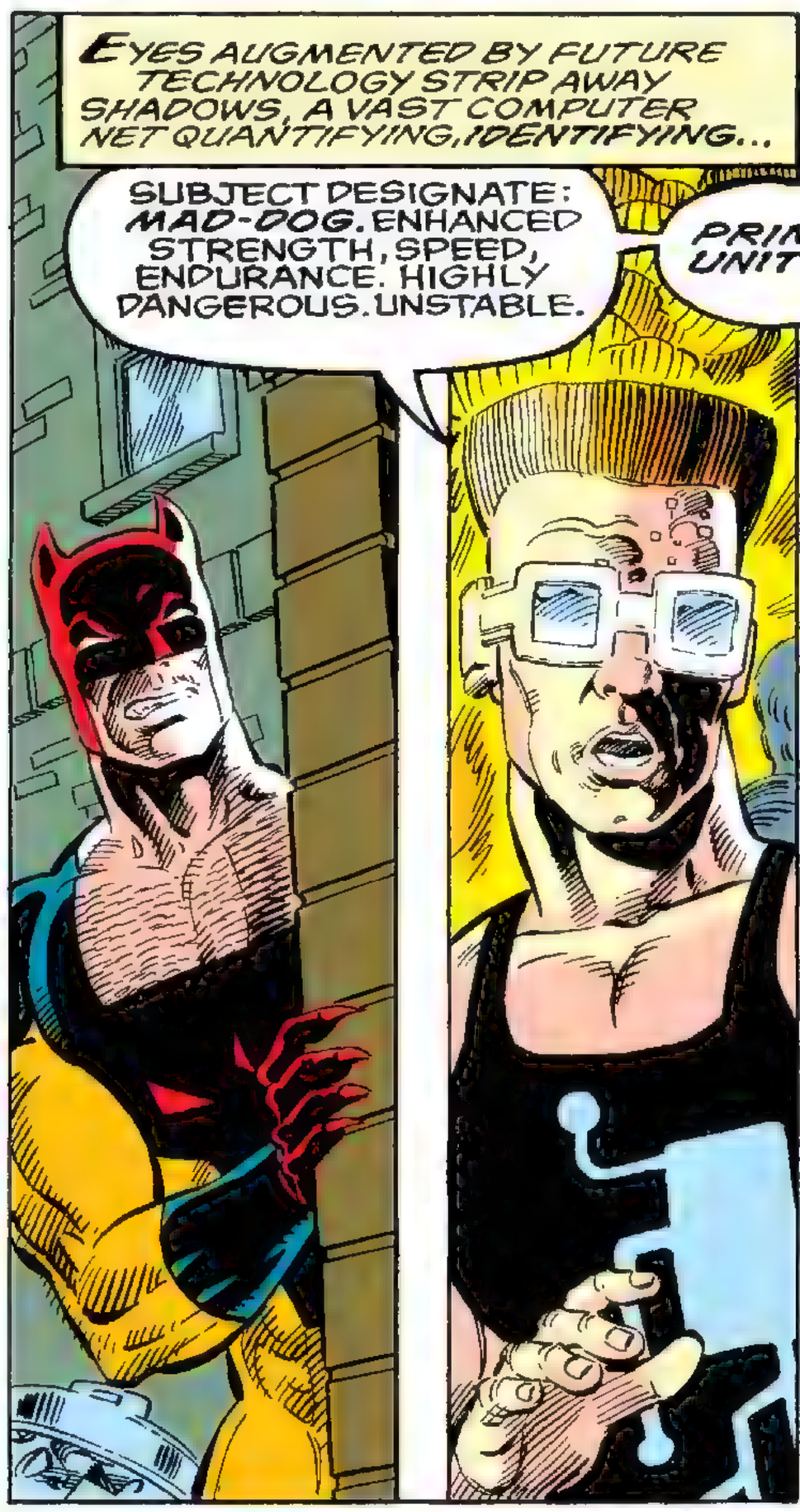
HALLS TV REPAIR

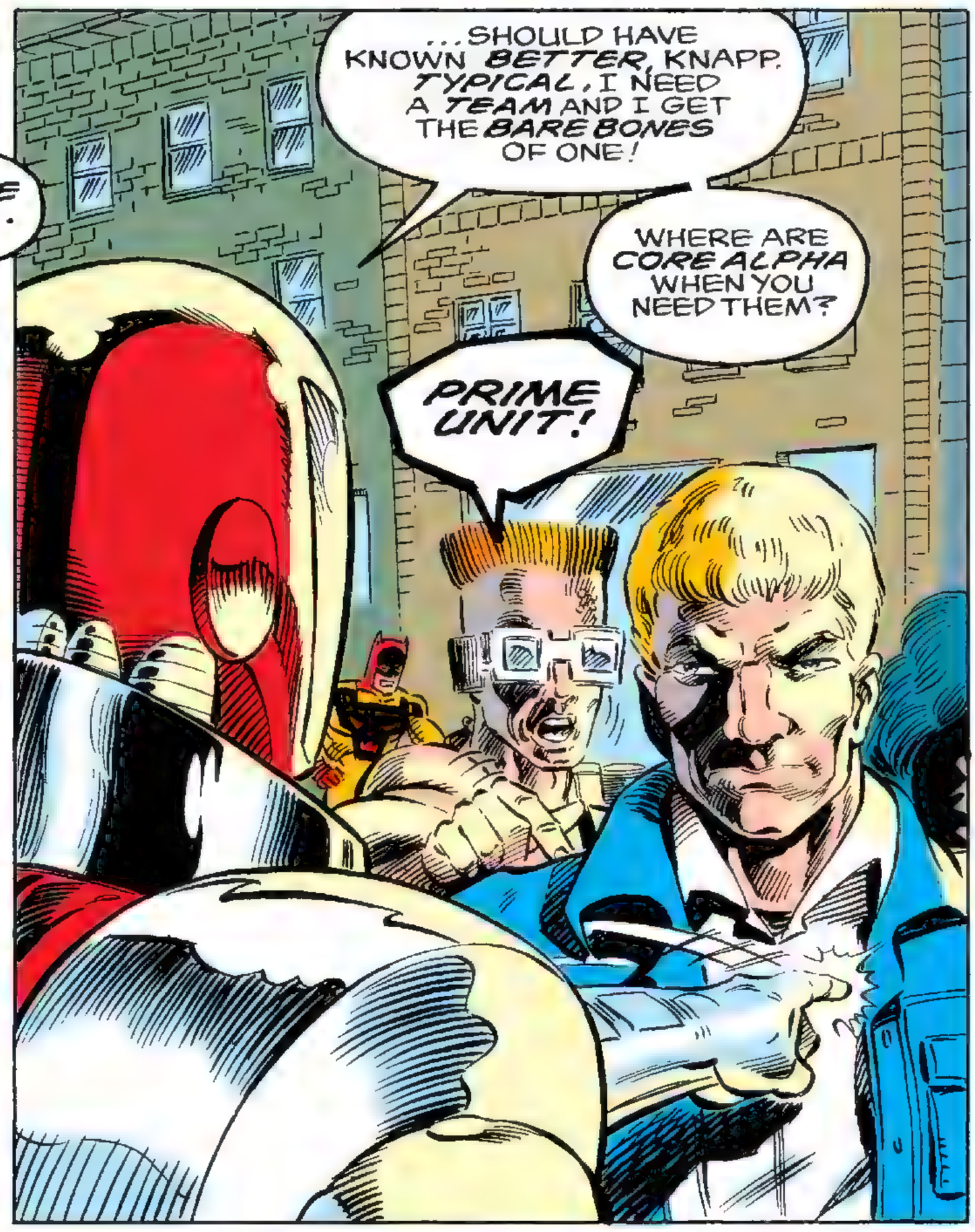




PARTY POOPER! IT'S OKAY, MANIKIN, YOU CAN RECALL DARK AND HAIRY HERE...
KEEPING FIREBUG SPLIT INTO COMPONENT PARTS SHOULD PREVENT HIM FROM FORMING A COHESIVE THOUGHT, LET ALONE A BODY!


GOOD, BECAUSE WE NEED TO TALK. I GAVE EXPRESS ORDERS FOR GAMMA FLIGHT TO REMAIN AT BASE AND HERE YOU ARE -- UP TO YOUR NECKS IN THIS MESS! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
OUR JOB!
DON'T GET SMART WITH ME, KNAPP! THESE KIDS OF YOURS NEARLY BROUGHT AN ARMY OF EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL DEMONS INTO THE HEART OF DEPARTMENT H! THEY'RE NOT READY!
NOT READY? KIDS?!
EH?


EYES AUGMENTED BY FUTURE TECHNOLOGY STRIP AWAY SHADOWS, A VAST COMPUTER NET QUANTIFYING, IDENTIFYING...
SUBJECT DESIGNATE: MAD-DOG. ENHANCED STRENGTH, SPEED, ENDURANCE. HIGHLY DANGEROUS. UNSTABLE.
PRIME UNIT...


...SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER, KNAPP. TYPICAL. I NEED A TEAM AND I GET THE BARE BONES OF ONE!
WHERE ARE CORE ALPHA WHEN YOU NEED THEM?
PRIME UNIT!

A REALITY FAR REMOVED FROM OUR OWN...
...AND A WAR TO END ALL WARS!
THE COMBATANTS; A FORCE OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES--
--AGAINST ADAM WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH!*
THE LATTER GROUP'S (NOT INCONSIDERABLE) POWER AUGMENTED BY THAT MOST DREAD OF TITANS--
*SEE INFINITY WAR #2-3.

THANOS!

A NAME TO CONJURE WITH IF *EVER* THERE WAS ONE! HOW DO YOU FIGHT SOME... *THING* LIKE THAT? I'M NOT SURE I CAN--

NO! NOT WEAKNESS, *NOT NOW!*

BLAST IT, I'M *BETTER* THAN THAT! TOO LONG I'VE LAIN WITH CORPSES, MYSELF BURIED UNDER THE BONES OF THE PAST!

THIS IS *MY* TEAM NOW, *MY* FUTURE--AND I'LL FIGHT FOR BOTH!

"MY *TEAM*..."

"MORE THAN *HALF* ARE STILL ON EARTH, *SASQUATCH* OUT FOR THE COUNT!"

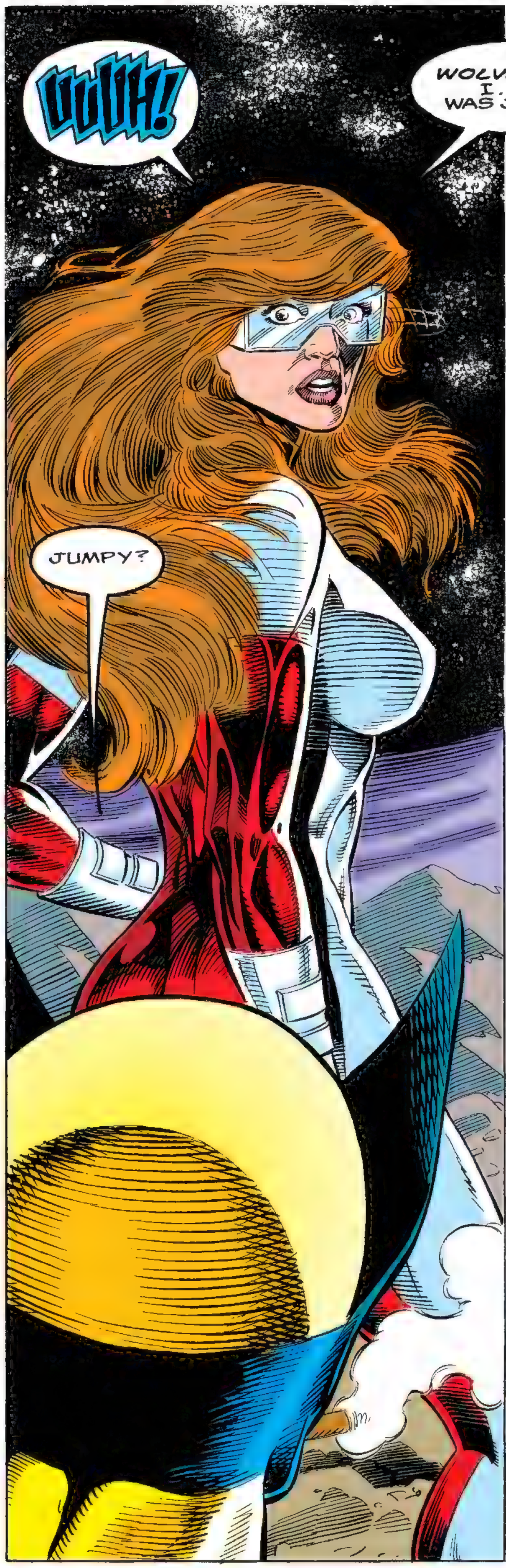
"AND *SHAMAN*...?

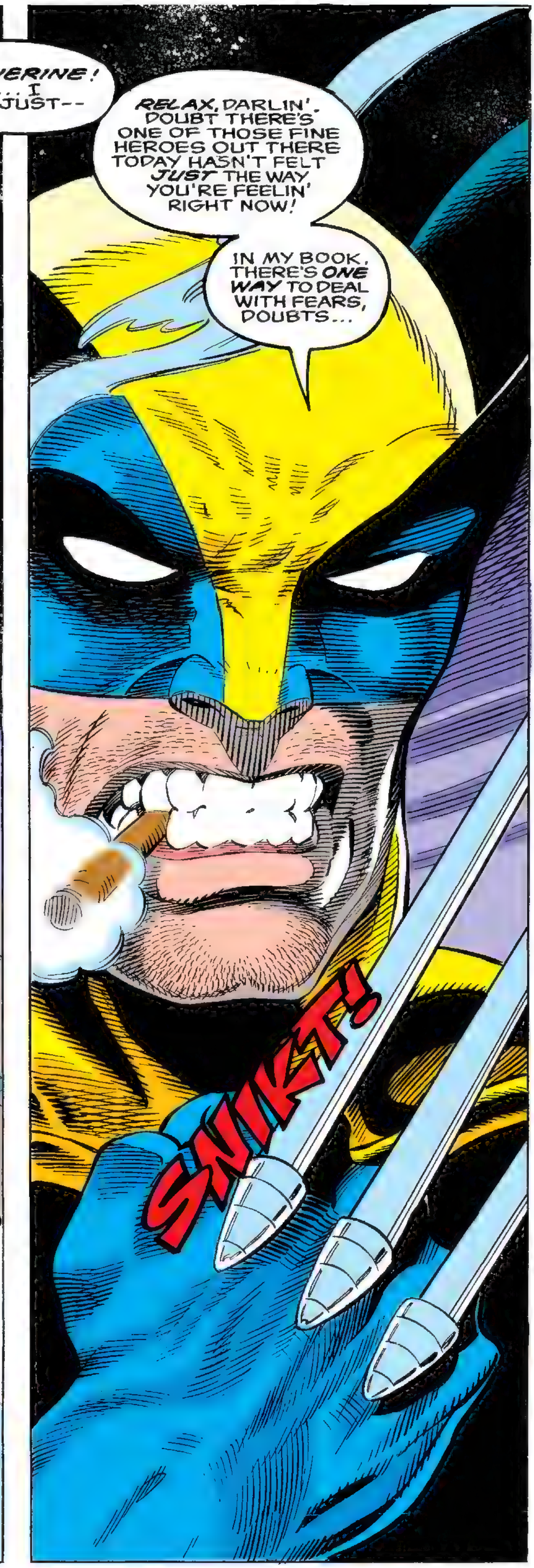
WHO KNOWS? WHERE *DID* HE DISAPPEAR TO? WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM? EVIDENTLY SOMETHING *SO TERRIBLE*...

...HE CAN'T-- OR *WON'T*-- TALK ABOUT IT, EVEN TO *ME!*

"WE USED TO BE SO CLOSE, MICHAEL-- YOUR *AURA* SO WARM, SO *ALIVE!* NOW IT'S JUST...

"...*DEAD.*"


UUUH!
WOLVERINE! I... I WAS JUST--
JUMPY?


RELAX, DARLIN'. DOUBT THERE'S ONE OF THOSE FINE HEROES OUT THERE TODAY HASN'T FELT JUST THE WAY YOU'RE FEELIN' RIGHT NOW!
IN MY BOOK, THERE'S ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH FEARS, DOUBTS...
SNIKT!

...AND IT AIN'T STANDIN' HERE TALKIN' ABOUT 'EM!

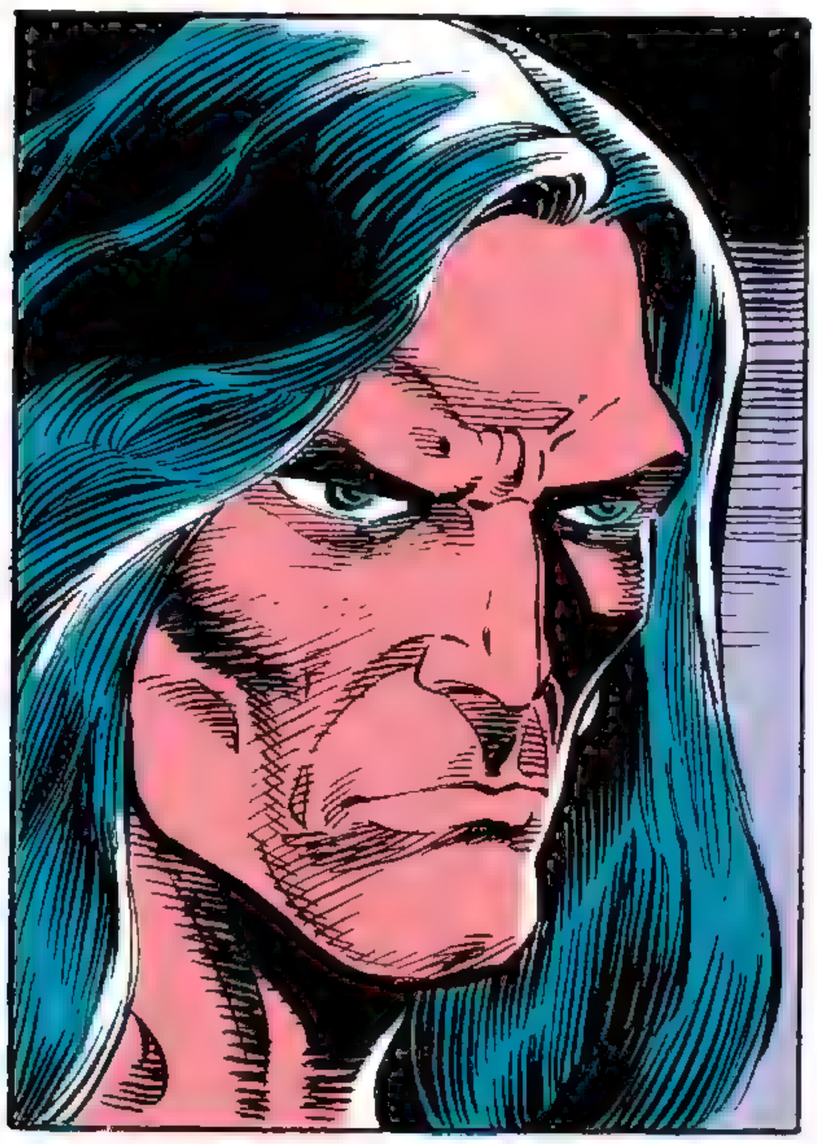
YOU WITH ME?

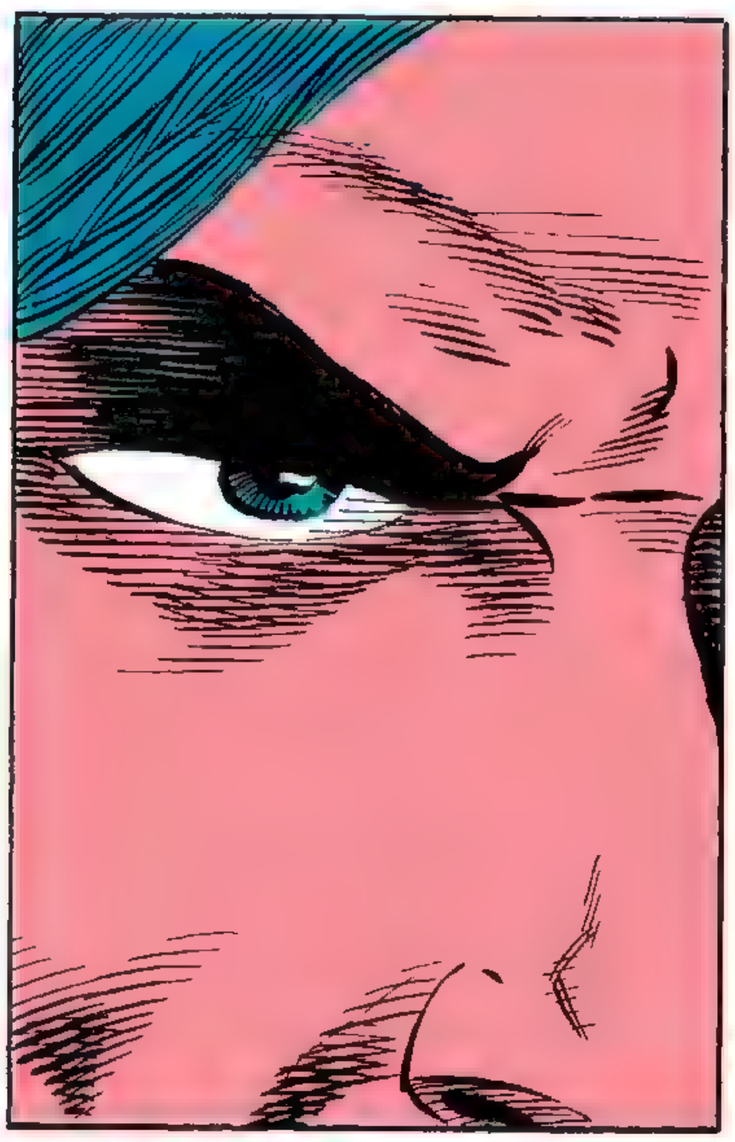
:SIGH:

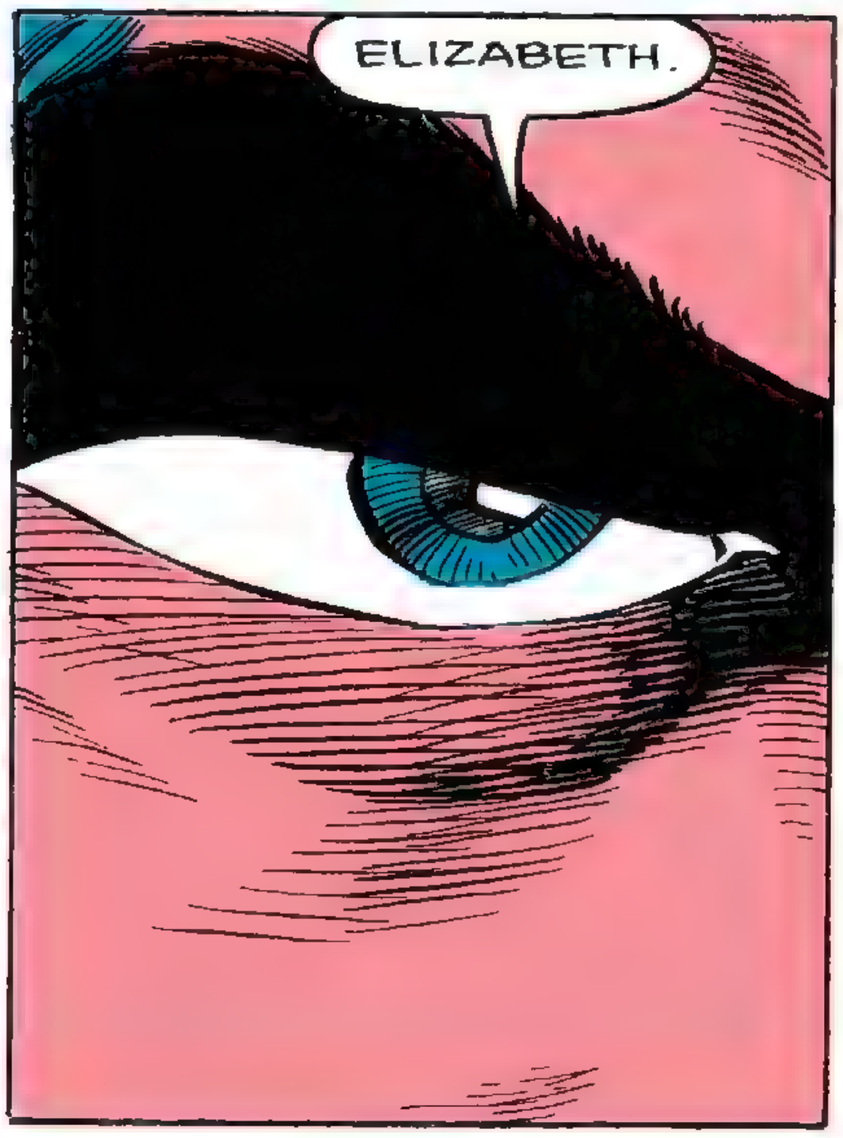
AND THERE I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING DEEP AND MEANINGFUL.

PERHAPS WOLVERINE'S RIGHT, PERHAPS YOU CAN LOOK TOO LONG AND HARD, TORTURE YOURSELF OVER WHAT-COULD-HAVE-BEEN, OR WHAT-MIGHT-BE...

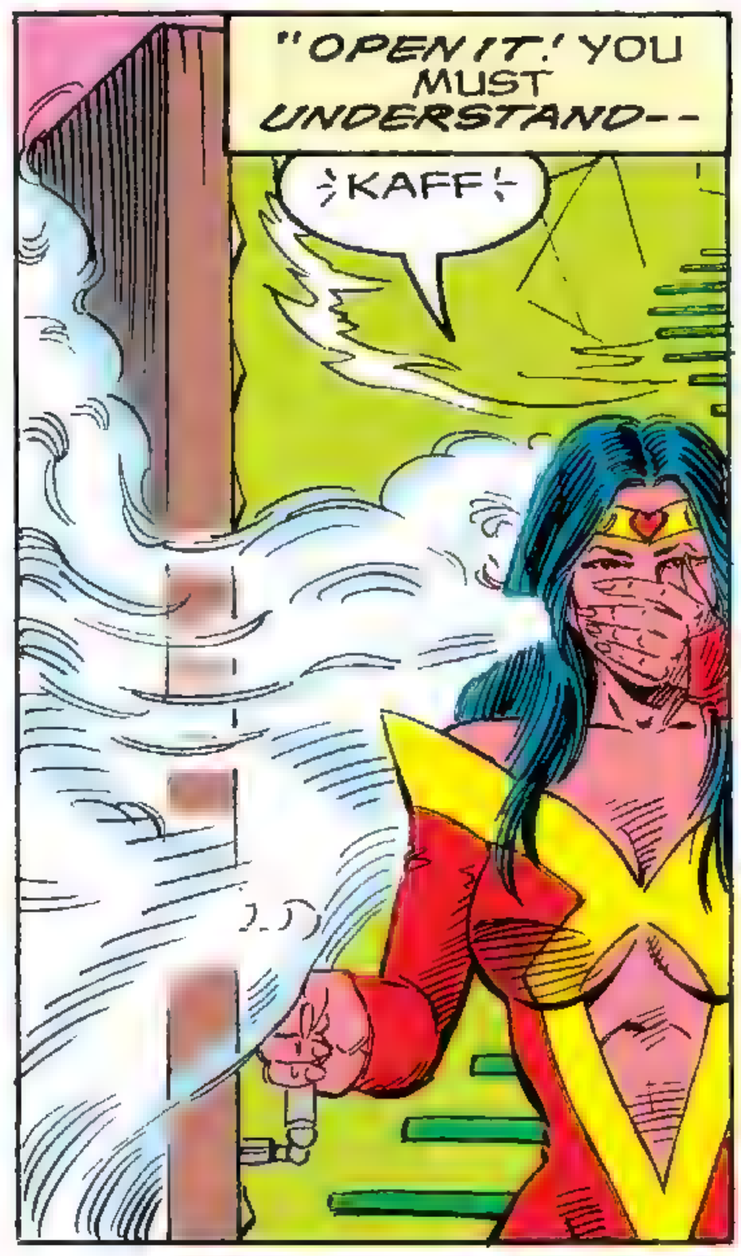
PERHAPS...



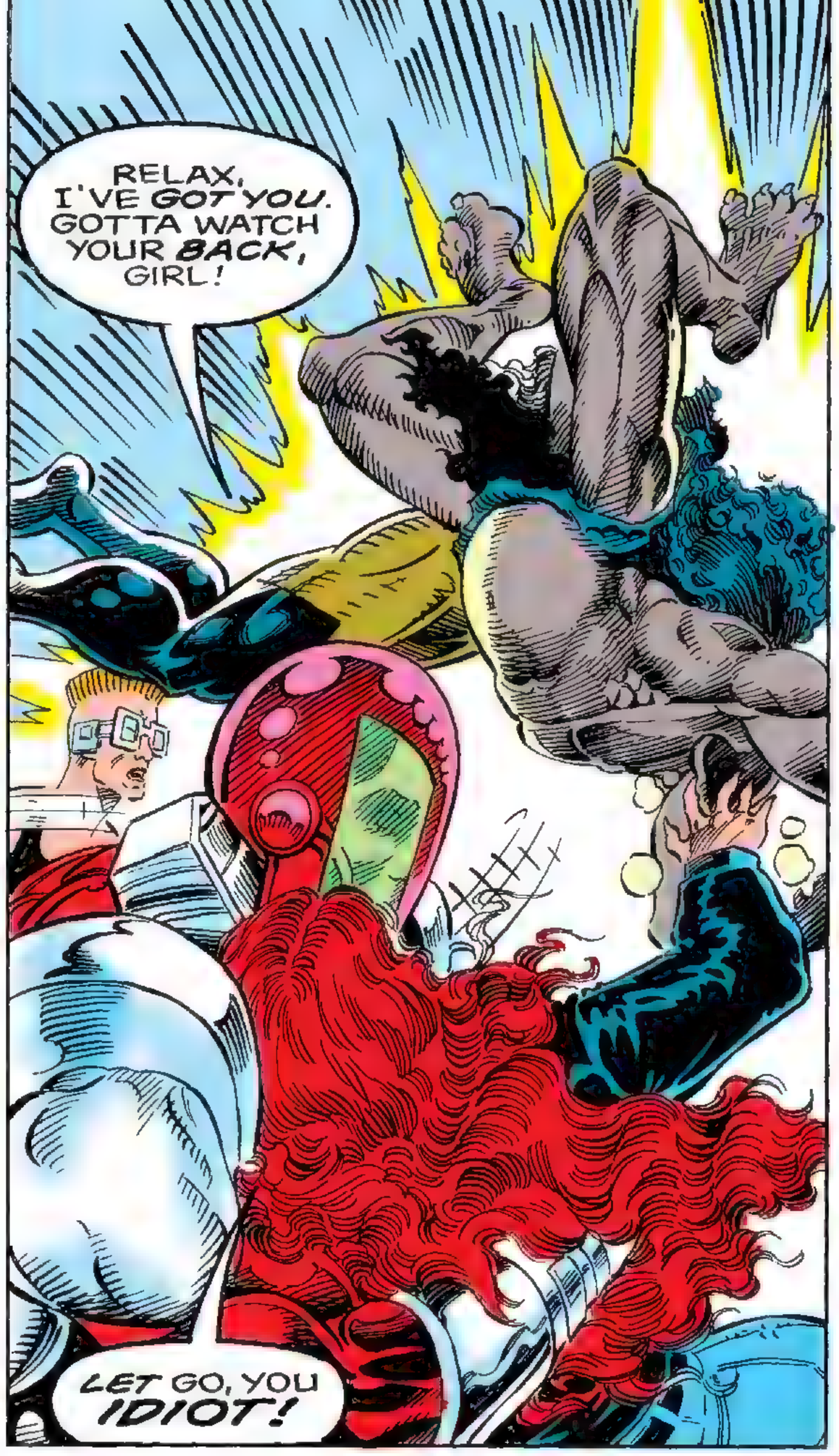


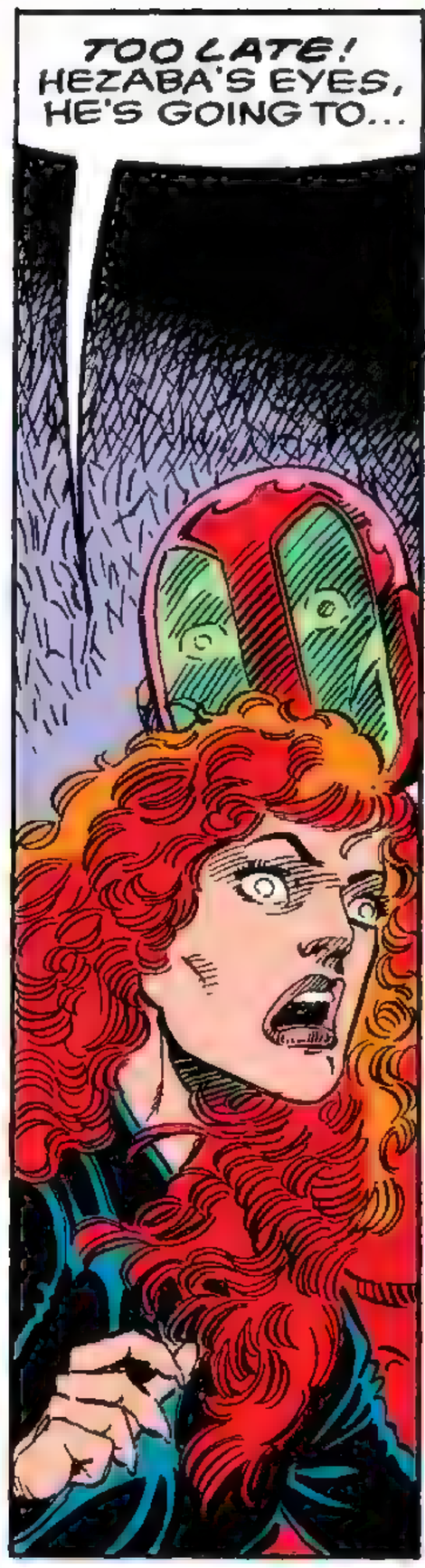


SHE IS IN PAIN.
AGAIN!
HER BROKEN BODY LIES BEYOND HIS REACH.
AGAIN!
HE CANNOT HELP HER.
AGAIN!
NO!
HER MIND, HE CAN TOUCH HER MIND...
TALISMAN!
FATHER!
WHERE AM I?
"WITHIN. YOU MUST GO DEEPER.
I... I DON'T WANT TO!
"YOU MUST!

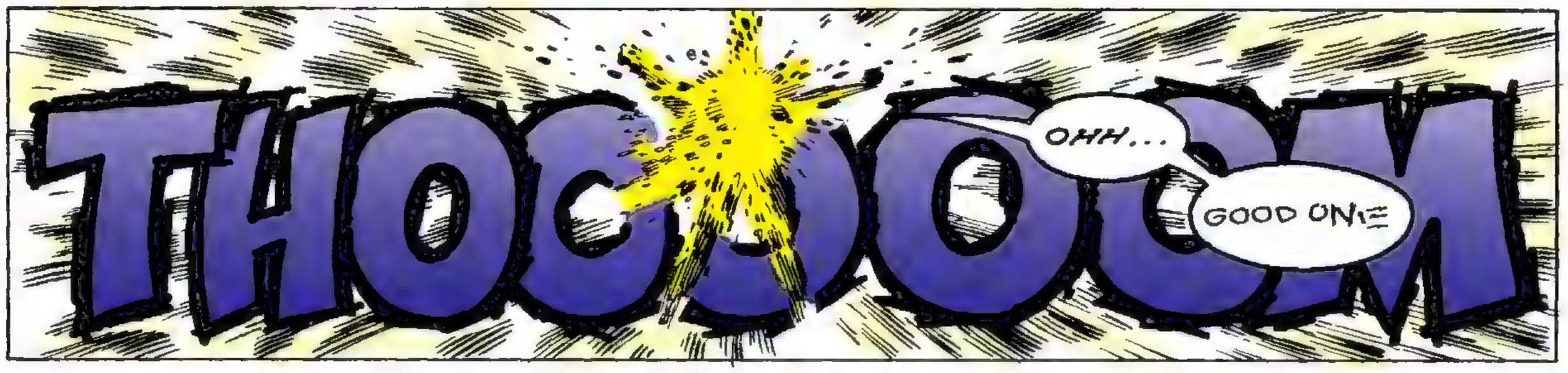


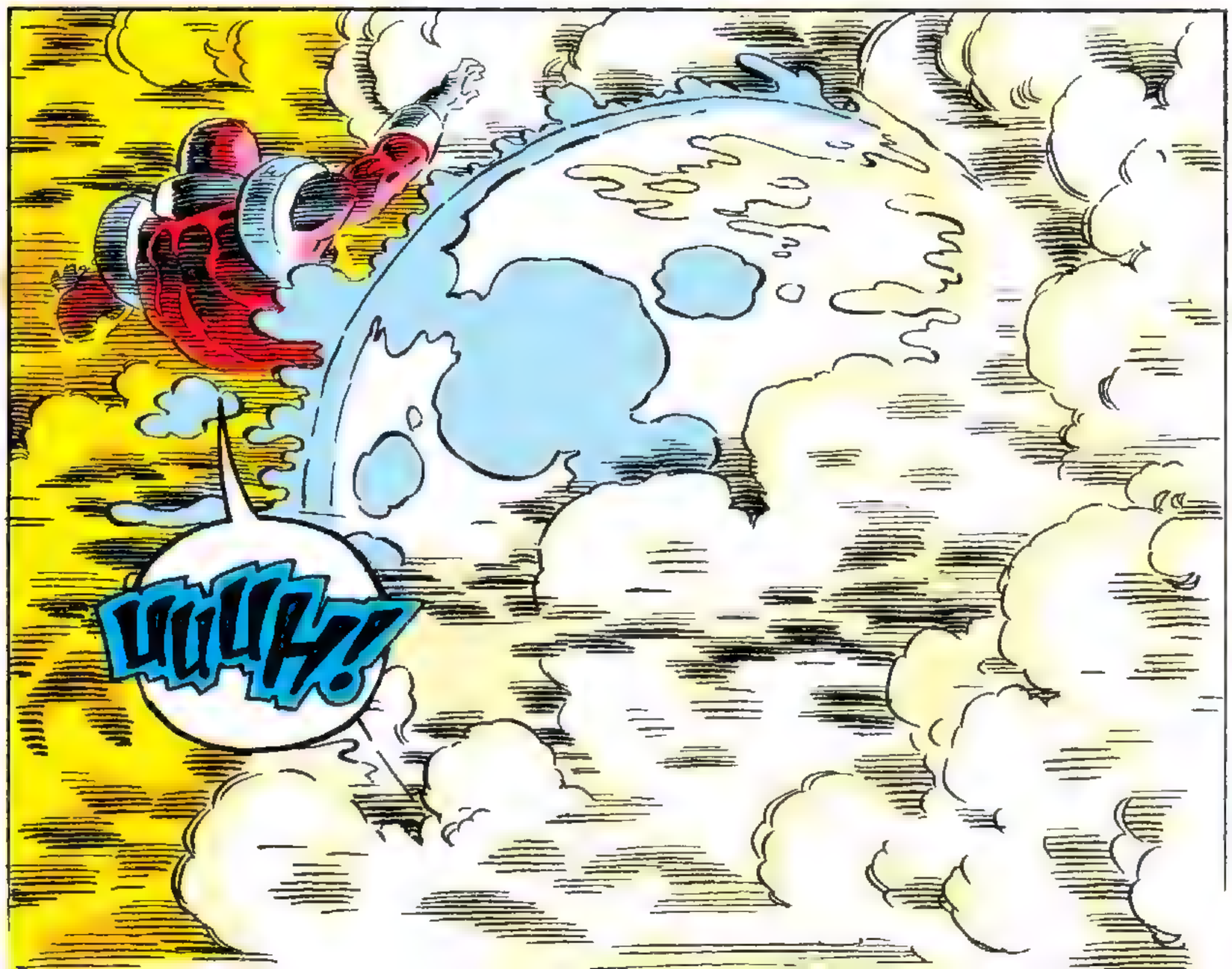
AAAH!
BUT PALATABLE.
CRUDE...
ALREADY THE AIR CARRIES THE TASTE! SOON THE SKA'R WILL FEED!
MMM. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE WE SLEPT, THE PULSE MORE URGENT, VITAL. BEINGS VIBRANT WITH AURA HAVE TURNED THE FODDER...
...INTO A FEAST!
GNUU!
WHA--?

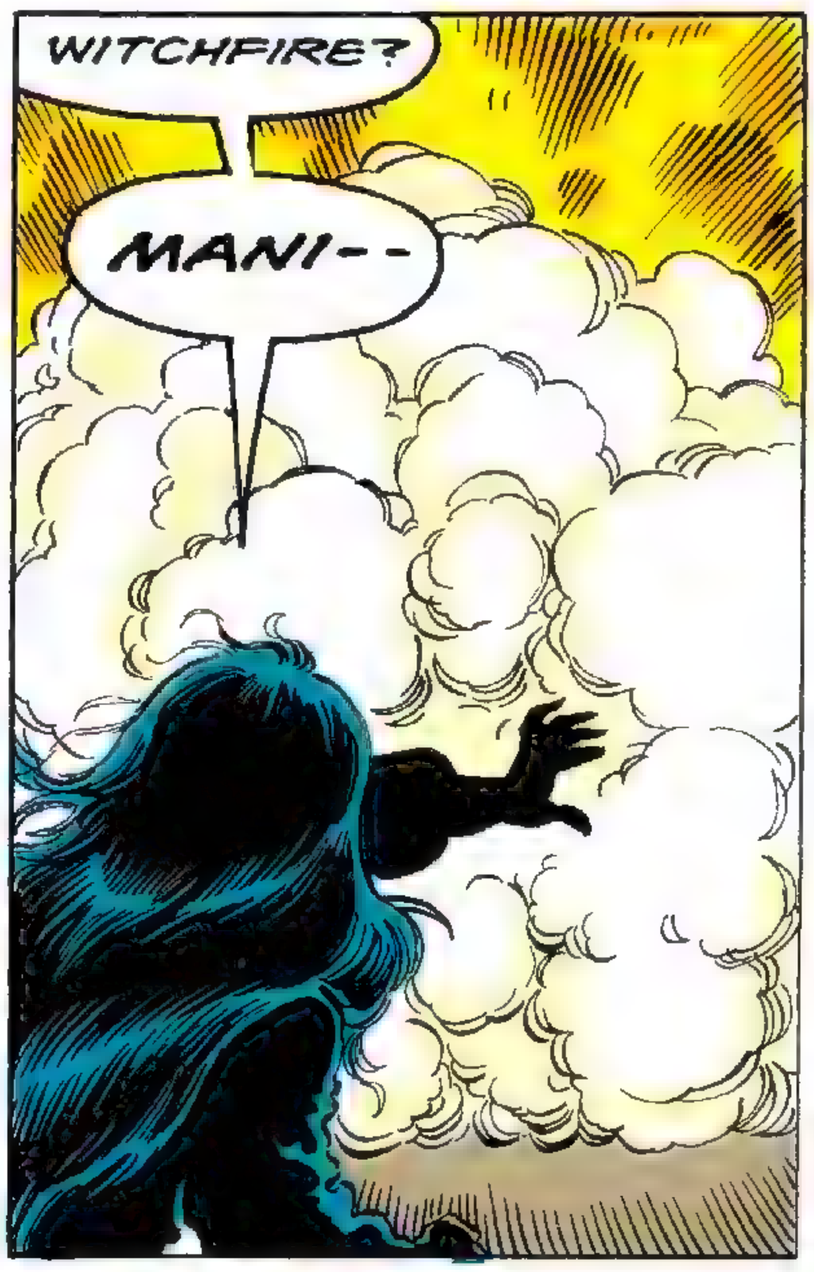

RELAX, I'VE GOT YOU. GOTTA WATCH YOUR BACK, GIRL!
LET GO, YOU IDIOT!


TOO LATE! HEZABA'S EYES, HE'S GOING TO...

NO PROBLEM, A WELL-PLACED PULSE OF SOLID AIR AND HE'S--
DON'T--


THOC-OCK
OHH...
GOOD ONE

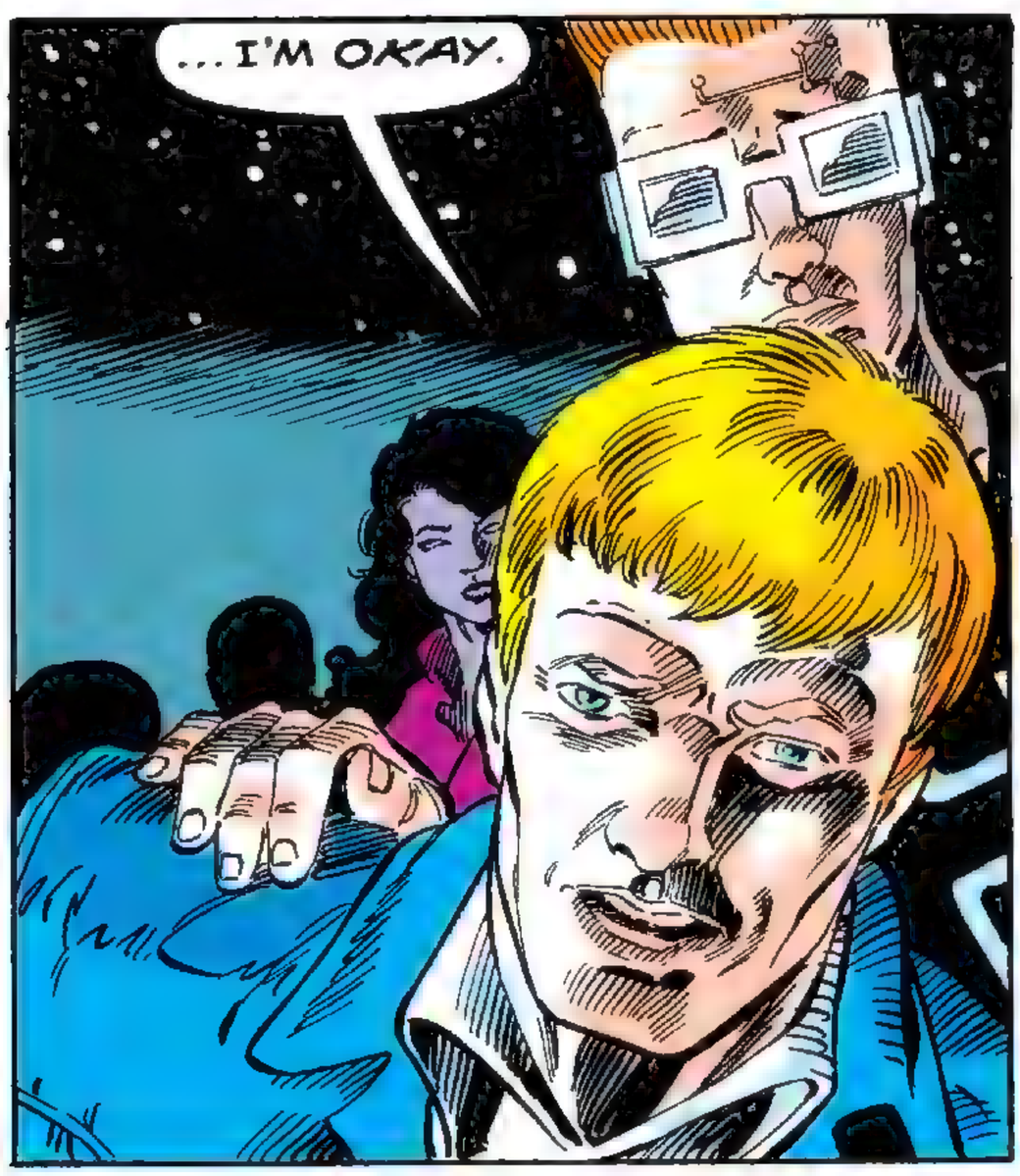

UUUH!

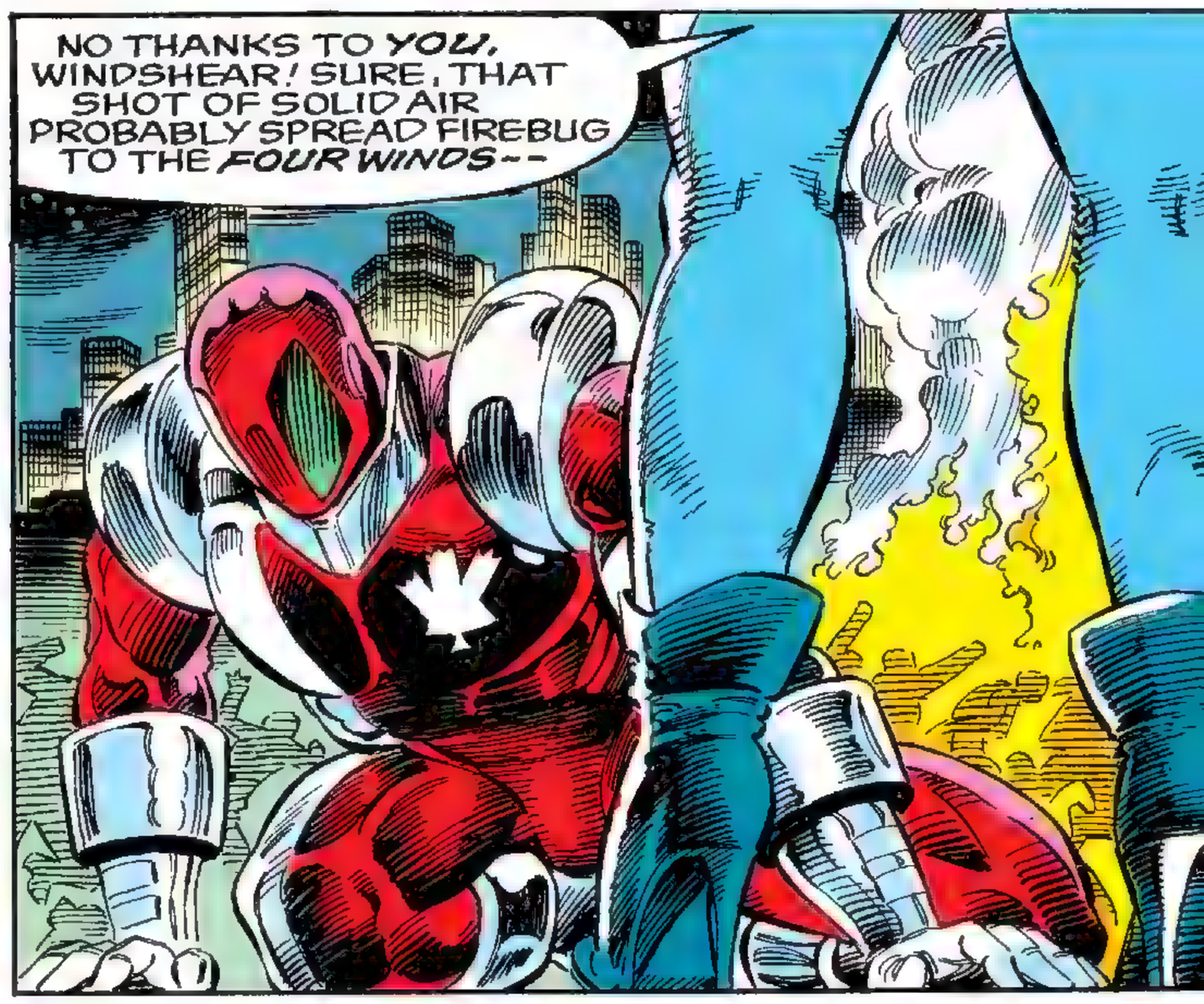

WITCHFIRE?
MANI--

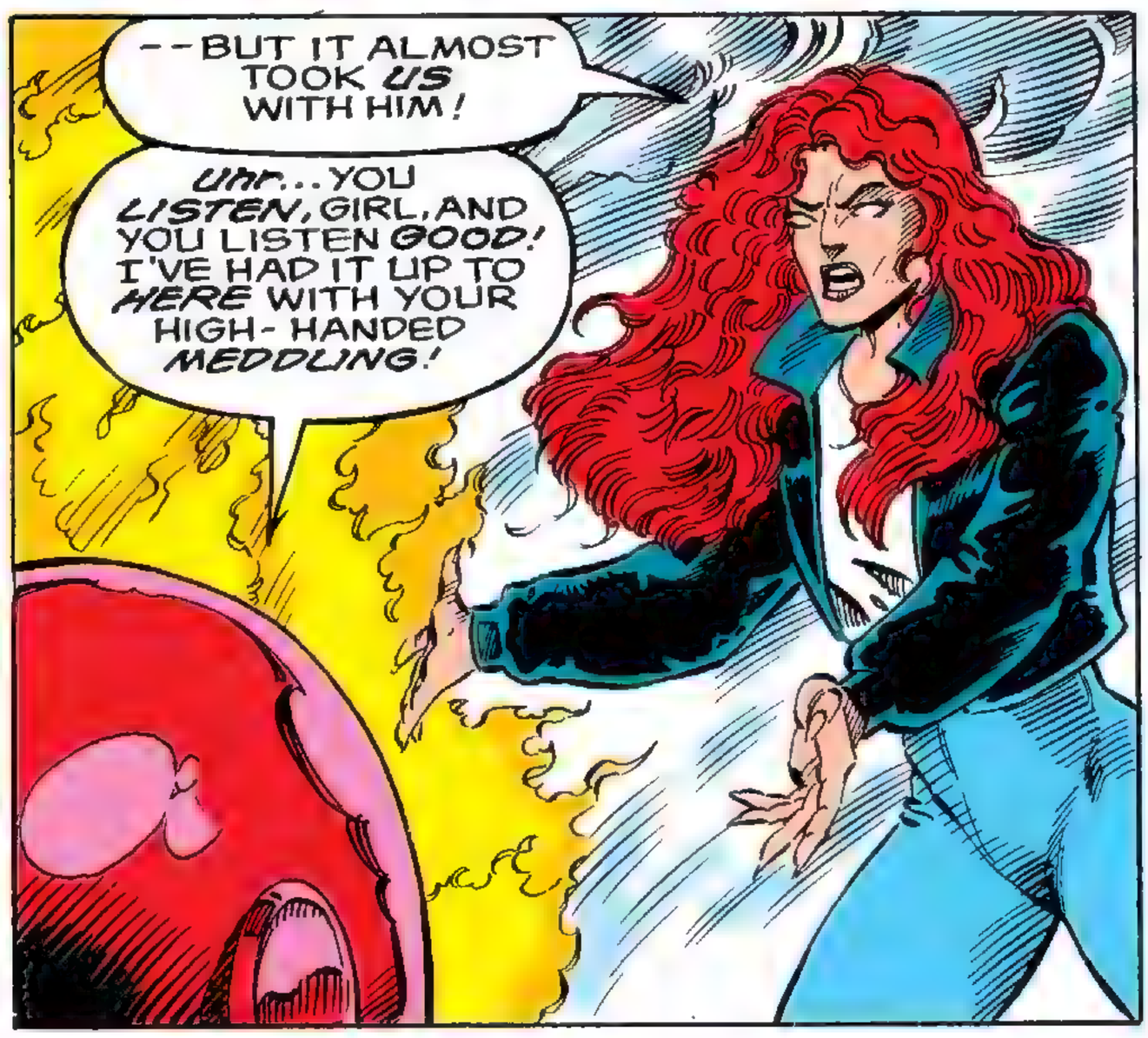
--KIN!

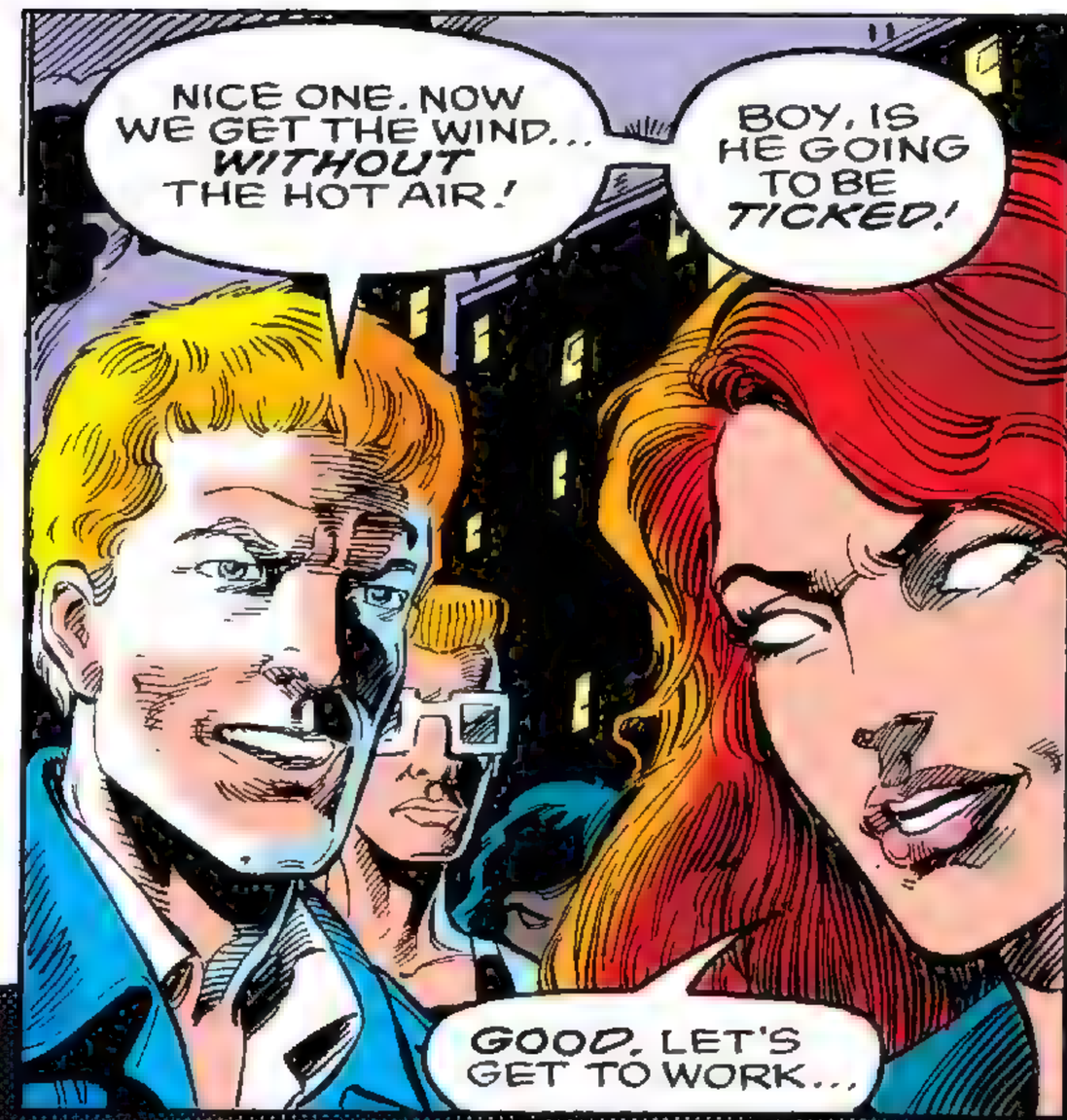
SHORT SCAN. TELEPORT SUCCESSFUL. PRIME UNIT FUNCTIONAL.

IN OTHER *WORDS*...









WHILE ABOVE...

...THE SELF-STYLED MASTER OF THE EARTH SURVEYS HIS HANDIWORK!

EXCELLENT. ALL IS AS IT SHOULD BE. SOON THE SKA'R WILL FEED, THE MADNESS SPREADING AS THEY GROW, FATTER, MORE POWERFUL. CANADA, OF COURSE, WILL BE LOST. BUT WHEN ONE IS DEALING IN WORLDS...

...ONE COUNTRY IS A VERY SMALL PRICE TO PAY!

SSSSS!
MY BLOOD...BOILS AT THEIR MIND TOUCH! THEIR CALL--
--IS CARNAGE!
AAAW. WHASSAMATTER? IS KITTY SPOOKED?
TRY SMILING, STRONGARM...
...WITH THE FLESH TORN FROM YOUR SKULL!
ENOUGH, SINEW! REMEMBER YOUR PLACE...ALL OF YOU!
YOU ARE OMEGA FLIGHT, FAVORED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MASTER OF THE WORLD! YOU, AND OTHERS LIKE YOU STILL TO COME, ARE THE CHILDREN... THAT WILL INHERIT THE EARTH!
MY EARTH!

YES...MY EARTH.

YOU WOULD TAKE IT FROM ME, WOULD YOU NOT?

I SEE YOU, MAGUS--TAKE YOUR MADNESS, YOUR LUST FOR POWER! BEYOND MORTAL EYES AND MINDS YOU HIDE, YOUR FORTRESS MANY REALITIES REMOVED FROM HERE.

BUT MY EYES ARE NO LONGER MORTAL, MY MIND THE PRODUCT OF ALIEN BIO-ENGINEERING, EXPANDED UNTIL FINALLY ALL THAT THEY WERE... WAS ME!

I SEE YOU!

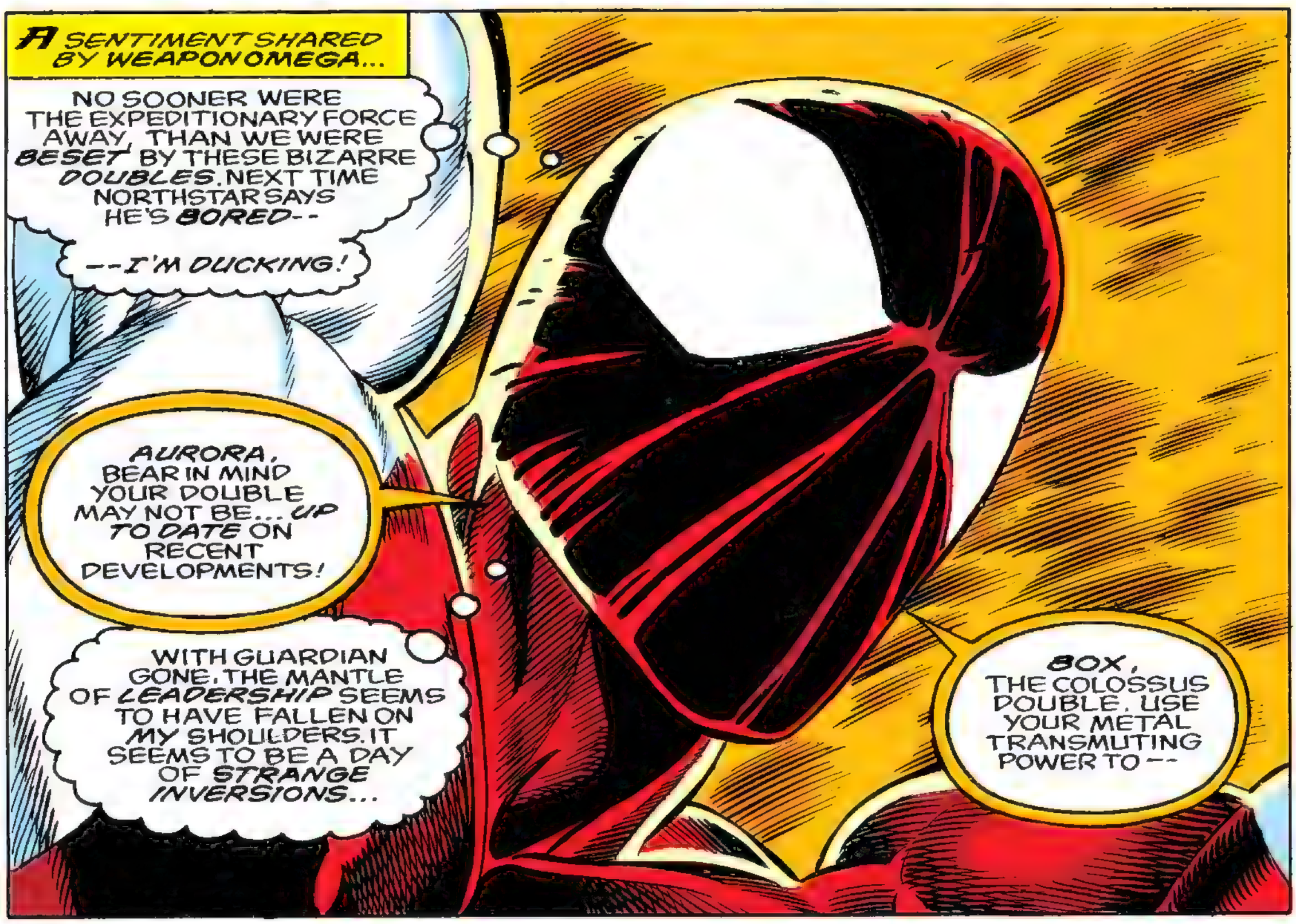
"A COSMIC PUPPETEER, PULLING THE STRINGS--YOUR TRUE SCHEME A RIDDLE, WRAPPED IN A MYSTERY.

"BUT THE COMING DUALITY, THE POWER PLAY FOR THE MINDS OF THE HUMAN ANTS--THAT I CAN SEE. THAT I CAN PREVENT!

"I HAVE UNLEASHED THE SKA'R, AND THROUGH THEIR MALIGN INFLUENCE. I WILL STOP YOU. I WILL SAVE EARTH--

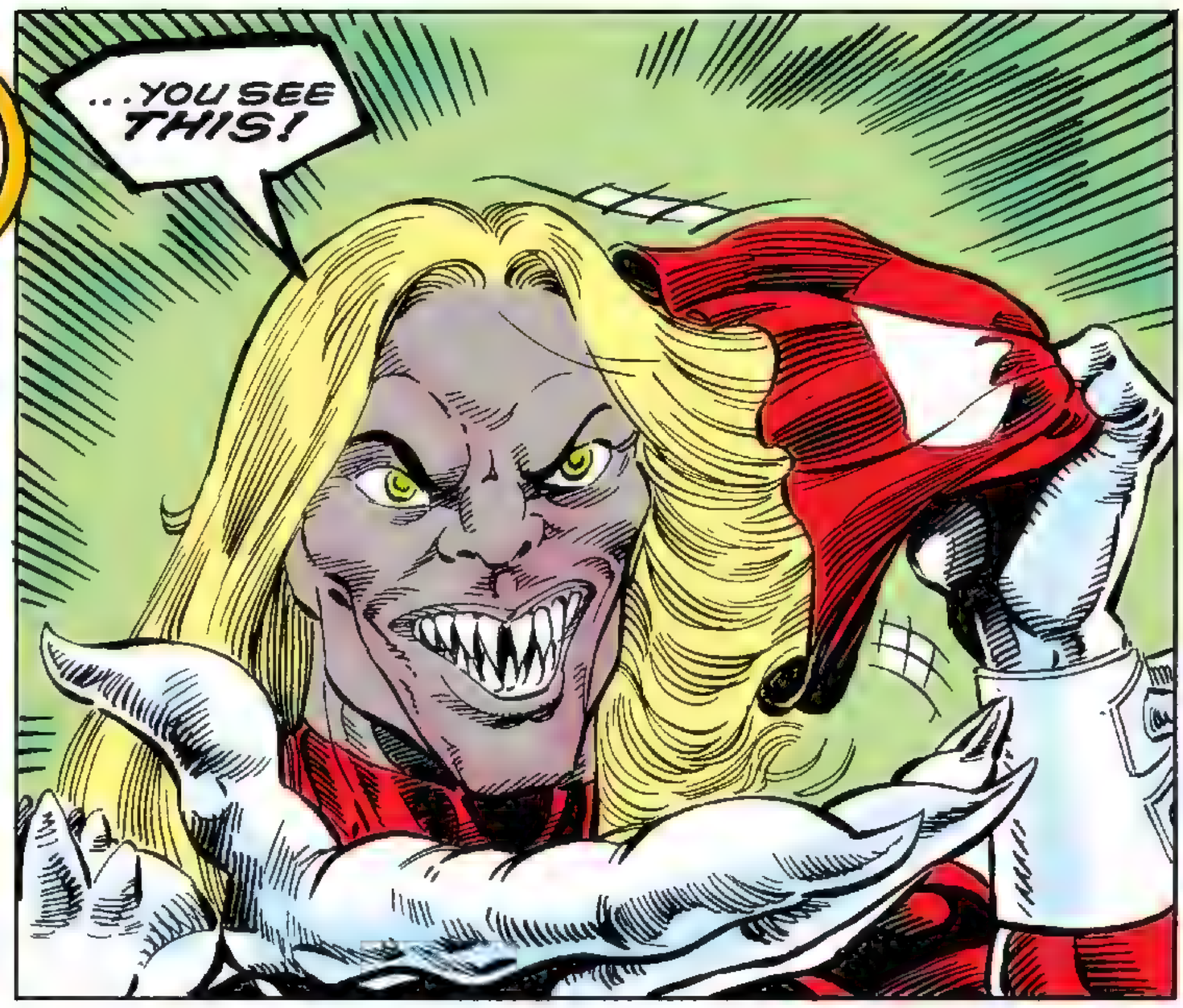
"--AND WOE BETIDE ANY WHO STAND IN MY WAY!"

MANHATTAN, FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
...OR RATHER, WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
EXCITING ENOUGH FOR YOU NOW, EH?
I AM BEGINNING TO WISH, PUCK...
...I HAD NOT OPENED MY BIG MOUTH.


A SENTIMENT SHARED BY WEAPON OMEGA...
NO SOONER WERE THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AWAY, THAN WE WERE BESET BY THESE BIZARRE DOUBLES. NEXT TIME NORTHSTAR SAYS HE'S BORED--
--I'M DUCKING!
AURORA, BEAR IN MIND YOUR DOUBLE MAY NOT BE... UP TO DATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS!
WITH GUARDIAN GONE, THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN ON MY SHOULDERS. IT SEEMS TO BE A DAY OF STRANGE INVERSIONS...
BOX, THE COLOSSUS DOUBLE. USE YOUR METAL TRANSMUTING POWER TO --

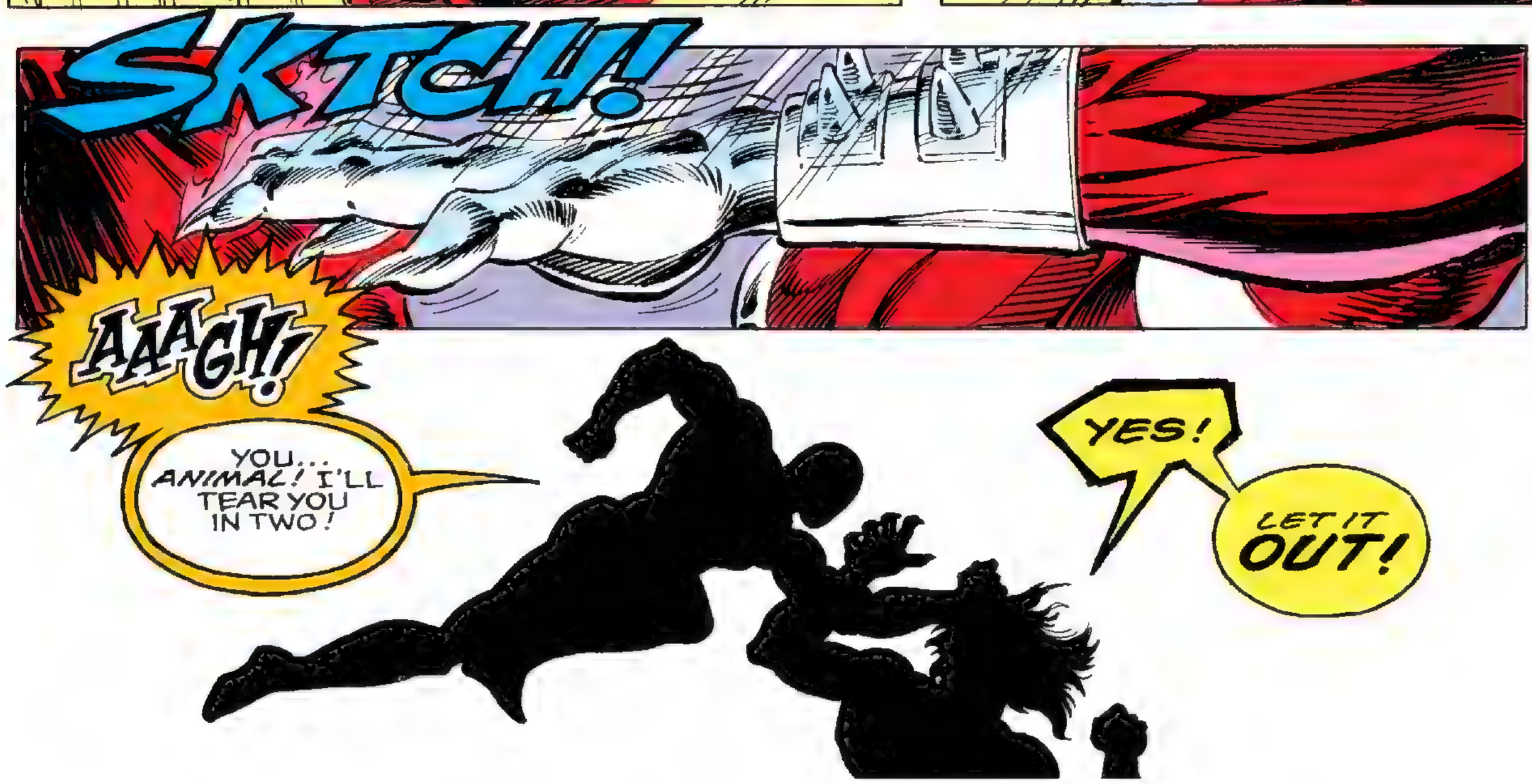
UNH!
SO BUSY ISSUING ORDERS...
...I WASN'T WATCHING MY OWN BACK!
GUESS THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN HEATHER LETS ON!
CAN'T LET THOSE CLAWS CONNECT, GOTTA TURN HIM--
GHU!
CRAK!
HE...
HE'S DEAD.
SOMETHING STIRS, DARK AND UGLY--
--A MEMORY WASHED IN BLOOD!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
YES YOU DID!
WHO--?

FACE IT, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, NOT DEEP DOWN!
YOU WEAR THAT MASK BECAUSE WHEN YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR WITHOUT IT...


...YOU SEE THIS!

THIS IS THE REAL WEAPON OMEGA, THE WILD CHILD THAT GROWLS AND SPITS IN YOUR GUT!
THERE ARE NO MIRACLE CURES, NO DRUGS TO TAKE IT AWAY! IT'S THERE STILL, WAITING.

NO! THAT PART OF ME IS GONE! I AM NO LONGER YOU!
WANNA BET?


SKTCH!
AAAGH!
YOU... ANIMAL! I'LL TEAR YOU IN TWO!
YES!
LET IT OUT!

WHY DO YOU *STRUGGLE*, AURORA? I SEE EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE BEFORE YOU MAKE IT! I HAVE YOUR *POWERS*, YOUR *THOUGHTS*--I AM EVERYTHING YOU ARE...

...ONLY *MORE SO*! AND VERY SOON, CHILD--

--I WILL *BE* YOU!

YOU--YOU ARE *RIGHT*! AURORA'S POWERS... SEEM *INEFFECTIVE* AGAINST YOU!

THEN TAKE MY HAND... BECOME *ONE* WITH *ME!*

YOU *MISUNDERSTAND*. I SAID *AURORA'S* POWERS SEEM INEFFECTIVE AGAINST YOU. *JEANNE-MARIE'S*...

AIEEE!

...*WORK JUST FINE!*

TORONTO...

IT'S *NO GOOD!* WE PUT THE LID ON ONE SITUATION AND *ANOTHER* FLARES UP!

MAYBE WE'RE LOOKING AT THIS *WRONG*. FIGHTING *SYMPTOMS* WHEN WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THE *CAUSE*.

LAURA SAID *GOBLYN* SENSED A WRONGNESS, AN *EVIL PRESENCE*-- JUST BEFORE ALL THIS FLARED UP! I CAUGHT THE SAME VIBRATION ON MORE... *ARCANE* WAVELENGTHS.

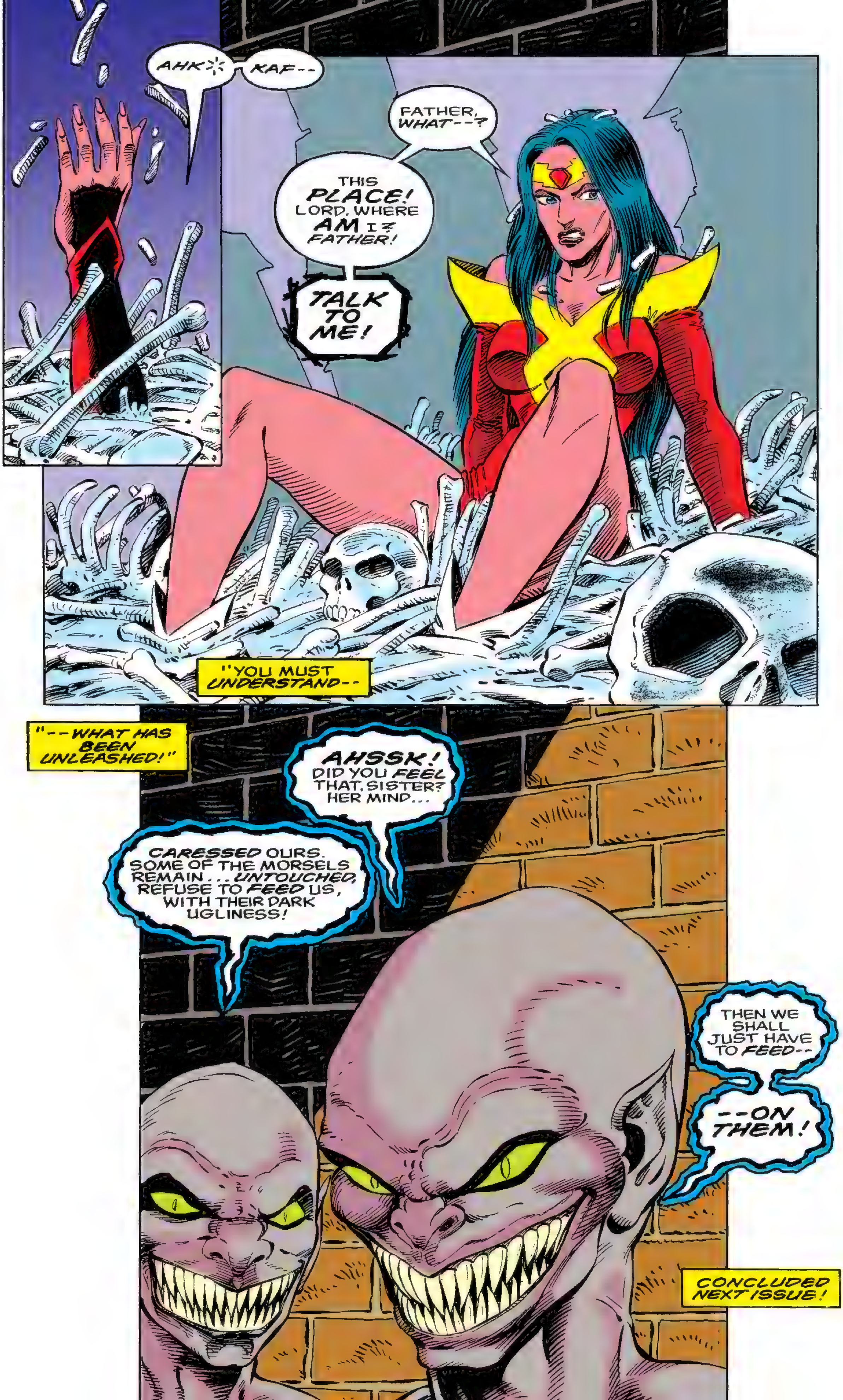
DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TRACK IT BACK TO THE SOURCE, WE HAD MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS. BUT *NOW*...

YES! BEINGS... THEIR MINDS... *FOUL, TWISTED*. AND... *THEY'RE* DOING THIS...

ALL OF IT-- *HUH?*

CLEVER GIRL...

DEAD GIRL!


AHK--
KAF--
FATHER, WHAT--?
THIS PLACE! LORD, WHERE AM I? FATHER!
TALK TO ME!
"YOU MUST UNDERSTAND--
"--WHAT HAS BEEN UNLEASHED!"
AHSSK! DID YOU FEEL THAT, SISTER? HER MIND...
CARESSED OURS. SOME OF THE MORSELS REMAIN... UNTOUCHED, REFUSE TO FEED US, WITH THEIR DARK UGLINESS!
THEN WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO FEED--
--ON THEM!
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

***INFINITY WAR #2*, PAGE 30 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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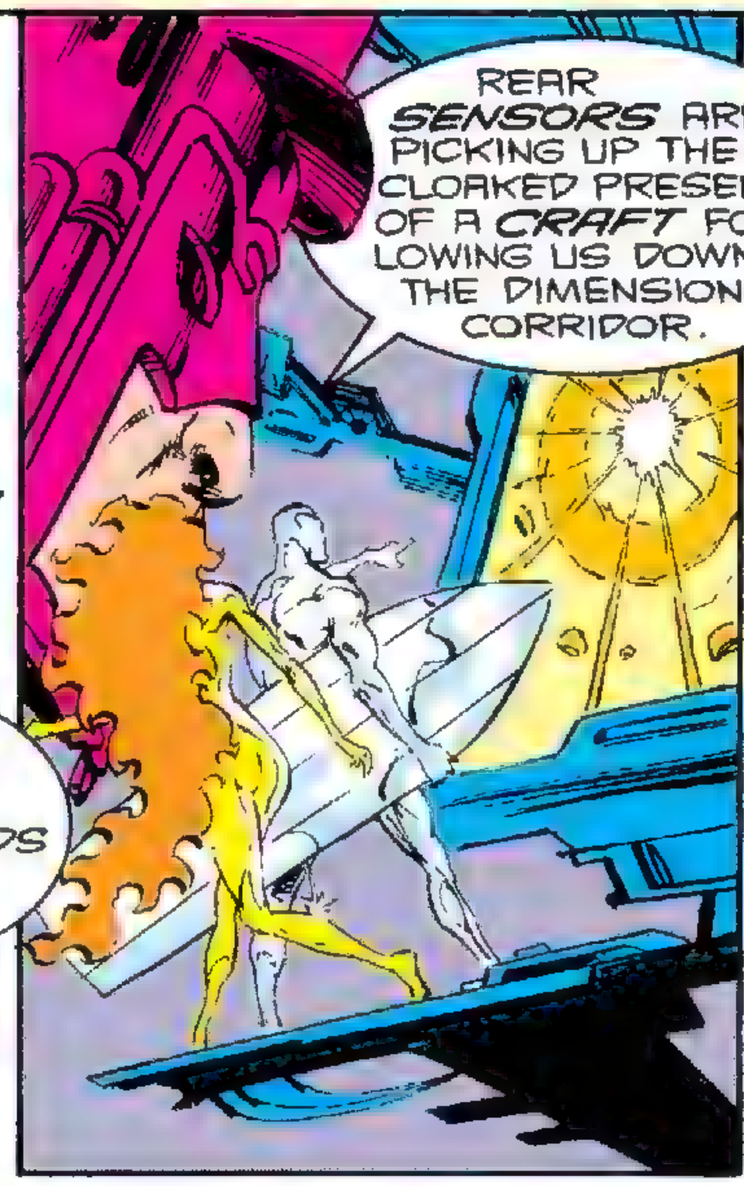
SEPT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DR. STRANGE
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
SORCERER SUPREME
DEATH'S COLD EMBRACE!
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
ISHERWOOD '92

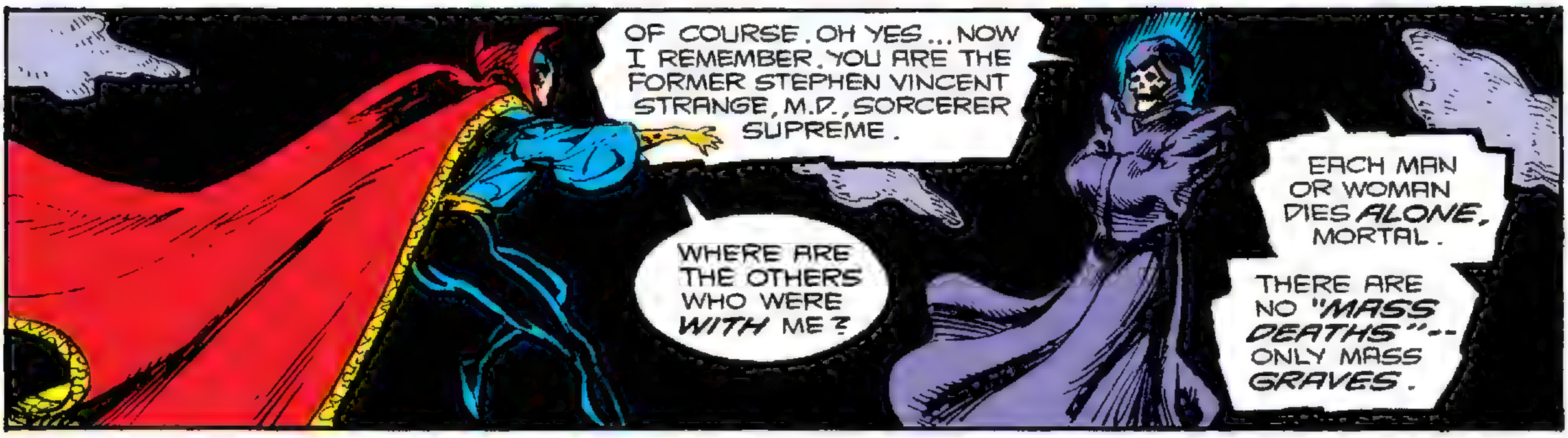
HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

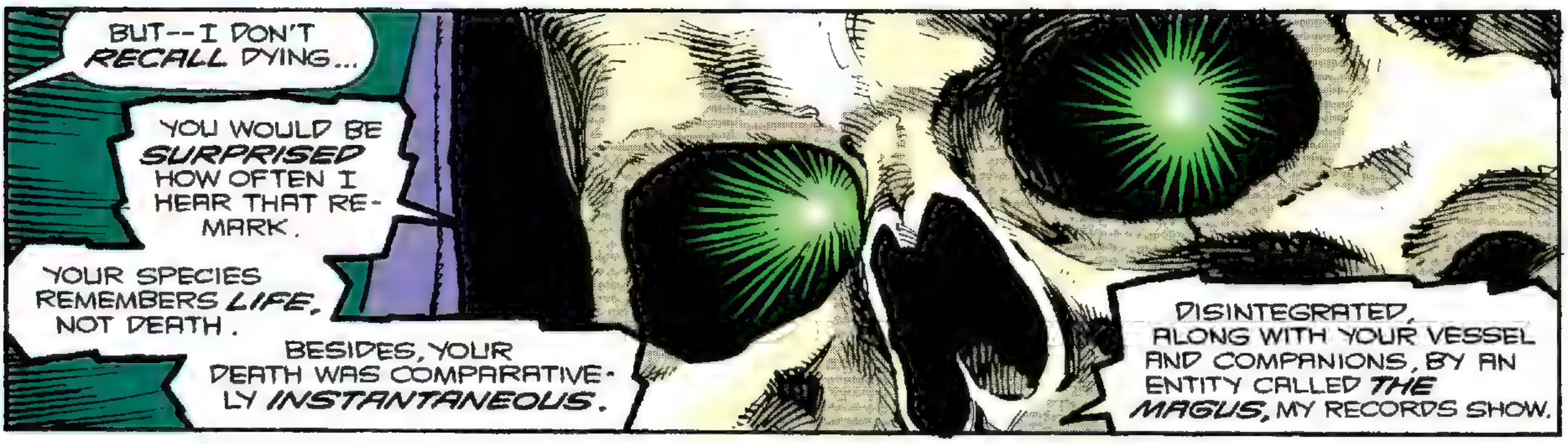
DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

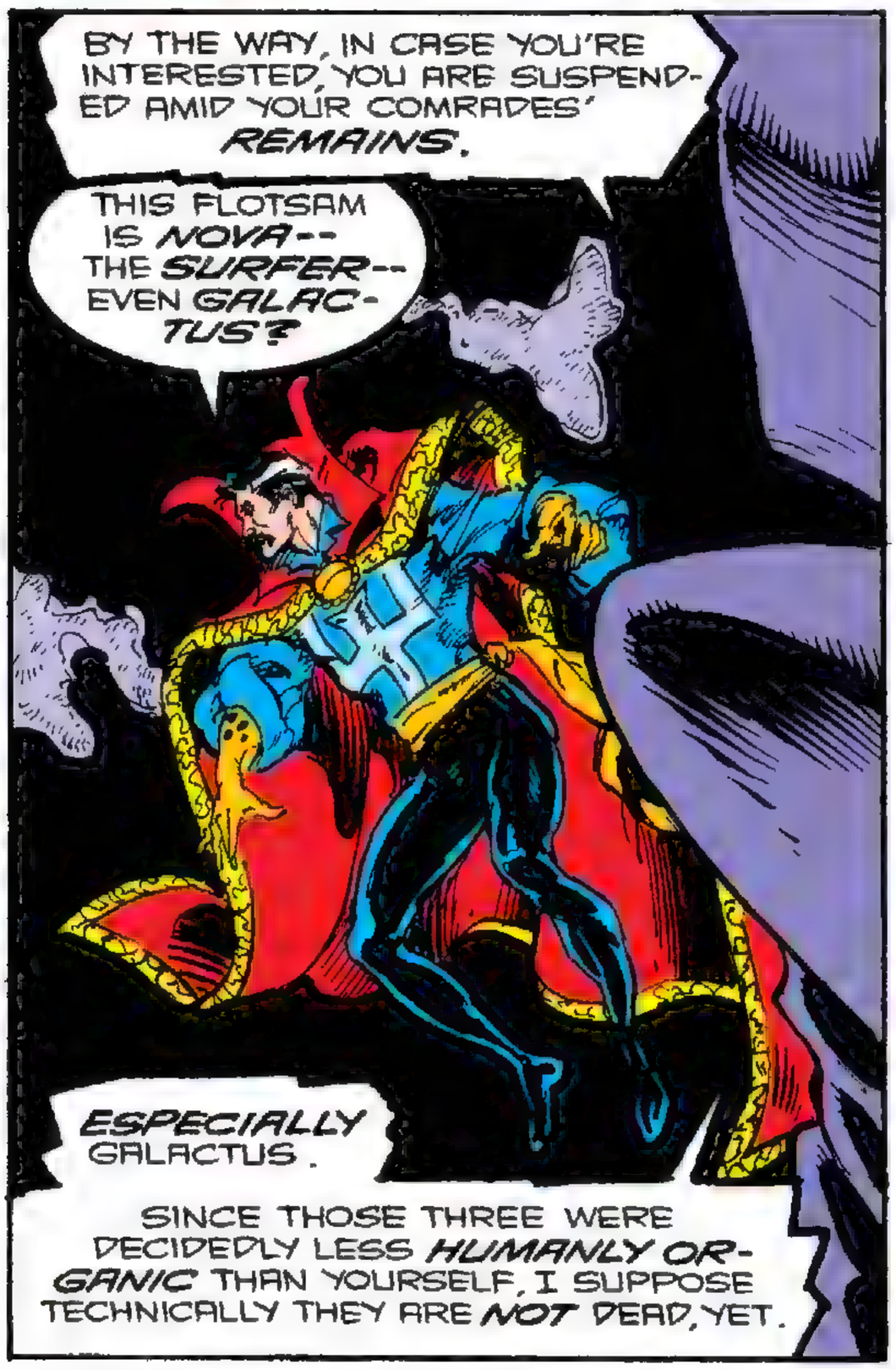


NOW THIS IS PEACEFUL.
PURE BLISS.
I FEEL AS IF I NEVER WANT TO WAKE UP.
AND THE INSTANT I DO--
--I KNOW WHY!
BY THE VISHANTI!
YOU HAVE PASSED INTO MY REALM NOW, MORTAL, NOT THE VISHANTI'S.
OH, IN CASE WE HAVE MET BEFORE AND I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE OCCASION--MY NAME IS DEATH.
I MEET SO MANY PEOPLE, OF COURSE, THAT IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO REMEMBER ALL THEIR NAMES.
DEATH'S GREATEST HITS
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GEOF ISHERWOOD ARTIST
PAT BROSSEAU -- LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS -- COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ -- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO -- EDITOR IN CHIEF

STRANGE...
PARDON ME?
MY NAME IS STEPHEN STRANGE.
AM I... DEAD?


OF COURSE. OH YES... NOW I REMEMBER. YOU ARE THE FORMER STEPHEN VINCENT STRANGE, M.D., SORCERER SUPREME.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS WHO WERE WITH ME?
EACH MAN OR WOMAN DIES ALONE, MORTAL.
THERE ARE NO "MASS DEATHS"-- ONLY MASS GRAVES.


BUT--I DON'T RECALL DYING...
YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW OFTEN I HEAR THAT REMARK.
YOUR SPECIES REMEMBERS LIFE, NOT DEATH.
BESIDES, YOUR DEATH WAS COMPARATIVELY INSTANTANEOUS.
DISINTEGRATED, ALONG WITH YOUR VESSEL AND COMPANIONS, BY AN ENTITY CALLED THE MAGUS, MY RECORDS SHOW.


BY THE WAY, IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU ARE SUSPENDED AMID YOUR COMRADES' REMAINS.
THIS FLOTSAM IS NOVA-- THE SURFER-- EVEN GALACTUS?
ESPECIALLY GALACTUS.
SINCE THOSE THREE WERE DECIDEDLY LESS HUMANLY ORGANIC THAN YOURSELF, I SUPPOSE TECHNICALLY THEY ARE NOT DEAD, YET.

IN FACT, GALACTUS'S WILL TO SURVIVE IS SO POWERFUL THAT, GIVEN TIME, HE WOULD DOUBTLESS SOON RECONSTITUTE HIMSELF-- AND YOU THREE, AS WELL.
I, HOWEVER, INTEND TO PREVENT HIM FROM DOING SO.
BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO HELP ETERNITY WHEN HE WAS ANNIHILATED?
YOUR WITS ARE RETURNING, I SEE.
YES! ETERNITY AND I ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COSMIC COIN, AFTER ALL--
--AND I STRIVE NEVER TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE DOMINANCE OVER MY "TWIN."

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.
TO HELP THE CATATONIC ETERNITY, I MUST FIRST SAVE GALACTUS. AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME--
--YOU FORCE ME TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY!
LET THE HOARY HAND OF HOGGOTH NOW SCATTER BONES LIKE DUST-- LET THE POWER OF MIGHTY OSHTUR DO THAT WHICH OSHTUR MUST!
LET THE GAZE OF AGAMOTTO WITHER HIM WHO TAKES NOT BREATH-- LET THE WRATH OF ALL BE POINTED--
--THE WAY TO DUSKY DEATH!

I EXPENDED A LOT OF MY *MYSTICAL CAPITAL* ON THAT INCANTATION, CALLING ON ALL THREE OF THE ETERNAL *VISHANTI*.

BUT I'M *DESPERATE*--

--TIME IS *SHORT*--

--AND IT SEEMS TO HAVE *PAID OFF*.

THEN, AS I SWOOP FORWARD TO TRY TO RECONSTITUTE GALACTUS AND THE OTHERS BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE*--

--I AM REMINDED THAT EVEN A *SORCERER SUPREME* CAN COME OUT LOOKING LIKE A *NOVICE* AND A *FOOL*!

I AM *DISAPPOINTED* IN YOU, STRANGE.

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU *CAN'T KILL DEATH*?

ONE OF YOUR PALTRY *POETS* MAY HAVE WRITTEN, "*DEATH, THOU SHALT DIE!*"

BUT THAT WAS MERE PRIMITIVE *SUPERSTITION*-- THE VAIN CONCEIT OF A MORTAL WHO, WHEN HIS TIME CAME, PERISHED JUST LIKE THE REST OF HIS BREED.

FRANTICALLY, I HURL A HALF-MATERIALIZED ***SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM*** *IN FRONT OF ME, TO WARD OFF THE* ***ARCTIC COLD*** *THAT FLOWS INVISIBLY FROM MY FOE'S OUTSTRETCHED FINGER...*

BUT, NEXT INSTANT, A ***GLACIAL HORRIPILATION*** *FLOWS OVER ME--* ***IMMOBILIZING*** *ME IN MIDAIR LIKE SOME INSECT SUDDENLY CAST IN AMBER.*

I SHALL ASSUME THAT YOUR POOR PERFORMANCE IS DUE MERELY TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR SUDDEN *DEATH* IN THE WORLD WITHOUT--

--WHICH LEFT YOU MOMENTARILY INCAPABLE OF PUTTING UP THE *FIGHT FOR LIFE* WHICH I AM CERTAIN YOU OTHERWISE WOULD.

IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE*, OF COURSE, FOR ME TO PUT MYSELF IN YOUR *PLACE*-- BUT I SHALL GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

THUS--BECAUSE YOU ARE--BECAUSE YOU *WERE* YOUR ASTRAL PLANE'S GREATEST WIZARD, I SHALL GIVE YOU THE *ULTIMATE HONOR* I CAN BESTOW.

I SHALL *PERSONALLY* ESCORT YOU TO MY REALM OF *UNENDING SHADOW* --AS BEFITS A SO-CALLED *SORCERER SUPREME*.

ALL YOU NEED DO IS RELEASE THAT *LAST FEARFUL FINGER-HOLD* UPON *LIFE*--

--AND *SURRENDER* TO ME, BOTH BODY *AND* SOUL.

I CAN'T *TALK*, LET ALONE MOVE--BUT MY *MIND*, AND MY *WILL*, ARE STILL MY OWN.

STILL *DEFIANT*, EVEN IN YOUR HELPLESSNESS, EH?

NO DOUBT YOUR EXALTED POSITION--YOUR PROXIMITY TO COSMIC SECRETS--HAS LEFT YOU FEELING AS IF HOMELY, HUMBLE *DEATH* CAN NEVER HAVE ANYTHING TO *DO* WITH YOU.

AFTER ALL, YOUR MENTOR, THE *ANCIENT ONE*, DEPARTED THE WORLD OF THE LIVING UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES GENERALLY BELIEVED RESERVED FOR OLD TESTAMENT *PROPHETS*.

AND YET, I HAVE HELD IN MY CLAMMY EMBRACE SEVERAL AMONG THOSE WHO WERE *CLOSE* TO YOU, STEPHEN STRANGE...

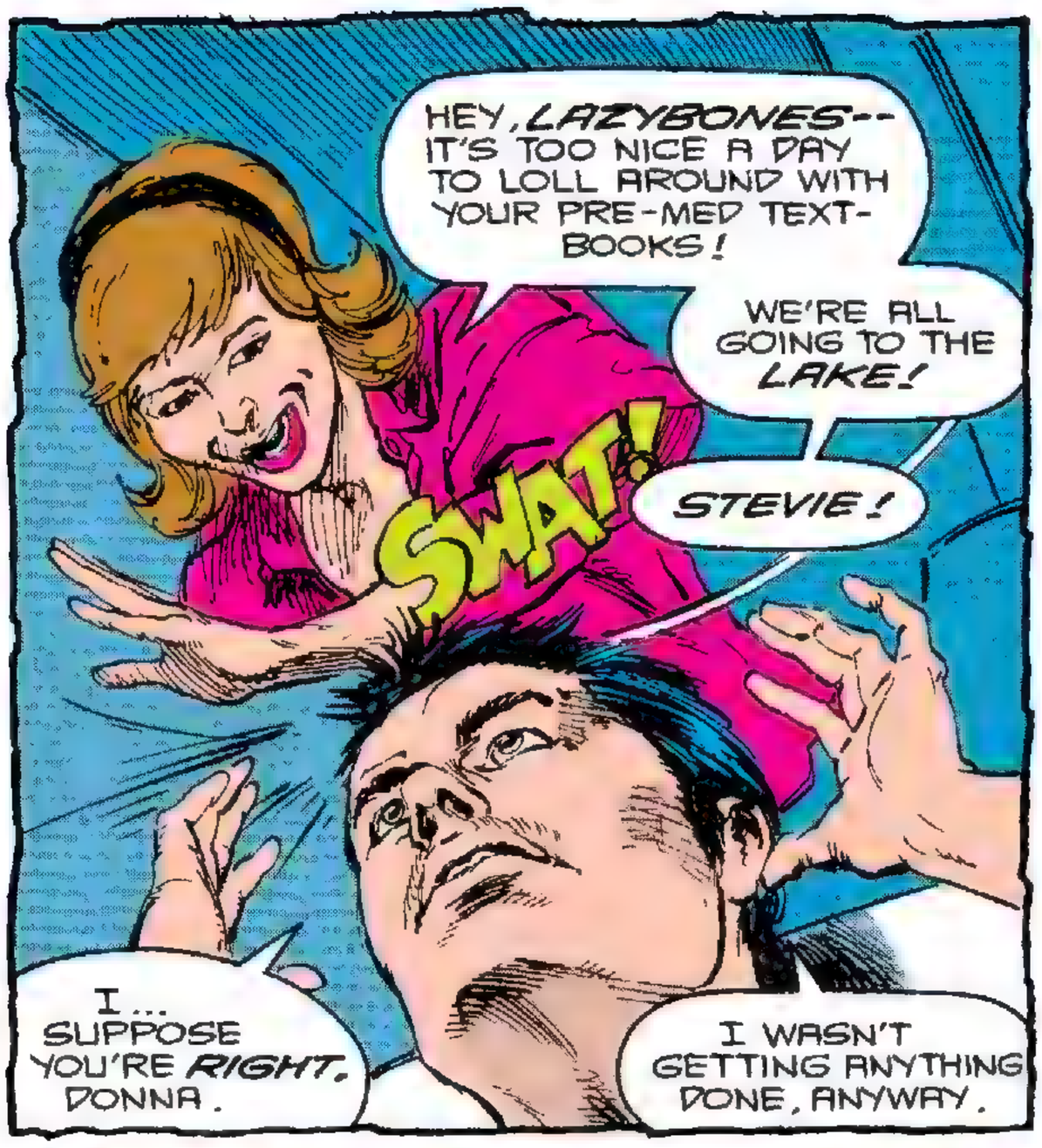
...*VERY* CLOSE.

AS CLOSE AS THE *NEBRASKA WIND* WAS TO THE GROUND, AS IT WHISPERED LOW ABOVE THE PRAIRIE...

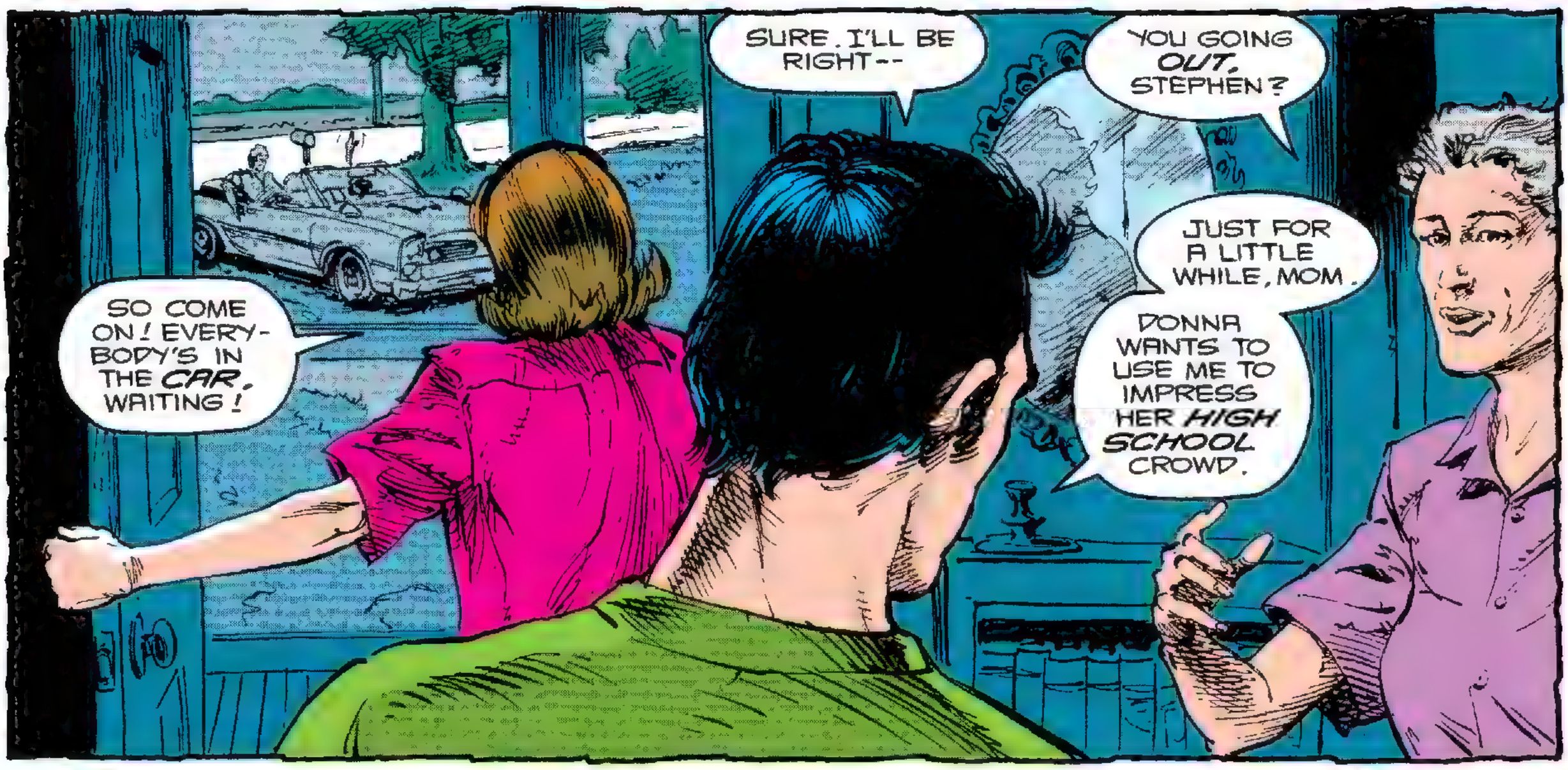
...ON THE DAY OF YOUR NINETEETH BIRTHDAY.

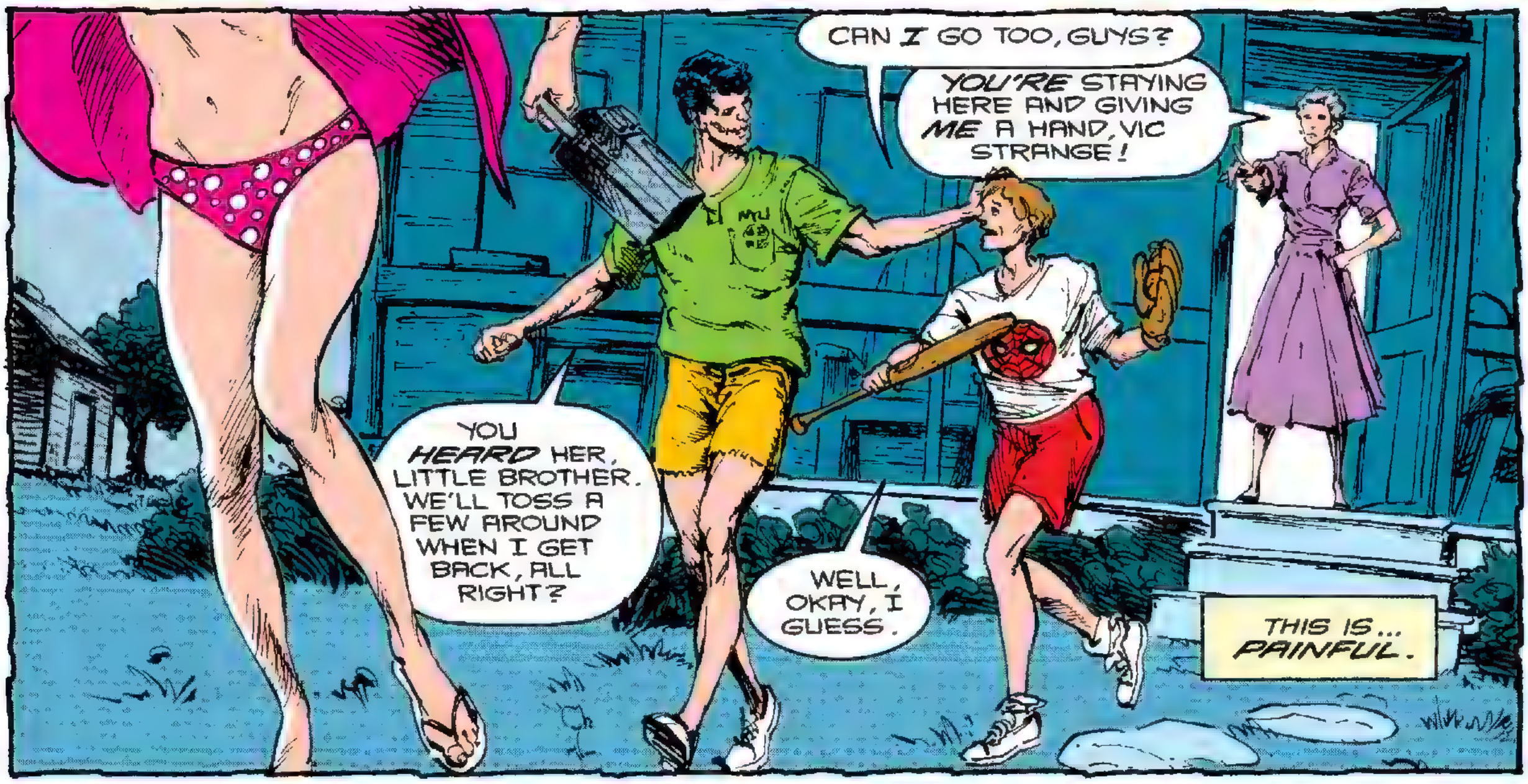
HEY--

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY


HEY, LAZYBONES-- IT'S TOO NICE A DAY TO LOLL AROUND WITH YOUR PRE-MED TEXT-BOOKS!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE LAKE!
SWAT!
STEVIE!
I... SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, DONNA.
I WASN'T GETTING ANYTHING DONE, ANYWAY.

BESIDES, I WANT TO SHOW YOU OFF TO EVERYONE WITH THE NEW MOUSTACHE YOU GREW WHILE YOU WERE OFF AT COLLEGE!
YOU LIKE IT? MOM SAYS IT MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A LOUNGE LIZARD.
AW, WHAT DOES SHE KNOW?
IT LOOKS ABSOLUTELY DIVINE!


SURE. I'LL BE RIGHT--
YOU GOING OUT, STEPHEN?
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, MOM.
SO COME ON! EVERY-BODY'S IN THE CAR, WAITING!
DONNA WANTS TO USE ME TO IMPRESS HER HIGH SCHOOL CROWD.


CAN I GO TOO, GUYS?
YOU'RE STAYING HERE AND GIVING ME A HAND, VIC STRANGE!
YOU HEARD HER, LITTLE BROTHER. WE'LL TOSS A FEW AROUND WHEN I GET BACK, ALL RIGHT?
WELL, OKAY, I GUESS.
THIS IS... PAINFUL.

I'VE BATTLED DORMAMMU AND BARON MORDO AND MEPHISTO AND EVEN THE ANCIENT ONE HIMSELF.

BUT I'VE NEVER FELT SO--

HELPLESS?

IS THAT THE WORD YOU'RE GROPING FOR, MAGE?

YES, I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS. IN FACT, RIGHT NOW, I AM YOUR THOUGHTS.

FOR WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOUR THOUGHTS BE OF, AT THIS MOMENT, SAVE ME?

SO HOW'S COLLEGE TREATING YOU, STEVE?

OKAY. YOU KNOW.

YOU GOTTA TELL US ABOUT THEM COLLEGE GIRLS!

HI, DONNA. YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT.

THE CAR'S RADIO BLARES DEEP PURPLE...

...I CAN BARELY HEAR MYSELF THINK.

DID I EVER ACTUALLY LIKE DAMAGING MY EARDRUMS?

THE GIRLS UP THERE-- DO THEY REALLY--

COOL IT, CLYDE! YOU REALLY THINK HE'S GONNA TELL YOU ANYTHING IN FRONT OF HIS SISTER?

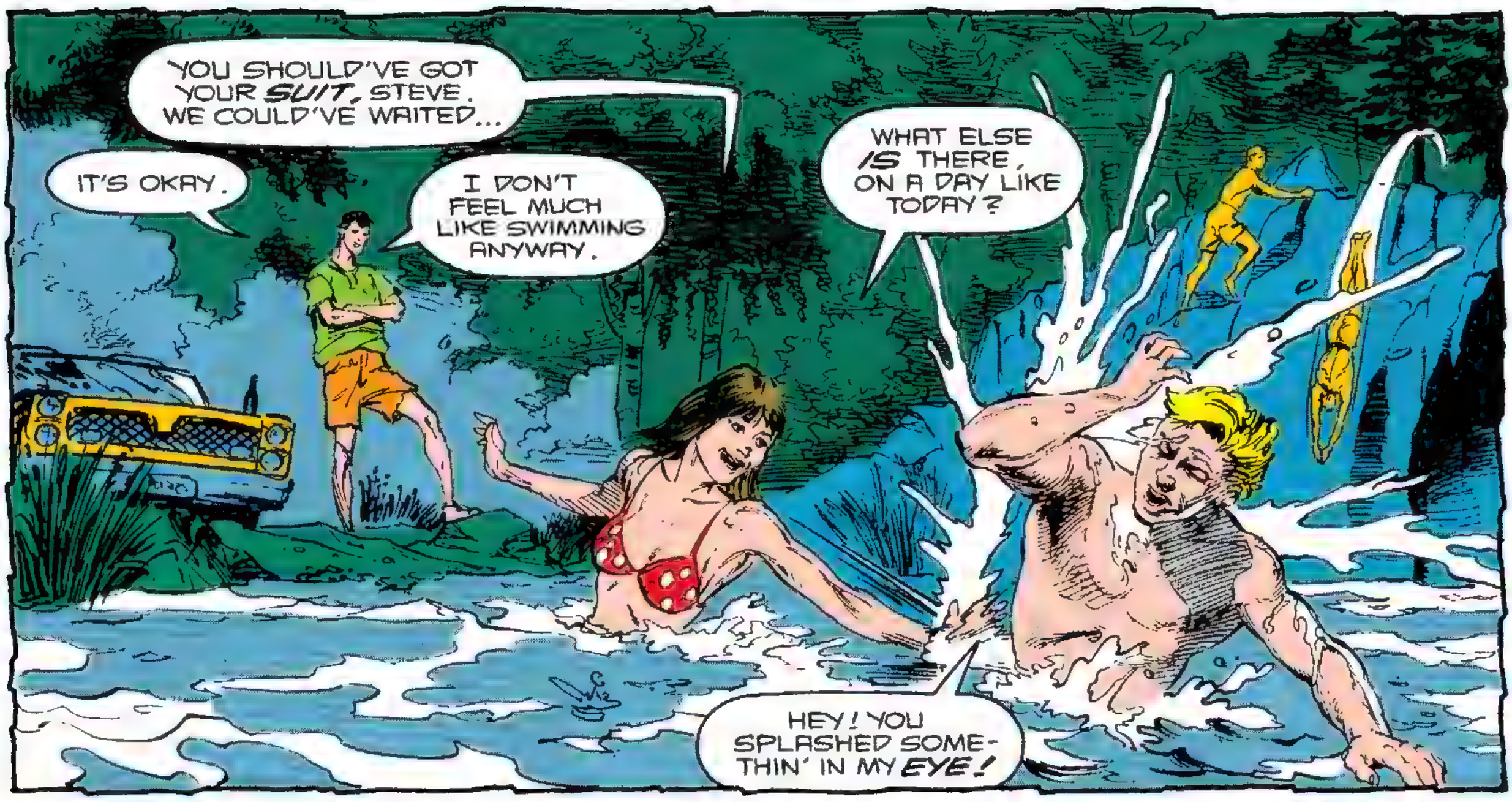
NO NEED TO DRIVE SO FAST, BILLY. THE LAKE'LL STILL BE THERE FIVE MINUTES LATER, WON'T IT?

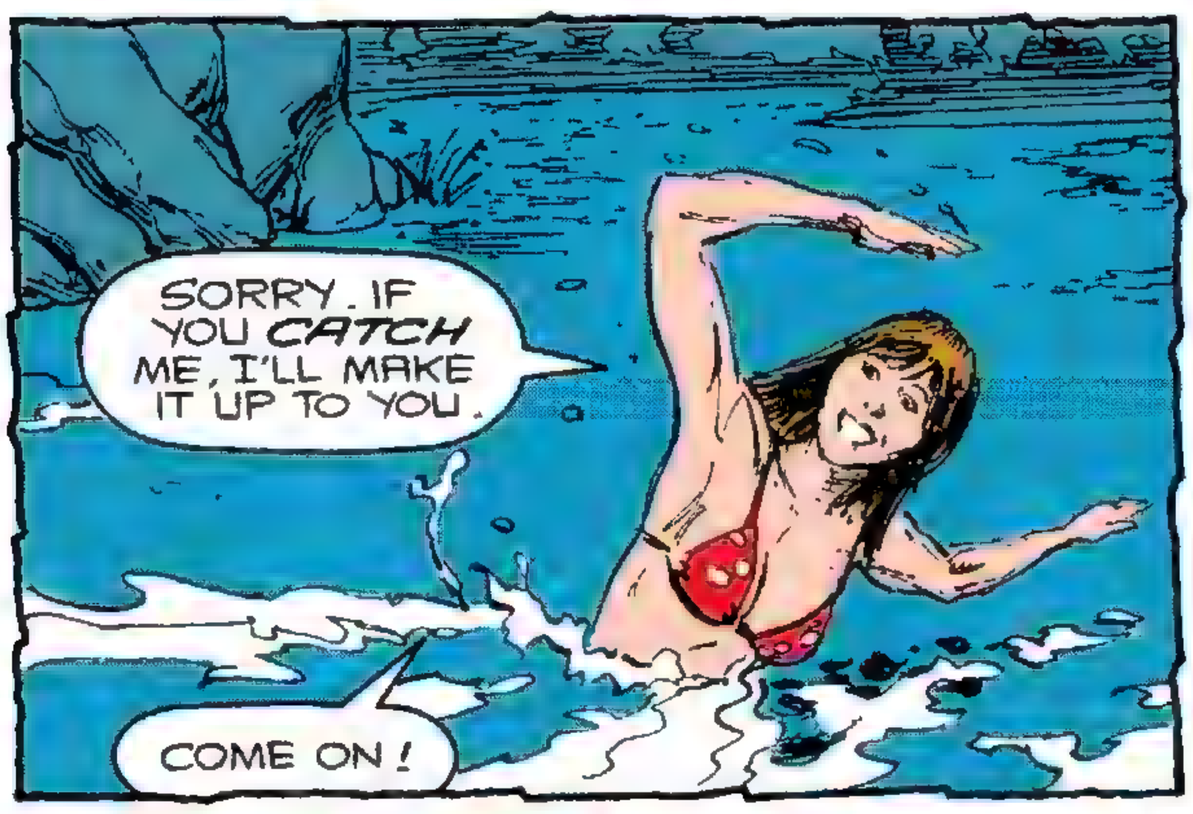
YOU NEVER KNOW, DOLL.

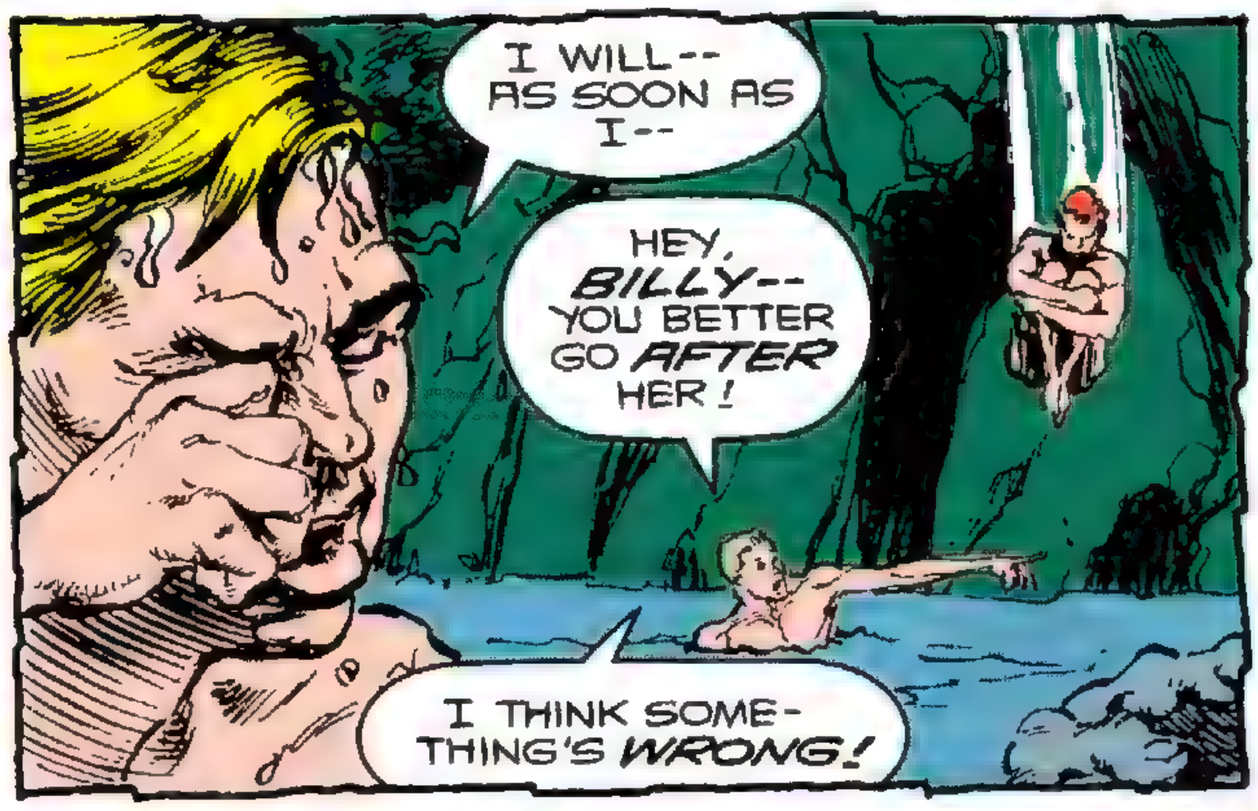
YOU...NEVER KNOW.

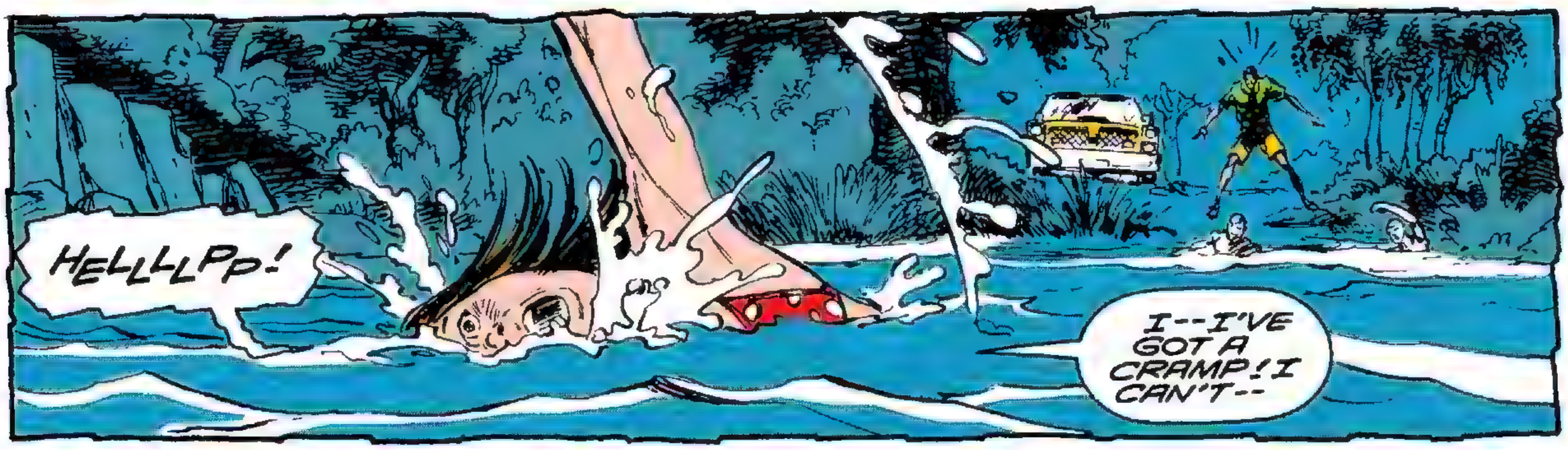
BUT I KNOW.

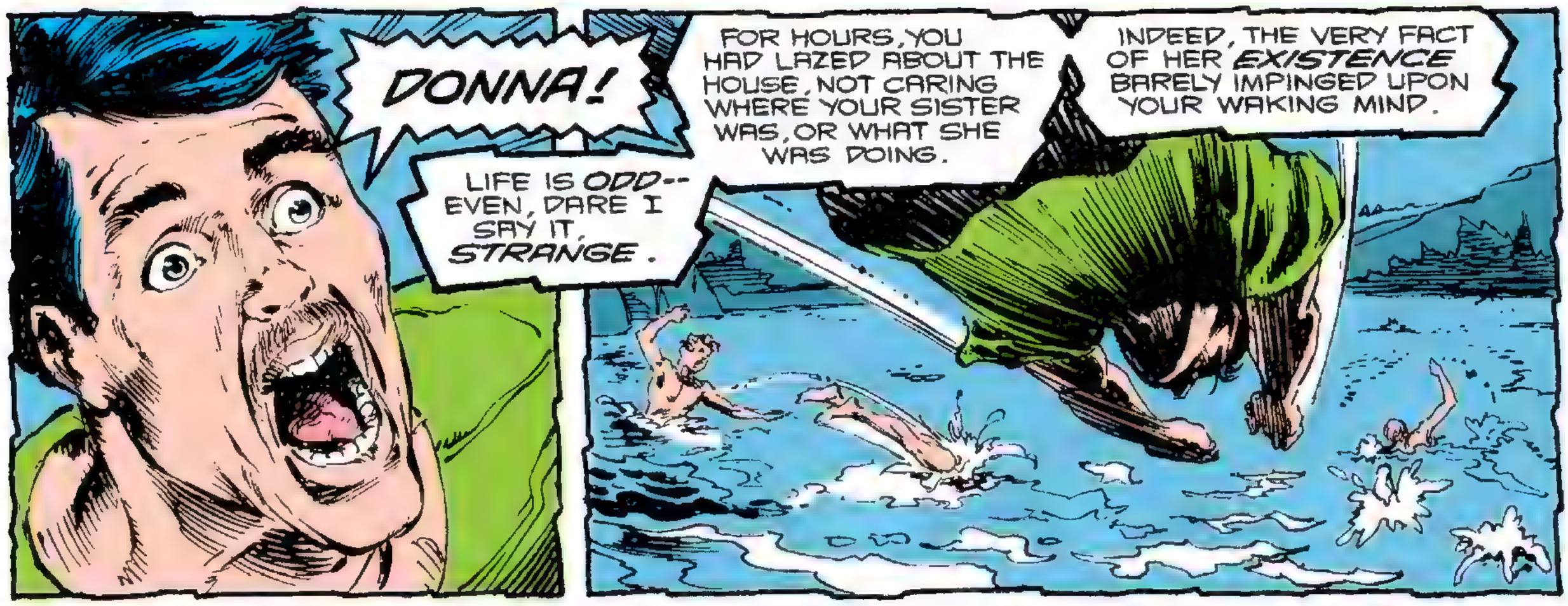
ALL RIGHT!


YOU SHOULD'VE GOT YOUR SUIT, STEVE. WE COULD'VE WAITED...
IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE SWIMMING ANYWAY.
WHAT ELSE IS THERE, ON A DAY LIKE TODAY?
HEY! YOU SPLASHED SOMETHIN' IN MY EYE!


SORRY. IF YOU CATCH ME, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
COME ON!


I WILL-- AS SOON AS I--
HEY, BILLY-- YOU BETTER GO AFTER HER!
I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG!


HELLLPp!
I--I'VE GOT A CRAMP! I CAN'T--


DONNA!
LIFE IS ODD-- EVEN, DARE I SAY IT, STRANGE.
FOR HOURS, YOU HAD LAZED ABOUT THE HOUSE, NOT CARING WHERE YOUR SISTER WAS, OR WHAT SHE WAS DOING.
INDEED, THE VERY FACT OF HER EXISTENCE BARELY IMPINGED UPON YOUR WAKING MIND.

NOW, SUDDENLY, YOU WANTED *NOTHING MORE* OUT OF LIFE THAN TO SEE HER WINK AN EYE ...OR TIE A SHOELACE ...

...AND NOTHING YOU COULD DO, THEN *OR* NOW, WOULD EVER BRING BACK WHAT, A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE, HAD SEEMED AS IF IT WOULD LAST *FOREVER*.

YOU *SHIVER*, MAGE.

I SUSPECT YOU ARE FEELING, ONCE AGAIN, THE *COLD* YOU FELT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE THAT DAY, AS YOU DIVED DEEP *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN*.

IT WAS A GOOD THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE YOU *GAVE UP*, WASN'T IT?

DID YOU REALLY THINK DONNA COULD HOLD HER BREATH FOR *HALF AN HOUR*?

THE IMAGE CONJURED UP BY-- *MISTER* DEATH OR *MISTRESS* DEATH, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE--BREAKS APART INTO FAST-FADING SHARDS--

--MUCH LIKE THE BITS OF *PLASMOID BLOBS* WHICH ONCE WERE GALACTUS, NOVA AND THE SILVER SURFER ARE DOING, MOMENT BY MOMENT.

FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, YOU WALKED A TEXTBOOK TIGHT-ROPE BETWEEN *LIFE* AND *MYSELF* IN THE CLASSROOM.

BUT YOU NEVER LET MY LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER *BOTHER* YOU ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, DID YOU?

YOU JUST PUSHED YOUR MEMORIES OF *DONNA* FURTHER TOWARD THE BACK OF THE HIGHEST, OUT-OF-REACH CLOSET SHELF OF YOUR MIND.

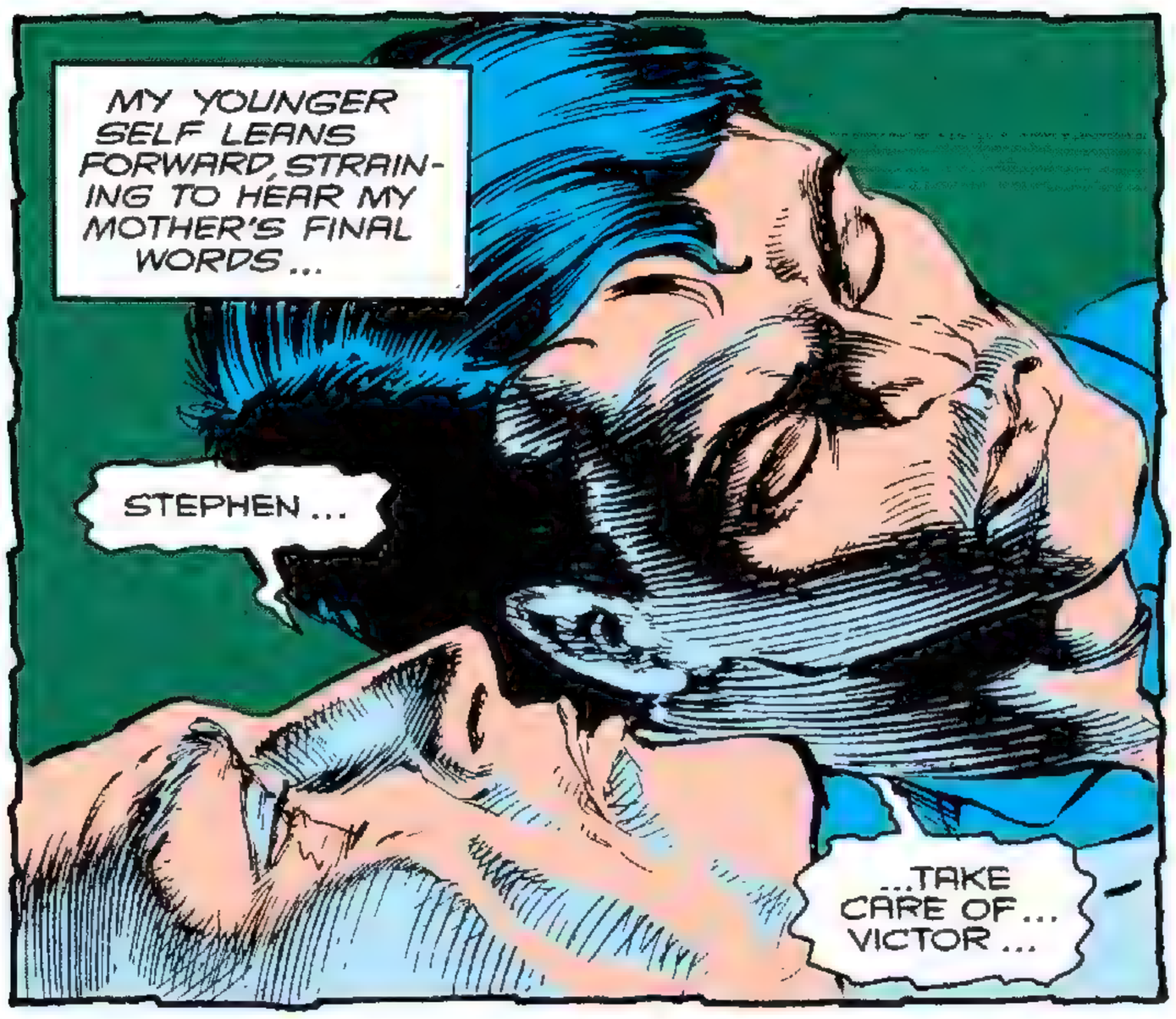
IT IS *GOOD* THAT YOU MADE *ROOM* THERE...

...FOR YOU WOULD SOON NEED *SPACE* AT THE *FRONT* OF THAT SHELF.

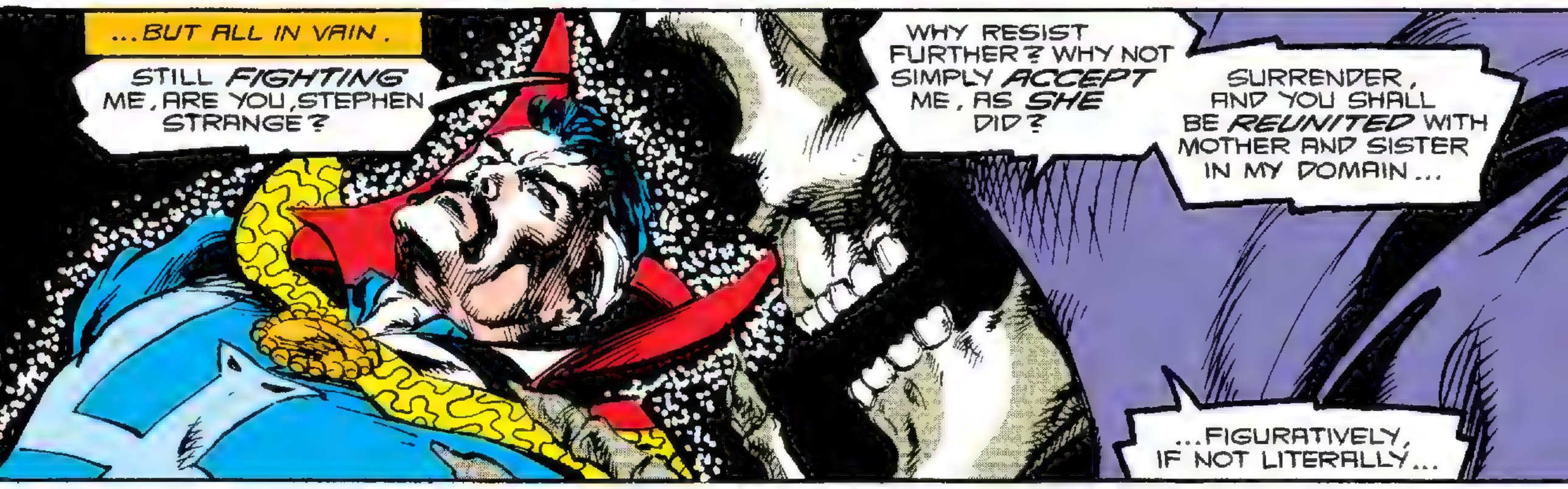
MOM ...

BY THEN, YOU WERE AN INTERN, YET YOU HAD TO LEAVE THAT HOSPITAL, FAR AWAY, AND COME TO A MID-WESTERN FARM TO WATCH YOUR MOTHER DIE.

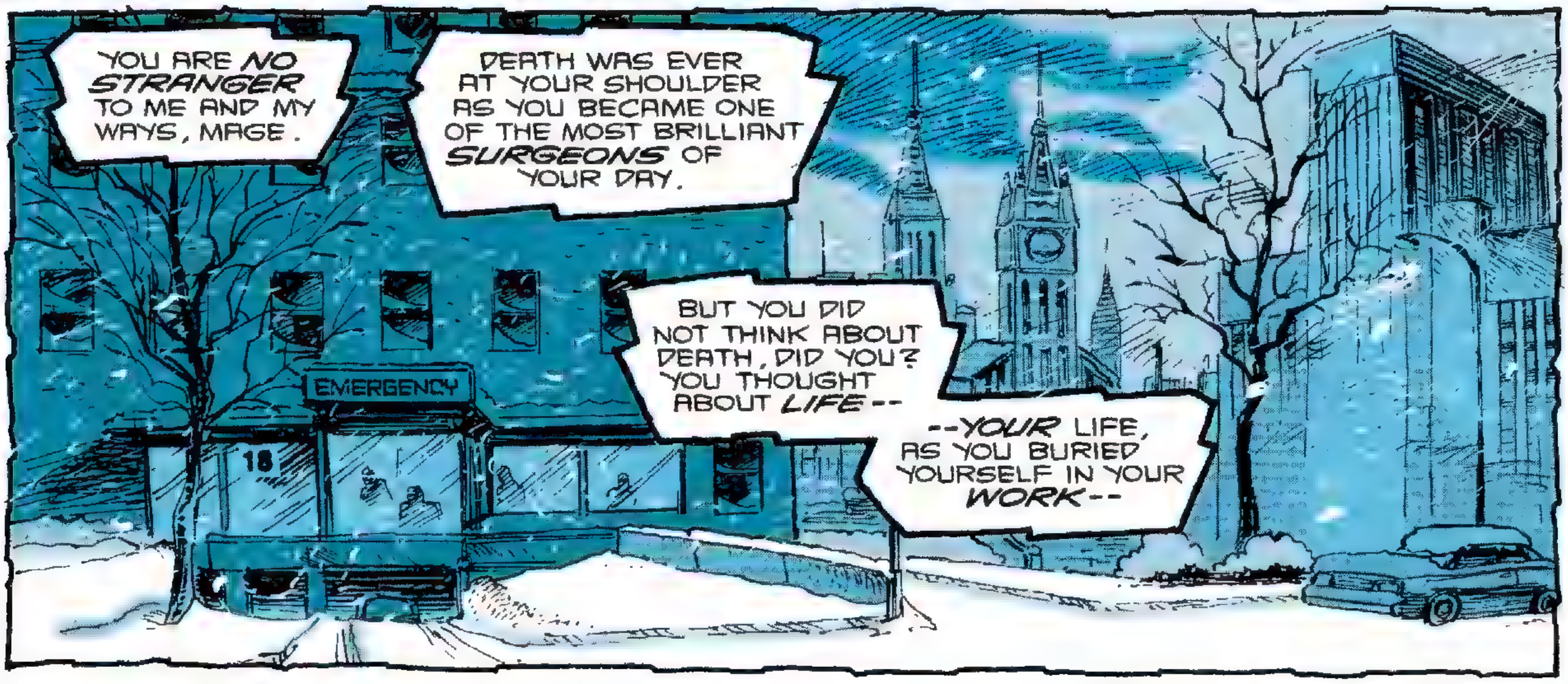
WILL YOU *HATE* ME IF I TELL YOU THAT, WHEN I'M IN THE PROPER MOOD, I *RELISH* LITTLE IRONIES LIKE THAT?


MY YOUNGER SELF LEANS FORWARD, STRAINING TO HEAR MY MOTHER'S FINAL WORDS...
STEPHEN...
...TAKE CARE OF... VICTOR...

...WHILE MY OTHER (REAL?) SELF STRUGGLES TO WIN FREE OF DEATH'S INEXORABLE HAND...


...BUT ALL IN VAIN.
STILL FIGHTING ME, ARE YOU, STEPHEN STRANGE?
WHY RESIST FURTHER? WHY NOT SIMPLY ACCEPT ME, AS SHE DID?
SURRENDER, AND YOU SHALL BE REUNITED WITH MOTHER AND SISTER IN MY DOMAIN...
...FIGURATIVELY, IF NOT LITERALLY...

...WHERE YOU WILL SOON BE JOINED BY NORRIN RADD, THE FEMALE KNOWN AS NOVA... AND EVEN THE ONCE-MIGHTY GALACTUS.


YOU ARE NO STRANGER TO ME AND MY WAYS, MAGE.
DEATH WAS EVER AT YOUR SHOULDER AS YOU BECAME ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT SURGEONS OF YOUR DAY.
BUT YOU DID NOT THINK ABOUT DEATH, DID YOU? YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LIFE--
--YOUR LIFE, AS YOU BURIED YOURSELF IN YOUR WORK--
EMERGENCY
18

--IN THE *WEALTH* YOUR SKILL SWIFTLY BEGAN TO BRING YOU--

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, DR. STRANGE.

#38 IN A SERIES-- COLLECT 'EM ALL.

NURSE WILLIAMS, COULD I SPEAK WITH YOU IN *PRIVATE* FOR A MOMENT?

OF COURSE

--AND IN ANCILLARY *PLEASURES*.

CARE TO HELP ME IN *ANOTHER* OPERATION TONIGHT-- POLISHING OFF A PAIR OF *FILET MIGNONS*?

ALWAYS GLAD TO ASSIST, DOCTOR.

A SCENE *REPEATED*-- OFTEN WITH NEARLY IDENTICAL DIALOGUE--MANY TIMES DURING THOSE YEARS, AND GENERALLY WITH THE SAME *HAPPY END-ING* AT YOUR PENTHOUSE.

BUT THIS TIME...

WHY DON'T I TAKE A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE INTO THE BEDROOM... SO IT'LL BE HANDY?

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

I'LL JUST CHECK MY *MESSAGES*...

HOW ABOUT *THIS* ONE?

KLIK!

STEVE-- *STEVE*, ARE YOU THERE? THIS IS YOUR BROTHER *VIC*--

IT'S *DAD*--HE'S IN THE *HOS-PITAL*--THEY--THEY DON'T EXPECT HIM TO *LIVE*--!

THAT'S *AWFUL*! YOU'LL HAVE TO FLY HOME, WON'T YOU?

I...CAN'T.

IT'S *SNOWING*, REMEMBER?

THERE'LL BE NO PLANES TAKING OFF FOR NEBRASKA TONIGHT-- MAYBE NOT TOMORROW.

THE YOUNG WOMAN SEEMED STARTLED YOU DIDN'T EVEN PHONE THE AIRPORT, DIDN'T SHE, MAGE?

IS THAT WHY YOU NEVER ASKED HER OUT AGAIN?

IT TOOK YOU *TWO DAYS* EVEN TO RETURN YOUR BROTHER'S PHONE CALL, DIDN'T IT, STEPHEN?

BY THEN, YOUR FATHER HAD BECOME *MY* PERMANENT HOUSE GUEST.

I WANT TO SCREAM AT THE GRINNING SKULL BEFORE ME--SHOUT THAT I COULDN'T HELP IT--

--THAT THE ACE SURGEON HAD BEEN TOTALLY TRAUMATIZED BY HIS SISTER'S DROWNING--

--TRAUMATIZED BY THOUGHTS OF DEATH SO NEAR AT HAND, WHICH MY NOW-ACCLAIMED HANDS COULDN'T PREVENT.

YES, THAT'S WHAT YOU *WANT* EVERYONE TO THINK, ISN'T IT--EVEN *YOURSELF.*

IT'S TRUE. IT'S TRUE, BLAST YOU!

SORRY. THE TRUTH IS, IT *ISN'T* JUST THAT YOU FELT *HELPLESS* IN MY PRESENCE.

YOU ACTUALLY FELT, IN SOME WEIRD WAY, THAT YOU WERE A *BRINGER* OF DEATH...

...FIRST TO *DONNA*--THEN TO YOUR *MOTHER*, WHOM YOU COULD NOT SAVE DESPITE YOUR MEDICAL TRAINING.

SO YOU STAYED IN NEW YORK, AND FED A GROWING REPUTATION FOR *CALLOUSNESS.*

IF YOU REALLY WERE, HOWEVER--

--YOU WOULD NOT FEEL SO DEEPLY THE *FAST-FADING, TENUOUS HOLD* WHICH YOUR RECENT COMRADES RETAIN ON THEIR *EXISTENCE.*

I CAN FEEL GALACTUS'S AWESOME *WILL POWER* STRIVING TO PULL HIMSELF BACK *TOGETHER.*

BUT HE NEEDS JUST THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF *HELP...*

...AND YOU HAVE ONE *OTHER* ENCOUNTER WITH ME THAT OCCUPIES YOUR THOUGHTS *INSTEAD*, DON'T YOU?

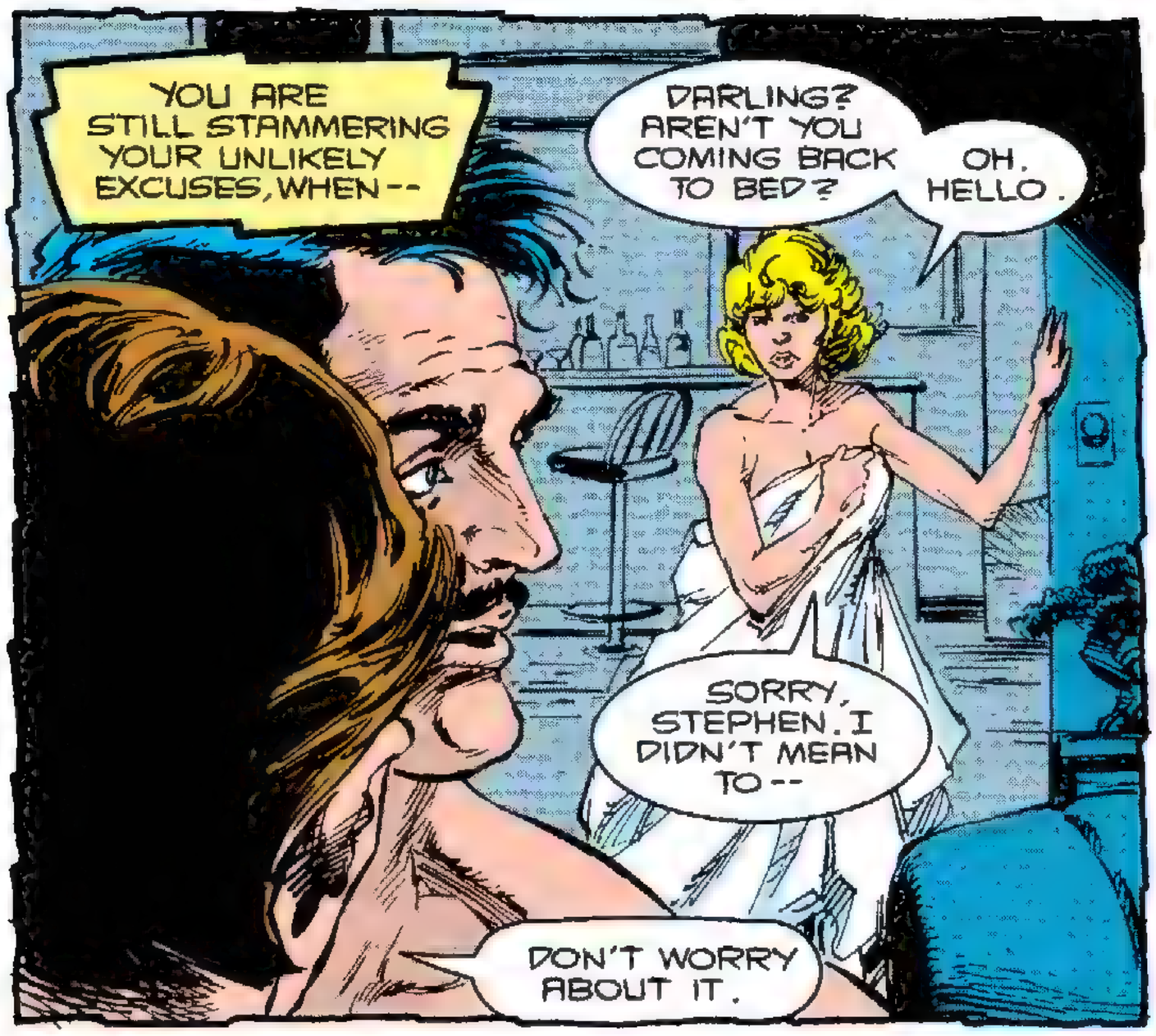
ONLY DAYS AFTER YOUR FATHER'S DEATH--WITH SNOW STILL FALLING--YOU WERE CONSOLING YOURSELF WITH AN OCCASIONAL PLAYMATE NAMED *KIMBERLY...*

BZZ BZZ BZZ

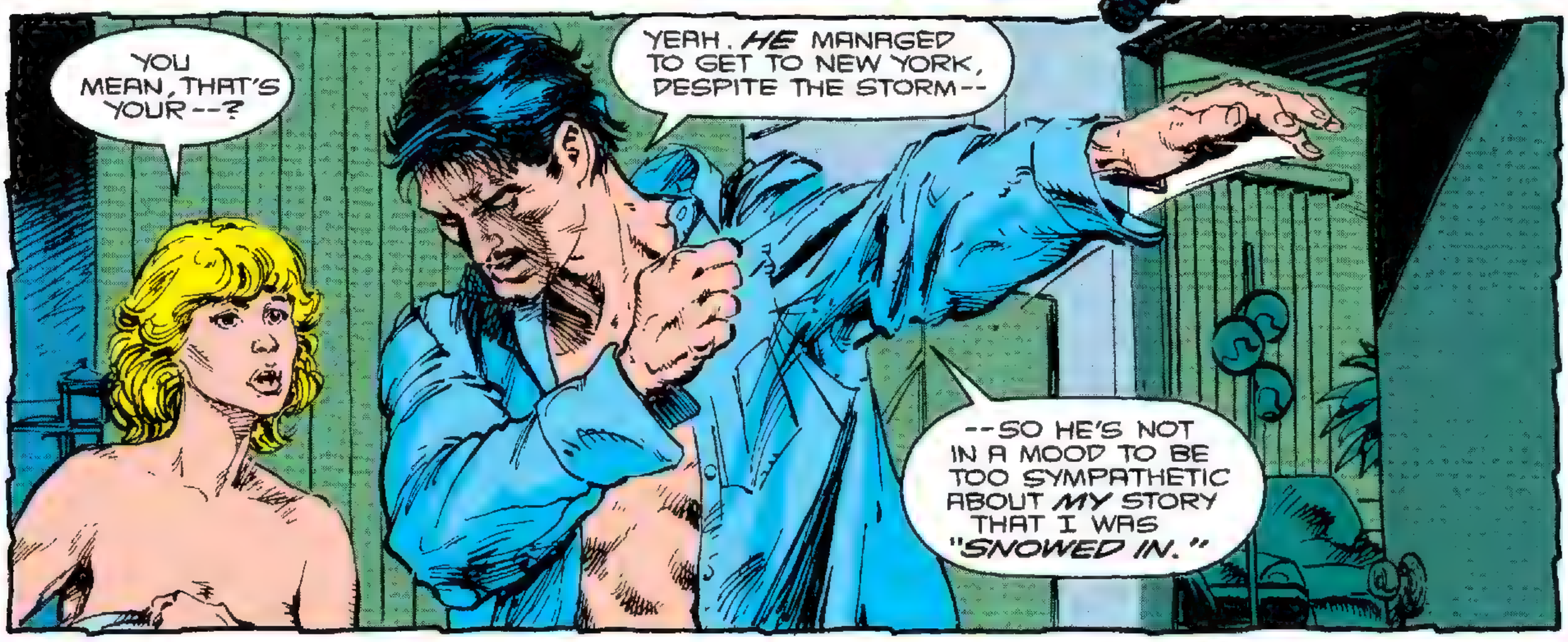
ALL RIGHT. NOW WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF LEANING ON THE--

VIC? WH-WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

THE REAL QUESTION, BIG BROTHER, IS WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE, THE DAY AFTER POP WAS *BURIED!?*


YOU ARE STILL STAMMERING YOUR UNLIKELY EXCUSES, WHEN --
DARLING? AREN'T YOU COMING BACK TO BED?
OH, HELLO.
SORRY, STEPHEN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO --
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I WAS JUST LEAVING!
VIC--!


YOU MEAN, THAT'S YOUR --?
YEAH. HE MANAGED TO GET TO NEW YORK, DESPITE THE STORM --
--SO HE'S NOT IN A MOOD TO BE TOO SYMPATHETIC ABOUT MY STORY THAT I WAS "SNOWED IN."

YOU HEAR THE SOFT MUFFLED THUD AS YOU RUSH PAST THE STARTLED DOORMAN TOWARD FIFTH AVENUE ...
AND EVEN THEN, YOU KNOW.
VIC!

YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER NEVER EVEN SAW THE CAR THAT KILLED HIM.
TRUST ME. I KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS.

THIS TIME, STEPHEN STRANGE, NO ONE COULD ARGUE WITH THE CONVICTION YOU HELD, IN YOUR INNERMOST SOUL--
--THAT YOU WERE INDEED THE BRINGER OF DEATH.

HE--OR *SHE*--HAS GOT ME *DEAD TO RIGHTS*.

I *DID* CAUSE VIC'S DEATH THAT DAY--AS SURELY AS IF I'D HELD A GUN TO HIS HEAD AND PULLED THE TRIGGER.

I SHOULD HAVE DIED, THEN, INSTEAD OF HIM--BUT I'LL *MAKE UP* FOR IT TODAY.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, MAGE! AFTER ALL, AS IF CONSIGNING HIM TO *MY* TENDER MERCIES WAS NOT ENOUGH--

--WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR BROTHER *AFTER DEATH* WAS EVEN *WORSE*, WASN'T IT?

YES! OH, *YES*!

YOU PRESERVED HIS *CORPSE*, HOPING TO SOMEHOW FIND A WAY TO BRING HIM *BACK TO LIFE* ONE DAY.

INSTEAD, AS A BIZARRE SIDE-EFFECT OF ONE OF YOUR INCANTATIONS, YOU RESURRECTED HIM--AS A *VAMPIRE*!

AND SO VICTOR STRANGE ROAMS THE EARTH TODAY AS THE NEW *BARON BLOOD*--ONE OF THE *UNDEAD*--BELONGING NEITHER WHOLLY TO LIFE *NOR* TO DEATH!

YOU'RE--RIGHT! EVEN WHEN I HAVEN'T BEEN THE *DISEASE* ITSELF--I'VE BEEN A *CARRIER*.

AND WHEN I'VE BEEN NEITHER--I *STILL* COULDN'T HELP, EVEN THOUGH I WAS A *PHYSICIAN*--A SUPPOSED *SAVER OF LIVES*!

TOO TRUE, TOO TRUE...

AND SO, WHY NOT FACE UP TO THE *INEVITABLE*?

ACCEPT ME, STEPHEN STRANGE.

COME *HOME*...

HOME.

IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE THERE WAS ANY-PLACE I COULD CALL THAT. ISN'T IT?

PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST STOP FIGHTING DEATH--STOP RESISTING HIM--

--AND SIMPLY GO WITH THE FLOW.

AFTER ALL, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF WHEN ONE DIES--NOT IF.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE DIED THAT DAY AT THE LAKE...

NO!

IT WAS ANOTHER NIGHT--SEVERAL YEARS LATER--WHEN I'D REACHED THE PINNACLE OF MY MEDICAL CAREER--

THAT WAS THE RIGHT TIME TO GO--IF THERE IS SUCH A THING.

I WAS DRIVING MY NEW SPORTS CAR WAY TOO FAST DOWN A BACK ROAD--

I LOST CONTROL--

--OF MY CAR, THIS TIME--

SKREEEEEEE

--(BEFORE THEN, I'D ONLY LOST CONTROL OF MY LIFE)--

--AND THE **TREE** IN MY PATH PROVED FAR MORE UNYIELDING THAN ANY HYPO-CHONDRIACAL **SOCIETY MATRON** OR MALLEABLE **HOSPITAL BOARD**.

MERCIFULLY, I DON'T **RECALL** THE MOMENT WHEN **TWISTED METAL** SLAMMED INTO MY **HANDS**, ENDING MY DAYS AS A SURGEON.

SINCE THEN, I'VE LEARNED THAT-- THOUGH HE DIDN'T **CAUSE** MY ACCIDENT--THE **ANCIENT ONE** KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN--

--WAS PATIENTLY, INSCRUTABLY **WAITING** FOR IT TO HAPPEN, HALF A WORLD AWAY IN THE **HIMALAYAS**.

DEATH WAS WAITING IN THE WINGS FOR ME **THAT** NIGHT, TOO--

--BUT I WAS A **NO-SHOW!**

YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR CLAWS ON ME **THEN**, DEATH--BECAUSE IT WASN'T **MY TIME!**

AND, BY **ALL** THE GODS AND GHOSTS OF **ALL** THE ASTRAL PLANES--

--IT STILL **ISN'T!**

I CAN FEEL THE *ANKH*-- SYMBOL OF *ENDURING LIFE*-- BURNING UPON MY BROW!*

YOU'VE TRIED TO WIN BY *CLEVERNESS*-- BY *LIES* AND *HALF-TRUTHS*--WHAT, DESPITE YOUR WORDS, YOU *COULDN'T* WIN OTHERWISE--

--*MY DEATH!*

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--

--YOU KNOW YOU *CAN'T* STOP GALACTUS FROM RE-FORMING, UNLESS YOU FIRST GET PAST *ME!*

AND I VERY NEARLY *DID*, MAGE!

BUT NOW, YOU FORCE ME TO TAKE A MORE *DIRECT* APPROACH...

* SINCE DR. STRANGE (2ND SERIES) #4, THE ANKH HAS OCCASIONALLY APPEARED IN MOMENTS WHEN DOC MOST NEEDS A REAFFIRMATION OF LIFE--LIKE NOW.--MIKE.

YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONE!

MY SPELLS CAN'T DEFEAT *YOU* HERE--BUT THAT MAY NOT MEAN I CAN'T CALL ON THE *VISHANTI* TO HELP *GALACTUS* RE-CONSTITUTE HIMSELF!

YOU NEARLY *HAD* ME THERE, DEATH--

--TILL I REMINDED MYSELF THAT, BY LOSING THE USE OF MY HANDS, I GAINED A *NEW LIFE* THAT FATEFUL NIGHT.

WHETHER OR NOT I COULD HAVE SAVED *DONNA*--OR MY *FOLKS*--OR EVEN, POOR, DOOMED *VIC*--

FIRST AS THE ANCIENT ONE'S *DISCIPLE*--THEN AS *SORCERER SUPREME*--I'VE SAVED MANY MORE LIVES THAN I COULD *EVER* HAVE SAVED AS A MERE *SURGEON!*

THAT IS WHAT I HAVE EVER *HELD AGAINST* YOU, MAGICIAN!

YES, GALACTUS HAS A CHANCE TO SAVE HIMSELF AND YOU OTHERS-- PERHAPS EVEN GO ON TO RESCUE MY ACCURSED TWIN, *ETERNITY*--

--BUT ONLY BECAUSE *YOUR* MYSTIC AURA--YOUR SHEER *WILL POWER*-- IS HELPING TO HOLD TOGETHER THE SHARDS OF HIS BEING UNTIL HE CAN BRING HIS FULL POWER TO BEAR.

THUS, IF YOU REFUSE TO DIE *WILLINGLY*-- I SHALL BE FORCED TO TAKE AN UNACCUSTOMED *DIRECT HAND* IN YOUR UNTIMELY DEMISE...

YOU CAN'T *HURT* ME NOW, DEATH!

ANOTHER DAY--ANOTHER HOUR--YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE AGAIN, BUT *NOT TODAY!*

FOR, THOUGH YOU DROVE THE MEMORY FROM MY BRAIN FOR A TIME--I'VE *ALREADY DIED*, AS MEN RECKON DEATH.*

I *RESISTED* YOU THEN--BUT WHEN I *OPENED* MYSELF TO DEATH, *YOUR* SKULL-LIKE VISAGE *FADED*--

--AND MY LATE MENTOR, *THE ANCIENT ONE*, APPEARED BEFORE ME, TO TELL ME--

* ALSO IN DR. STRANGE (2ND SERIES) #4.--MIKE.

YOU HAVE *EXPUNGED* EVEN MORE *DEEPLY HELD* FEAR OF DEATH WITHIN YOU!

MASTER--WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? AM I *NOT* DEAD?

ON *YOUR* PLANE OF EXISTENCE, *YES*. ON THIS ONE--*MINE*--IT MATTERS NOT.

YET YOU SHALL BE *REBORN*--AND YOUR LIFE SHALL BE TOUCHED WITH *ETERNITY*, FOR YOU WILL NEVER FEAR DEATH AGAIN!

"AND I *DON'T!*"

A *PLAGUE* ON YOU, MAGE! I COULD NOT *TAKE* YOU FORCIBLY--BUT ONLY TRY TO *PERSUADE* YOU TO SURRENDER YOUR LIFE WILLINGLY--

--OR I COULD NEVER *CLAIM* YOU A *SECOND* TIME!

AND *I'LL NOT* SURRENDER--NOW OR *EVER!*

I SHALL GO ON *OPPOSING* YOU--*FIGHTING* YOU--AS LONG AS I HAVE STRENGTH AND BREATH IN MY BODY!

WELL? IS THAT WHAT IT'S TO *BE*?

MUST THE WEARER OF THE *LIFE-ANKH* CLASH ANEW WITH THE INCARNATION OF *DEATH*?

IF SO--*DR. STRANGE STANDS READY!*

YOU MAY *PASS*, SORCERER.

PERHAPS I COULD DEFEAT EVEN YOUR *WILL TO LIVE*-- PERHAPS NOT, EITHER WAY--

I DON'T EVEN DEIGN TO ANSWER, AS I SWEEP PAST THAT HOODED FIGURE.

--YOU--GALACTUS-- EVEN ACCURSED *ETERNITY*--ARE NOT *WORTH* THE SUPREME EFFORT IT WOULD TAKE.

STILL, DO NOT FORGET--DEATH CLAIMS *EVERY-ONE*, SOONER OR LATER.

IT'S NOT *DEATH* THAT COUNTS, IN THE END.

IT'S WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH WHILE YOU'RE *ALIVE* THAT REALLY MATTERS.

ALREADY, I SEE *ONE* OF THE FRUITS OF MY REFUSAL TO GIVE UP THE GHOST.

GALACTUS, DEVOURER OF WORLDS, IS *CREATING*--OR RATHER, *RE-*CREATING--SOMETHING FOR A CHANGE:

HIS OWN GARGANTUAN *SHIP*--AND *WITHIN* IT--

--GALACTUS --MYSELF--

CAN'T BELIEVE ...WE ACTUALLY... SURVIVED THAT.

MY HIDDEN FOE HAS GRAVELY *UNDERESTIMAT-ED* MY MIGHT.

AN ERROR THAT SHALL COST HIM *DEARLY*.

--THE *SILVER SURFER*--AND *NOVA*.

WAS IT-- *GALACTUS'S* POWER THAT SAVED US--*REASSEMBLED* US?

WHAT *ELSE*?

WHAT ELSE, INDEED?

NEXT: *SORCERERS ASSEMBLE!*

INFINITY WAR #2, **PAGE 32 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

THE INFINITY GAMBIT™

30TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1962-1992

MARK McKENNA

L.A.X. FLIGHT 579 FROM LAGUARDIA, NEW YORK COMING IN FOR ARRIVAL.
WE COPY 5-7-9. HAS YOUR CURRENT STATUS CHANGED?
THAT'S A NEGATIVE, TOWER. STATUS HAS DEGRADED.
5-7-9, WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATION OF CASUALTIES?
TOWER, COMPLETE COMPLEMENT BELIEVED DEAD.
...
TOWER--?
THAT'S A COPY, 5-7-9. BRING THE PLANE IN TO GATE A-1.
N'EST PAS...
WE WILL HAVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS AWAITING TO ASSIST YOU AT THE GATE.
A-1
UNION
EVERYONE READY--ON MY MARK--

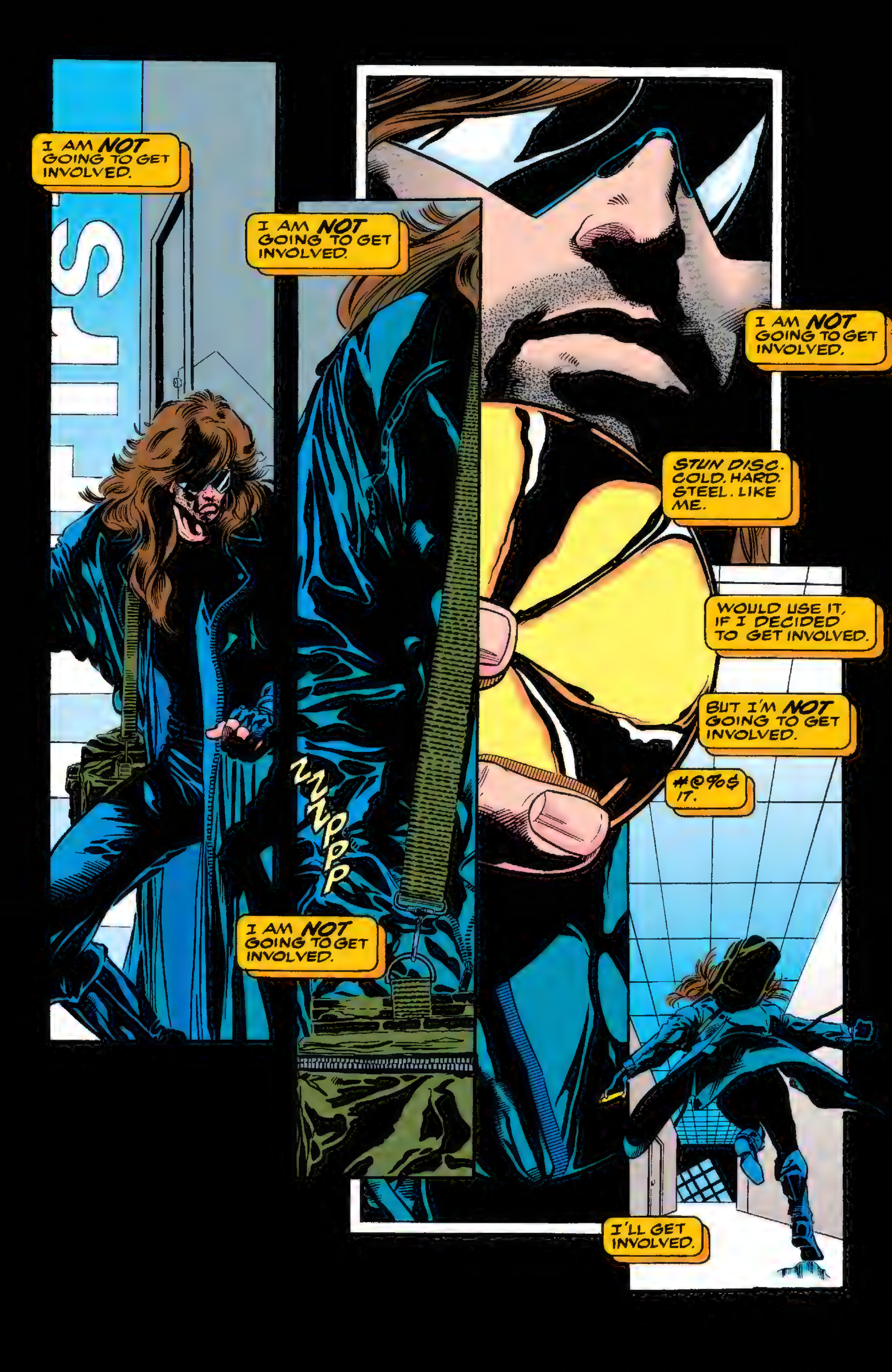
ZZZSKRRKKT
WE'VE GOT MOVEMENT IN THE TUNNEL--
FIRE!
AIRPORT SECURITY
IN
FABIAN NICIEZA
Writer
S. CLARKE HAWBAKER
& MIKE HARRIS
Pencilers
MARK McKENNA
Inker
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
Letterer
TOM SMITH
Colorist
GLENN HERDLING
Editor
TOM DEFALCO
Editor In Chief

NO PLAYIN' CARDS ON THE PLANE, NEH?
I LIKE CARDS, AYUH? SPADES, CLUBS...
...DIAMONDS!
FLIT
I'M ON HIM!!
KAPOW
KAPOW
HOW COULD ANYONE MOVE THAT FAST--?!

A CHARGED-UP DIAMOND WORKS JUS' FINE.
SHAZAAKKT
SECURITY
YAH. LOVE THE CARDS. LOVE THE GAMBLE.
YOU LOVE THE GAMBLE?
LET GO OF HER, MISTER!
DON'T MAKE IT ANY WORSE ON YOURSELF THAN IT ALREADY IS.!
DON' BE THINKIN' I'M IN BAD SHAPE RIGHT NOW.

SEE, THE DECK'S STACKED IN MY FAVOR.
I GOT THE TRUMP CARD 'TWEEN MY FINGERS...
... HEARTS OVER SPADES.
CAN YOU TOP THIS HAND?
DOWN!!
VSHMMMM
THRAKATHWOUMM

Jack Monroe. A failed super soldier. A fallen super hero. Wandering the highways and byways of this vast land, Monroe tries to discover himself, by discovering America.
Stan Lee presents
NOMAD
LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE MORNING.
I'D RATHER BE CHANGING BUCKY'S DIAPERS.
GOT THE FIRST FLIGHT OUT OF VEGAS I COULD SNAG.
ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET MY BAG, GET INTO A BED, SLEEP ALL DAY AND BOUNCE THE KID ALL NIGHT.
THAT ONE--OVER THERE--
IT'S NOT HIM.
TRENCH-COAT THREW ME OFF.
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED, JACK.
EXCUSE ME SIR, COULD YOU PLEASE--
CAN I ASK WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOTHING, SIR.
JUST CONTINUE ON YOUR WAY, SIR.
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.


I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
STUN DISC. COLD. HARD. STEEL. LIKE ME.
WOULD USE IT, IF I DECIDED TO GET INVOLVED.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
#@%$ IT.
ZZZPPP
I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
I'LL GET INVOLVED.

YOU WHAT?!!
EXACTY HOW DO YOU LOSE A GUY WITH TRENCHCOAT WITH GLOWING RED EYES AND FANGS?!
IN LOS ANGELES... PRETTY EASY...
WE GOT OURSELVES A MASS MURDERER HERE--
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
DO THE JOB-- DO IT RIGHT-- OR GET THE #$@%! OUT OF MY WAY!
SO NOW I GET A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT I'M INVOLVED IN.
AND IT'S NOT PRETTY.
GUY'S NUTS.
GUY'S BORDER-LINE PATHO-LOGICAL.
AND HE'S IN CHARGE?
GUY WAS A FED.
LET'S MAKE SURE HIS DEATH DOESN'T GO TO WASTE.
HE DOESN'T NEED THE COM-LINK ANYMORE.
--CHECK IN, KOWALSKI-- ACCESSWAY FOUR NOT RESPONDING--

--THIS GIVES ME A DIRECT LINE ON THE ACTION--
--KOWALSKI-- WHAT'S THE DEAL--?
STAY BACK!
FSHAKH
FSHAKH
DON' BE RUNNIN' AWAY NOW, NEH?
C'MON AN' FEEL THE STING WITH ME!
AAAGH--!
PLEASE--
--DON'T--
LOOKEE WHAT I FOUND HERE.

THE ACE A' SPADES!
FSHYEEK
FCHUNG
--AAA--!
SIZE UP THE SITUATION, JACKIE.
NICE COAT.
DEFINITELY SUPERHUMAN. POSSIBLY PSYCHOTIC. MORE DANGEROUS THAN A HYPERACTIVE MOYLE.
DON'T EVEN BOTHER ASKING ANY QUESTIONS.
JUST DEAL WITH IT FAST!

MISSED--?!
FSHASH
THRAKAWHUMM
KRYEEK
NO, HE DIDN'T.
FEH.
SUCKER MOVES LIKE MERCURY ON A FRYING PAN.
AND HE MISSED ME, TOO?
AND I MOVE LIKE MOLASSES ON VELCRO.

THE SANTA MONICA PIER.
TALK.
I HAD NUTHIN' TO DO WITH IT, MAN!
YOU WORK WITH THE UNDER-GROUNDERS, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE DECOY -- ROCKPORT-- RIGHT?
SPLOOSH
PHHTHT
YEAH -- BUT ONLY ON SMALL JOBS -- SMALL CHANGE --
SO YOU WEREN'T A PART OF THE VENICE HEIST?
SPLOOSH
PHHTH
NO, MAN-- I DIDN'T--
GOTTA BE MADE AN EXAMPLE WHEN YOU WEREN'T PART OF THE PROBLEM, DUDE. S'TUFF.
WAIT-- I CAN HELP YOU --
ALREADY HAVE. HELPED SEND A MESSAGE.
KAPOW
SPLOOSH
DON'T $#@! WITH THE PIPELINE!

OUCH.

OUCH.

I *DID* WANT TO GET INVOLVED, DIDN'T I?

THEN LET'S DO THIS *RIGHT*.

COULD BE TOUGH, SINCE ALL I HAVE ARE MY STUN DISCS.

ONLY GOT *THOSE* THROUGH THE VEGAS BAGGAGE HANDLERS BY TELLING THEM I WAS A *LION TAMER* AT THE *MIRAGE*.

I NEED SOME SMOKING METAL.

ALL I FIND IS MY BORROWED HOOK-UP.

I DEAL MYSELF IN.

--SHSHKK-- ACTIVITY IN 8 TERMINAL--

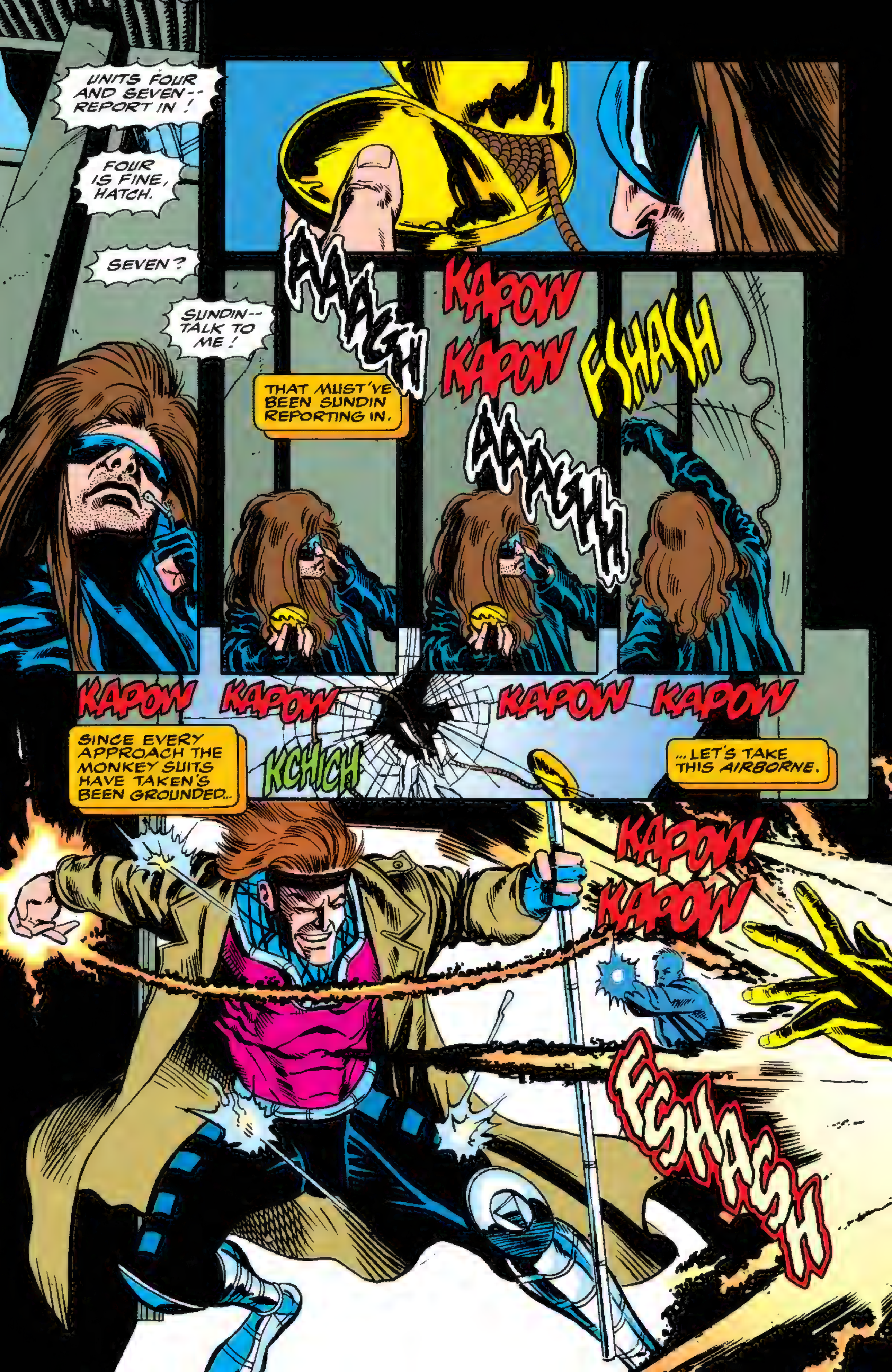
-- WE GOT A STAND-OFF--

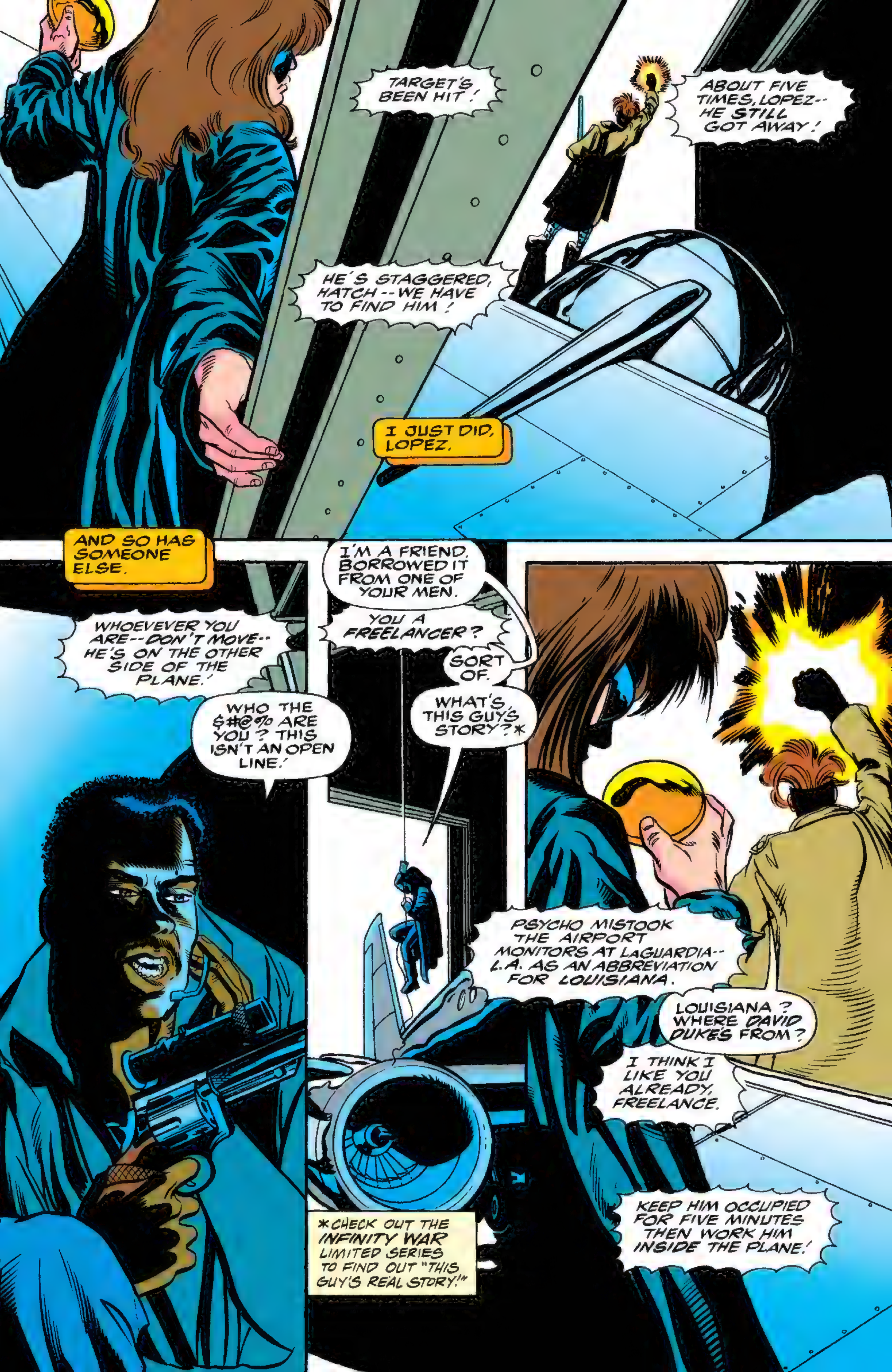
FINE. PLAY THE HAND YOU'RE DEALT, JACK.

I WAS IN VEGAS TOO LONG.

I'M GETTING REAL TIRED OF THIS!

MENKLIN-- THIS IS HATCHWAY-- GIVE ME SOMETHING!
HATCH--WE LOST CONTACT WITH--
FSHACH
OLBRICHT IS DOWN--
--GET ME SOME BACK-UP!
HATCH--I'M POSITIVE I HEARD HIM ON THIS SIDE.
THERE'S NO WAY ANYTHING HUMAN COULD COVER FIFTY YARDS THAT QUICKLY!
MAYBE SOMETHIN' THAT AIN'T HUMAN, THEN?
AAAGH
MENKLIN--?
PAYNE?
SCHURR?


UNITS FOUR AND SEVEN-- REPORT IN!
FOUR IS FINE, HATCH.
SEVEN?
SUNDIN-- TALK TO ME!
AAAGH
KAPOW KAPOW
FSHASH
AAAGH
THAT MUST'VE BEEN SUNDIN REPORTING IN.
KAPOW KAPOW KAPOW KAPOW
KCHICH
SINCE EVERY APPROACH THE MONKEY SUITS HAVE TAKEN'S BEEN GROUNDED...
...LET'S TAKE THIS AIRBORNE.
KAPOW KAPOW
FSHASH


TARGET'S BEEN HIT!
ABOUT FIVE TIMES, LOPEZ-- HE STILL GOT AWAY!
HE'S STAGGERED, HATCH--WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!
I JUST DID, LOPEZ.
AND SO HAS SOMEONE ELSE.
WHOEVEVER YOU ARE--DON'T MOVE-- HE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANE!
WHO THE $#@% ARE YOU? THIS ISN'T AN OPEN LINE!
I'M A FRIEND. BORROWED IT FROM ONE OF YOUR MEN.
YOU A FREELANCER?
SORT OF.
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S STORY?*
PSYCHO MISTOOK THE AIRPORT MONITORS AT LAGUARDIA-- L.A. AS AN ABBREVIATION FOR LOUISIANA.
LOUISIANA? WHERE DAVID DUKES FROM?
I THINK I LIKE YOU ALREADY, FREELANCE.
KEEP HIM OCCUPIED FOR FIVE MINUTES THEN WORK HIM INSIDE THE PLANE!
*CHECK OUT THE INFINITY WAR LIMITED SERIES TO FIND OUT "THIS GUY'S REAL STORY!"

DON'T GIVE HIM A SECOND--

--STAY ON TOP--

HUH--?

FSHAAASH

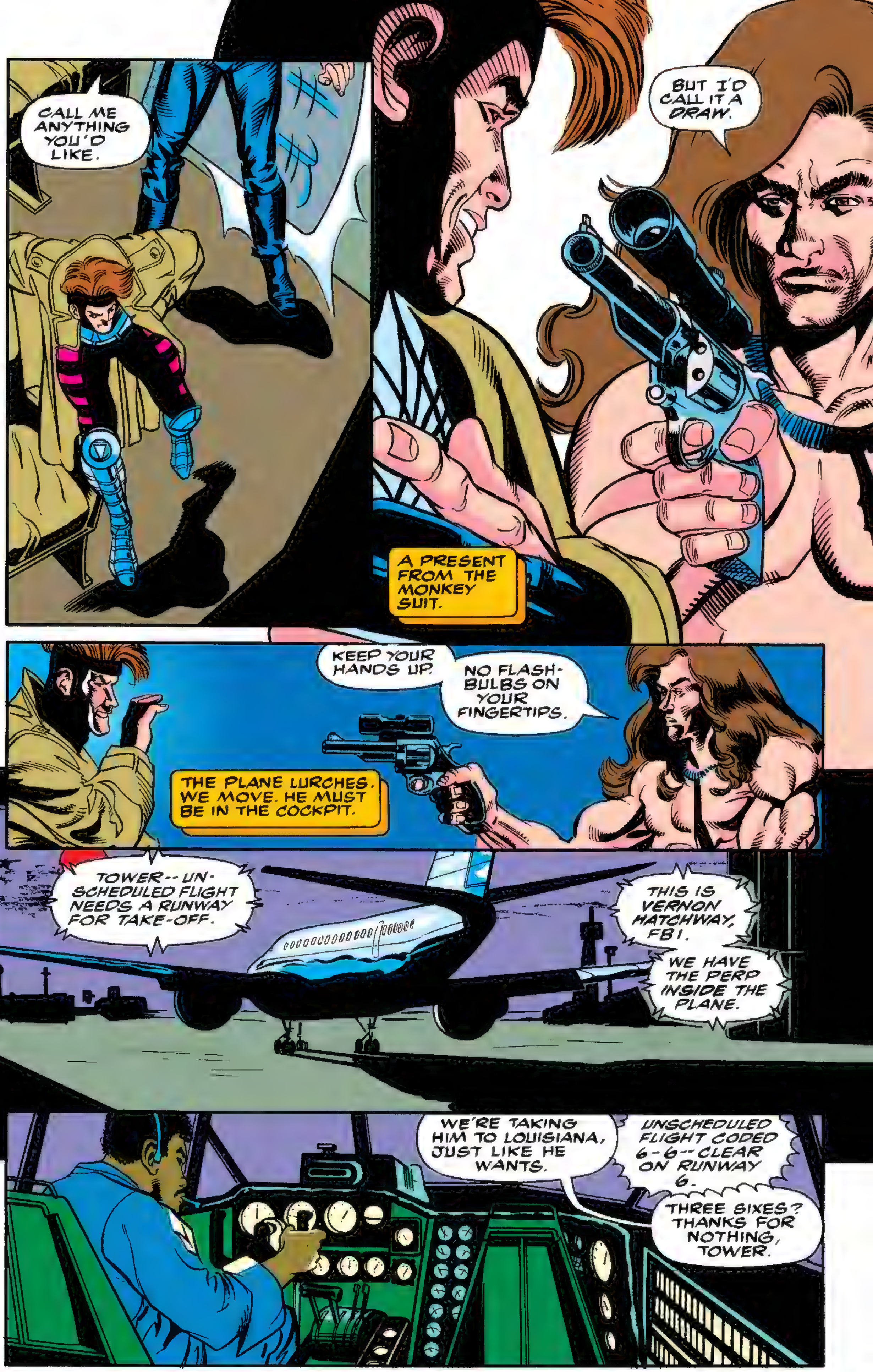
CHARGE UP YOUR JACKET, BOY.

WATCH.

GEEEEZ!

I LOVED THAT JACKET!
KRAKT
THWOK
FAKROK
NNNFFGH
ALMOST AS MUCH AS I HATE FIGHTING SPANDEX.

FOUND A TOOLBOX.
GUESS YOU'RE SCREWED NOW, NAH ?
TIME IT RIGHT, JACK--
FWASHAK!
UP HERE, CAJUN.
NOT BAD, N-BOY.
CALL YA NANCY-BOY, 'KAY ?

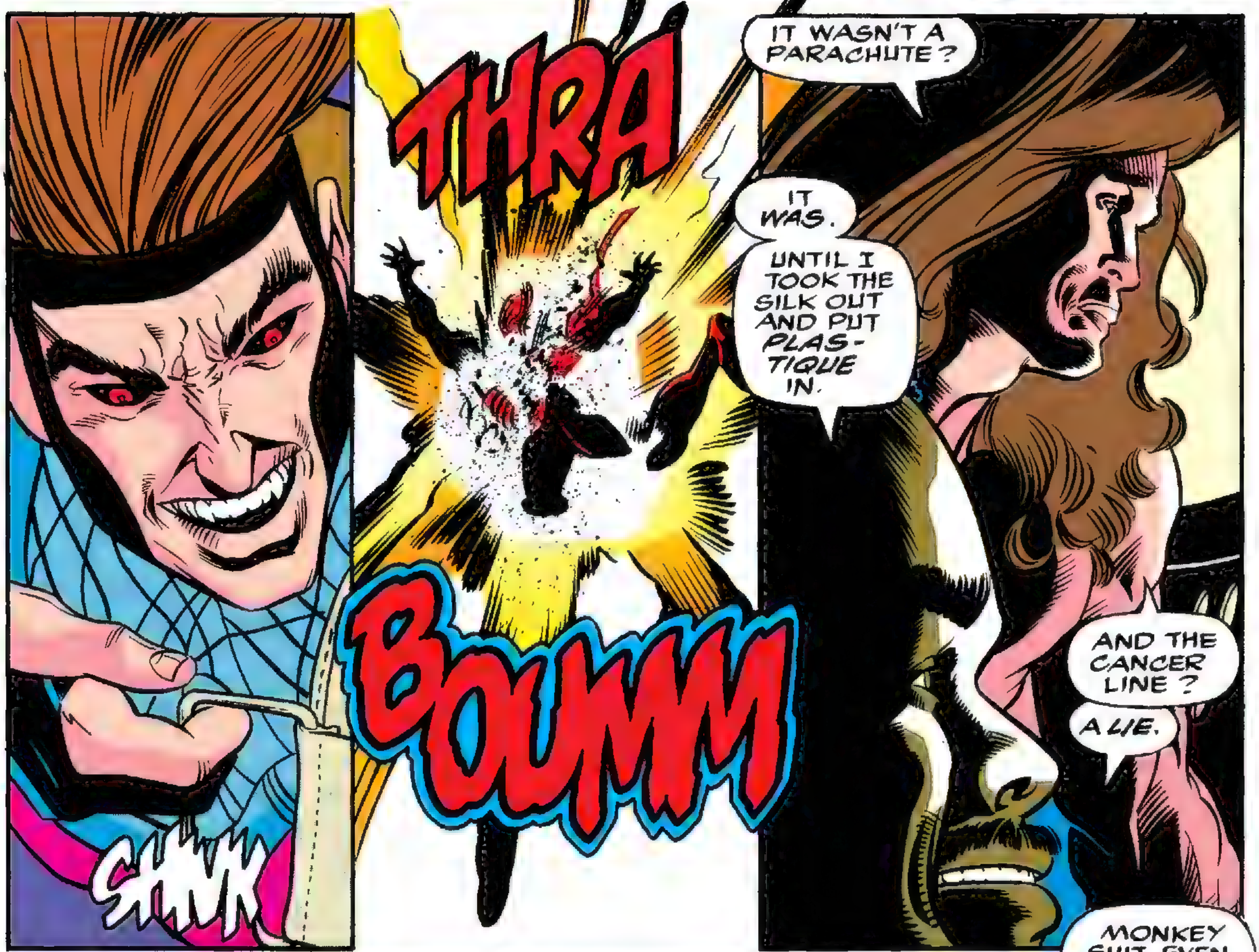

CALL ME ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE.
BUT I'D CALL IT A DRAW.
A PRESENT FROM THE MONKEY SUIT.
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP.
NO FLASH-BULBS ON YOUR FINGERTIPS.
THE PLANE LURCHES. WE MOVE. HE MUST BE IN THE COCKPIT.
TOWER -- UN-SCHEDULED FLIGHT NEEDS A RUNWAY FOR TAKE-OFF.
THIS IS VERNON HATCHWAY, FBI.
WE HAVE THE PERP INSIDE THE PLANE.
WE'RE TAKING HIM TO LOUISIANA, JUST LIKE HE WANTS.
UNSCHEDULED FLIGHT CODED 6-6 -- CLEAR ON RUNWAY 6.
THREE SIXES? THANKS FOR NOTHING, TOWER.

FLIGHT 66 IS AIRBORNE.
GOD SPEED, 66.
WHAT NOW, NANCY-BOY?
WE HANG, GUMBO.
YOU START BY TELLING ME WHY?
ONLY WAY TA FIND THE GOOD IN PEOPLE, NANCY-BOY--
--IS TA TEAR THEM OPEN AND SEE WHAT'S IN-SIDE!
WHAT'S INSIDE YOU, JAMBALAYA?
SAME'S YOU. BLACK THINGS.
HEY -- I RESENT THAT REMARK, PSYCHO!
FREELANCE-- TIME FOR YOU TO BAIL OUT.
TALK TO ME, MONKEY SUIT.
PARACHUTE. FIRST ROW. TAKE A HIKE.
AND YOU?
I'M SHORT, FREELANCE, TWO MONTHS. CANCER.
SOMEONE'S GOTTA DITCH THIS PLANE IN THE OCEAN.

HOWZABOUT WE ALL PLAY THE HAND OUT?
SHEES
FWHAA
SU
UMMM
THE GUN--!
CABIN'S DECOM-PRESSING--
--LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH COAL--
--BREATHING BROKEN GLASS--
AND CRAWDADDY SKIPS ABOUT PRETTY AS YOU PLEASE.
CHANGED M'MIND, NANCY.
AH'LL TAKE D'CHUTE-- YOU TAKE D'PLUNGE.
DON'T--LET--HIM-GO--

KAPOW
I HITCHED! I HESITATED!
I COULDN'T ICE HIM!
%!$# ME!
FREELANCE?
FRANKLY, NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
HE GOT AWAY AND THIS BIRD'S CLIPPED!
YEAH, SO? IT'S LAND-ABLE.

KLIK
beep
beep
beep
beep


THRA
BOUMM
SHNK
IT WASN'T A PARACHUTE?
IT WAS.
UNTIL I TOOK THE SILK OUT AND PUT PLAS-TIQUE IN.
AND THE CANCER LINE?
A LIE.

MONKEY SUIT, EVEN WITHOUT CANCER--
--YOU'RE A SICK GUY.
EVEN WITH-OUT A CLUE, YOU'RE JACK MONROE. NOMAD.
YOU KNOW ME, HUH?

NOPE.
NEVER HEARD OF YOU.

END.

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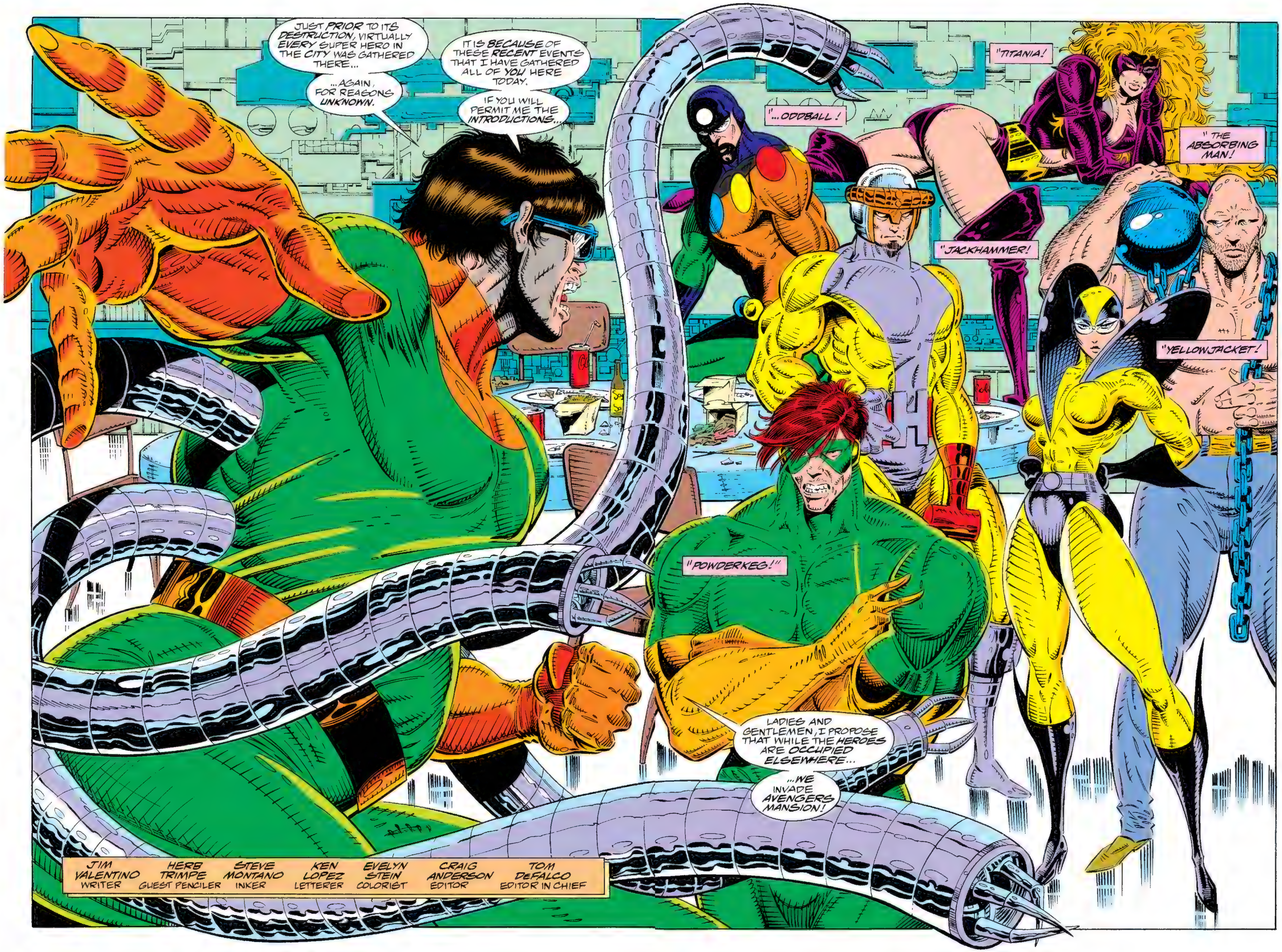
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BIRCH & MONTANO

Stan Lee presents
VILLAINS, VILLAINS EVERYWHERE!
IF YOU WOULD ALL BE SO KIND AS TO TURN YOUR ATTENTION TO THE SCREEN BEHIND ME.
EARLIER THIS MORNING FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA WAS DESTROYED BY FORCES AS YET UNKNOWN*!
* BUT YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM, BECAUSE YOU READ INFINITY WAR #2, DIDN'T YOU? --CRAIG


JUST PRIOR TO ITS DESTRUCTION, VIRTUALLY EVERY SUPER HERO IN THE CITY WAS GATHERED THERE...
...AGAIN, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN.
IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE RECENT EVENTS THAT I HAVE GATHERED ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY.
IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME THE INTRODUCTIONS...
"...ODDBALL!
"TITANIA!
" THE ABSORBING MAN!
"JACKHAMMER!
"YELLOWJACKET!
"POWDERKEG!"
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I PROPOSE THAT WHILE THE HEROES ARE OCCUPIED ELSEWHERE...
...WE INVADE AVENGERS MANSION!
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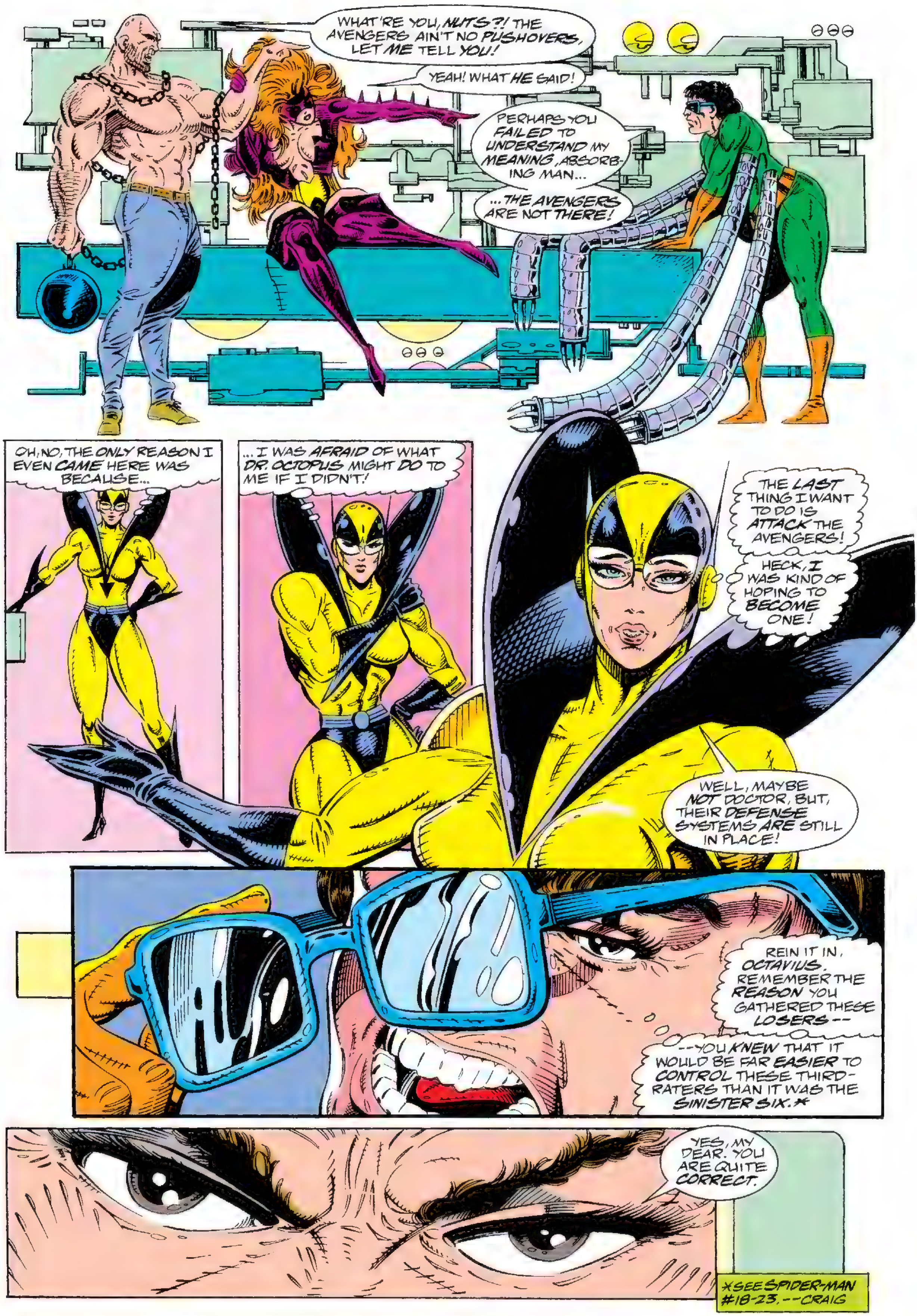
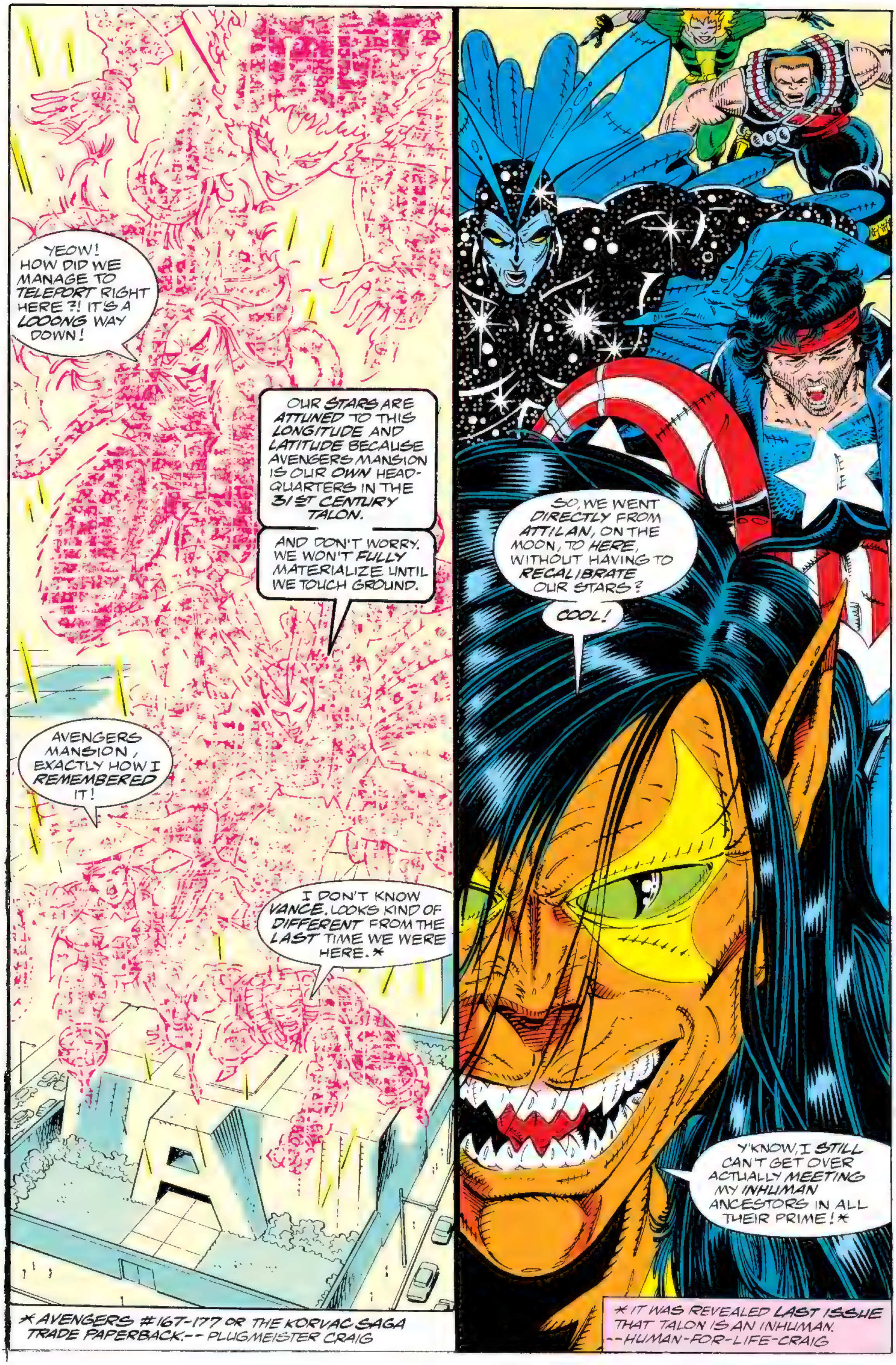
HERB TRIMPE GUEST PENCILER
STEVE MONTANO INKER
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
EVELYN STEIN COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

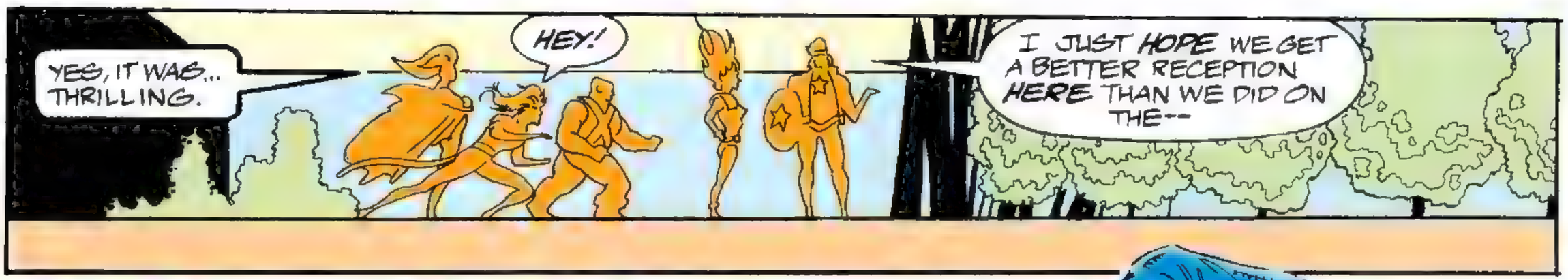

WHAT'RE YOU, NUTS?! THE AVENGERS AIN'T NO PUSHOVERS, LET ME TELL YOU!
YEAH! WHAT HE SAID!
PERHAPS YOU FAILED TO UNDERSTAND MY MEANING, ABSORBING MAN...
...THE AVENGERS ARE NOT THERE!
OH, NO, THE ONLY REASON I EVEN CAME HERE WAS BECAUSE...
...I WAS AFRAID OF WHAT DR. OCTOPUS MIGHT DO TO ME IF I DIDN'T!
THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS ATTACK THE AVENGERS!
HECK, I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO BECOME ONE!
WELL, MAYBE NOT DOCTOR, BUT, THEIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS ARE STILL IN PLACE!
REIN IT IN, OCTAVIUS. REMEMBER THE REASON YOU GATHERED THESE LOSERS--
--YOU KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE FAR EASIER TO CONTROL THESE THIRD-RATERS THAN IT WAS THE SINISTER SIX.*
YES, MY DEAR. YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT.
*SEE SPIDER-MAN #18-23. --CRAIG

AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I WANT THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS!
YOU SEE, MY FRIENDS, THE AVENGERS POSSESS SOME OF THE MOST ADVANCED WEAPONRY AND MACHINERY IN THE WORLD...
...AND WE WOULD DARE TO STEAL THEM!
YAY!!
WELL, WHAT SAY YOU, MY FRIENDS? ARE YOU WITH ME?!
GOOD!
DOLTS!



*AVENGERS #167-177 OR THE KORVAC SAGA TRADE PAPERBACK.-- PLUGMEISTER CRAIG

*IT WAS REVEALED LAST ISSUE THAT TALON IS AN INHUMAN. --HUMAN-FOR-LIFE-CRAIG


YES, IT WAS... THRILLING.
HEY!
I JUST HOPE WE GET A BETTER RECEPTION HERE THAN WE DID ON THE--

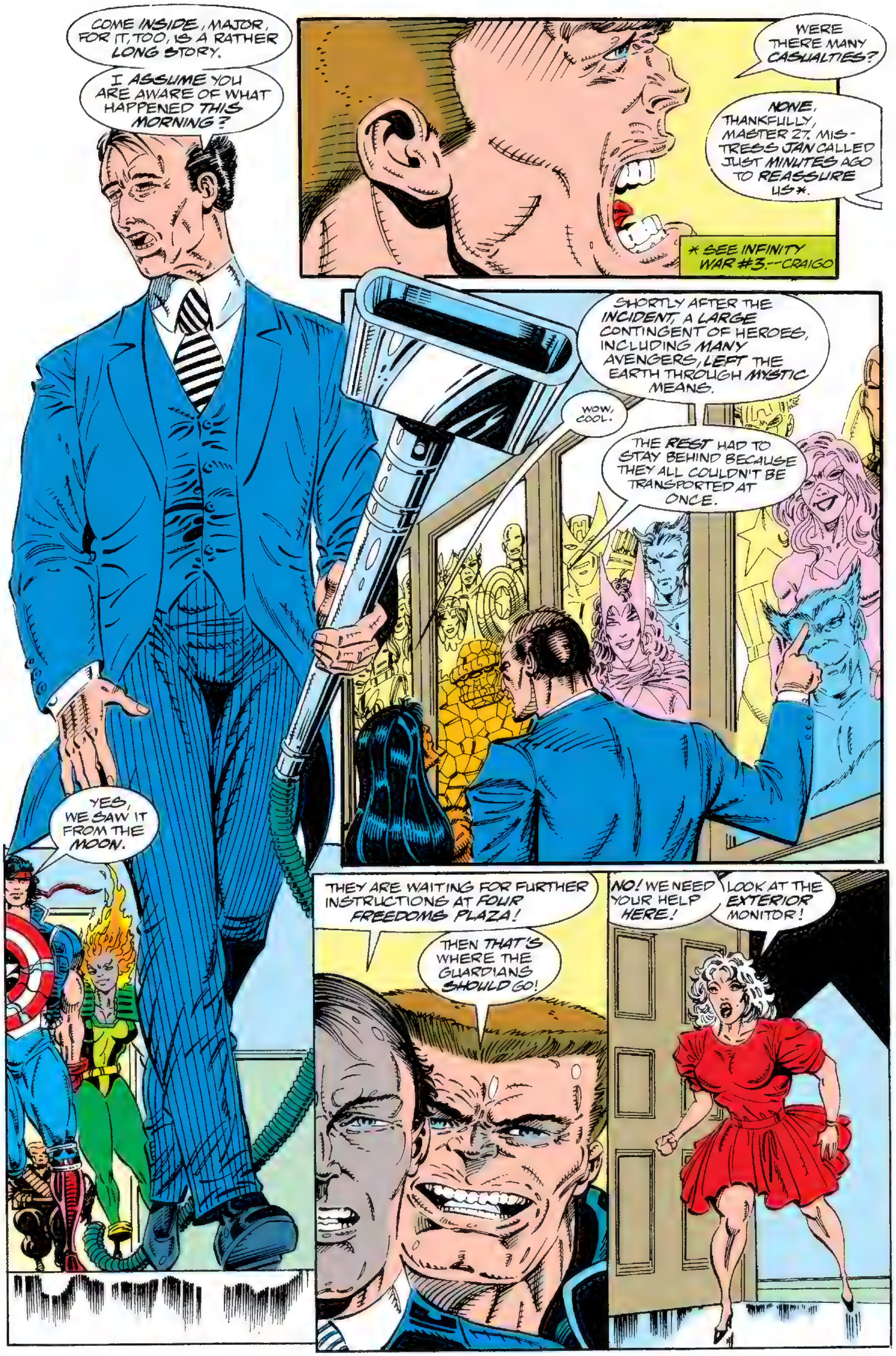
STAND FAST AND IDENTIFY YOURSELVES...
--MOON?

...ALL WHO WOULD STAND AGAINST THE AVENGERS!!
KLANG
WHOA, JARVIS...
...DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE US?!

YOU... YOU... BY MY HONOR!
YOU'RE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!

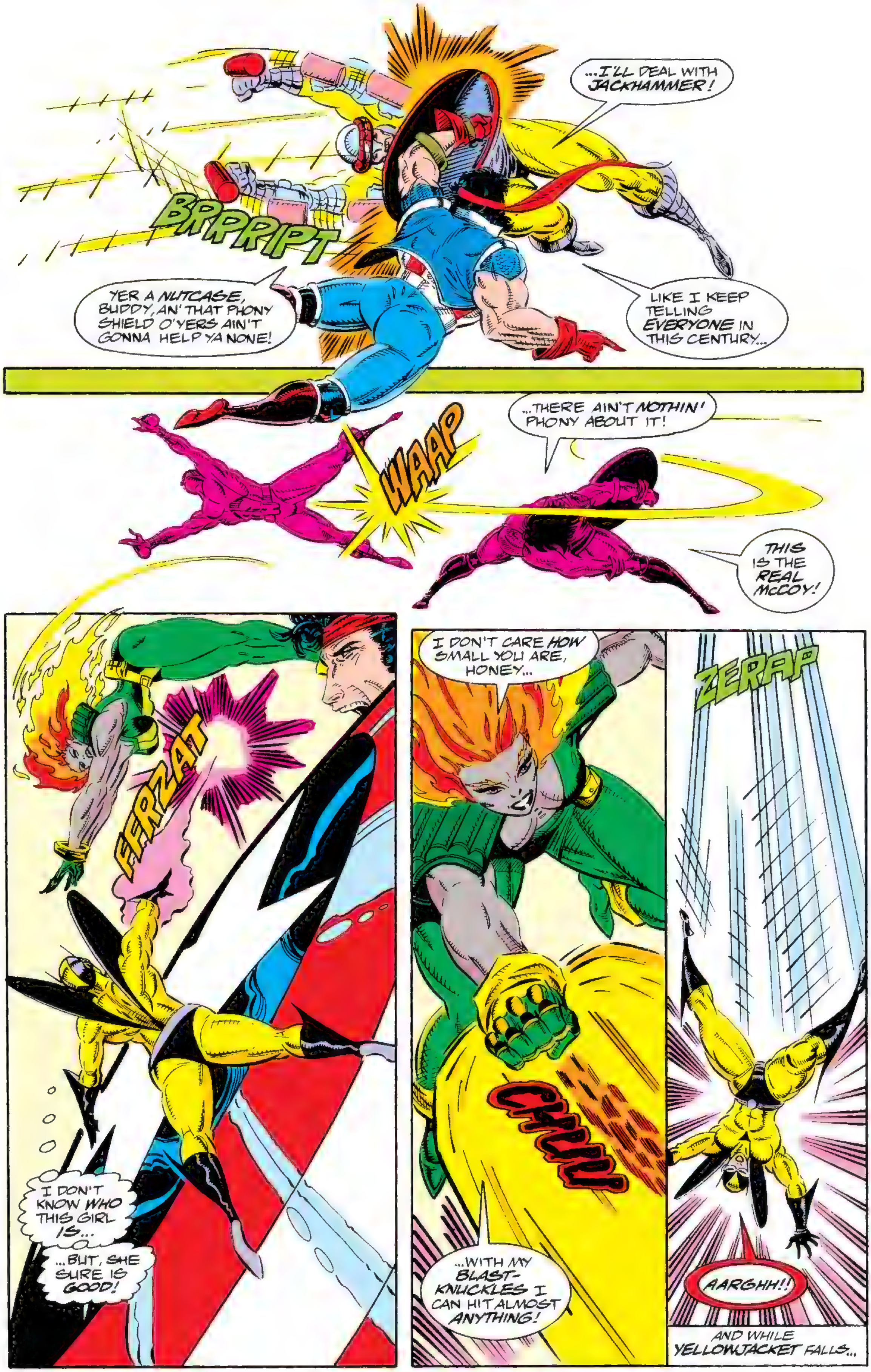
IN THE FLESH, OLD FRIEND. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN!
VANCE? YOU'RE VANCE ASTRO, SIR?
YES, I GO BY MAJOR VICTORY NOW, BUT...
HEY! HOW COME YOU'RE WEARIN' CAP'S COLORS?
AN' WHERE'D YOU GET THE PHONY SHIELD?!

I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS REALLY IS CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD, MY FRIEND!
WHAT?!
IT'S A LONG STORY...
...AND, RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

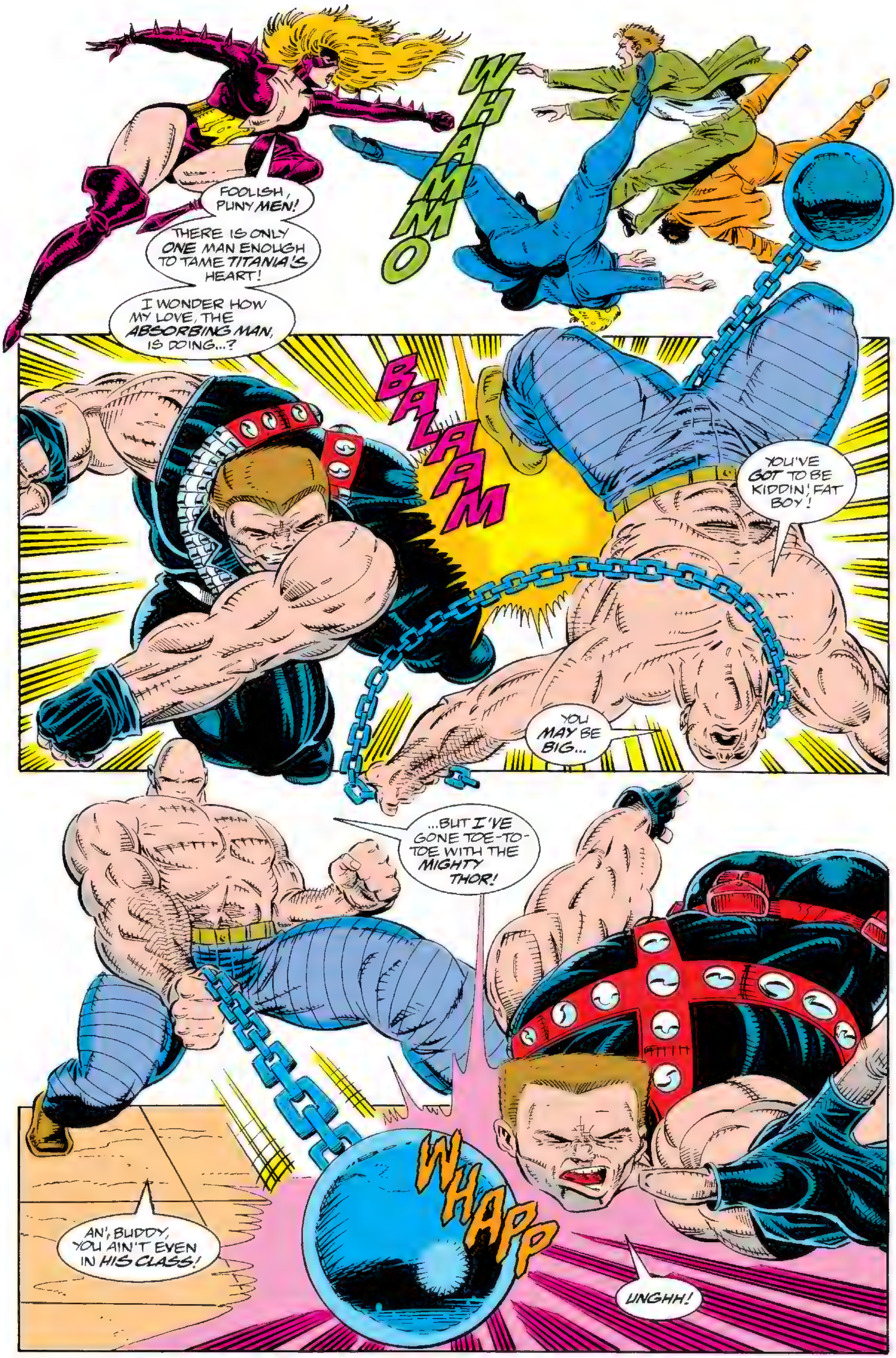

COME INSIDE, MAJOR, FOR IT, TOO, IS A RATHER LONG STORY.
I ASSUME YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING?
WERE THERE MANY CASUALTIES?
NONE, THANKFULLY, MASTER 27. MISTRESS JAN CALLED JUST MINUTES AGO TO REASSURE US*.
* SEE INFINITY WAR #3.--CRAIGO
SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT, A LARGE CONTINGENT OF HEROES, INCLUDING MANY AVENGERS, LEFT THE EARTH THROUGH MYSTIC MEANS.
WOW, COOL.
THE REST HAD TO STAY BEHIND BECAUSE THEY ALL COULDN'T BE TRANSPORTED AT ONCE.
YES, WE SAW IT FROM THE MOON.
THEY ARE WAITING FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA!
THEN THAT'S WHERE THE GUARDIANS SHOULD GO!
NO! WE NEED YOUR HELP HERE!
LOOK AT THE EXTERIOR MONITOR!

I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM, JARVIS. WHO ARE THEY?
PERHAPS A NEW CONFIGURATION OF THE MASTERS OF EVIL, SIR.
FABIAN, LET'S GET SOME WEAPONS OUT OF THE ARMORY AND LEND A HAND!
THE "MASTERS OF EVIL"?! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I MEAN, NOT EVEN VANCE WOULD COME UP WITH THAT CORNY A NAME!
COME ON, GUARDIANS, LET'S GO!
MY, HOW MUCH LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA MAJOR ASTRO HAS BECOME! SO READY TO TAKE CHARGE. SO SELF-CONFIDENT IN ANY EMERGENCY!
HOW DIFFERENT HIS DESTINY THAN THAT OF HIS COUNTERPART IN THIS REALITY, MARVEL BOY!
HOW FRIGHTFULLY ODD THAT TWO WHO STARTED AS ONE COULD BECOME SO DIFFERENT ONE FROM THE OTHER!

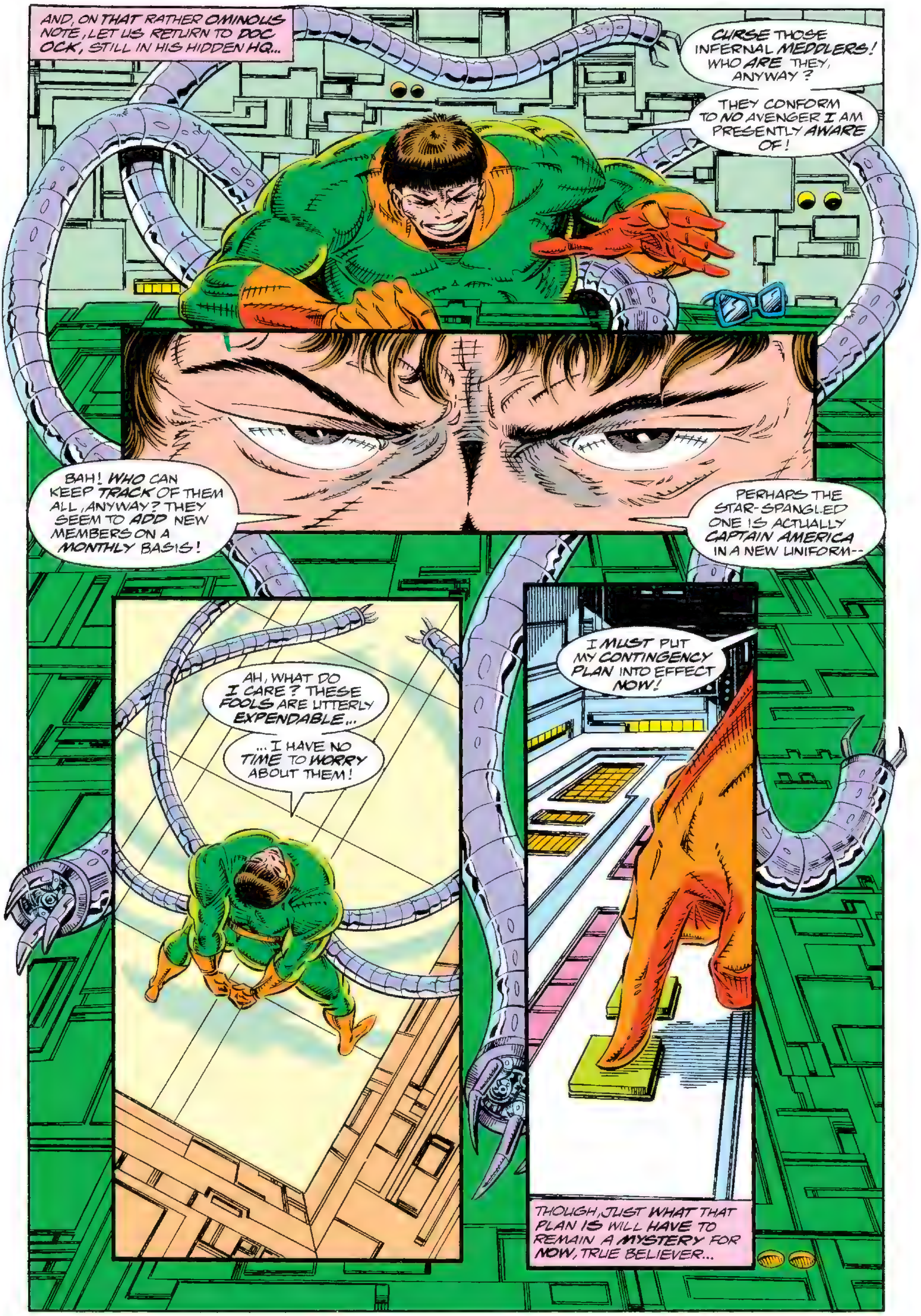
OUTSIDE...
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS, COME NO FURTHER...
...BY ORDER OF-- THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
OOOH, I'M SO SCARED I MIGHT FAINT -- OR PUKE!
YOU TELL 'IM HONEYBUNCH. NO ONE ORDERS AROUND THE MASTERS OF EVIL!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, ABSORBING MAN!
NIKKI, YOU GET ON YELLOWJACKET, THE LITTLE FLYING WOMAN!
TALON, TAKE OUT ODDBALL THERE TO YOUR RIGHT!
CHARLIE, TRY TO HOLD THE ABSORBING MAN BACK, AS BEST YOU CAN!
STARHAWK, YOU TAKE OUT POWDERKEG...


BRRRIPT
YER A NUTCASE, BUDDY, AN' THAT PHONY SHIELD O'YERS AIN'T GONNA HELP YA NONE!
...I'LL DEAL WITH JACKHAMMER!
LIKE I KEEP TELLING EVERYONE IN THIS CENTURY...
WAAP
...THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' PHONY ABOUT IT!
THIS IS THE REAL McCOY!
FFRZATT
I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GIRL IS...
...BUT, SHE SURE IS GOOD!
I DON'T CARE HOW SMALL YOU ARE, HONEY...
...WITH MY BLAST-KNUCKLES I CAN HIT ALMOST ANYTHING!
ZERAP
AARGHH!!
AND WHILE YELLOWJACKET FALLS...

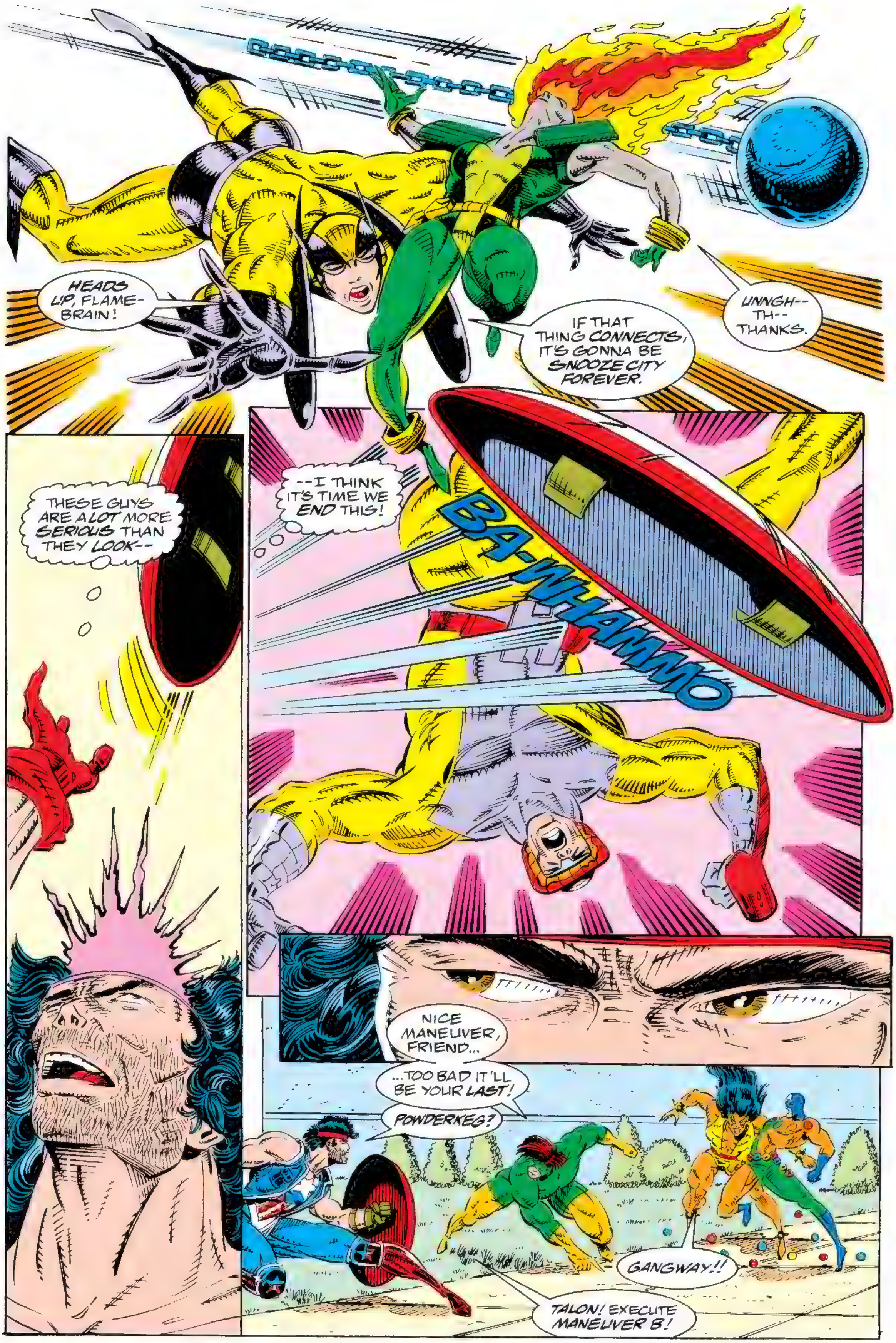
LOOK ALIVE, GUYS...
...WE'VE GOT TO HELP THE GUARDIANS GET--
OH, DON'T BE SILLY, BOYS...
...THERE'S NOTHING ANY OF YOU CAN DO AGAINST TITANIA!
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS GUY--
--I'M NOT EVEN SLOWIN' HIM DOWN!
HEY, GUY! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN THE LONGEST TIME!
POP
WHAT?
BUT, YOU KNOW, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END!
SAY NIGHTY NIGHT!

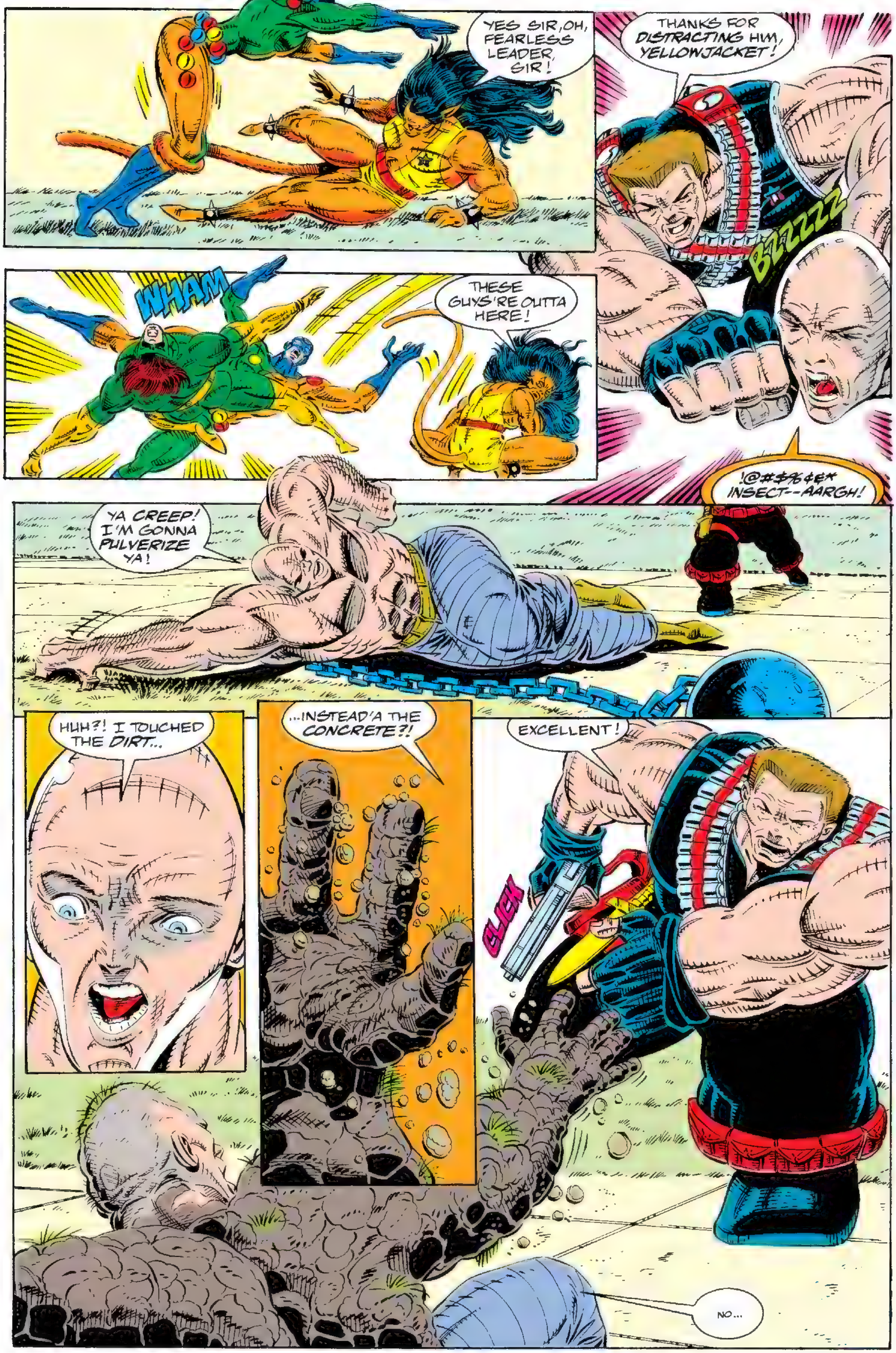

FOOLISH, PUNY MEN!
THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN ENOUGH TO TAME TITANIA'S HEART!
I WONDER HOW MY LOVE, THE ABSORBING MAN, IS DOING...?
WHAMM
BALAAM
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDIN', FAT BOY!
YOU MAY BE BIG...
...BUT I'VE GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE MIGHTY THOR!
WHAPP
AN', BUDDY, YOU AIN'T EVEN IN HIS CLASS!
UNGHH!

THE NAME'S POWDERKEG, SPACE-FACE...
...IF YA LIKE, I'LL HAVE IT CARVED ON YOUR TOMBSTONE!
FWHAP
HUH? WHAZZAT?
" HE WENT RIGHT THROUGH THAT WALL!"
STARHAWK...
...I HAVE COME TO ABSORB YOU.
I KNEW THAT YOU WOULD, MY EVIL DOPPELGANGER...
...AND, I AM READY FOR YOU!


AND, ON THAT RATHER OMINOUS NOTE, LET US RETURN TO DOC OCK, STILL IN HIS HIDDEN HQ...
CURSE THOSE INFERNAL MEDDLERS! WHO ARE THEY, ANYWAY?
THEY CONFORM TO NO AVENGER I AM PRESENTLY AWARE OF!
BAH! WHO CAN KEEP TRACK OF THEM ALL, ANYWAY? THEY SEEM TO ADD NEW MEMBERS ON A MONTHLY BASIS!
PERHAPS THE STAR-SPANGLED ONE IS ACTUALLY CAPTAIN AMERICA IN A NEW UNIFORM--
AH, WHAT DO I CARE? THESE FOOLS ARE UTTERLY EXPENDABLE...
...I HAVE NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THEM!
I MUST PUT MY CONTINGENCY PLAN INTO EFFECT NOW!
THOUGH, JUST WHAT THAT PLAN IS WILL HAVE TO REMAIN A MYSTERY FOR NOW, TRUE BELIEVER...

...AS WE TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE GUARDIANS...
WELL, THAT WENT PRETTY EASY... MAYBE TOO EASILY...
...SHE REALLY DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT, ALMOST AS THOUGH HER HEART REALLY WASN'T IN IT!
"LOOKS LIKE CHARLIE'S ABOUT TO GET SMACKED FROM BEHIND BY 'MADAM MUSCLES' THERE..."
...GOTTA TURN THE BLAST-KNUCKLES UP TO FULL POWER AND...
CHUM
CHUM
AARRRGGHH!!
ZAM
OOOFF!
TITANIA!!
WHY, YOU LITTLE FLAME-HAIRED...


HEADS UP, FLAME-BRAIN!
IF THAT THING CONNECTS, IT'S GONNA BE SNOOZE CITY FOREVER.
UNNGH-- TH-- THANKS.
THESE GUYS ARE A LOT MORE SERIOUS THAN THEY LOOK--
--I THINK IT'S TIME WE END THIS!
BA-WHAMMO
NICE MANEUVER, FRIEND...
...TOO BAD IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!
POWDERKEG?
GANGWAY!!
TALON! EXECUTE MANEUVER B!


YES SIR, OH, FEARLESS LEADER, SIR!
THANKS FOR DISTRACTING HIM, YELLOWJACKET!
BZZZZZ
WHAM
THESE GUYS'RE OUTTA HERE!
!@#$%¢&* INSECT--AARGH!
YA CREEP! I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YA!
HUH?! I TOUCHED THE DIRT...
...INSTEAD'A THE CONCRETE?!
EXCELLENT!
CLICK
NO...

BLAM
FFUNHOOMPH
CHARLIE, YOU KILLED HIM!!
WHOOSH! NOPE...
...BUT IT WILL TAKE HIM A WHILE TO GET ALL OF HIS PIECES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!
AND, IN THE MANSION...
YES, I AM READY FOR THE ABSORPTION...
...WHICH WILL COMPLETE MY METAMORPHOSIS INTO--
--BUT, WAIT!
I CAN SENSE NOW THAT TO BECOME ONE WITH YOU WOULD BE TO LOSE MY OWN FREE WILL!
I MUST STOP THIS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE, FOOL!
NO, IT CAN'T BE--
ALETA! HELP ME!!

AND, AS STARHAWK SCREAMS, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO...
MAN, I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE GUYS OUT!
GOTTA FACE IT, GEEZE, WE'RE BA-A-A-A-A-A-D!
MAJOR, SIR, IF I MIGHT HAVE A MOMENT.
YES, OF COURSE, JARVIS, WHAT'S UP?
I HAVE TAKEN THE -AHEM!- LIBERTY OF ALERTING THE VAULT, SIR.
THEY WILL SEND OVER SEVERAL GUARDSMEN TO COLLECT THIS RIFF-RAFF PRESENTLY.
AND, MAY I COMPLIMENT YOU AND YOUR TEAM ON YOUR EFFICIENCY AND EXPERTISE IN HANDLING THESE CRIMINALS!
WELL, WE DID HAVE SOME HELP, JARVIS.
YEAH, FROM THAT CUTE LITTLE YELLOW TINKERBELL!
HEY! WHERE IS SHE, ANYWAY? SHE AND NIKKI BOTH JUST DISAPPEARED!

HMMMM... AFTER YELLOWJACKET SAVED NIKKI FROM THE ABSORBING MAN'S BALL-AND-CHAIN, I REMEMBER SEEING THEM GET UP AND--
--HEAD INSIDE THE MANSION!
NOW, WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?!
YEAH, IT'S NOT LIKE NIKKI TO LEAVE THE SCENE OF A FIGHT!
SHE MUST'VE SEEN SOMETHING INSIDE.
UNFORTUNATELY, SIRS, ALL OF OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN SINCE FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA WAS DESTROYED!
BY IO!
WHAT'S DOWN THIS WAY, JARVIS?
THE MAIN MEETING HALL, CAPTAIN 27, SIR.
NO PROBLEM, JARVIS, WE'LL JUST SEARCH FOR THEM THE HARD WAY!
OKAY, MEN, FAN OUT!
WELL, WHAT SAY WE JUST CHECK IT--

AH! THE LARGE ONE!
SO NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN.
I FOUND THESE SNEAKING ABOUT.
I DO BELIEVE THEY BELONG TO YOU!
TO BE CONCLUDED... NEXT ISSUE!!

MARVEL COMICS
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DOPPEL-GANGERS!
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29 OCT
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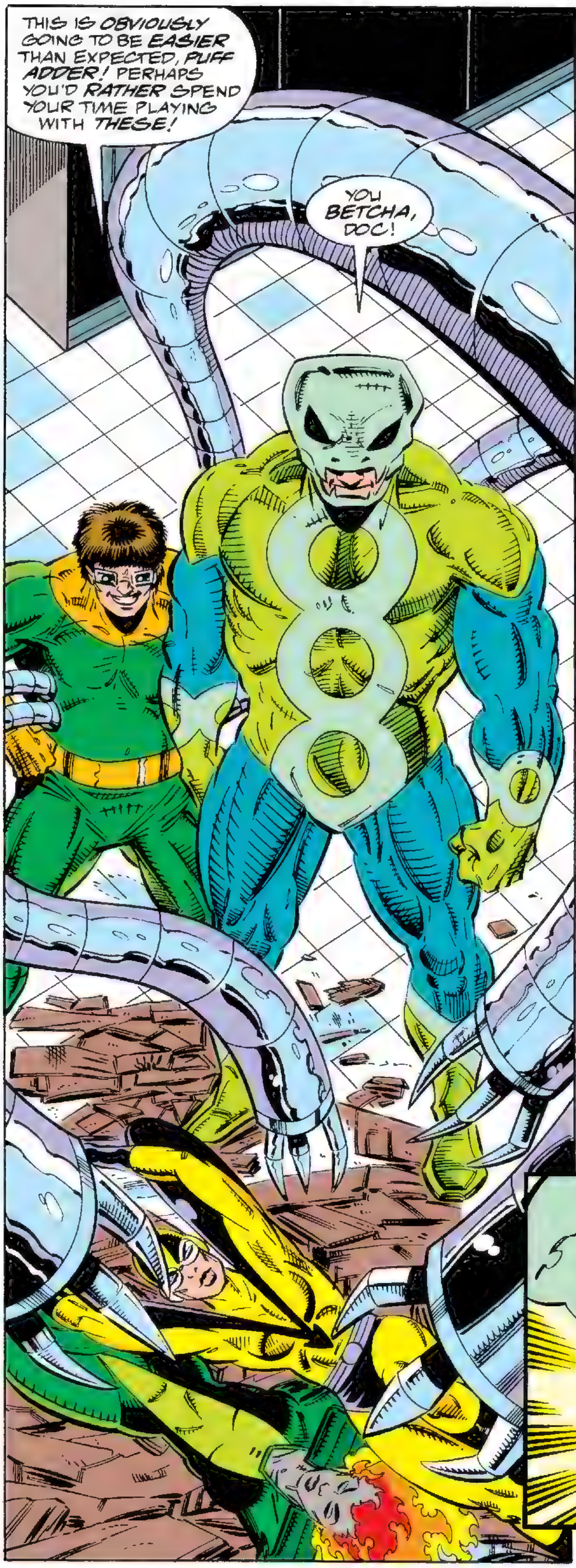
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BIRCH & MONTANO

LET LOOSE THE DOGS OF WAR!

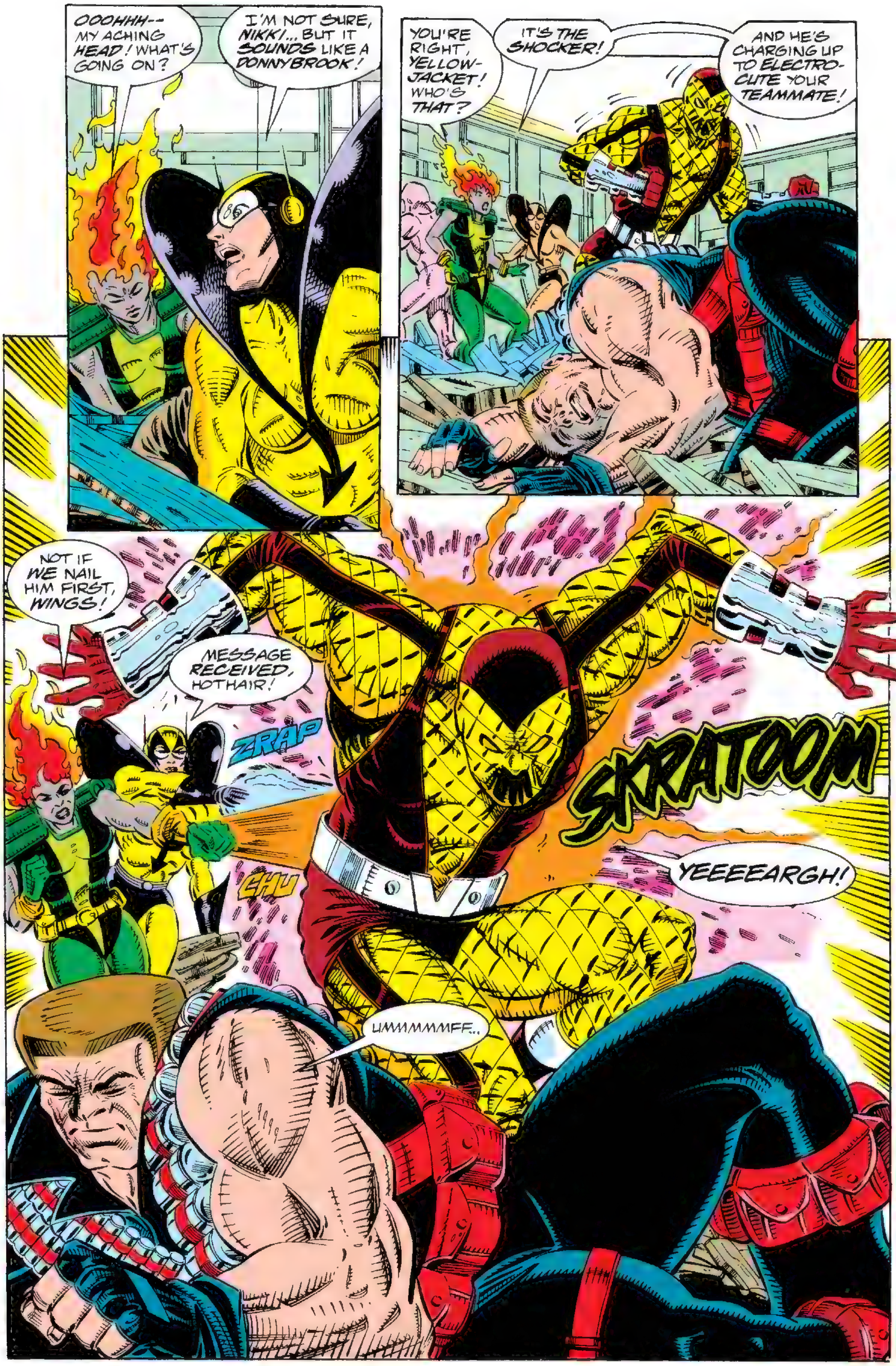
PLOT: JIM "ADIOS" VALENTINO	SCRIPT: MICHAEL "ALOE" GALLAGHER	PENCILS: J.J. "ABBREVIATION" BIRCH	INKS: STEVE "ALDENTE" MONTANO
LETTERS: KENNY "ALPHABET" LOPEZ	COLORS: EVELYN "APROPOS" STEIN	EDITS: CRAIG "ALLITERATION" ANDERSON	CHIEFTANS: TOM "ACHOO" DEFALCO

EASY, CHARLIE! THAT'S DOCTOR OCTOPUS, ONE OF THE NASTIEST SUPER-VILLAINS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
AND UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, THOSE GUYS WITH HIM ARE GARGANTUA, PUFF ADDER AND THE SHOCKER!
THEY'RE NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP NIKKI AND YELLOWJACKET WITHOUT A FIGHT!
THANKS FOR THE HISTORY LESSON, VANCE! IF IT'S A FIGHT THEY WANT, I'M HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
NEW HEROES, SAME OLD RHETORIC! THESE AMATEURS WON'T STOP US FROM TAKING OVER AVENGERS MANSION!
DISPOSE OF THEM, GENTLEMEN!
GARGANTUA WANT TO HIT LITTLE MAN!
HOLD ON, BIRDBRAIN! A QUICK HIGH VOLTAGE HELLO FIRST!
V-VRAM
YEEOW!!
NOW IT MY TURN!
UMMMF!
KRONK

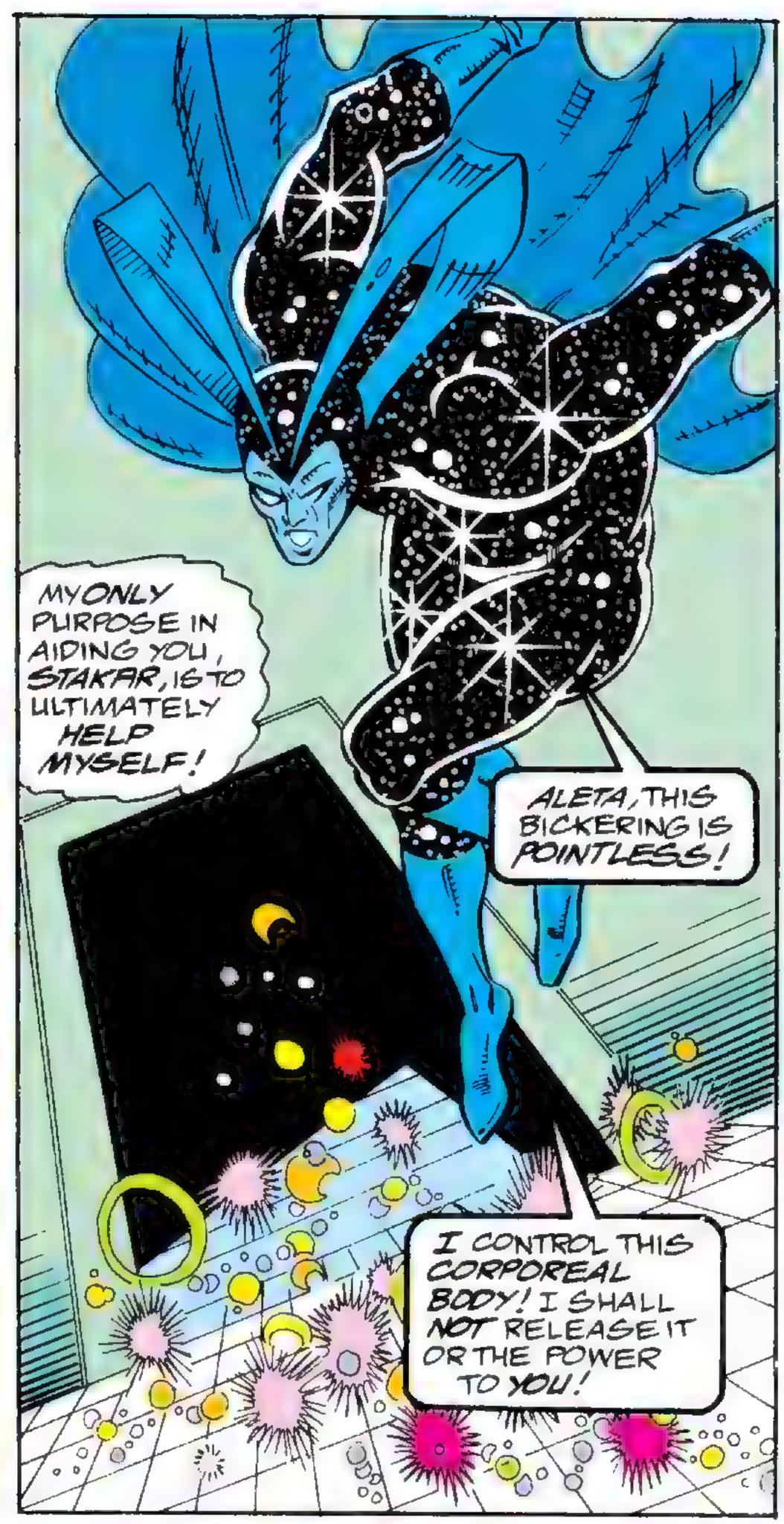

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE EASIER THAN EXPECTED, PUFF ADDER! PERHAPS YOU'D RATHER SPEND YOUR TIME PLAYING WITH THESE!
YOU BETCHA, DOC!

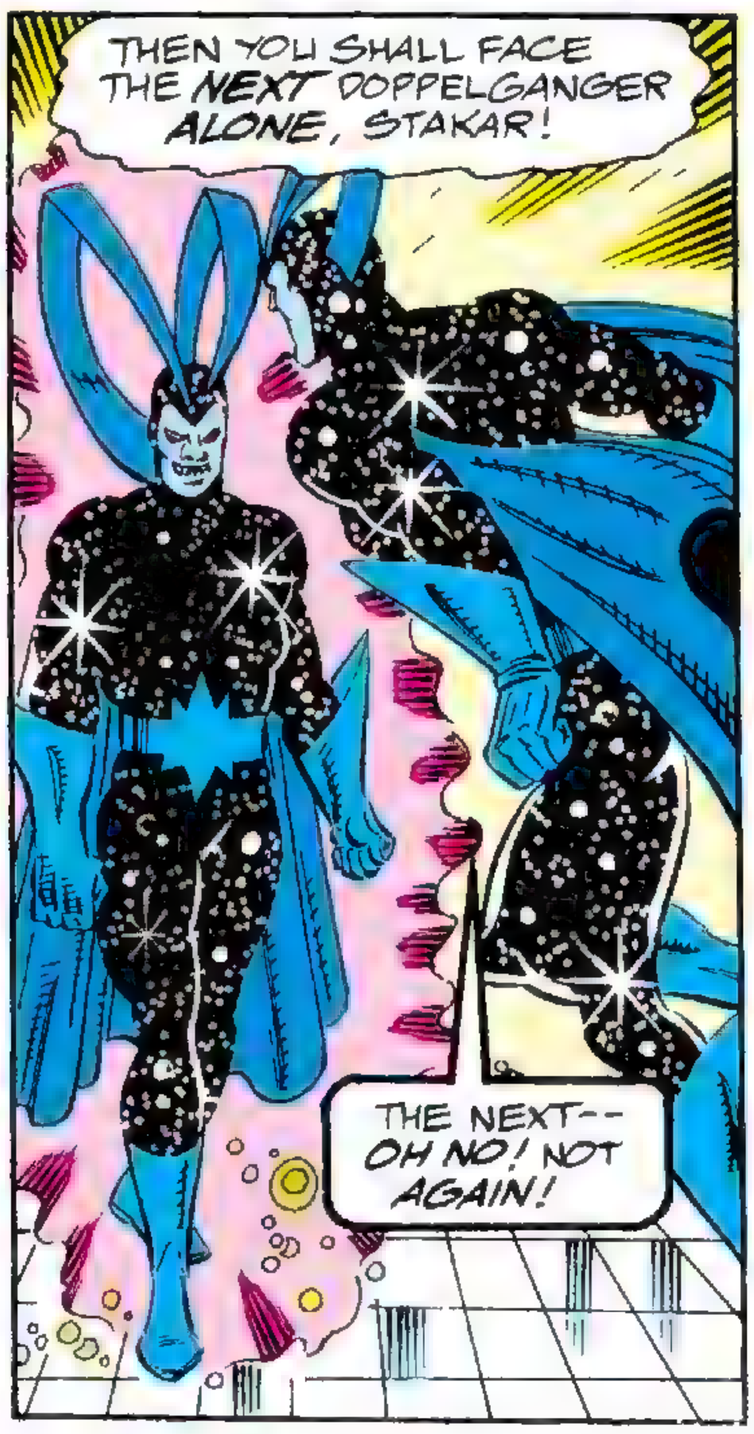
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
HEY! WOTZAT CUTTIN' ME OFF FROM THE BABES?
IT LOOKED LIKE--NAH! IT COULDN'T BE!

WRONG, PUFFADDER! THIS IS HIS SHIELD! BUT IT'S NOW IN THE HANDS OF MAJOR VICTORY!
IZZAT SO?
WELL, I SPIT ON CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND I SPIT ON YOU!
TSSSST
HE'S SPEWING CAUSTIC VENOM! I JUST GOT THE SHIELD UP IN TIME!
ON YOUR FEET, GEEZE! WE NEED YOUR MUSCLE!
HE'S OUT COLD! THAT BIG GORILLA REALLY CLEANED HIS CLOCK!
HAW HAW! YOU NEXT, KITTY CAT BOY!
WHOA! TO COIN A PHRASE: HOW COULD ANYTHING SO BIG-- AND DUMB-- MOVE SO FAST?


OOOHHH-- MY ACHING HEAD! WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M NOT SURE, NIKKI... BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE A DONNYBROOK!
YOU'RE RIGHT, YELLOW-JACKET! WHO'S THAT?
IT'S THE SHOCKER!
AND HE'S CHARGING UP TO ELECTRO-CUTE YOUR TEAMMATE!
NOT IF WE NAIL HIM FIRST, WINGS!
MESSAGE RECEIVED, HOTHAIR!
ZRAP
CHU
SKRATOOM
YEEEEARGH!
UMMMMMFF...

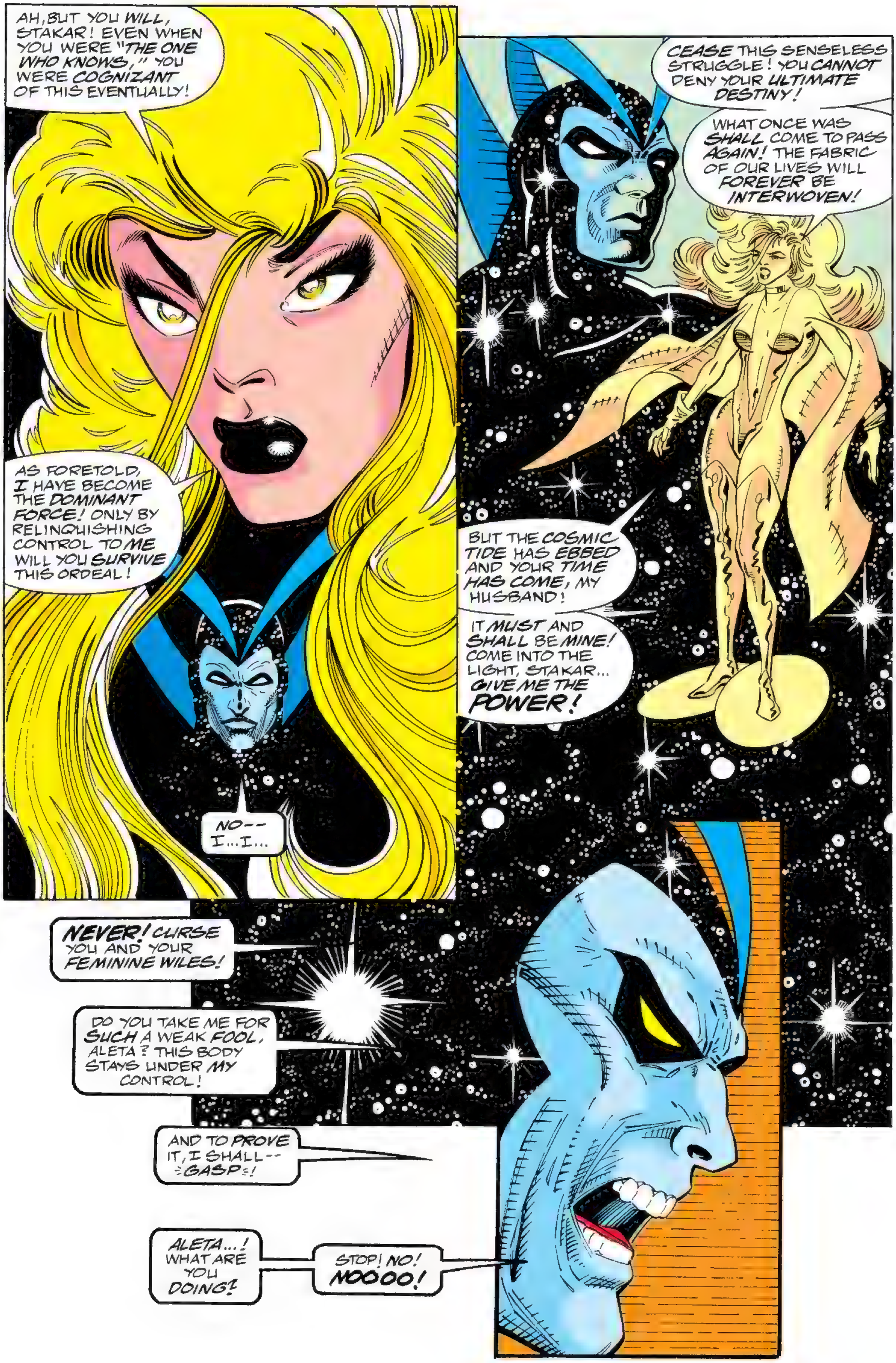
ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION...
YAAAAAH!
SKRAKOW!
THIS EVIL DOPPELGANGER WAS ABOUT TO ABSORB ME...
...BUT ALETA PROVIDED THE EXTRA POWER NECESSARY TO DESTROY IT!


MY ONLY PURPOSE IN AIDING YOU, STAKAR, IS TO ULTIMATELY HELP MYSELF!
ALETA, THIS BICKERING IS POINTLESS!
I CONTROL THIS CORPOREAL BODY! I SHALL NOT RELEASE IT OR THE POWER TO YOU!


THEN YOU SHALL FACE THE NEXT DOPPELGANGER ALONE, STAKAR!
THE NEXT-- OH NO! NOT AGAIN!

YES, STARHAWK! AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
UNTIL YOU ARE CONSUMED AND THE DARK METAMORPHOSIS IS COMPLETE!

STAKAR, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! SURRENDER CORPOREALITY TO ME--OR YOUR ETERNAL SOUL TO THIS DEMON!
NO! I CAN'T--I WON'T!


AH, BUT YOU WILL, STAKAR! EVEN WHEN YOU WERE "THE ONE WHO KNOWS," YOU WERE COGNIZANT OF THIS EVENTUALLY!
CEASE THIS SENSELESS STRUGGLE! YOU CANNOT DENY YOUR ULTIMATE DESTINY!
WHAT ONCE WAS SHALL COME TO PASS AGAIN! THE FABRIC OF OUR LIVES WILL FOREVER BE INTERWOVEN!
AS FORETOLD, I HAVE BECOME THE DOMINANT FORCE! ONLY BY RELINQUISHING CONTROL TO ME WILL YOU SURVIVE THIS ORDEAL!
BUT THE COSMIC TIDE HAS EBBED AND YOUR TIME HAS COME, MY HUSBAND!
IT MUST AND SHALL BE MINE! COME INTO THE LIGHT, STAKAR... GIVE ME THE POWER!
NO-- I...I...
NEVER! CURSE YOU AND YOUR FEMININE WILES!
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR SUCH A WEAK FOOL, ALETA? THIS BODY STAYS UNDER MY CONTROL!
AND TO PROVE IT, I SHALL-- =GASP=!
ALETA...! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STOP! NO! NOOOO!

MEANWHILE...
NOW, LITTLE MAN-- GARGANTUA CRUSH YOU INTO TINY LITTLE-- HUH? WHO THAT? LOOK LIKE... ME!
I AM YOUR DOPPELGANGER, YOU OAF!
COME--MERGE WITH ME SO THAT I WILL TRULY BE...ALIVE!
CHUNKY! LOOK OUT! THE BIG APE'S REARING BACK FOR A HAYMAKER!
UNNNGH... STILL GROGGY-- WHERE AM I?
I DON'T THINK SO, NIK! HE'S LOOKING UP--AIMING HIGHER!

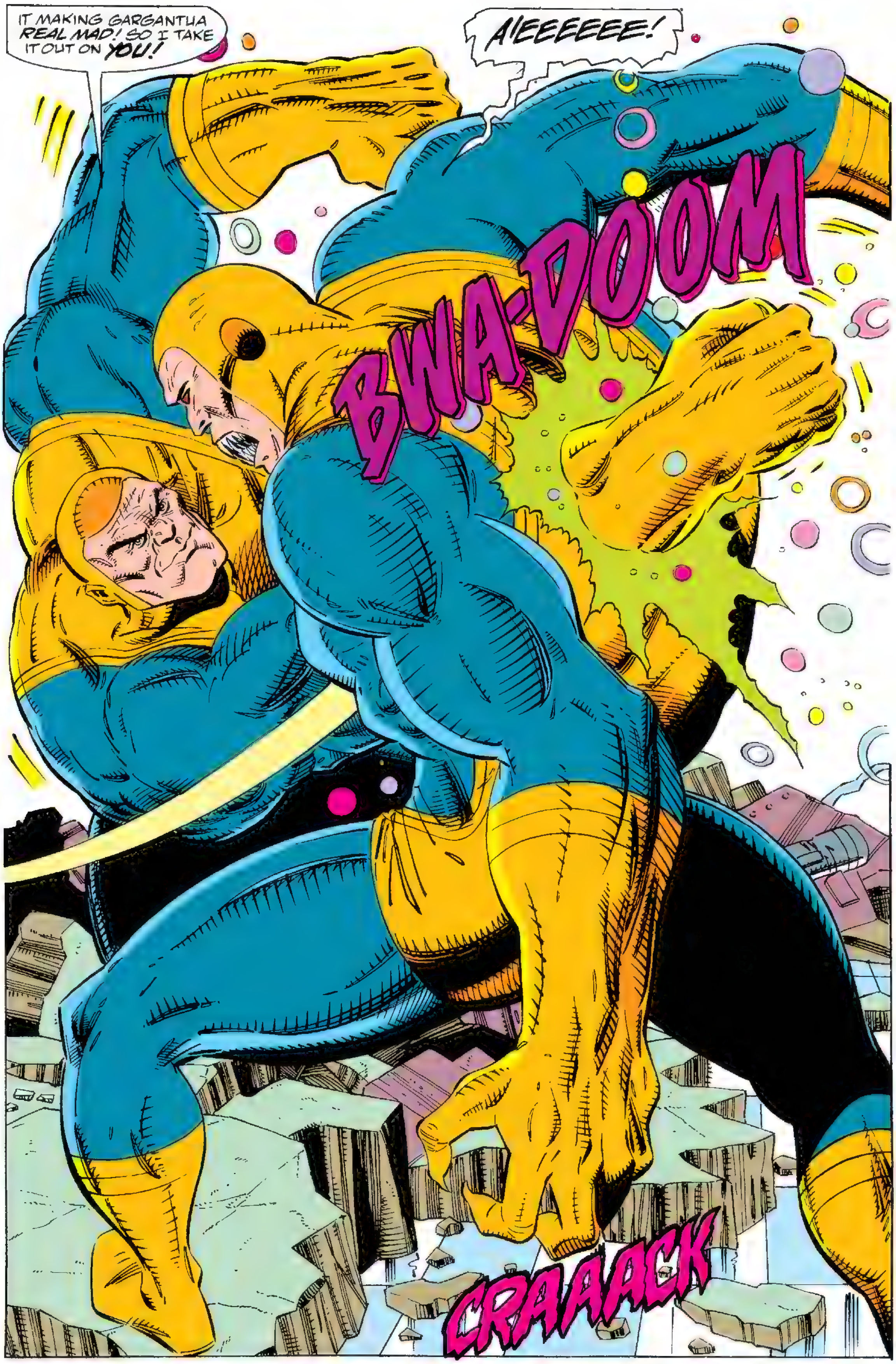
THIS PLACE NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO GARGANTUAS!
WHARAM
GNNNGH!
HOLY-- GLAD THAT DIDN'T COME MY WAY!
UH-OH! HEADS UP, GUARDIANS! MORE DOPPELGANGERS!
GARGANTUA ALL MIXED UP NOW!
I THOUGHT WE WAS BAD GUYS... BUT THESE GUYS LOOK BADDER!
EVEN BAD GOOD GUYS! WHERE THEY COME FROM? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHAT'S GOING ON IS YOUR DEATH, HUMANS!
DOPPELGANGERS ATTACK!
NO PRISONERS!
AT THAT MOMENT:
HEY, SONNY BOY--WHO ELSE DO YOU LIKE TO DRESS UP AS? THE SHE-HULK?
C'MON, CAPTAIN WANNABE--LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
THE NAME IS MAJOR VICTORY--
--REMEMBER IT WHEN THEY'RE FILLING OUT YOUR REPORT IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM!
ZZZAAK
AAAAAARRR!

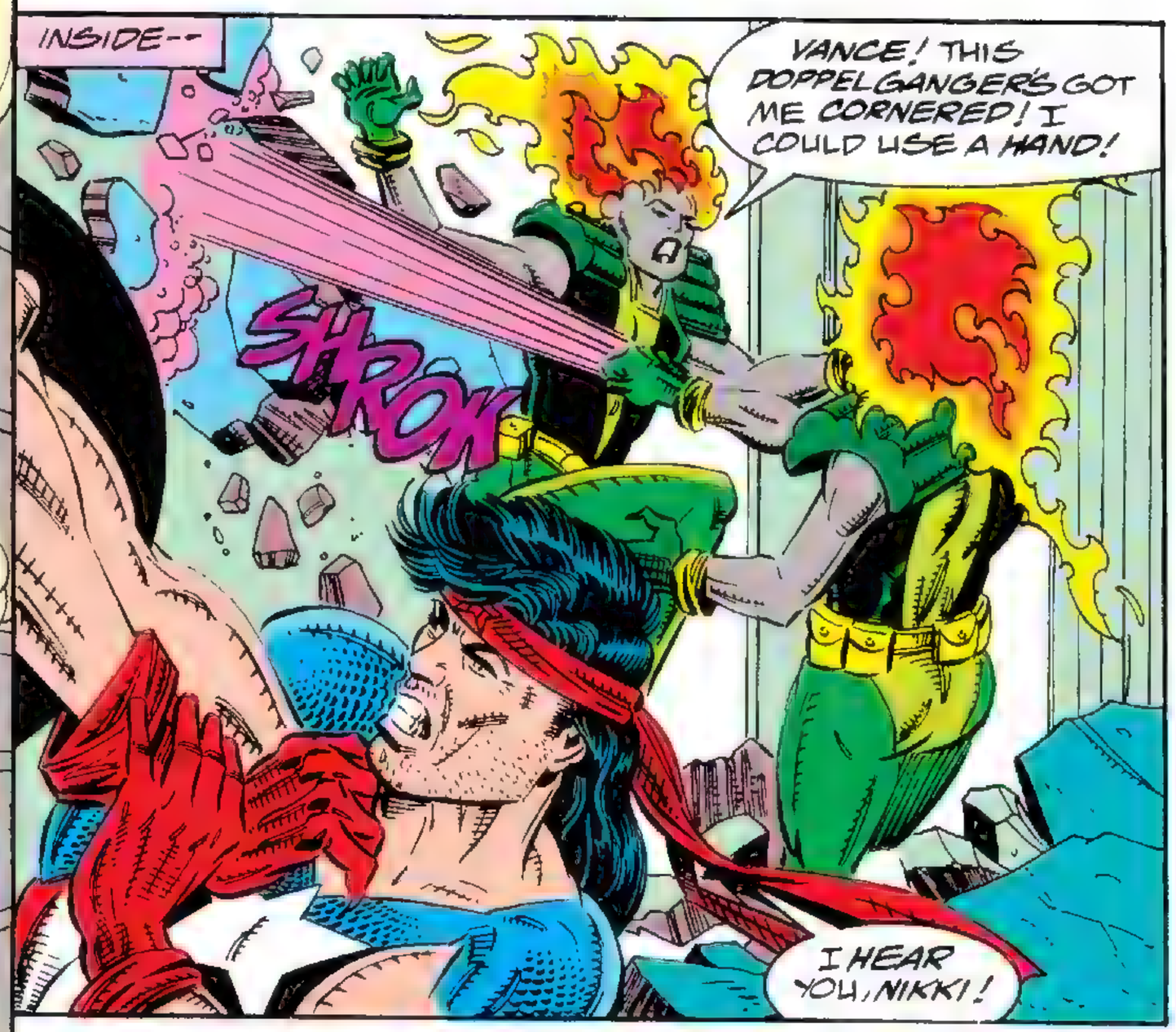
I DON'T USUALLY LOSE MY PSYCHOKINETIC TEMPER LIKE THAT, PUFF ADDER! BUT FOR YOU, I MADE AN EXCEPTION!

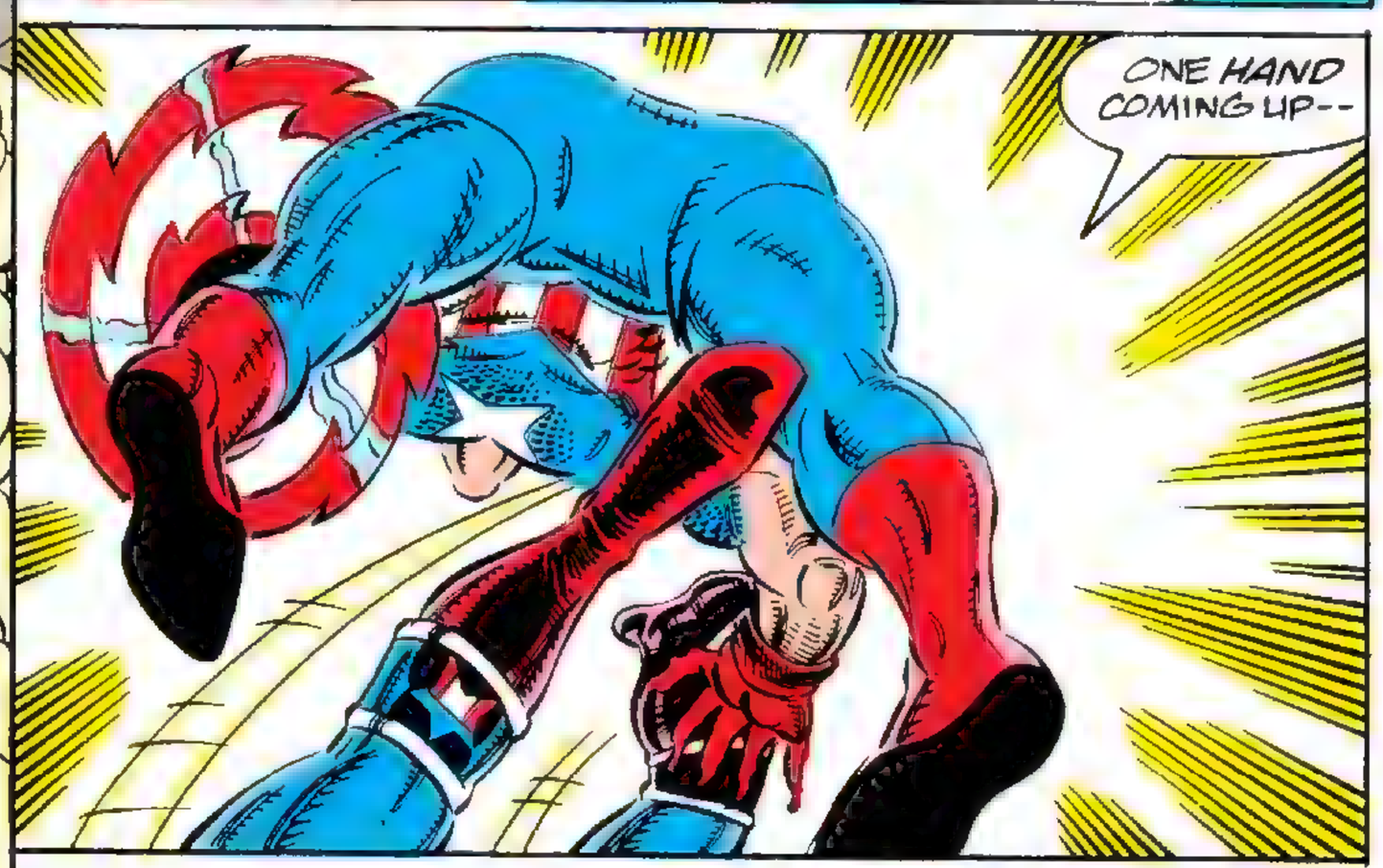
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF...

WHAT'S THAT BUZZING? YEOWTCH! WHY YOU MISERABLE LITTLE WITCH!
WHO?-- YELLOWJACKET! BUT... YOU MUST BE THE SAME SIZE TO ABSORB HER!
BLAST! HER REFLEXES WERE TOO FAST!
SKAK
I'M WARNING YOU, IMPOSTOR--NOBODY'S GETTING ABSORBED AROUND HERE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
PREPARE TO DIE, BRAINLESS BUFFOON!
GARGANTUA TIRED OF BEING CALLED NAMES!
TIRED OF EVERYBODY LAUGHING AT ME... BEING ORDERED AROUND LIKE DOG... MADE TO FEEL STUPID!
URRMMFFF...


IT MAKING GARGANTUA REAL MAD! SO I TAKE IT OUT ON YOU!
AIEEEEEE!
BWA-BOOM
CRAAACK

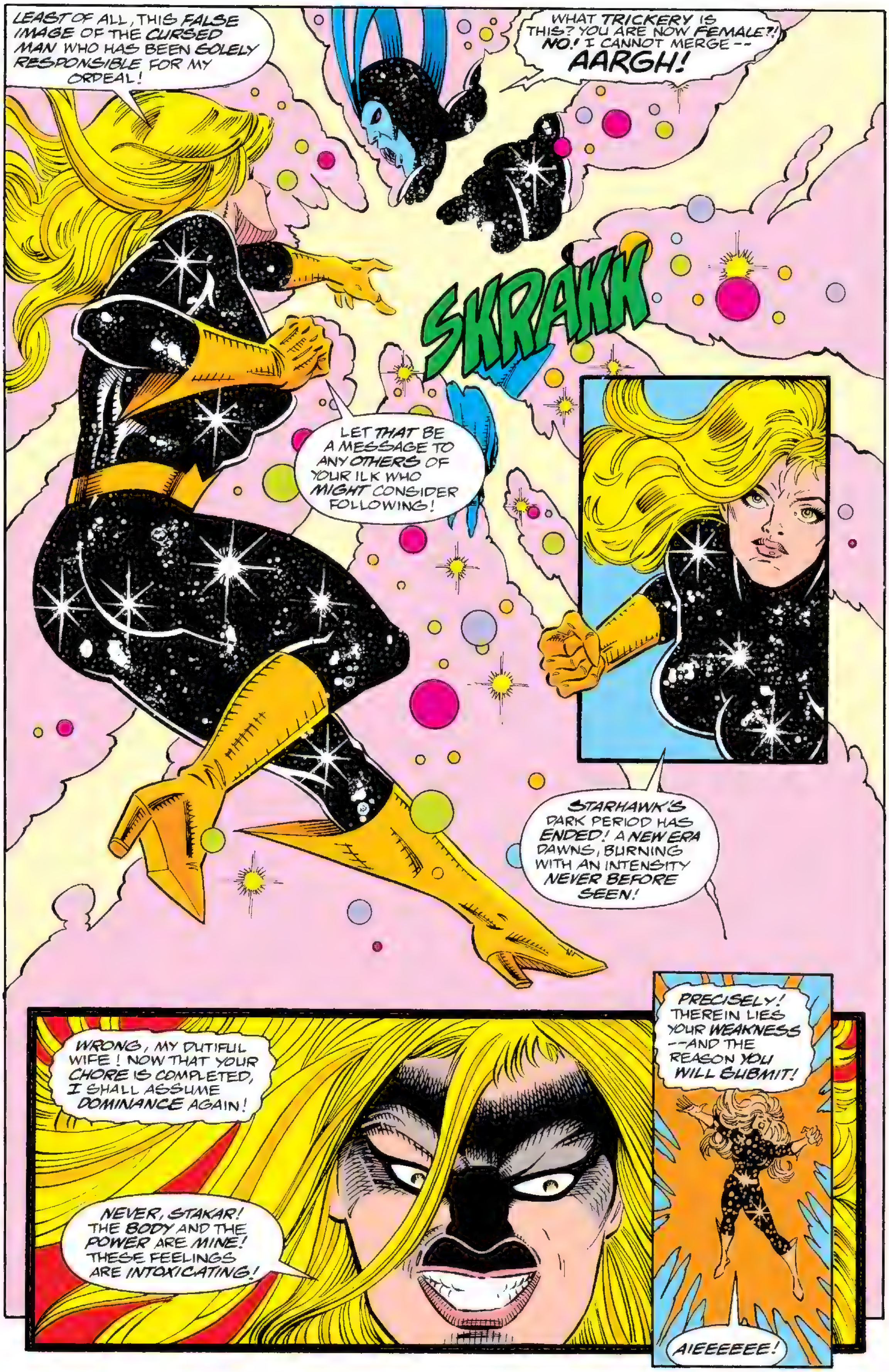
THE FORCE OF GARGANTUA'S BLOW REVERBERATES THROUGHOUT MANHATTAN!
ALTHOUGH THE OUTSIDE WORLD CANNOT SEE THE PITCHED BATTLE TAKING PLACE WITHIN AVENGERS MANSION...
THROOM
BRA-KOW
SZZRAK
... THEY CAN CERTAINLY HEAR IT!

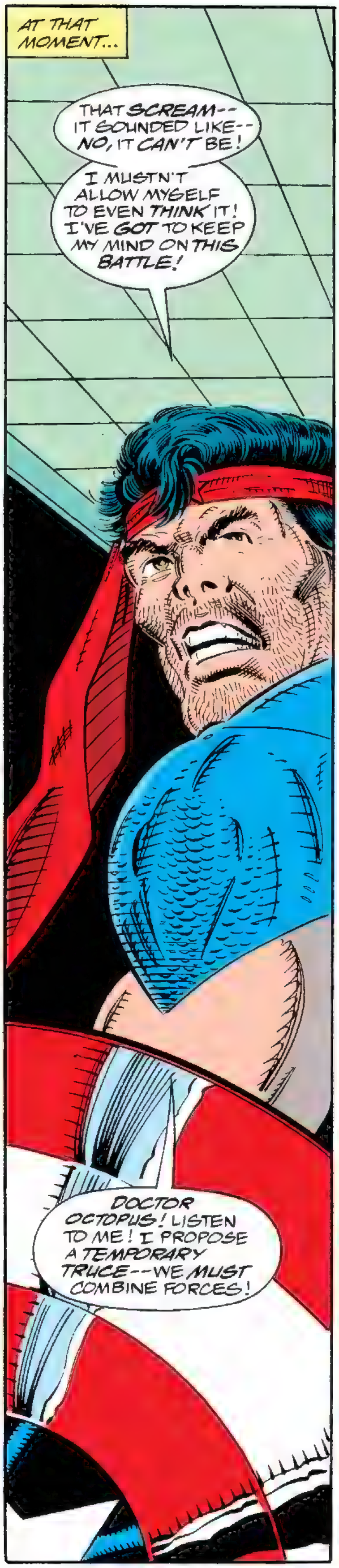

INSIDE--
VANCE! THIS DOPPELGANGER'S GOT ME CORNERED! I COULD USE A HAND!
SHROK
I HEAR YOU, NIKKI!


ONE HAND COMING UP--

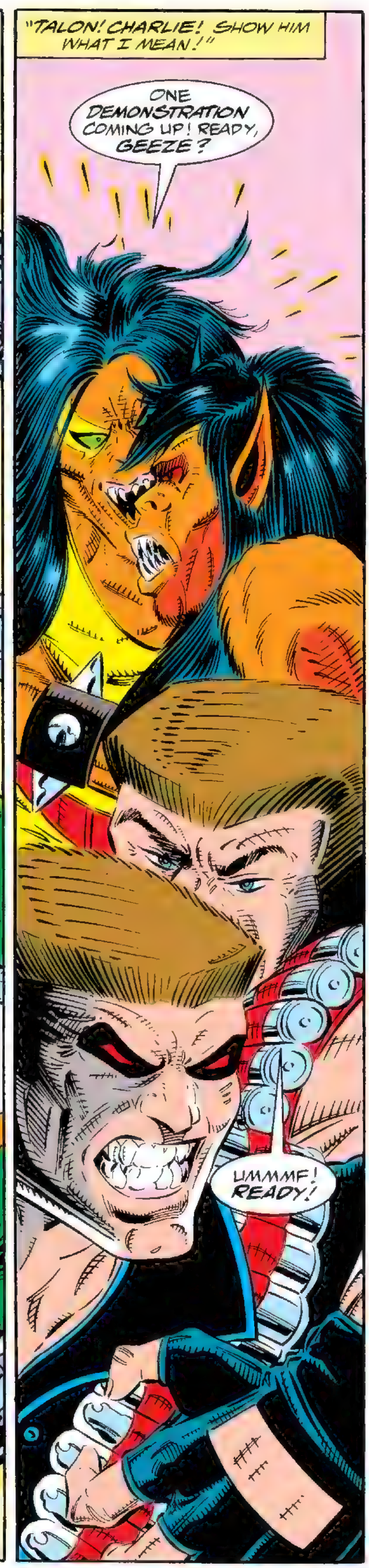
--TWO DOPPELGANGERS DISPOSED OF! THANKS, M.V.!
THWHAM

ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION...
ALETA! UNLESS YOU STOP THIS RELENTLESS INTERNAL CONFLICT, WE ARE BOTH DOOMED!
I BARELY HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DESTROY THIS DOPPELGANGER!
INDEED, STAKAR! I CAN SENSE THAT YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR LIMIT...
...AND UNLESS YOU RELEASE ME NOW, THE NEXT EVIL DUPLICATE WILL ABSORB YOU!
SHE'S RIGHT! I CANNOT WITHSTAND ANOTHER ATTACK!
URASK
RELINQUISH CONTROL, STAKAR! ONLY BY GIVING ME THE CORPOREAL BODY SHALL WE PREVAIL!
FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, I GRANT YOUR REQUEST, ALETA!
BUT BE WARNED! THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT!
AT LAST! I'M FREE! I'M ALIVE!
I-- EXIST!
AND I SWEAR BY HARKOV'S BONES, NO ONE SHALL EVER IMPRISON ME AGAIN!


LEAST OF ALL, THIS FALSE IMAGE OF THE CURSED MAN WHO HAS BEEN SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ORDEAL!
WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS? YOU ARE NOW FEMALE?! NO! I CANNOT MERGE -- AARGH!
SKRAKK
LET THAT BE A MESSAGE TO ANY OTHERS OF YOUR ILK WHO MIGHT CONSIDER FOLLOWING!
STARHAWK'S DARK PERIOD HAS ENDED! A NEW ERA DAWNS, BURNING WITH AN INTENSITY NEVER BEFORE SEEN!
WRONG, MY DUTIFUL WIFE! NOW THAT YOUR CHORE IS COMPLETED, I SHALL ASSUME DOMINANCE AGAIN!
NEVER, STAKAR! THE BODY AND THE POWER ARE MINE! THESE FEELINGS ARE INTOXICATING!
PRECISELY! THEREIN LIES YOUR WEAKNESS --AND THE REASON YOU WILL SUBMIT!
AIEEEEEE!

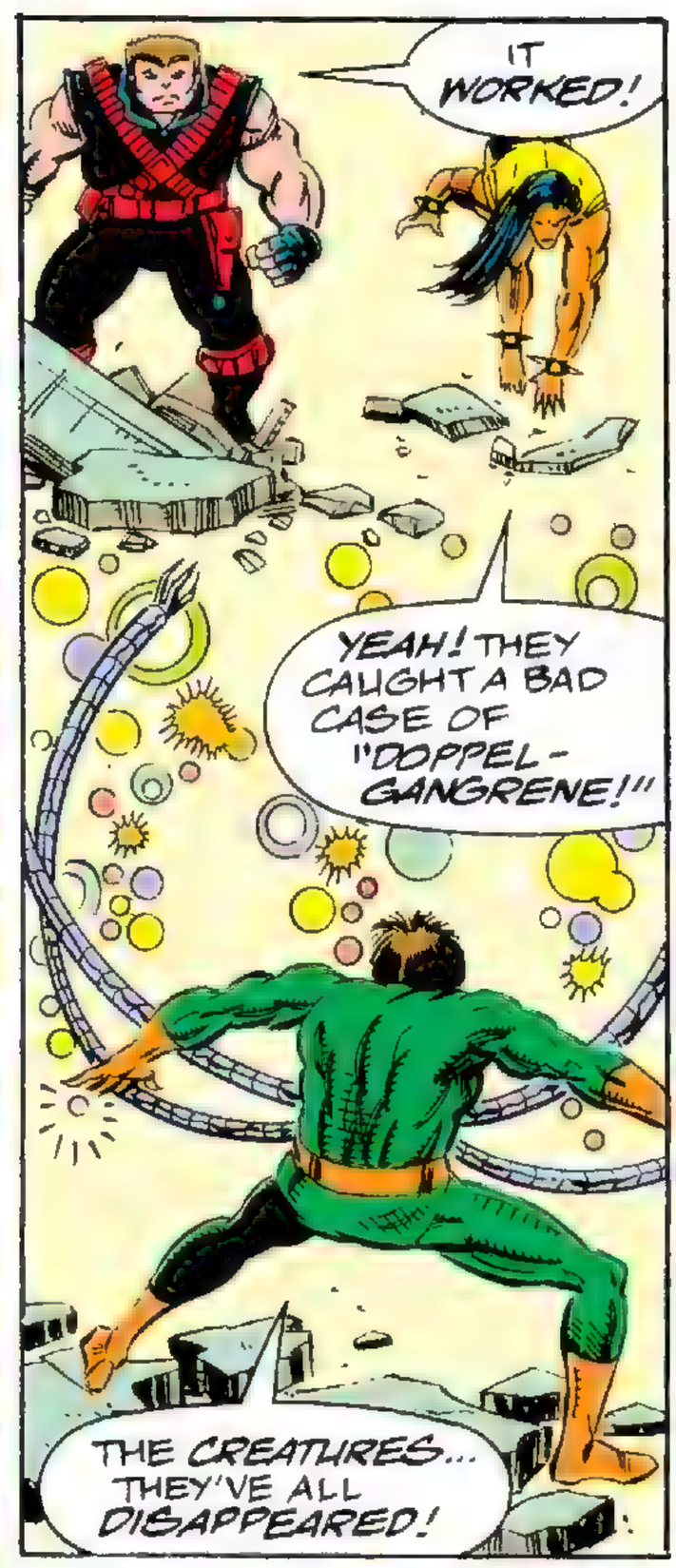

AT THAT MOMENT...
THAT SCREAM-- IT SOUNDED LIKE-- NO, IT CAN'T BE!
I MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO EVEN THINK IT! I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY MIND ON THIS BATTLE!
DOCTOR OCTOPUS! LISTEN TO ME! I PROPOSE A TEMPORARY TRUCE--WE MUST COMBINE FORCES!

DON'T TRY TO DISTRACT ME, YOU PSEUDO-CAPTAIN AMERICA!
I'M BUSY FENDING OFF THIS DISTORTED DUPLICATE OF MYSELF!
EXACTLY MY POINT, OCTAVIUS! WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE DOPPELGANGERS!

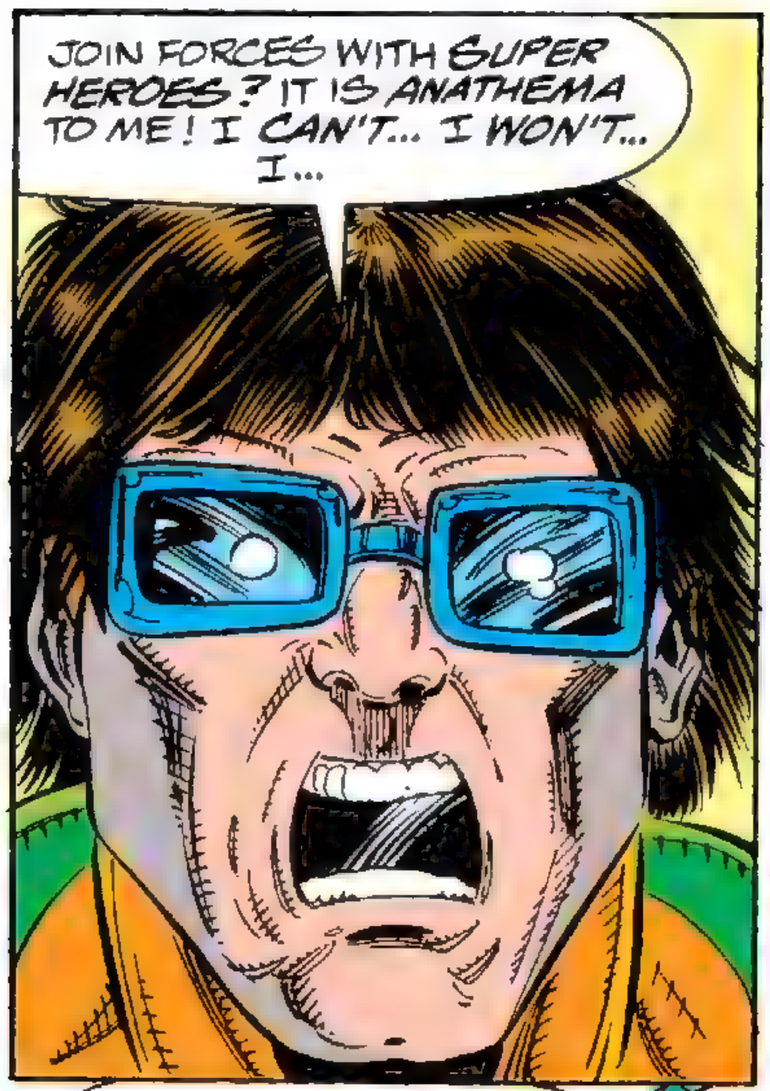

"TALON! CHARLIE! SHOW HIM WHAT I MEAN!"
ONE DEMONSTRATION COMING UP! READY, GEEZE?
UMMMF! READY!

COMING AT YOU, DOCTOR OCTAGENARIAN!
CAN'T YOU EVER CALL ANYONE BY THEIR REAL NAME?

"YES SIR, MOST HONORABLE MISTER TWENTY SEVEN, O KEEPER OF THE BAD HAIRCUT!"
WHARAM


IT WORKED!
YEAH! THEY CAUGHT A BAD CASE OF "DOPPEL-GANGRENE!"
THE CREATURES... THEY'VE ALL DISAPPEARED!

BUT NOT FOR LONG, OCTAVIUS! HERE COMES ANOTHER BATCH!
AND UNLESS WE HIT THEM HARD, FAST AND AS A UNIT, THIS IS GOING TO KEEP HAPPENING UNTIL WE'VE ALL BEEN ABSORBED!

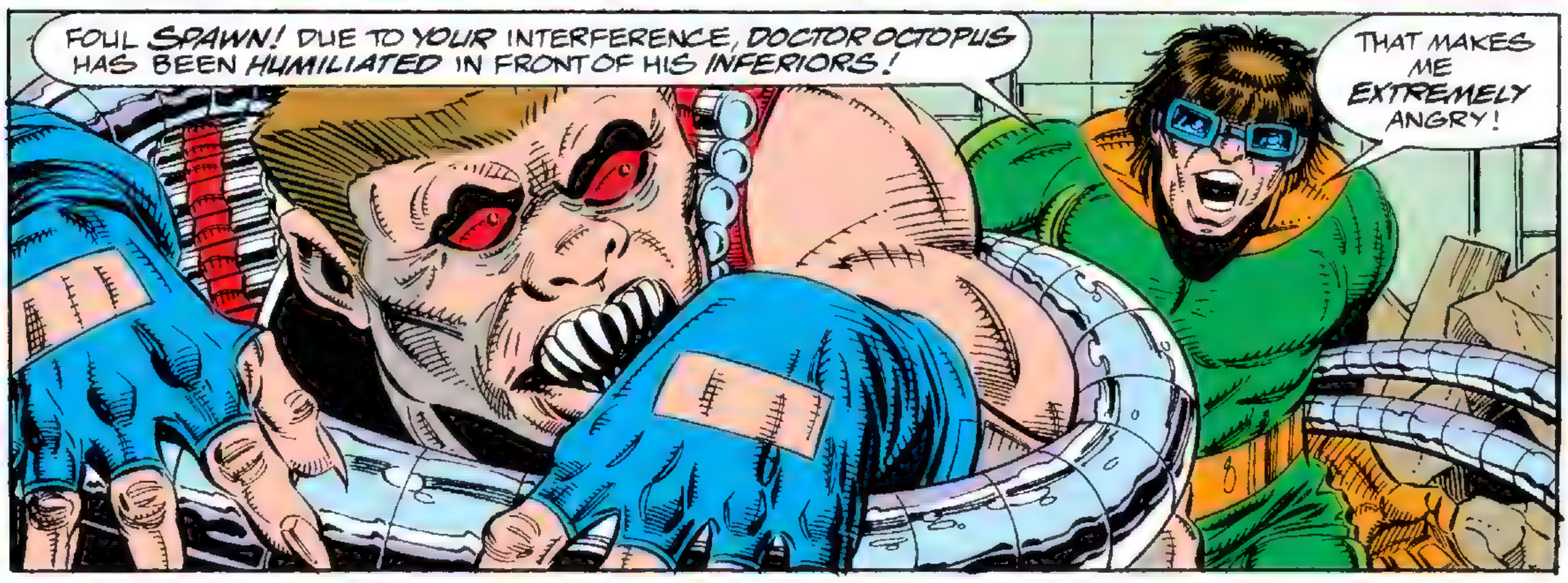


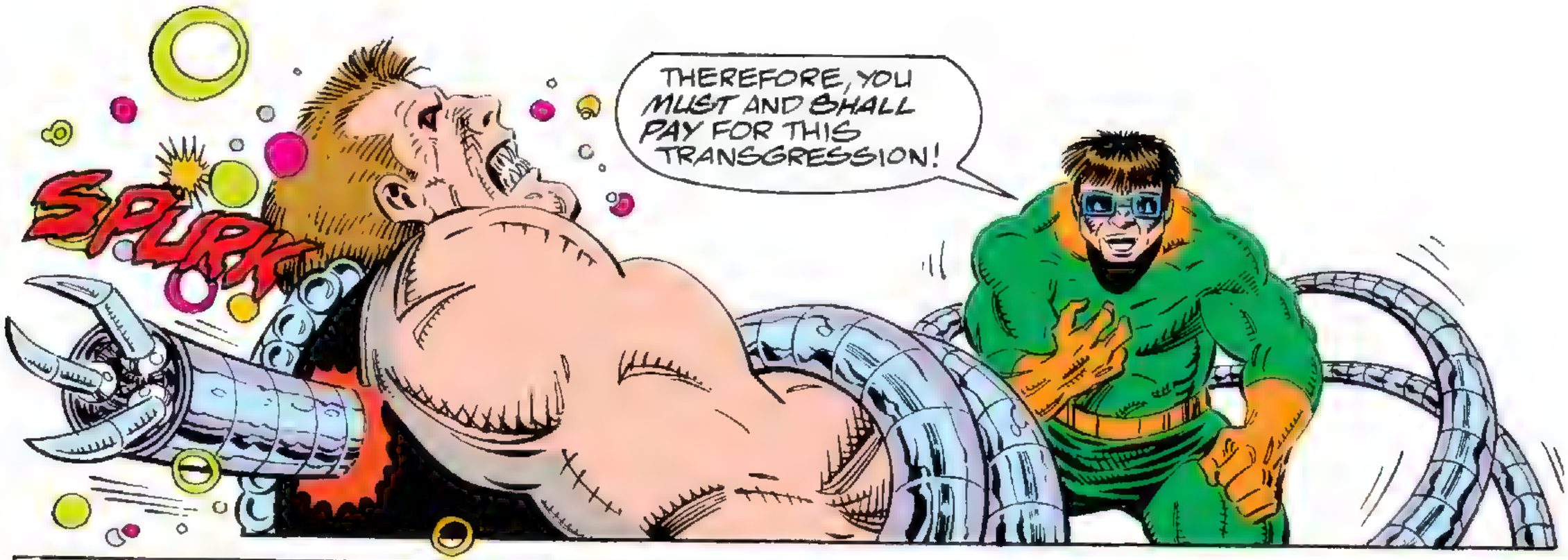
PUFF ADDER! SHOCKER! GARGANTUA! FALL IN BEHIND--ERR--

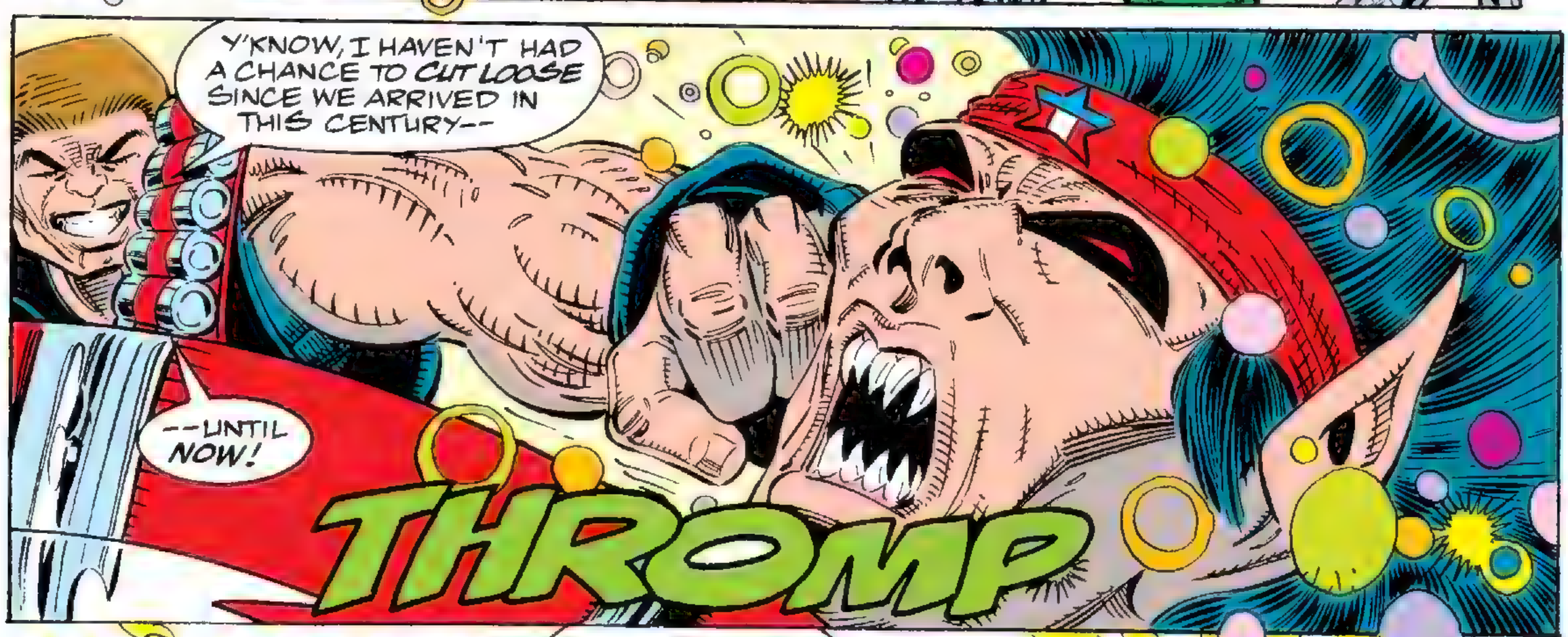
MAJOR VICTORY, DOCTOR! SPREAD OUT! DON'T MEET YOUR OWN DOPPEL-GANGER HEAD ON! KEEP THEM CONFUSED!

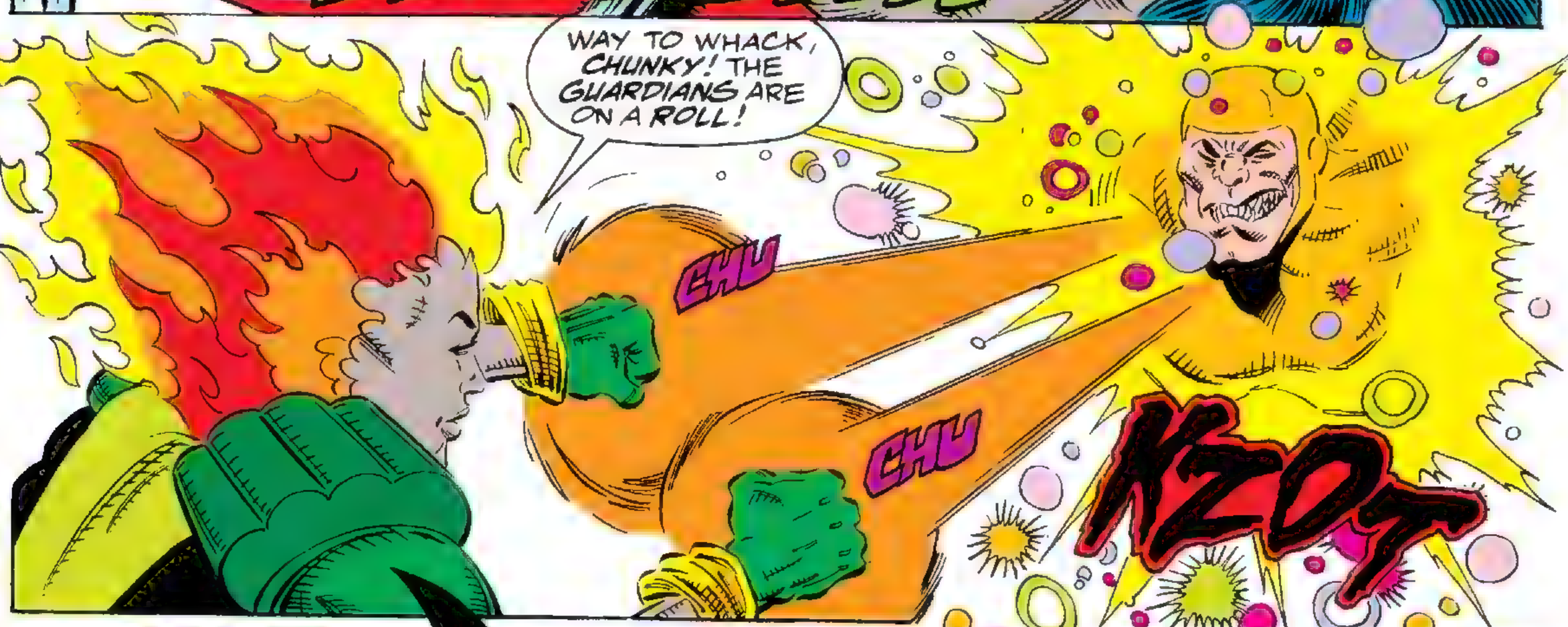
AND MOST IMPORTANT, DON'T HOLD BACK!

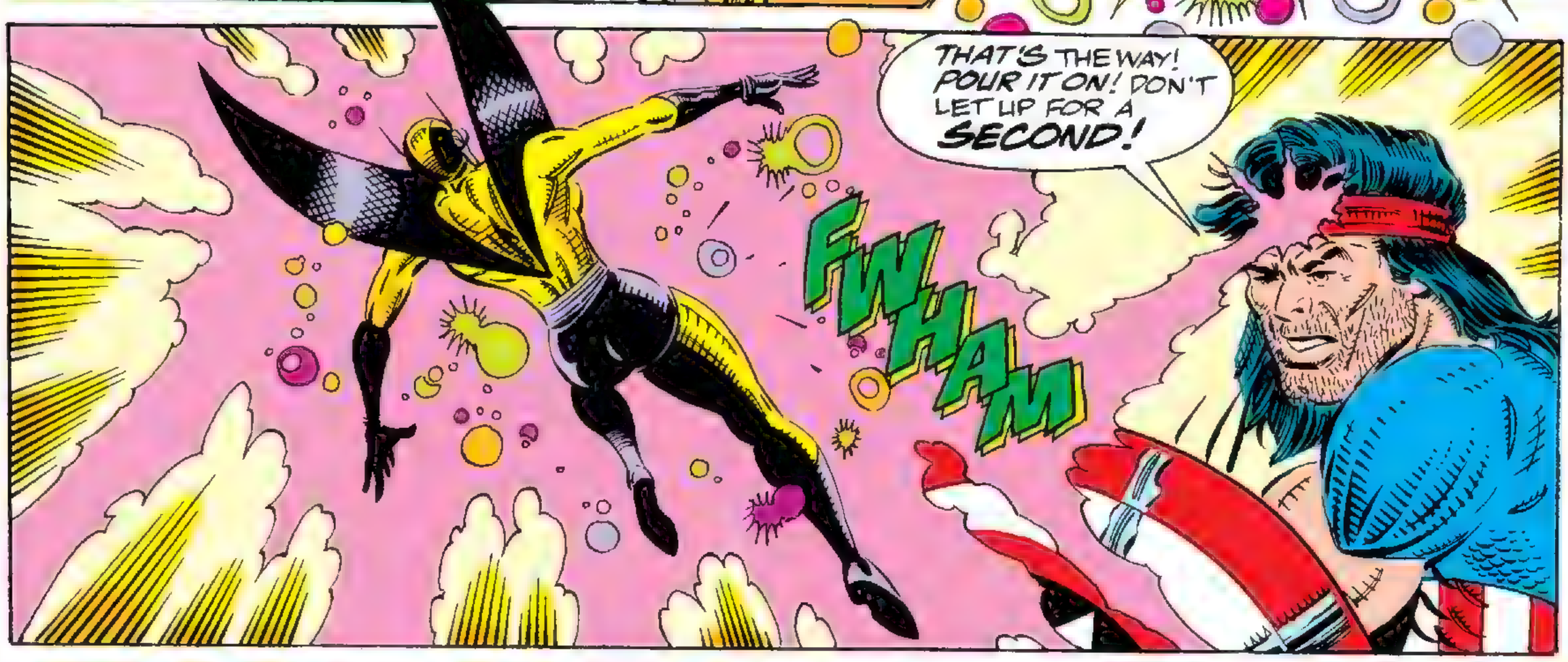
BRAM



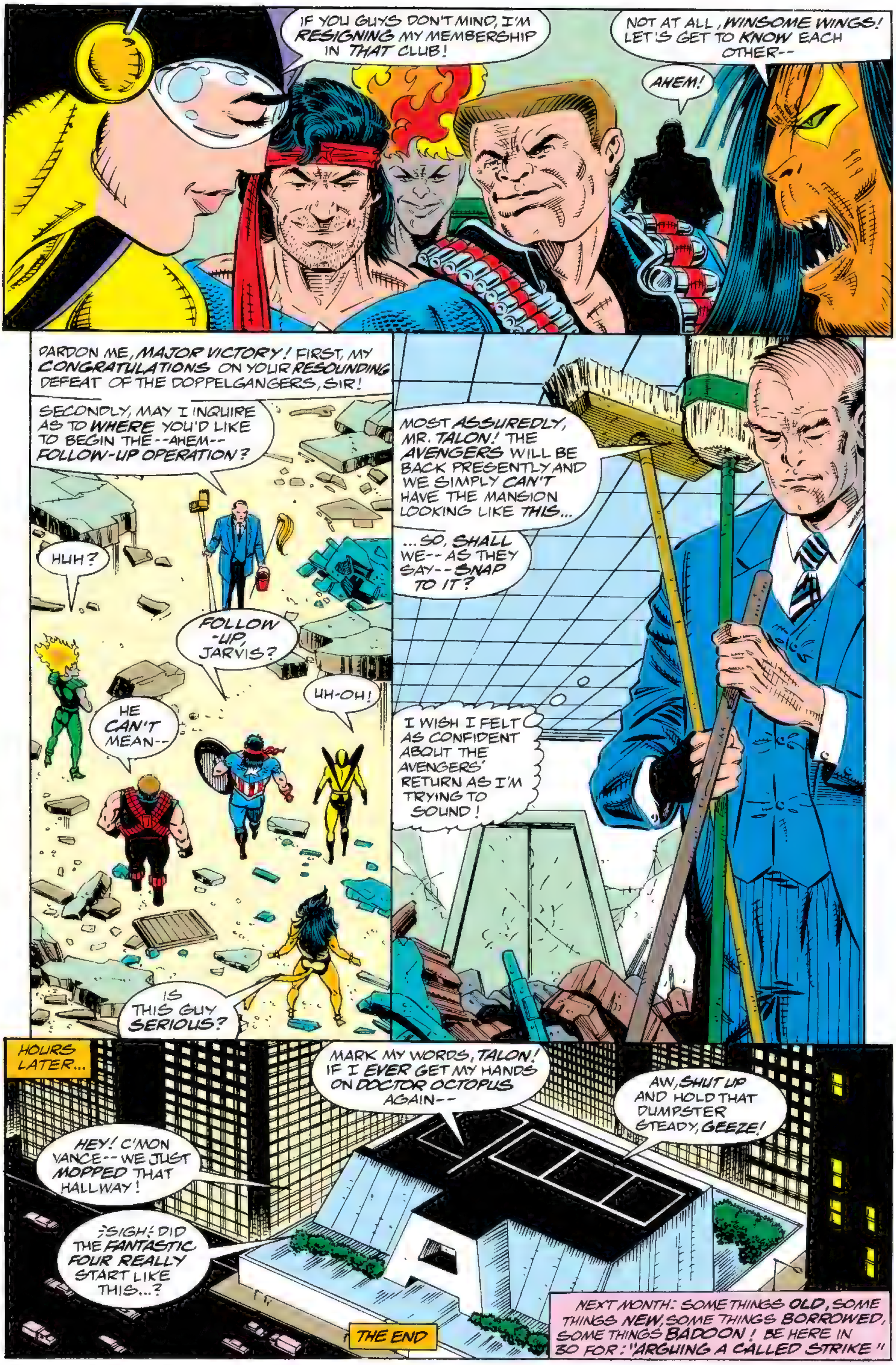

SPURK
THEREFORE, YOU MUST AND SHALL PAY FOR THIS TRANSGRESSION!


Y'KNOW, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO CUT LOOSE SINCE WE ARRIVED IN THIS CENTURY--
--UNTIL NOW!
THROMP


WAY TO WHACK, CHUNKY! THE GUARDIANS ARE ON A ROLL!
CHU
CHU
KZOT


THAT'S THE WAY! POUR IT ON! DON'T LET UP FOR A SECOND!
FWHAM

SOON--
ELOQUENT AS ALWAYS, GARGANTUA!
LOOK! BAD FAKERS ALL GO BYE-BYE!
BUT HE'S RIGHT! THE DOPPELGANGERS ARE VANISHING AND NO REPLACEMENTS ARE APPEARING!*
IT'S OVER-- WE'VE WON!
*THANKS TO GALACTUS IN INFINITY WAR #4.-- CRAIG
GOOD! NOW WE CAN DISPOSE OF YOU SO-CALLED GUARDIANS AND RESUME MY ORIGINAL INTENTION--
--THE TAKEOVER OF AVENGERS MANSION!
NO! NEW FRIENDS HELPED US!
THE BIG SLOB'S RIGHT! THESE GUYS SAVED OUR BUTTS!
IF ANYONE SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF, IT'S YOU, OCTOPUS!
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE! LET'S NOT BE HASTY ABOUT THIS!
I--
WE--
YOU--
HELP!
FEE FI FO FUM! BEAT HIS HEAD LIKE A BIG BASS DRUM!
C'MERE, DOC! THIS STORY AIN'T OVER YET!
YEAH--THE ENDING IS A REAL SHOCKER!


IF YOU GUYS DON'T MIND, I'M RESIGNING MY MEMBERSHIP IN THAT CLUB!
NOT AT ALL, WINSOME WINGS! LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER--
AHEM!
PARDON ME, MAJOR VICTORY! FIRST, MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RESOUNDING DEFEAT OF THE DOPPELGANGERS, SIR!
SECONDLY, MAY I INQUIRE AS TO WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE--AHEM--FOLLOW-UP OPERATION?
HUH?
FOLLOW-UP, JARVIS?
HE CAN'T MEAN--
UH-OH!
IS THIS GUY SERIOUS?
MOST ASSUREDLY, MR. TALON! THE AVENGERS WILL BE BACK PRESENTLY AND WE SIMPLY CAN'T HAVE THE MANSION LOOKING LIKE THIS...
...SO, SHALL WE--AS THEY SAY--SNAP TO IT?
I WISH I FELT AS CONFIDENT ABOUT THE AVENGERS' RETURN AS I'M TRYING TO SOUND!
HOURS LATER...
MARK MY WORDS, TALON! IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON DOCTOR OCTOPUS AGAIN--
AW, SHUT UP AND HOLD THAT DUMPSTER STEADY, GEEZE!
HEY! C'MON VANCE--WE JUST MOPPED THAT HALLWAY!
;SIGH; DID THE FANTASTIC FOUR REALLY START LIKE THIS...?
THE END
NEXT MONTH: SOME THINGS OLD, SOME THINGS NEW, SOME THINGS BORROWED, SOME THINGS BADOON! BE HERE IN 30 FOR: "ARGUING A CALLED STRIKE"

MARVEL COMICS
DOOMED!!
SILVER SABLE
& THE WILD PACK
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
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$1.25 US
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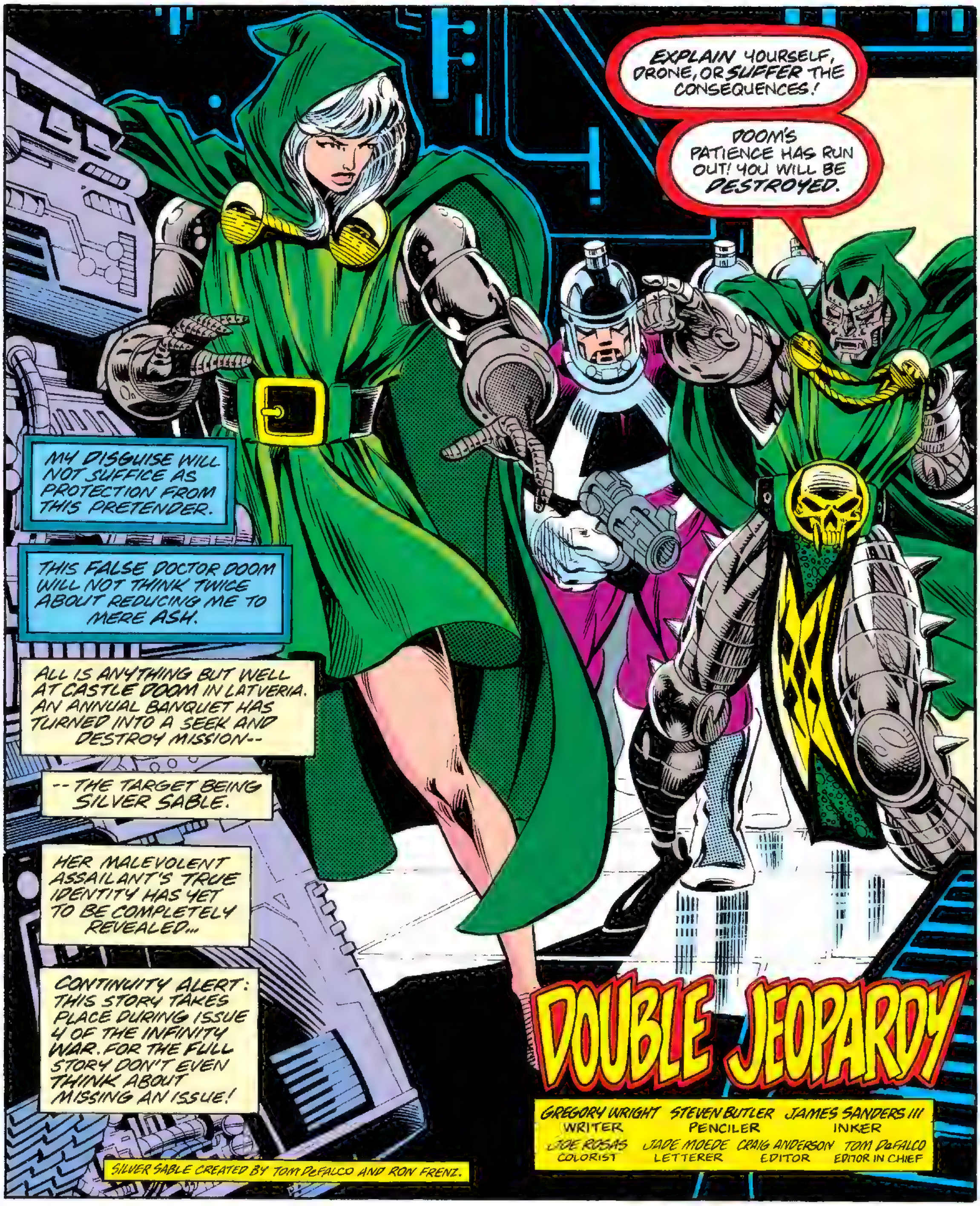
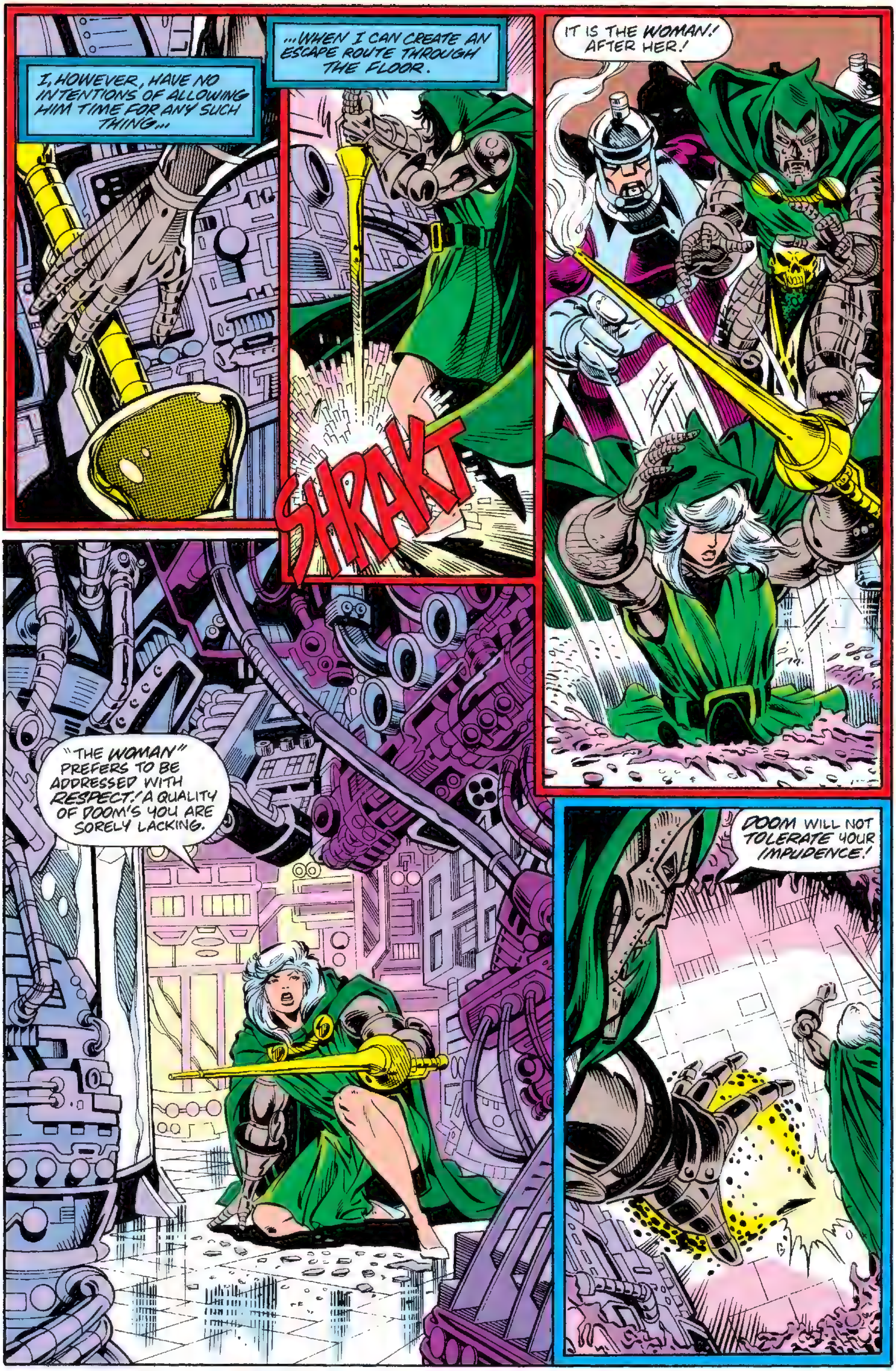
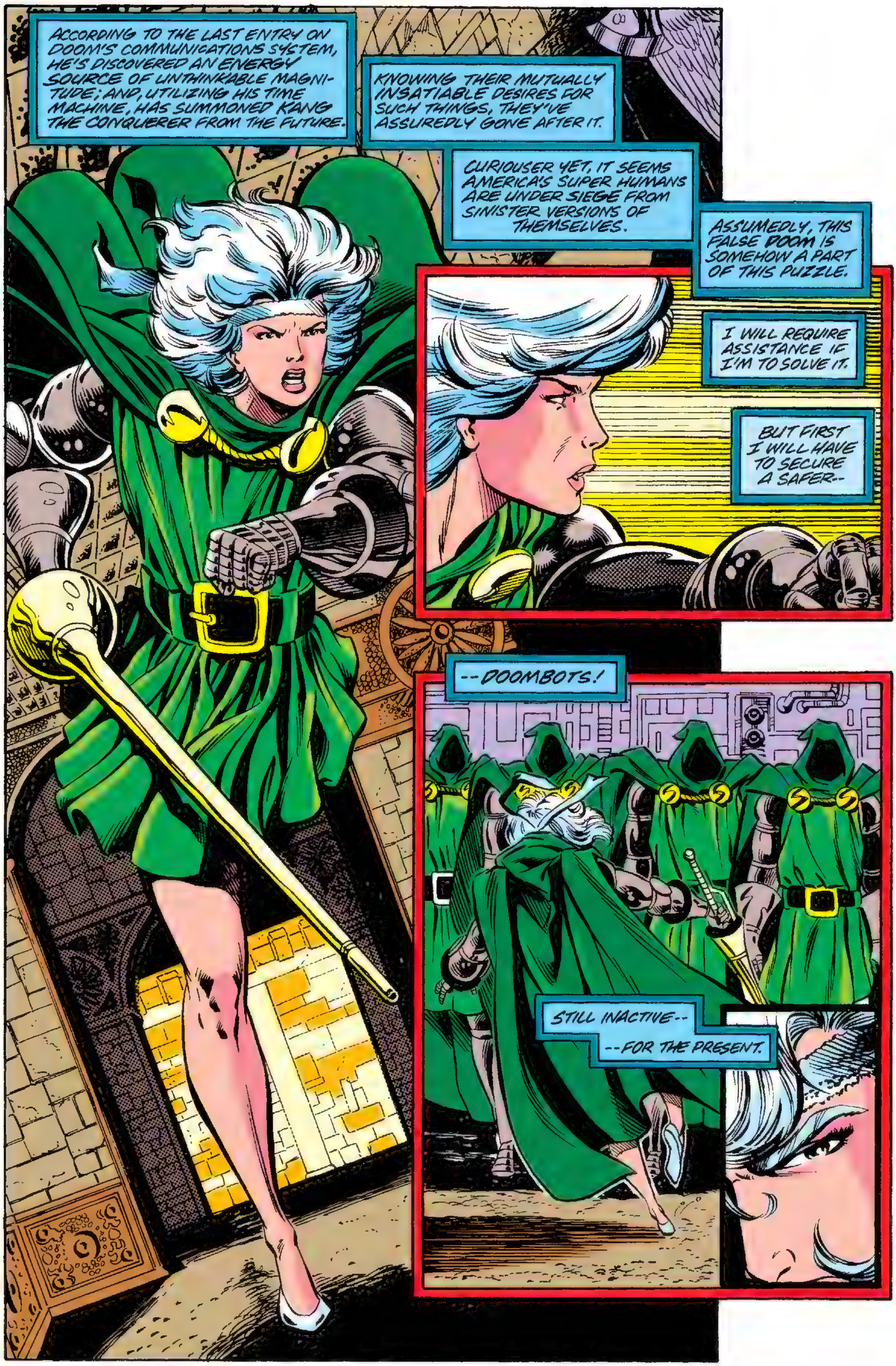
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

RELENTLESSLY TRAINED IN MULTIPLE FORMS OF HAND-TO-HAND AND ARMED COMBAT, **SILVER SABLE** WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE COMMAND OF HER FATHER'S PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER UNIT, THE **WILDPACK.** UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, SHE HAS SINCE TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THE ULTIMATE MERCENARY COMBAT FORCE, NOW THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF HER BELOVED HOMELAND, SYMKARIA.

STAN LEE PRESENTS. . .SILVER SABLE AND THE WILD PACK




I, HOWEVER, HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF ALLOWING HIM TIME FOR ANY SUCH THING...
...WHEN I CAN CREATE AN ESCAPE ROUTE THROUGH THE FLOOR.
SHRAK!
IT IS THE WOMAN! AFTER HER!
"THE WOMAN" PREFERS TO BE ADDRESSED WITH RESPECT! A QUALITY OF DOOM'S YOU ARE SORELY LACKING.
DOOM WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR IMPUDENCE!


ACCORDING TO THE LAST ENTRY ON DOOM'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, HE'S DISCOVERED AN ENERGY SOURCE OF UNTHINKABLE MAGNITUDE; AND, UTILIZING HIS TIME MACHINE, HAS SUMMONED KANG THE CONQUERER FROM THE FUTURE.
KNOWING THEIR MUTUALLY INSATIABLE DESIRES FOR SUCH THINGS, THEY'VE ASSUREDLY GONE AFTER IT.
CURIOUSER YET, IT SEEMS AMERICA'S SUPER HUMANS ARE UNDER SIEGE FROM SINISTER VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES.
ASSUMEDLY, THIS FALSE DOOM IS SOMEHOW A PART OF THIS PUZZLE.
I WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IF I'M TO SOLVE IT.
BUT FIRST I WILL HAVE TO SECURE A SAFER--
--DOOMBOTS!
STILL INACTIVE--
--FOR THE PRESENT.

ELSEWHERE IN THE NIGHT, SABLE'S WILD PACK ARE EN ROUTE TO DOOM'S CASTLE, HAVING DEDUCED, FROM AN UNUSUAL LACK OF RADIO COMMUNICATION, THAT SILVER SABLE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE.

OF COURSE, WHETHER THEY'RE RIGHT OR NOT, THEY RISK SABLE'S WRATH FOR TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS...

THROOOOOM

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY MS. SABLE WOULD *VOLUNTARILY* VISIT *DOCTOR DOOM* IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THEY HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR MANY YEARS, *BATTLESTAR*. LATVERIA HELPED HER COUNTRY, *SYMKARIA*, RETAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE DURING WORLD WAR II.

HEH. SANDBAGS IS STILL HACKED OFF OVER SABLE'S UNCLE SWATTIN' HIM ONE!

AH THINK HE'S JUS' REALIZIN' HE'S GONNA LOSE OUR LI'L *WAGER*!

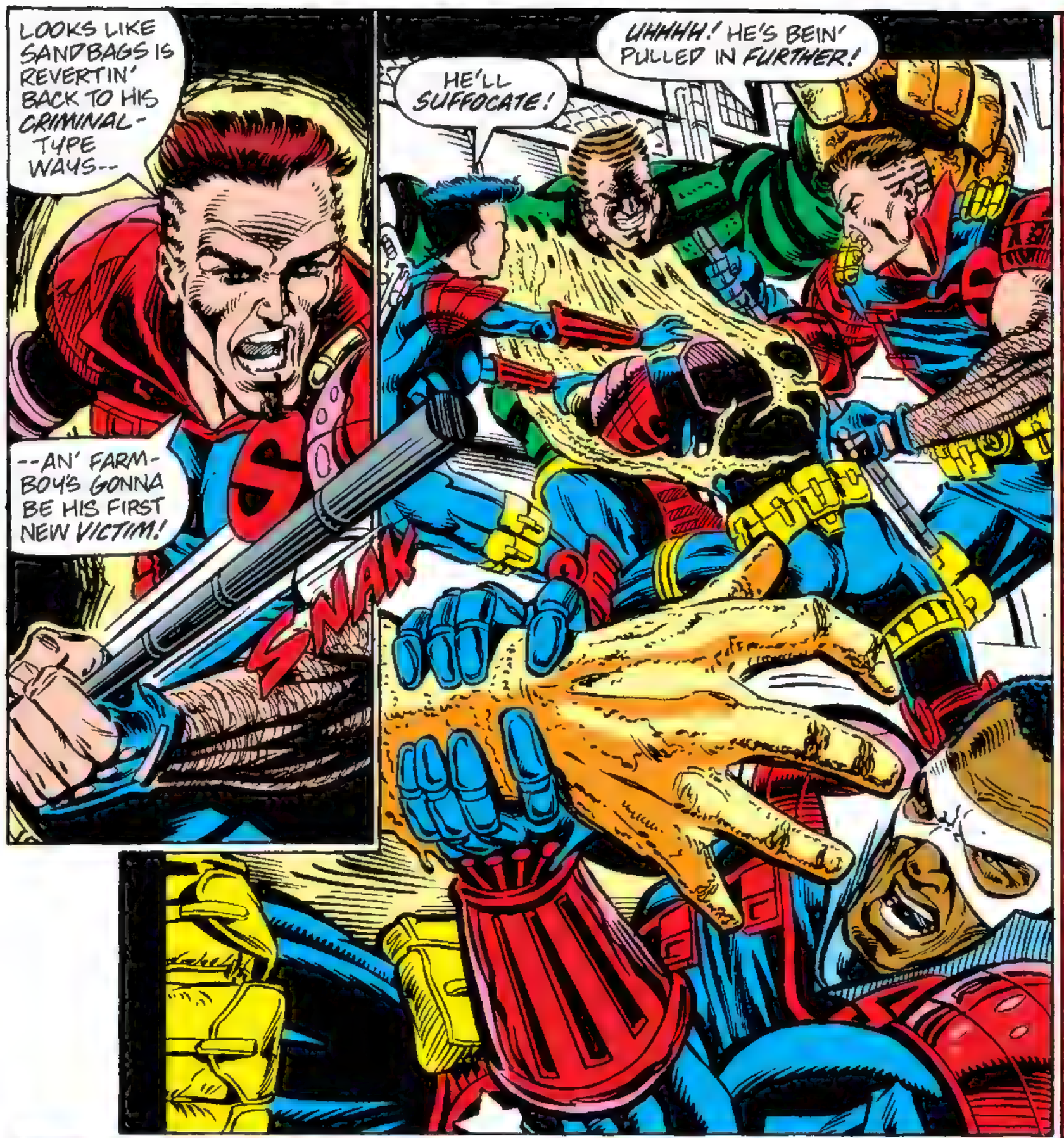
THE *DEE-LIC-IOUS* SILVER SABLE WILL SOON BE MAH *MAIN COURSE*!

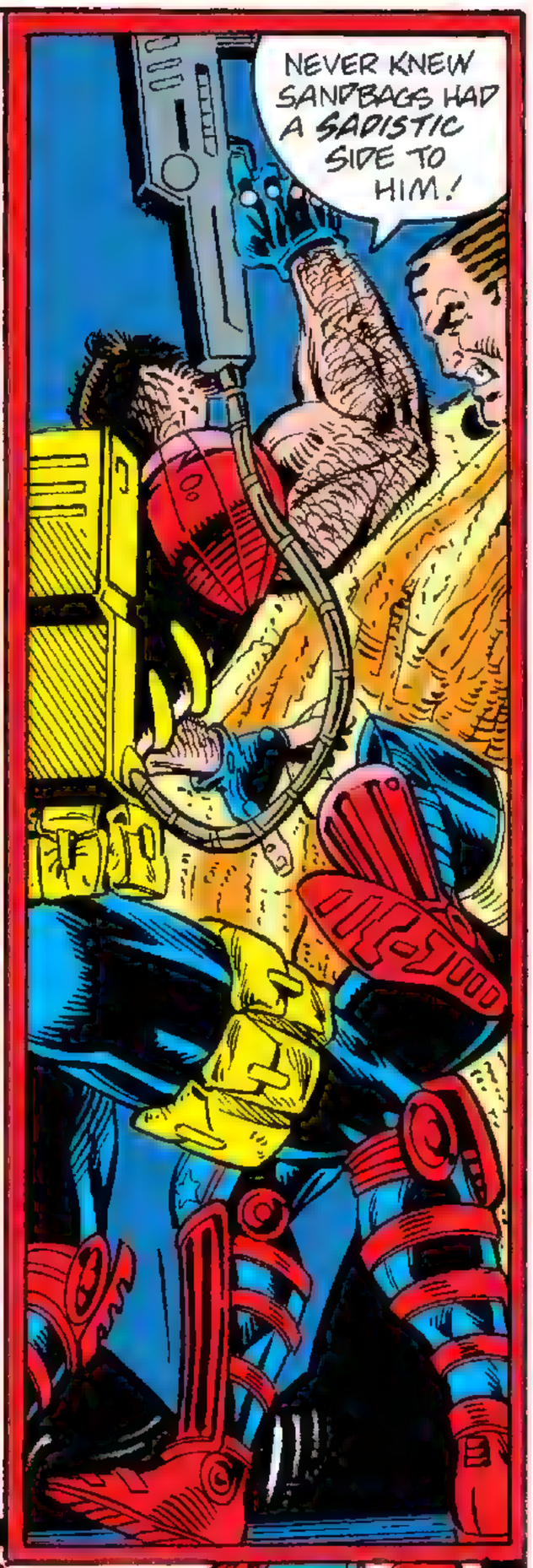
'SPECIALLY AFTER AH SAVE HER FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THAT VARMINT, *DOOM*.

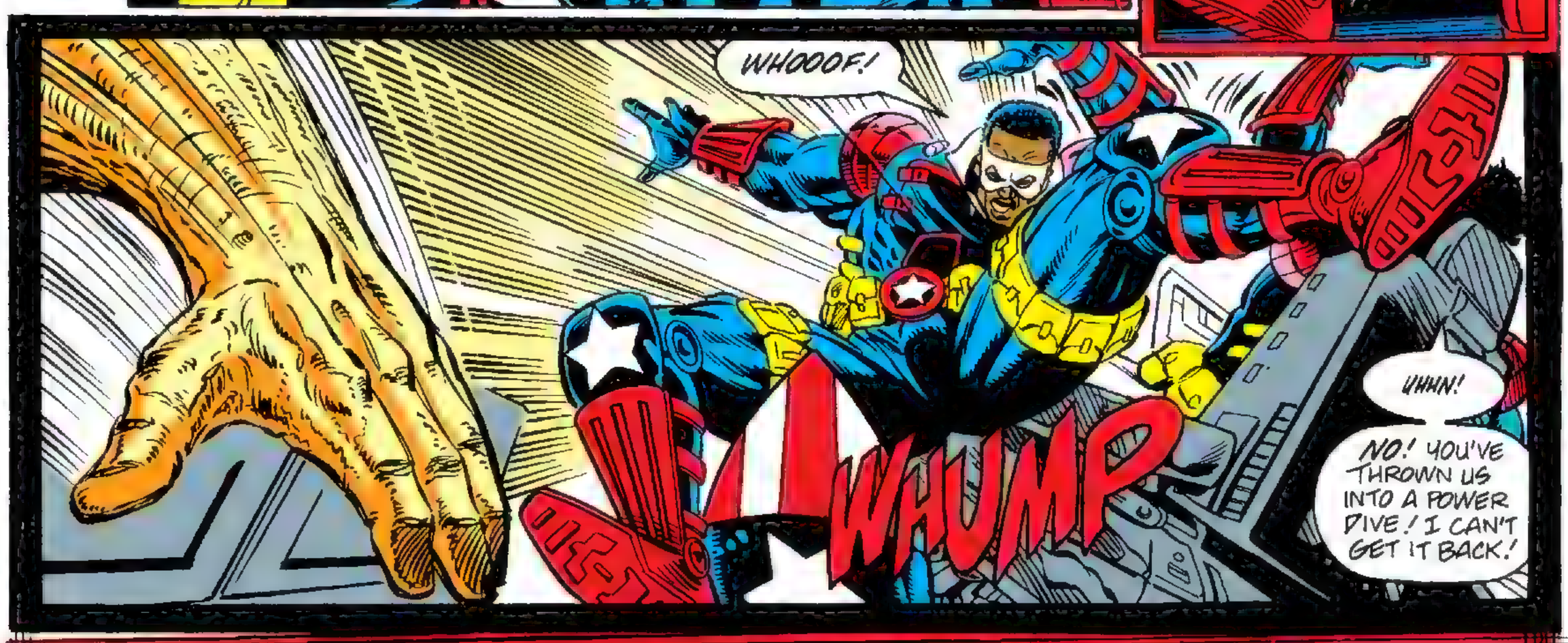
'MEMBER, SANDMAN... *ONE THOUSAND* CRISP ONES!

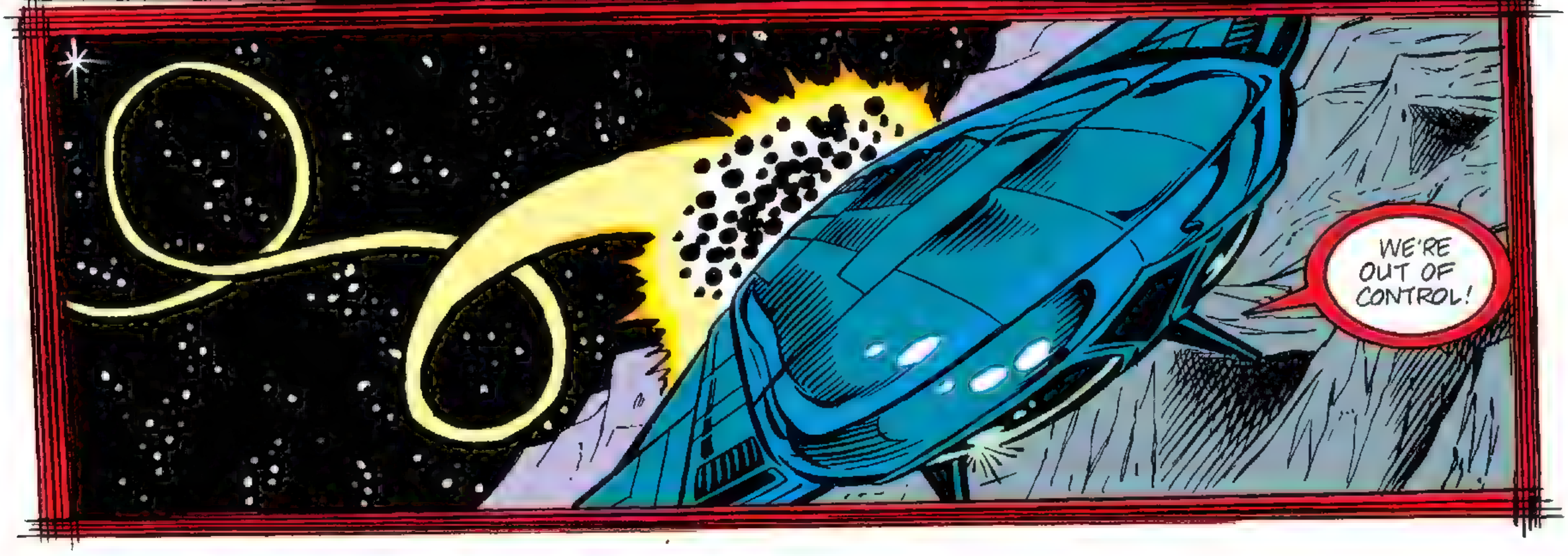
...YES. I REMEMBER THE BET, POWELL... BUT YOU'LL *NEVER* SEE THAT COOL GRAND, AND YOU'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE 'A MONTHS LEFT!

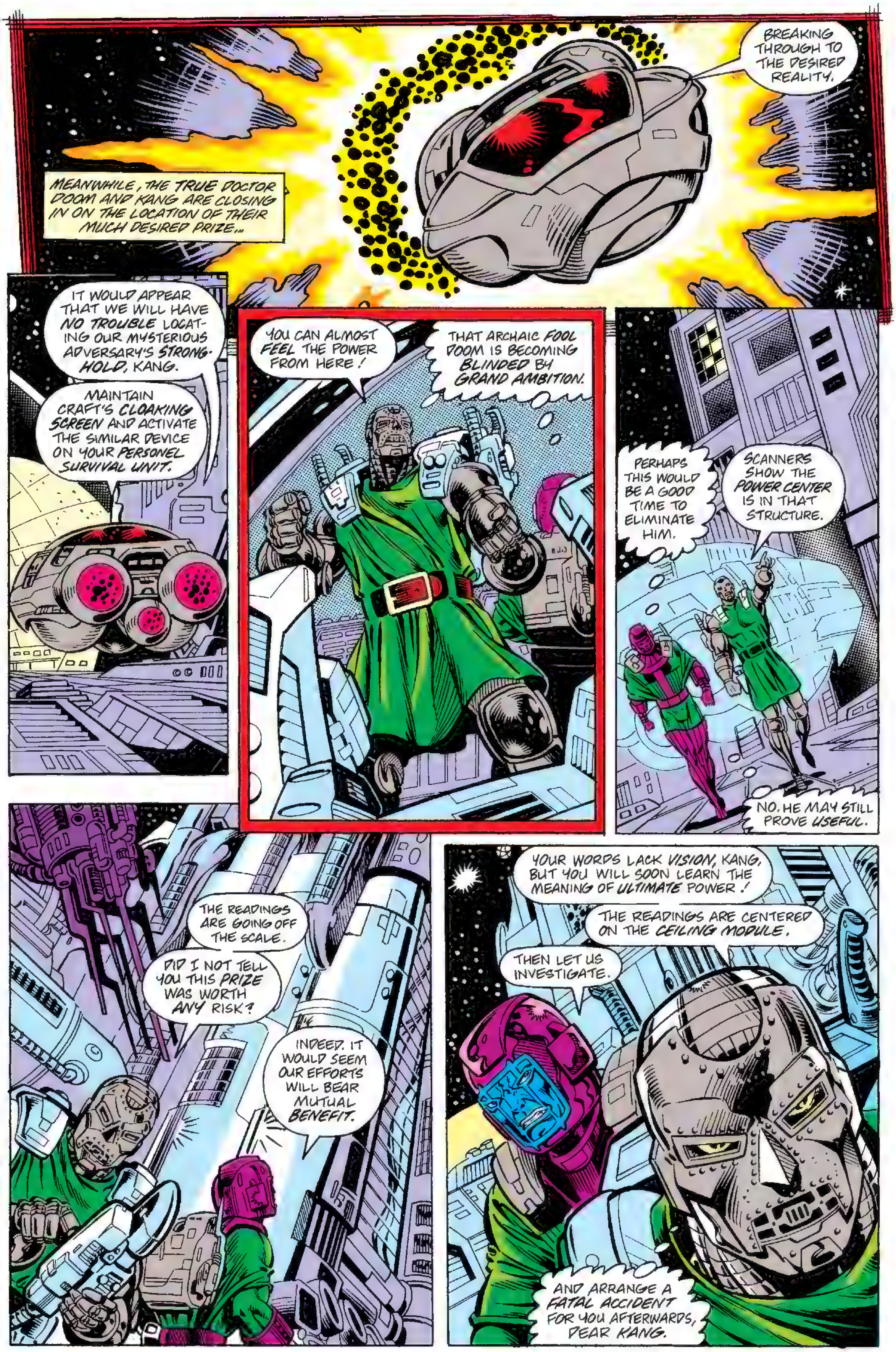
HEH HEH. FARMBOY'D HAVE MORE LUCK BACK HOME IN THE BARN!
YOU AIN'T A BIT FUNNY, CRIPPLER.
COURSE AH WOULDN'T MIND IF LIL' OLE CHEN HERE'D WHET MAH APPETITE!
MOVE YOUR HAND OR I'LL CUT IT OFF AND WEAR IT ON MY BELT.
WHAT IN THE-- STOP SCREWING AROUND BACK THERE!
I AGREE WITH QUENTINO-- THIS IS NO PLACE FOR HIGH SCHOOL PRANKS!
JUS' WHAT'RE YA TRYIN' TA DO, MAKE US CRASH?!
YOU AIN'T BEEN YOURSELF SINCE WE TOOK OFF--
NO, I HAVEN'T, HAVE I?
WHA- WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?

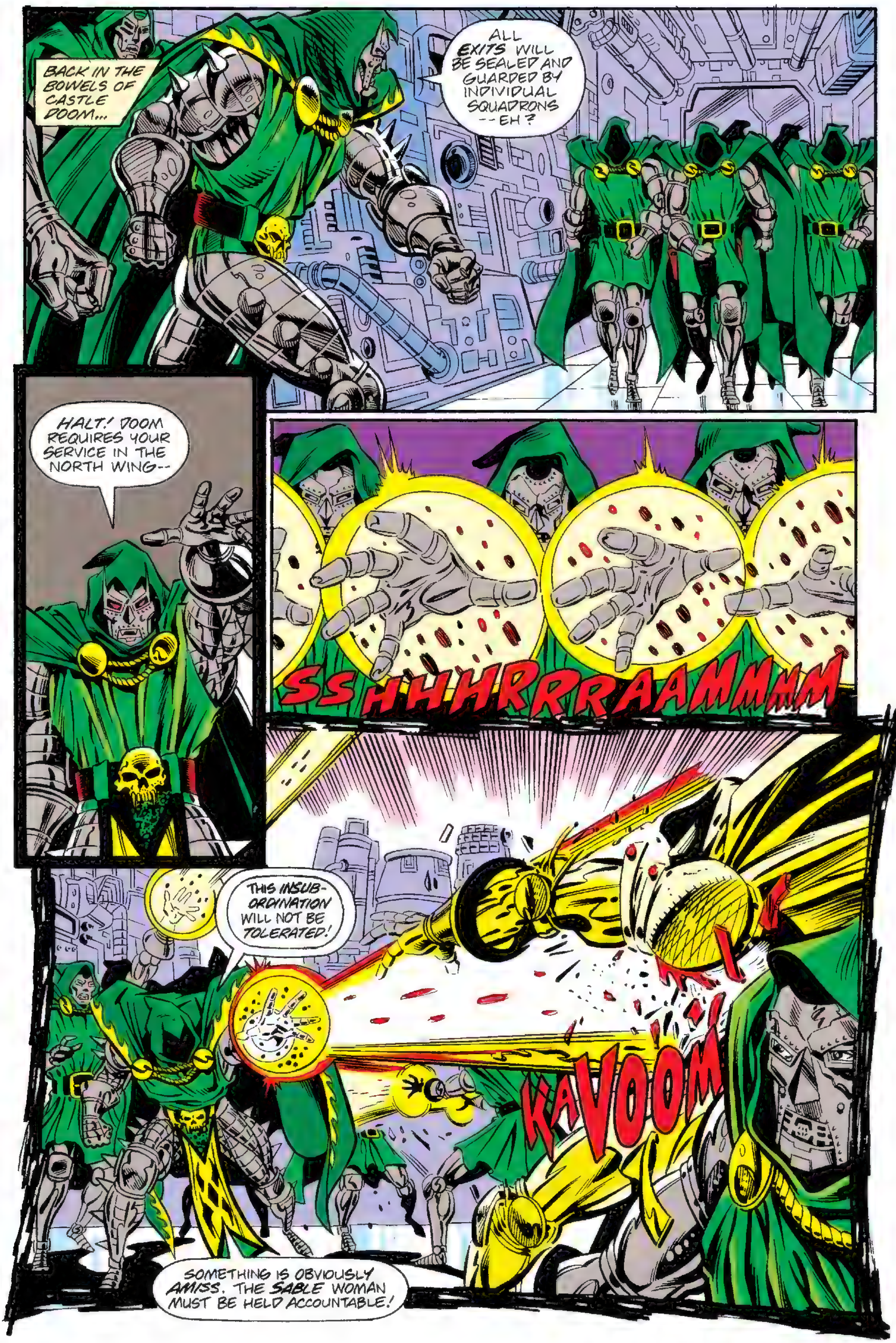

LOOKS LIKE SANDBAGS IS REVERTIN' BACK TO HIS CRIMINAL-TYPE WAYS--
--AN' FARM-BOY'S GONNA BE HIS FIRST NEW VICTIM!
HE'LL SUFFOCATE!
UHHHH! HE'S BEIN' PULLED IN FURTHER!
SNAK

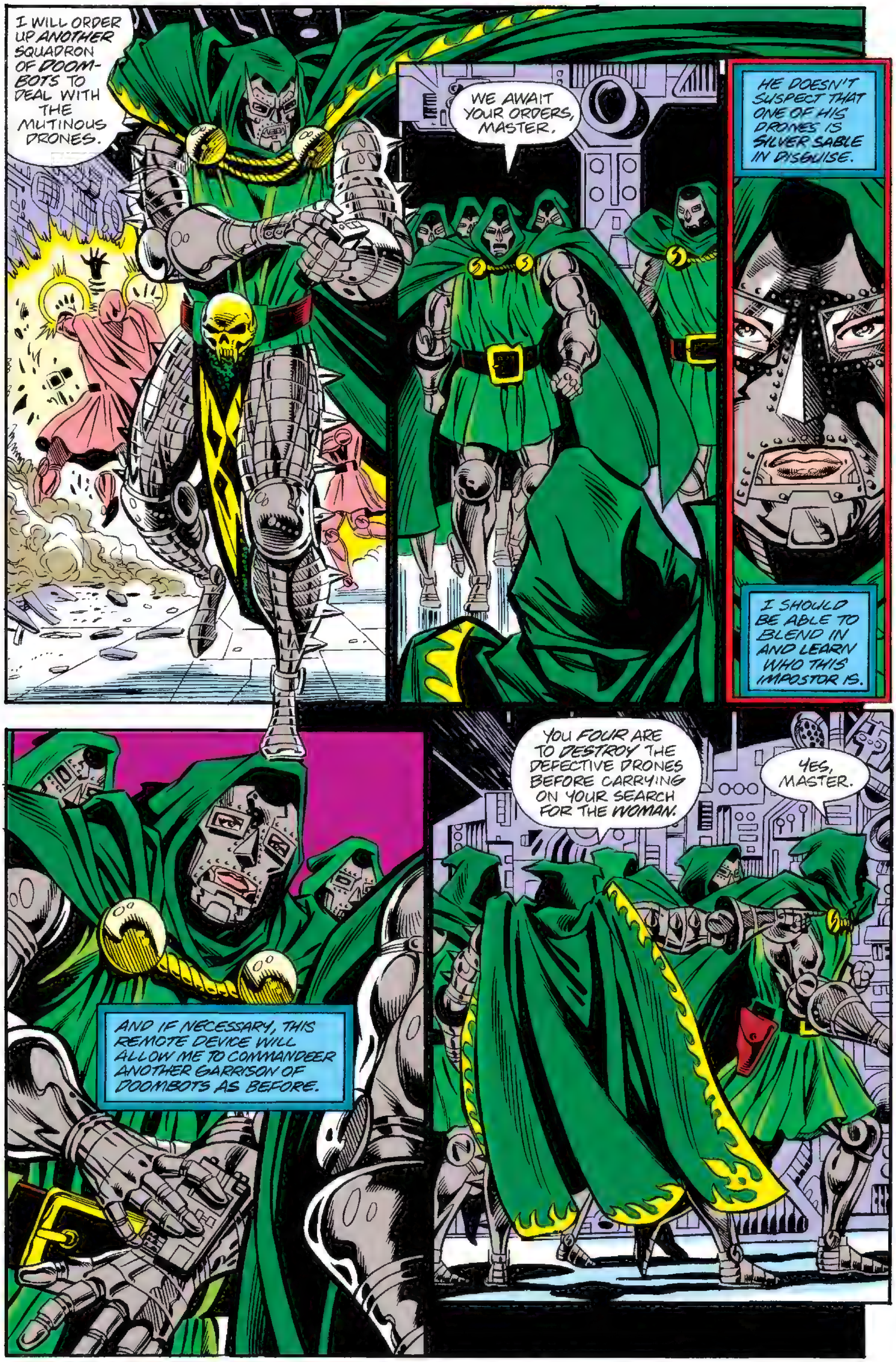

NEVER KNEW SANDBAGS HAD A SADISTIC SIDE TO HIM!

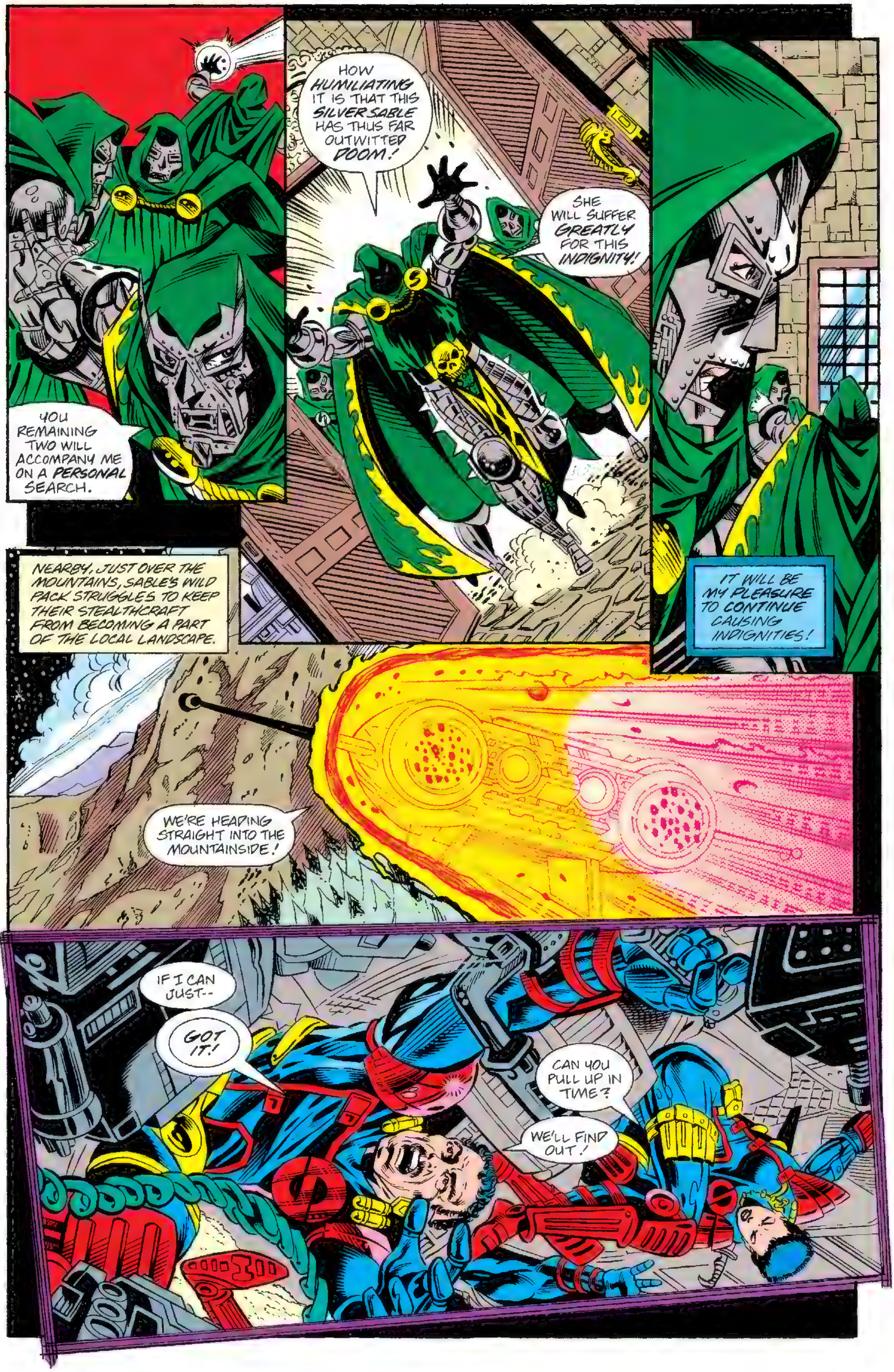

WHOOOF!
WHUMP
UHHN!
NO! YOU'VE THROWN US INTO A POWER DIVE! I CAN'T GET IT BACK!


WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!


MEANWHILE, THE TRUE DOCTOR DOOM AND KANG ARE CLOSING IN ON THE LOCATION OF THEIR MUCH DESIRED PRIZE...
BREAKING THROUGH TO THE DESIRED REALITY.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE LOCATING OUR MYSTERIOUS ADVERSARY'S STRONGHOLD, KANG.
MAINTAIN CRAFT'S CLOAKING SCREEN AND ACTIVATE THE SIMILAR DEVICE ON YOUR PERSONEL SURVIVAL UNIT.
YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE POWER FROM HERE!
THAT ARCHAIC FOOL DOOM IS BECOMING BLINDED BY GRAND AMBITION.
PERHAPS THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO ELIMINATE HIM.
SCANNERS SHOW THE POWER CENTER IS IN THAT STRUCTURE.
NO. HE MAY STILL PROVE USEFUL.
THE READINGS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE.
DID I NOT TELL YOU THIS PRIZE WAS WORTH ANY RISK?
INDEED. IT WOULD SEEM OUR EFFORTS WILL BEAR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
YOUR WORDS LACK VISION, KANG, BUT YOU WILL SOON LEARN THE MEANING OF ULTIMATE POWER!
THE READINGS ARE CENTERED ON THE CEILING MODULE.
THEN LET US INVESTIGATE.
AND ARRANGE A FATAL ACCIDENT FOR YOU AFTERWARDS, DEAR KANG.


BACK IN THE BOWELS OF CASTLE DOOM...
ALL EXITS WILL BE SEALED AND GUARDED BY INDIVIDUAL SQUADRONS --EH?
HALT! DOOM REQUIRES YOUR SERVICE IN THE NORTH WING--
SSHHHRRRAAMMMM
THIS INSUB-ORDINATION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
KAVOOM
SOMETHING IS OBVIOUSLY AMISS. THE SABLE WOMAN MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!

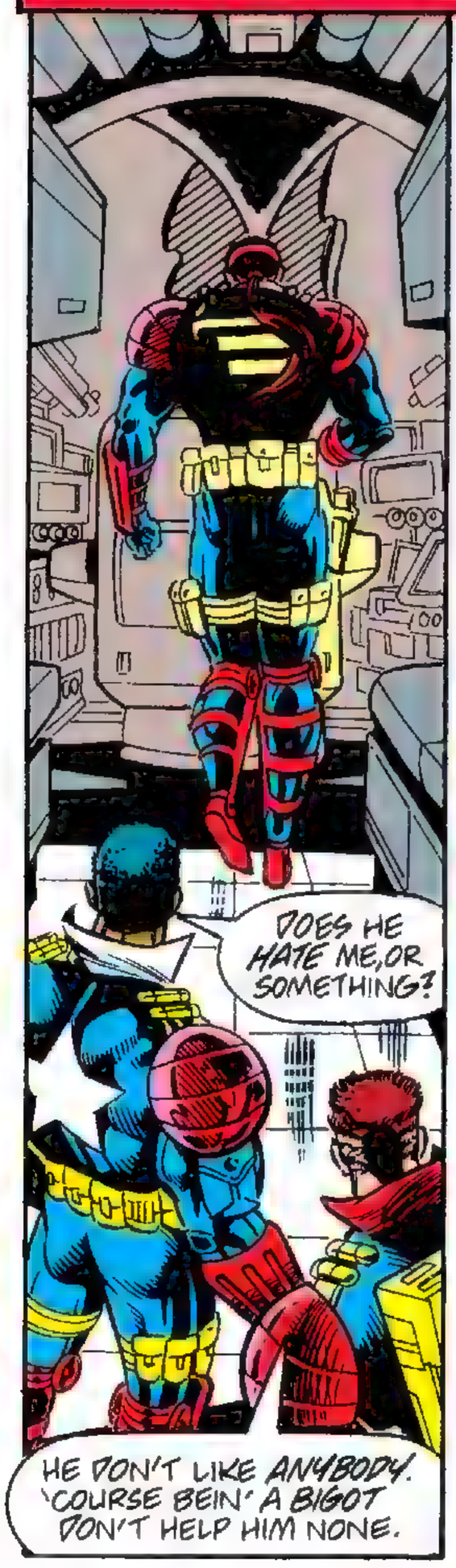

I WILL ORDER UP ANOTHER SQUADRON OF DOOM-BOTS TO DEAL WITH THE MUTINOUS DRONES.
WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS, MASTER.
HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT ONE OF HIS DRONES IS SILVER SABLE IN DISGUISE.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BLEND IN AND LEARN WHO THIS IMPOSTOR IS.
AND IF NECESSARY, THIS REMOTE DEVICE WILL ALLOW ME TO COMMANDEER ANOTHER GARRISON OF DOOMBOTS AS BEFORE.
YOU FOUR ARE TO DESTROY THE DEFECTIVE DRONES BEFORE CARRYING ON YOUR SEARCH FOR THE WOMAN.
YES, MASTER.

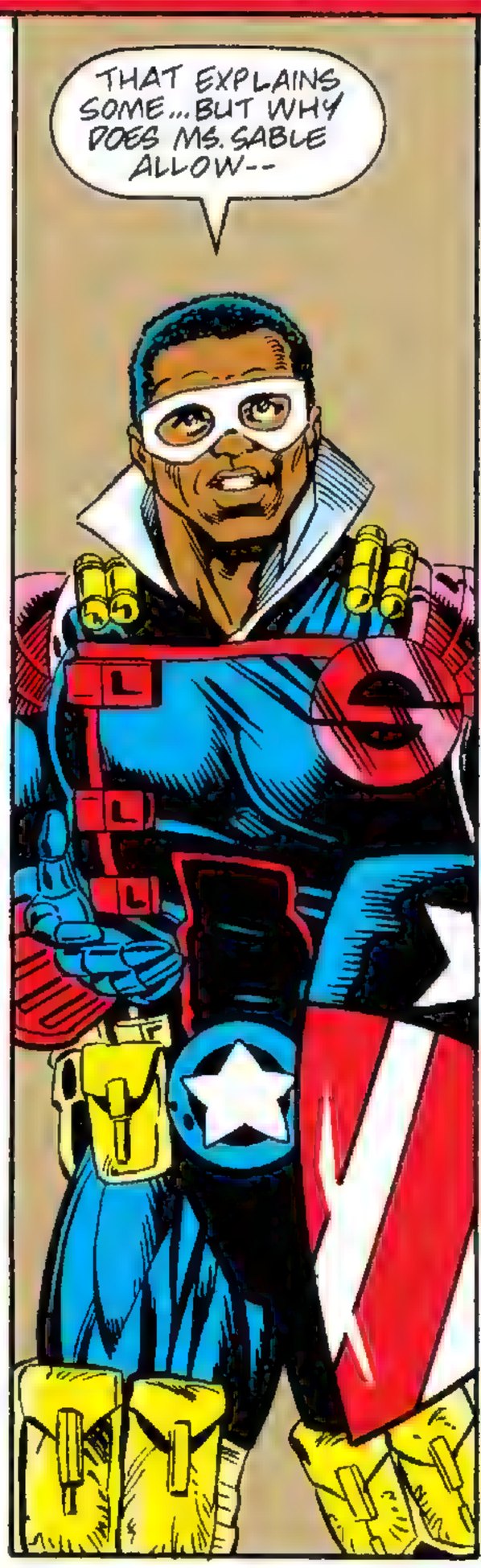

YOU REMAINING TWO WILL ACCOMPANY ME ON A PERSONAL SEARCH.
HOW HUMILIATING IT IS THAT THIS SILVERSABLE HAS THUS FAR OUTWITTED DOOM!
SHE WILL SUFFER GREATLY FOR THIS INDIGNITY!
IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO CONTINUE CAUSING INDIGNITIES!
NEARBY, JUST OVER THE MOUNTAINS, SABLE'S WILD PACK STRUGGLES TO KEEP THEIR STEALTHCRAFT FROM BECOMING A PART OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE.
WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO THE MOUNTAINSIDE!
IF I CAN JUST--
GOT IT!
CAN YOU PULL UP IN TIME?
WE'LL FIND OUT!

ALL RIIIIGHT!
SKRRROOOO
C'MON, PEOPLE, LET'S ACT LIKE A TEAM, BEFORE SANDMAN KILLS POWELL!
YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKIN' MY TOYS!
A FLAME THROWER WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE IN CLOSED QUARTERS!
YOU CAN'T HIT WHAT ISN'T THERE! A LITTLE SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA!
THAT'S IT, CHEN-- UHHHHHNNNN!--KEEP HIM DISTRACTED JUST LONG ENOUGH--
ARRRRRRRAHHHHH!
HUUUFFFFF!
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY I'M PULLIN' MY PUNCHES, SANDMAN. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE DAMAGE A MAN WHO CAN LIFT TEN TONS CAN DO!
SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOUR HEAD IN SAND FORM!
KOFF KOFF
SAVED BY BATTLESTAR...? DON'T KNOW IF AH LIKE THAT...

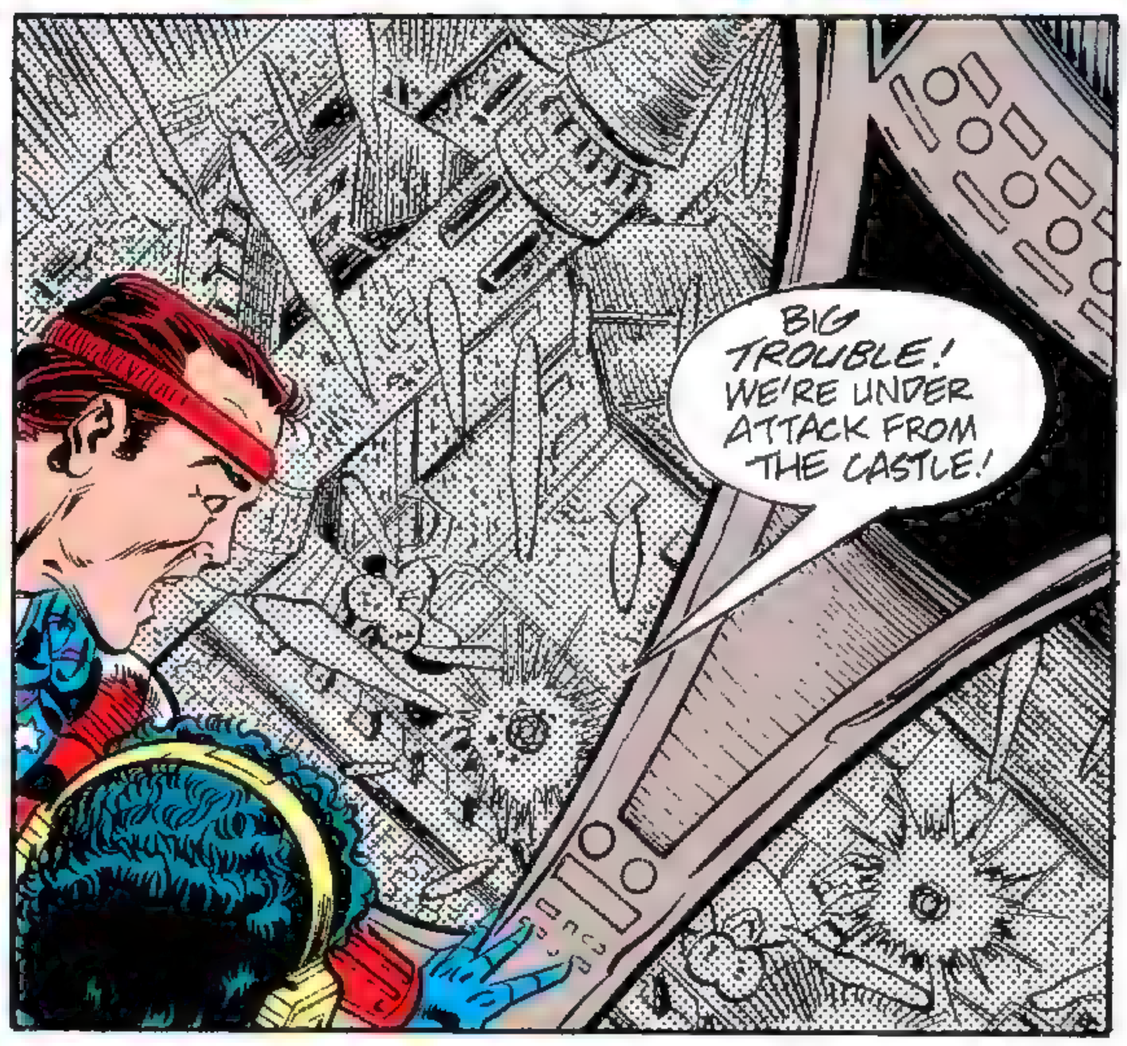
STILL... AH MIGHTA CHOKED TA DEATH...
HE AIN'T DEAD, IS HE?
NO. WHEN UNCONSCIOUS, SANDMAN LOSES CONTROL OVER HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE.
GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
I ALSO DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS REALLY SANDMAN. HE WOULD HAVE TURNED HARD AS ROCK AND CRUSHED POWELL'S HEAD LIKE A MELON.

GEEZ--I COULD HAVE PULLED HIS HEAD RIGHT OFF! POWELL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT--
AH DON'T NEED ANYMORE A' YORE HELP!

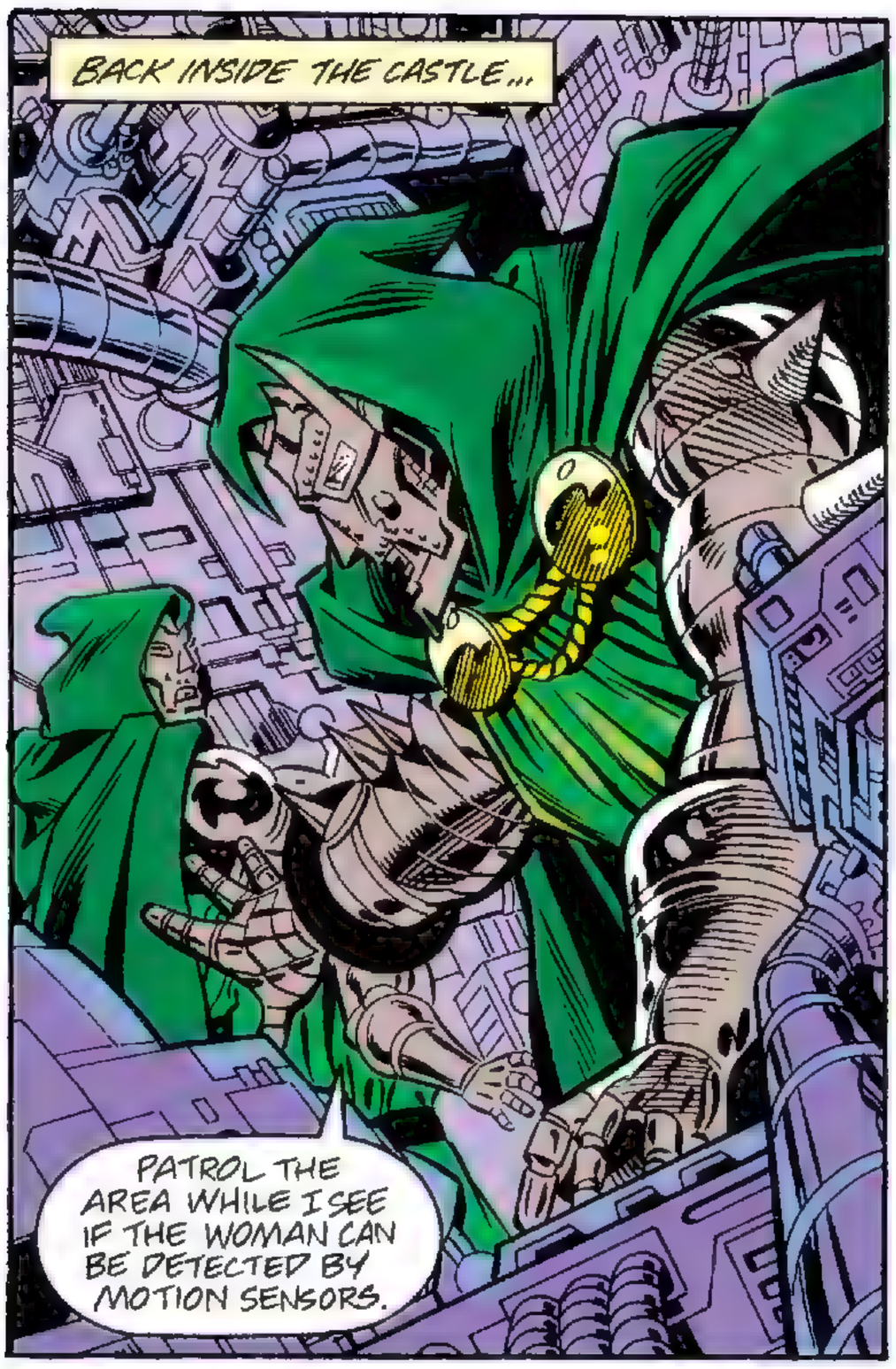

DOES HE HATE ME, OR SOMETHING?
HE DON'T LIKE ANYBODY. 'COURSE BEIN' A BIGOT DON'T HELP HIM NONE.

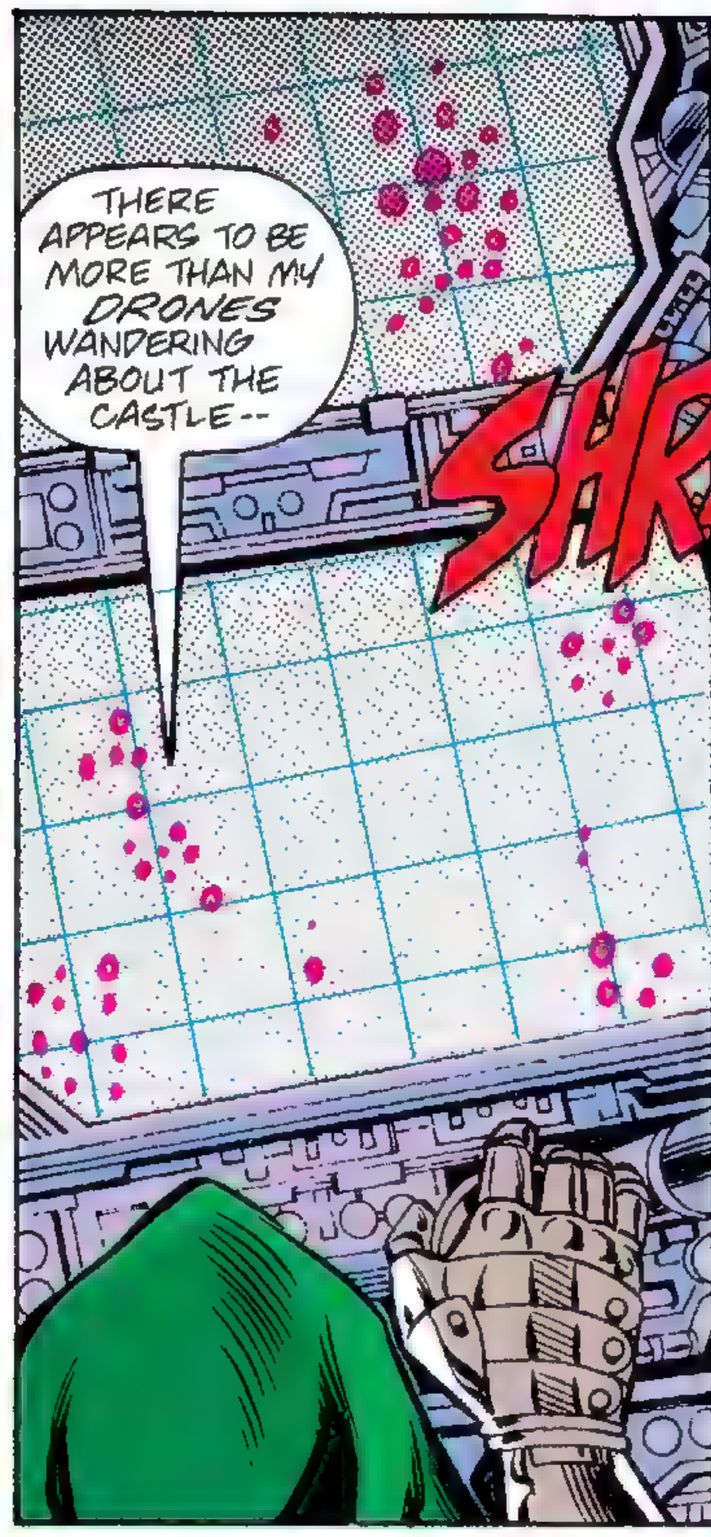

THAT EXPLAINS SOME... BUT WHY DOES MS. SABLE ALLOW--

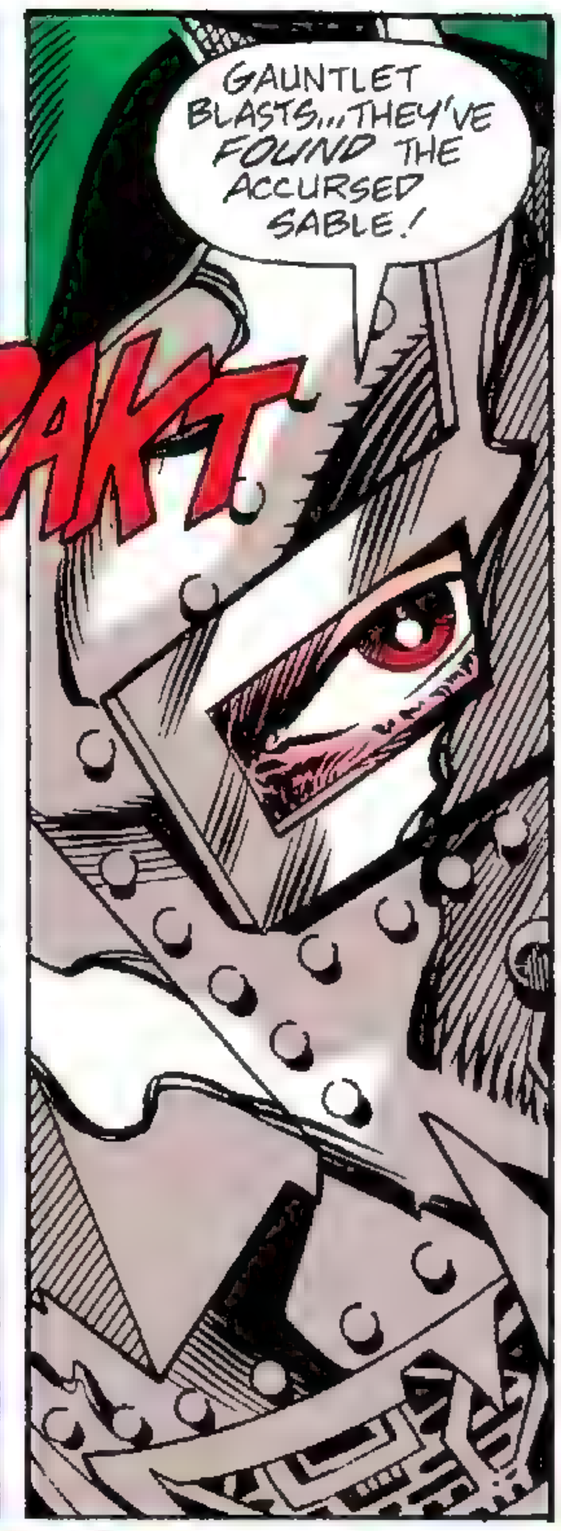
HE, LIKE US ALL, HAS BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF FROM PAST INDISCRETIONS BY MS. SABLE.
HE WILL COME AROUND OR HE WILL BE LET GO.
MAH HEAD CRUSHED LIKE A MELON?


BIG TROUBLE! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK FROM THE CASTLE!

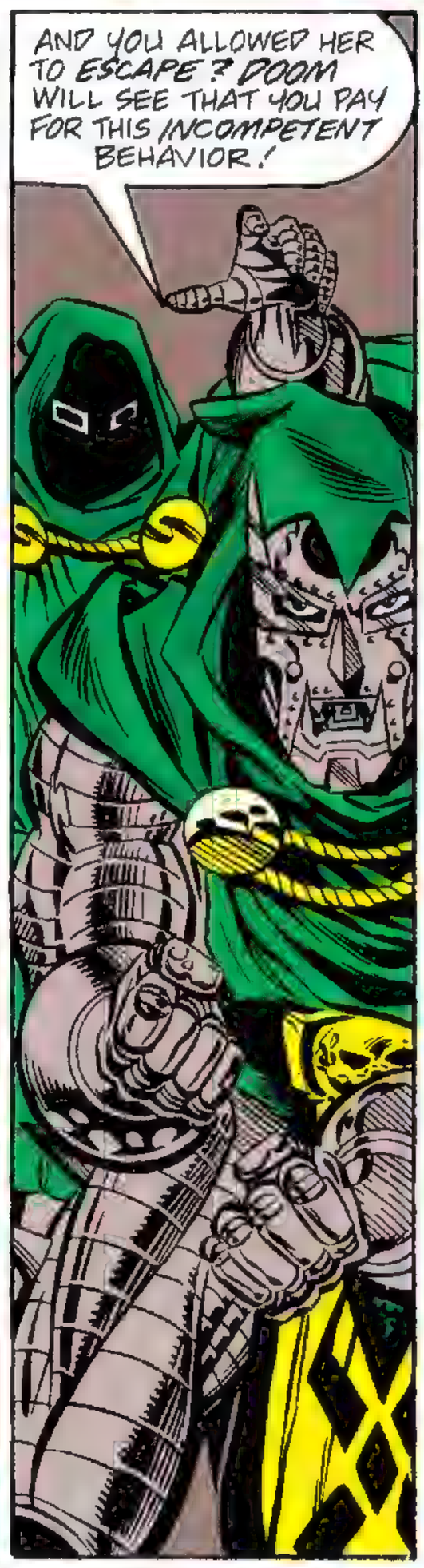
CHOOM
FZAMM
LOCK YOURSELVES DOWN--WE'RE IN FOR SOME CHOP! SHIELDS WERE DAMAGED BY THAT HIT!
I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN SURVIVE ANOTHER--
KATOOM
BWOOM
SKRA-KOOOM

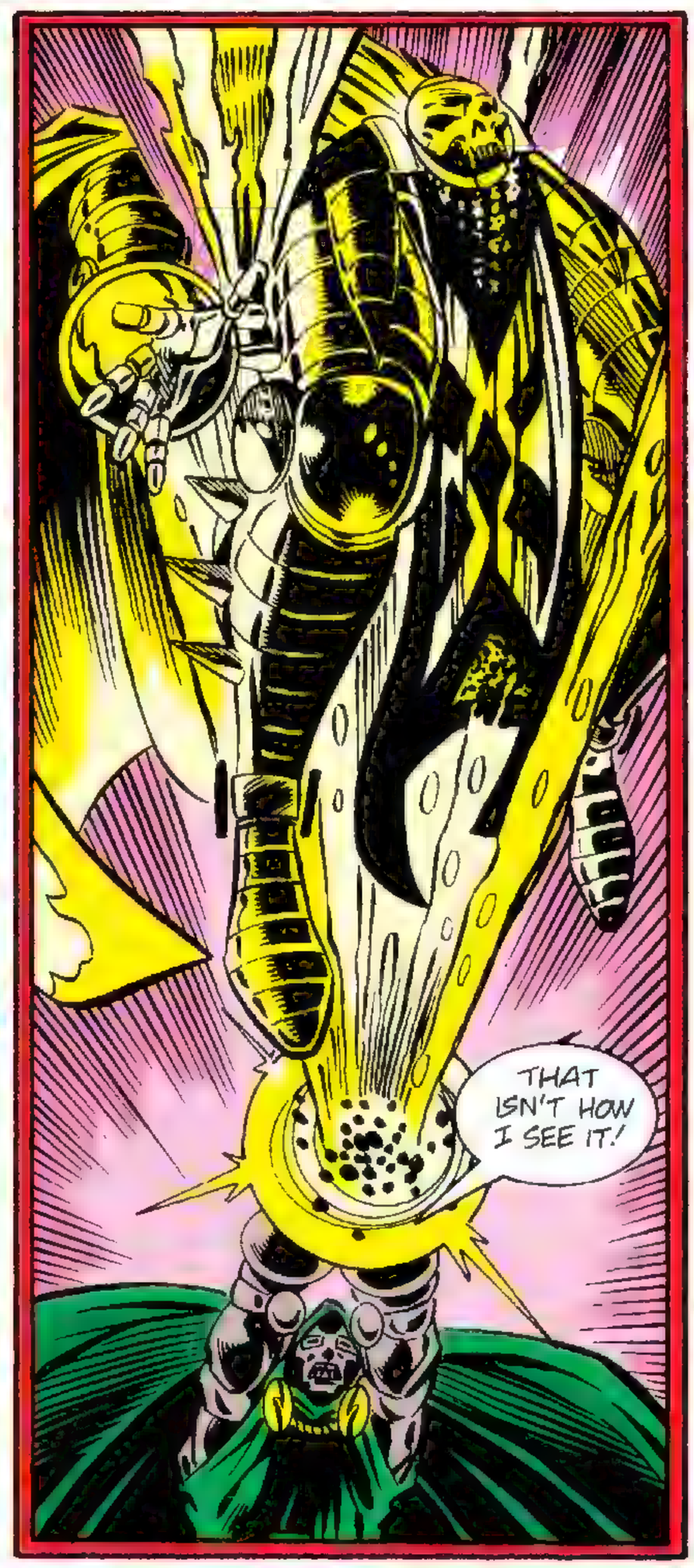

BACK INSIDE THE CASTLE...
PATROL THE AREA WHILE I SEE IF THE WOMAN CAN BE DETECTED BY MOTION SENSORS.

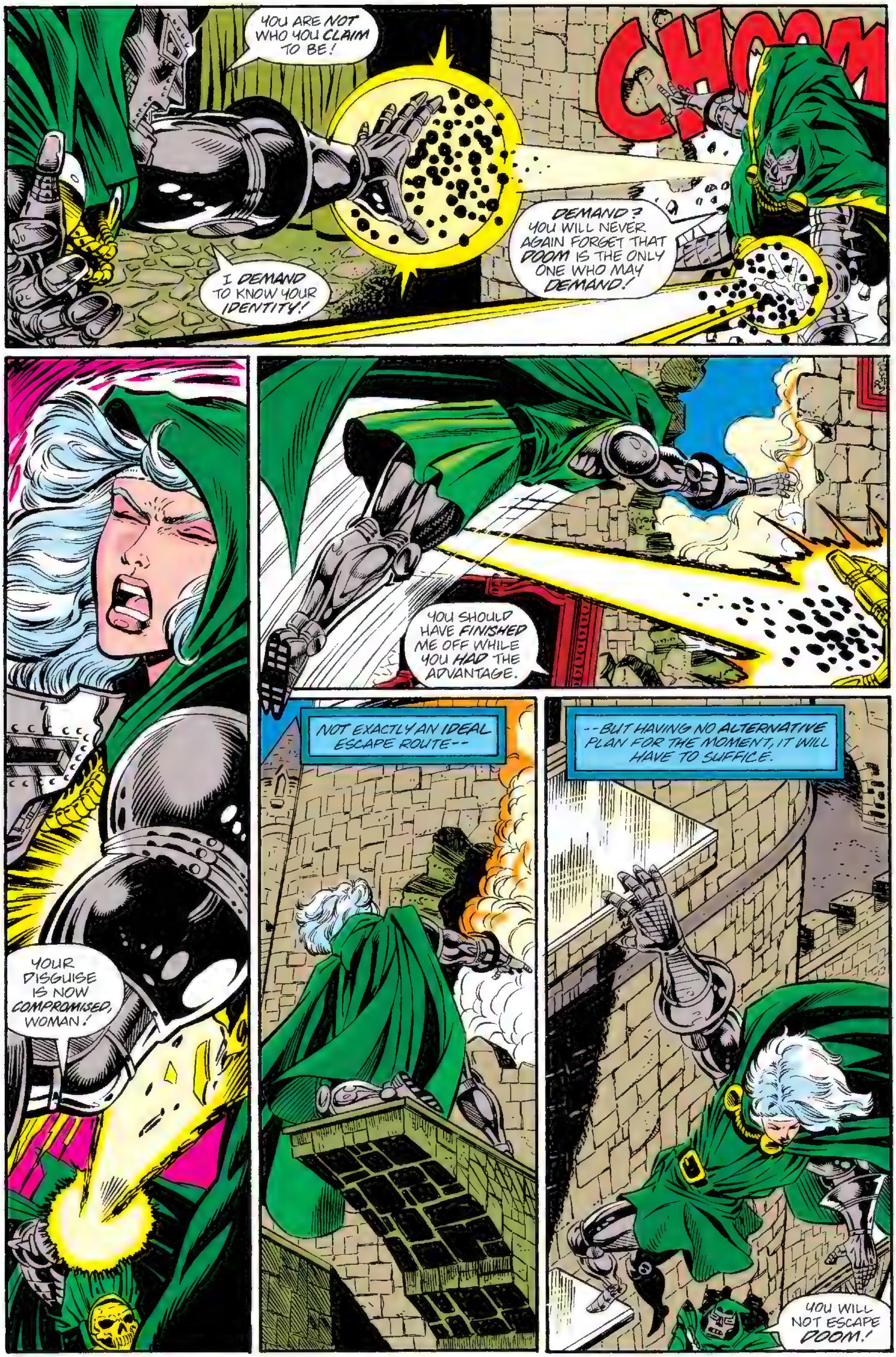

THERE APPEARS TO BE MORE THAN MY DRONES WANDERING ABOUT THE CASTLE--
SHRAK!


GAUNTLET BLASTS...THEY'VE FOUND THE ACCURSED SABLE!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THE WOMAN SURPRISED US, MASTER. SHE RAN OFF IN THAT DIRECTION!

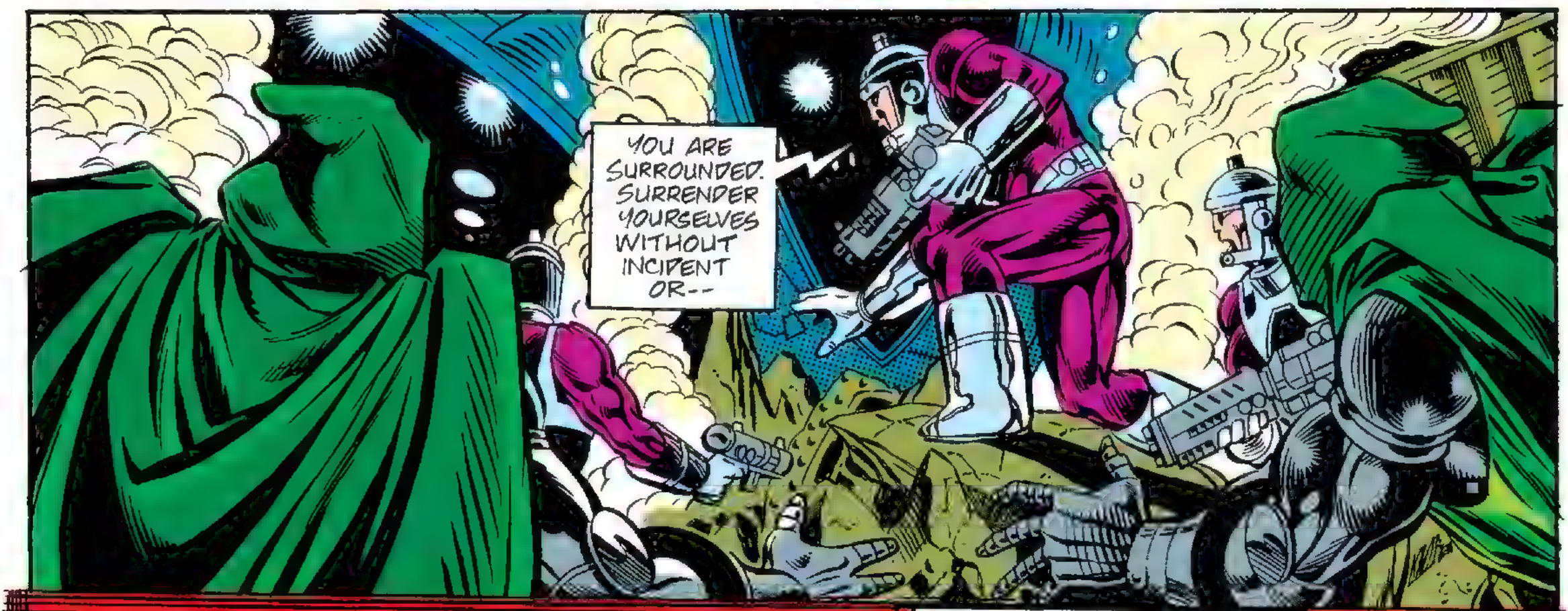

AND YOU ALLOWED HER TO ESCAPE? DOOM WILL SEE THAT YOU PAY FOR THIS INCOMPETENT BEHAVIOR!

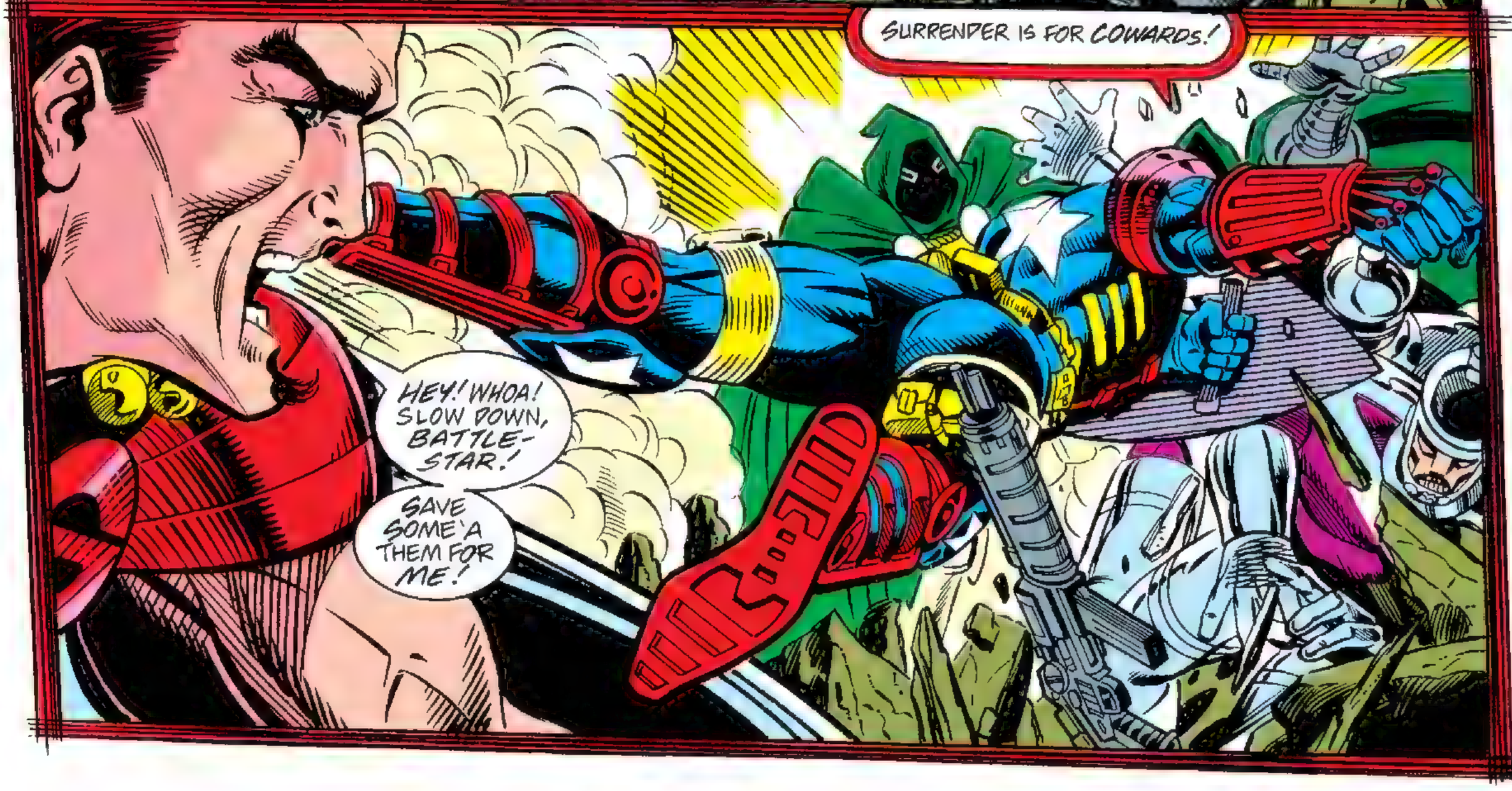

THAT ISN'T HOW I SEE IT!


YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU CLAIM TO BE!
I DEMAND TO KNOW YOUR IDENTITY!
CHOOM
DEMAND? YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN FORGET THAT DOOM IS THE ONLY ONE WHO MAY DEMAND!
YOUR DISGUISE IS NOW COMPROMISED, WOMAN!
YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED ME OFF WHILE YOU HAD THE ADVANTAGE.
NOT EXACTLY AN IDEAL ESCAPE ROUTE--
--BUT HAVING NO ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR THE MOMENT, IT WILL HAVE TO SUFFICE.
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE DOOM!

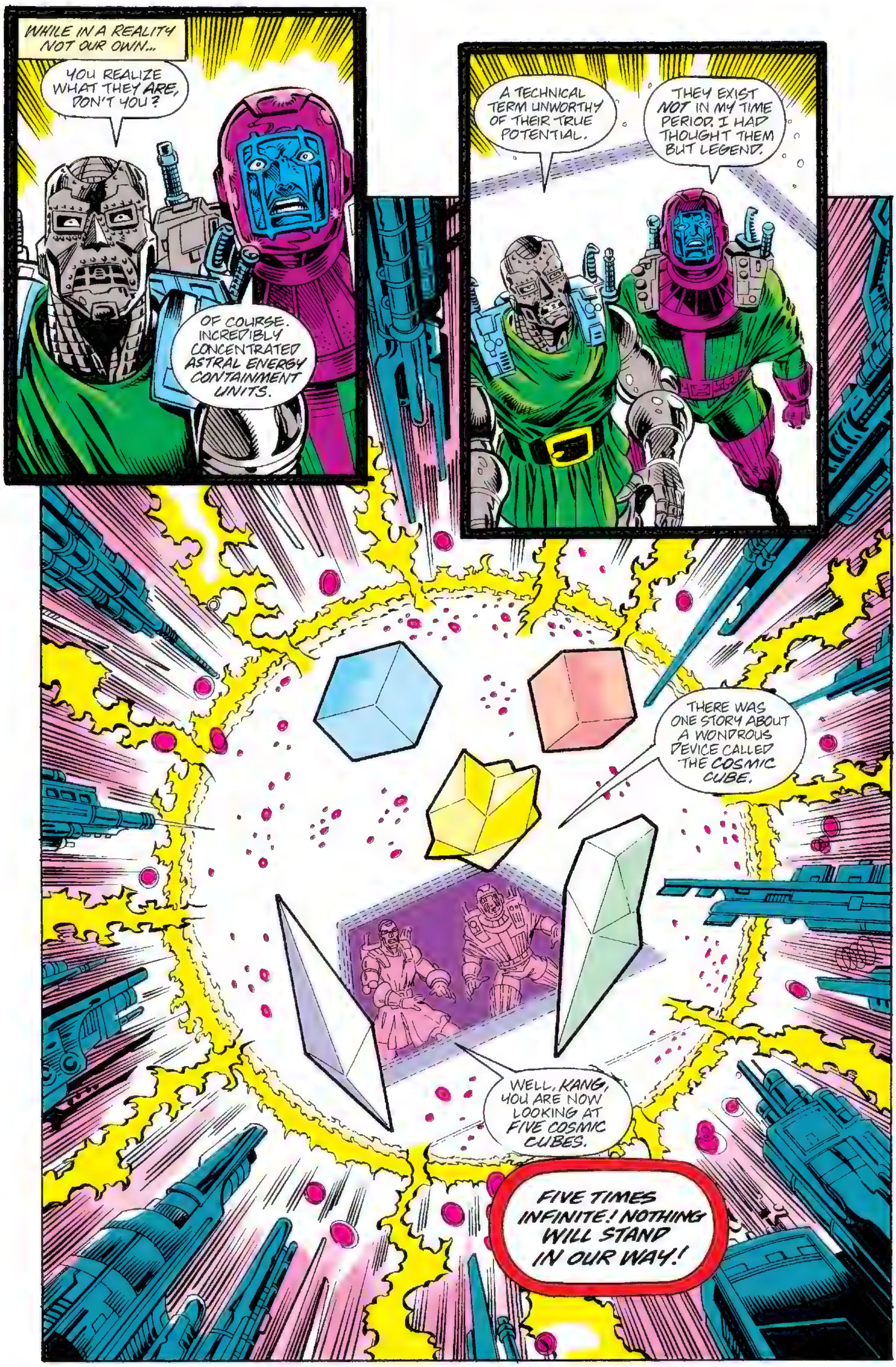
THANK THE LORD THAT QUENTINO'S PILOTING SKILLS ALLOWED US TO SURVIVE THE CRASH!
AH B'LIEVE WE'D BEST HIGH-TAIL IT OUTTA HEAH.
DOOM'S GUARDS'LL BE FIXIN' TA SURROUND US--

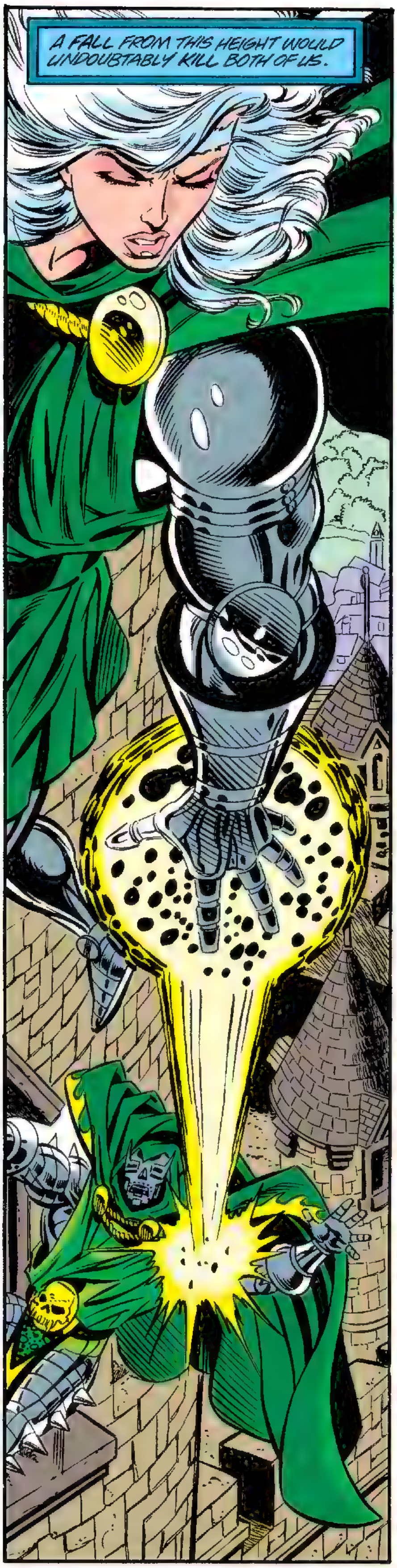
HEH, HEH. SO WHAT? THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT! IT'S PARTY TIME!
COURAGEOUSLY STUPID?
SADO-MASOCHISTIC.

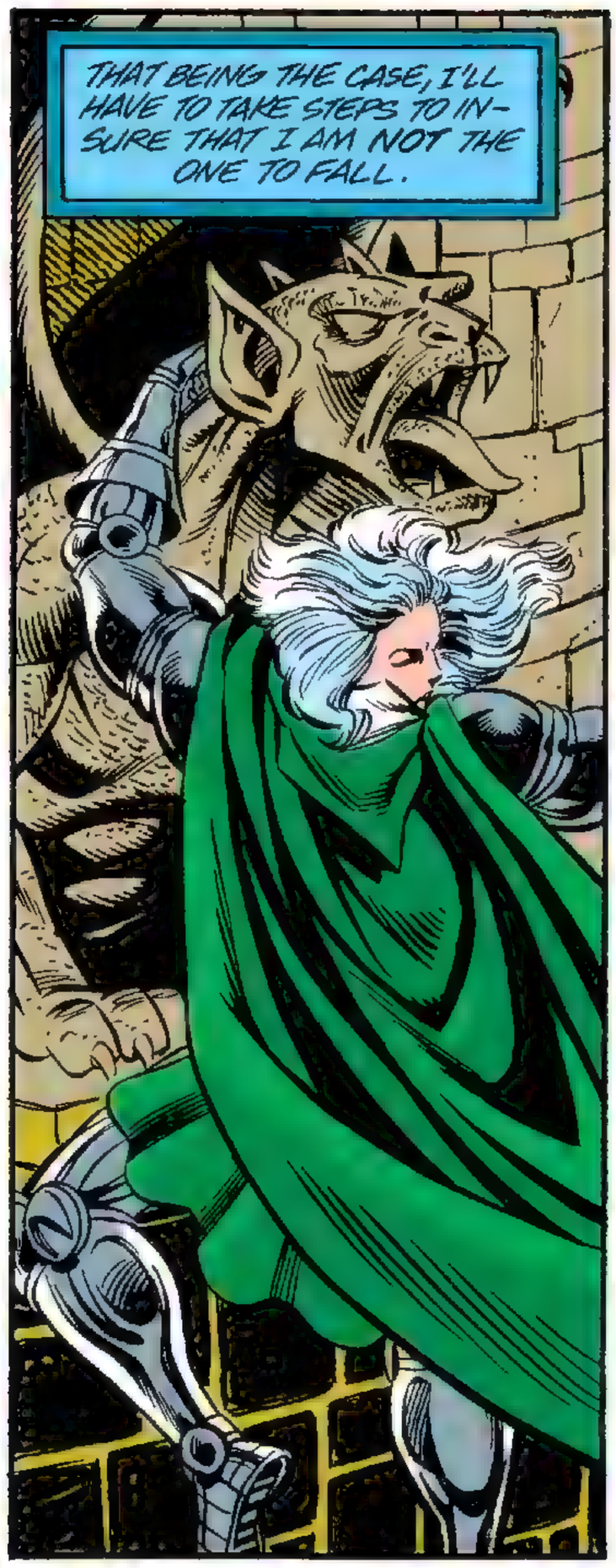

YOU ARE SURROUNDED. SURRENDER YOURSELVES WITHOUT INCIDENT OR--

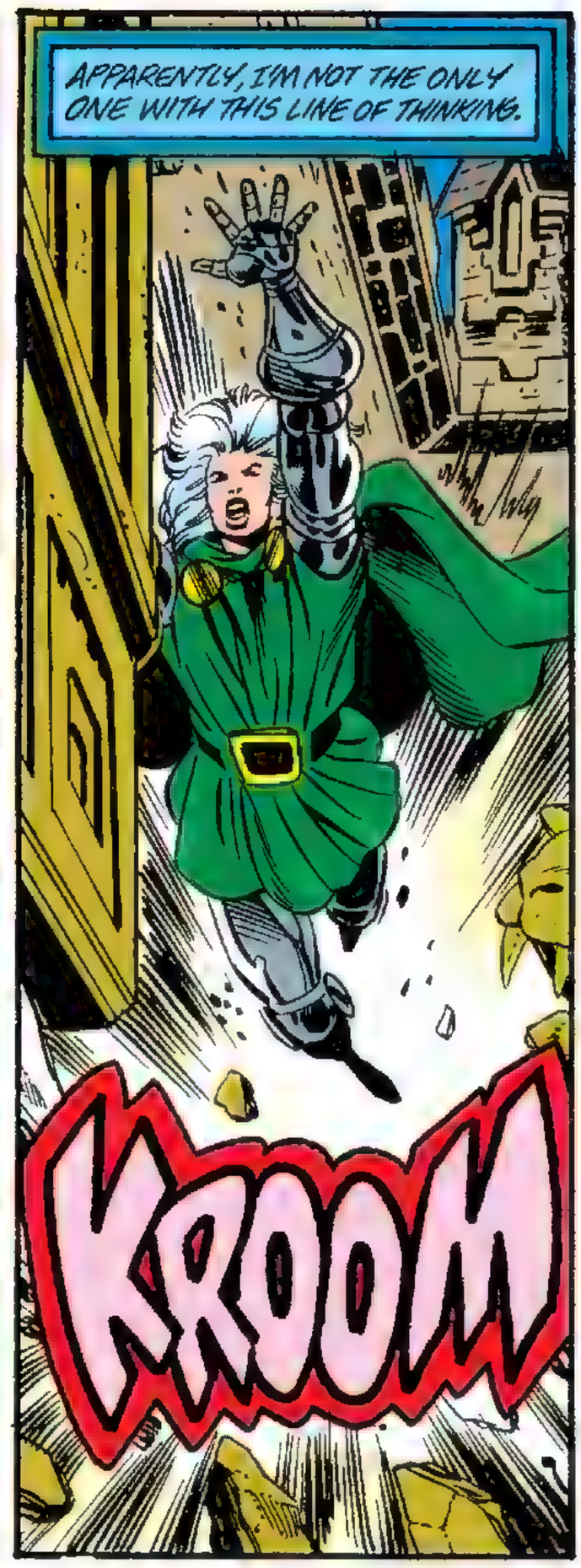

SURRENDER IS FOR COWARDS!
HEY! WHOA! SLOW DOWN, BATTLE-STAR!
SAVE SOME'A THEM FOR ME!

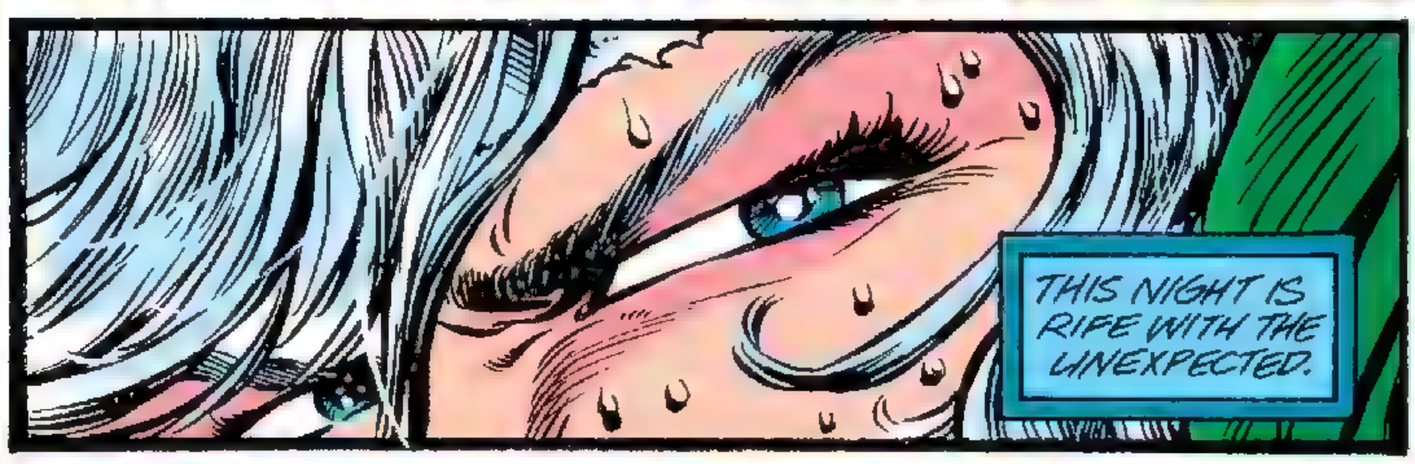
SHRANNN
YEAH!
SHKAMM
♫ "TRY TO RUN, TRY TO HIDE, BREAK ON THROUGH TO THE OTHER SIDE!" ♪
AH WISH HE'D AT LEAST SING IN KEY!
SHRAMM
LISTEN TO MISTER "GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN"! OH HEY, CHEN, BABE--
--THAT CROSSBOW'S GONNA BE ABOUT AS EFFECTIVE AS A COP IN SOUTH CENTRAL L.A.--
SKRAZZZT
I'LL JUST SHUT UP NOW.
DIAMOND TIPPED. 30,000 MEGAVOLTS.
COOL.

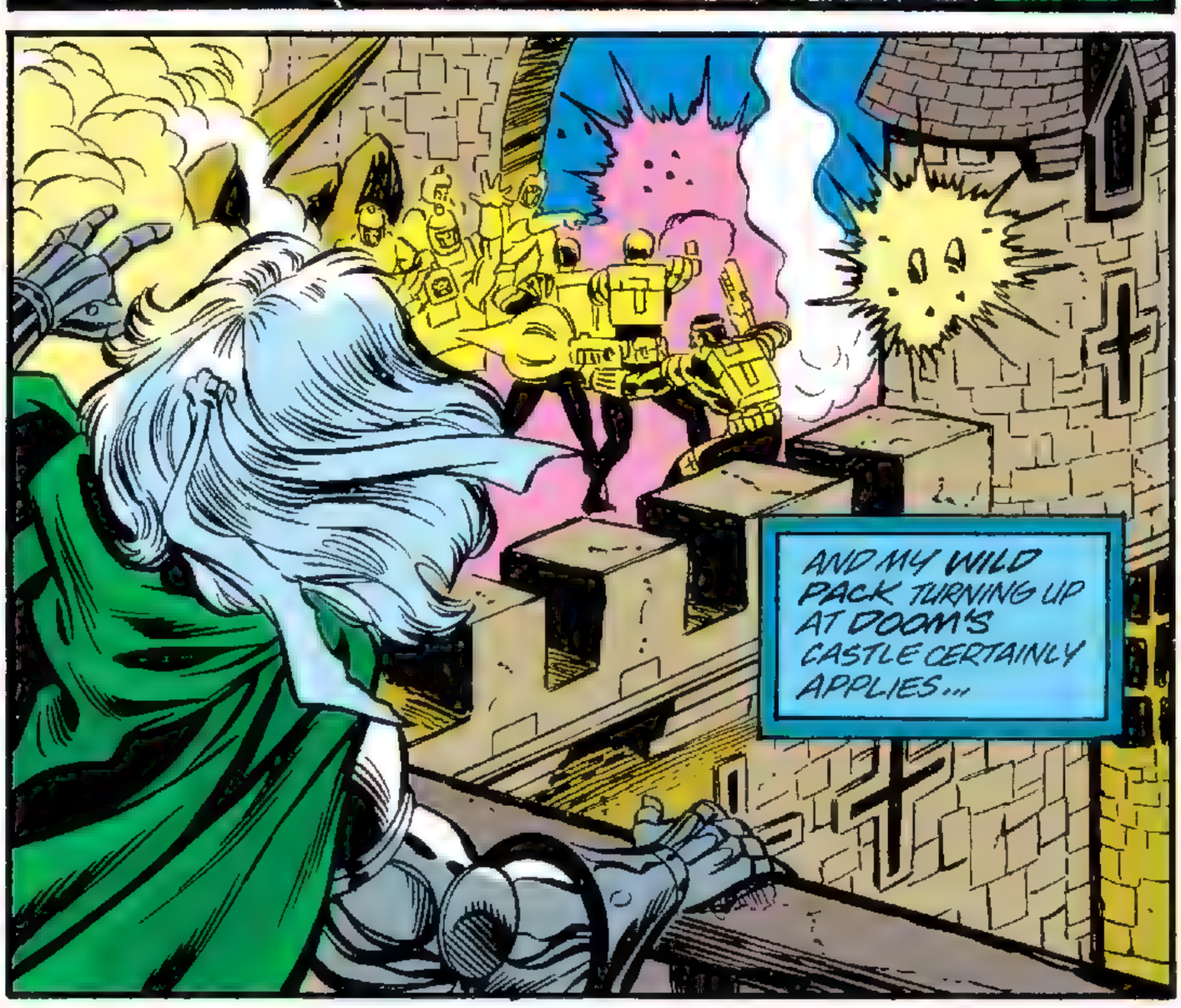

WHILE IN A REALITY NOT OUR OWN...
YOU REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE. INCREDIBLY CONCENTRATED ASTRAL ENERGY CONTAINMENT UNITS.
A TECHNICAL TERM UNWORTHY OF THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL.
THEY EXIST NOT IN MY TIME PERIOD. I HAD THOUGHT THEM BUT LEGEND.
THERE WAS ONE STORY ABOUT A WONDROUS DEVICE CALLED THE COSMIC CUBE.
WELL, KANG, YOU ARE NOW LOOKING AT FIVE COSMIC CUBES.
FIVE TIMES INFINITE! NOTHING WILL STAND IN OUR WAY!


A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT WOULD UNDOUBTABLY KILL BOTH OF US.

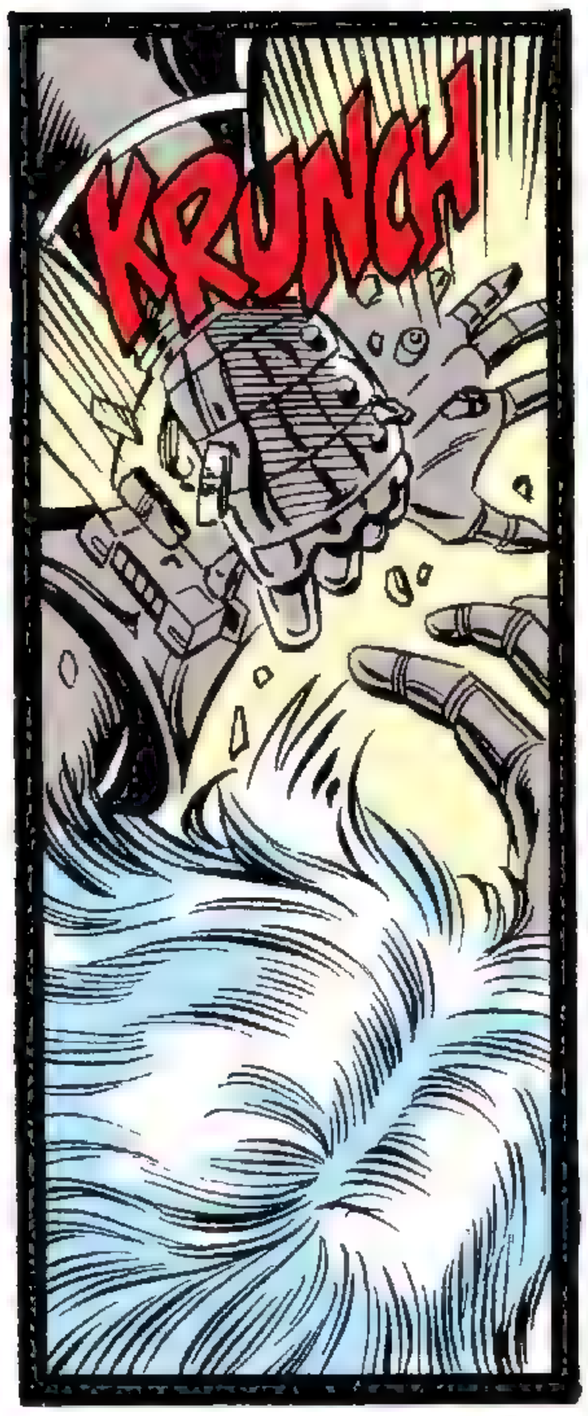

THAT BEING THE CASE, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE STEPS TO INSURE THAT I AM NOT THE ONE TO FALL.


APPARENTLY, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH THIS LINE OF THINKING.
KROOM

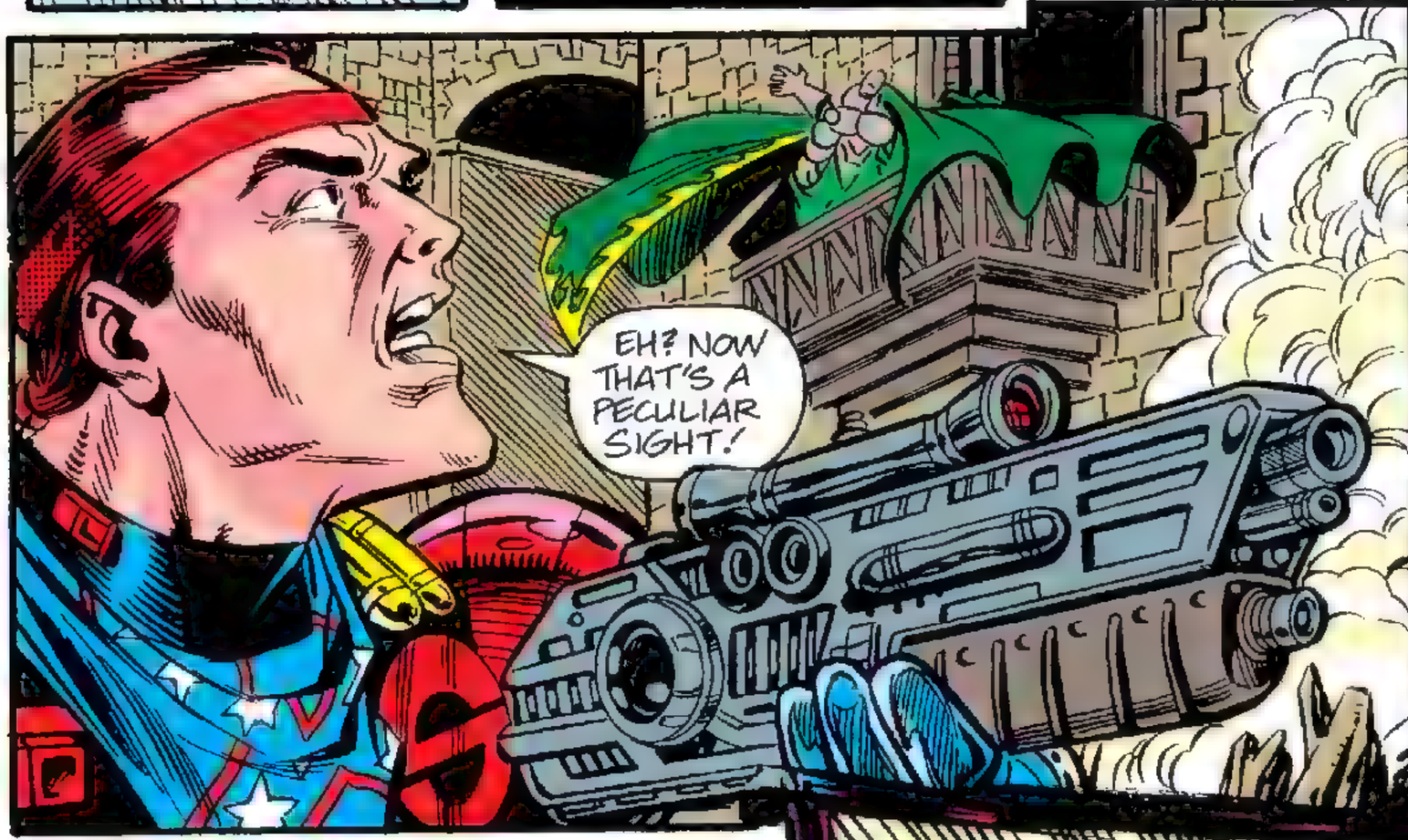

THIS NIGHT IS RIFE WITH THE UNEXPECTED.


AND MY WILD PACK TURNING UP AT DOOM'S CASTLE CERTAINLY APPLIES...

BEST TO DISABLE DOOM'S GUARDS BEFORE THEY INJURE THE PACK AND RAISE MY INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

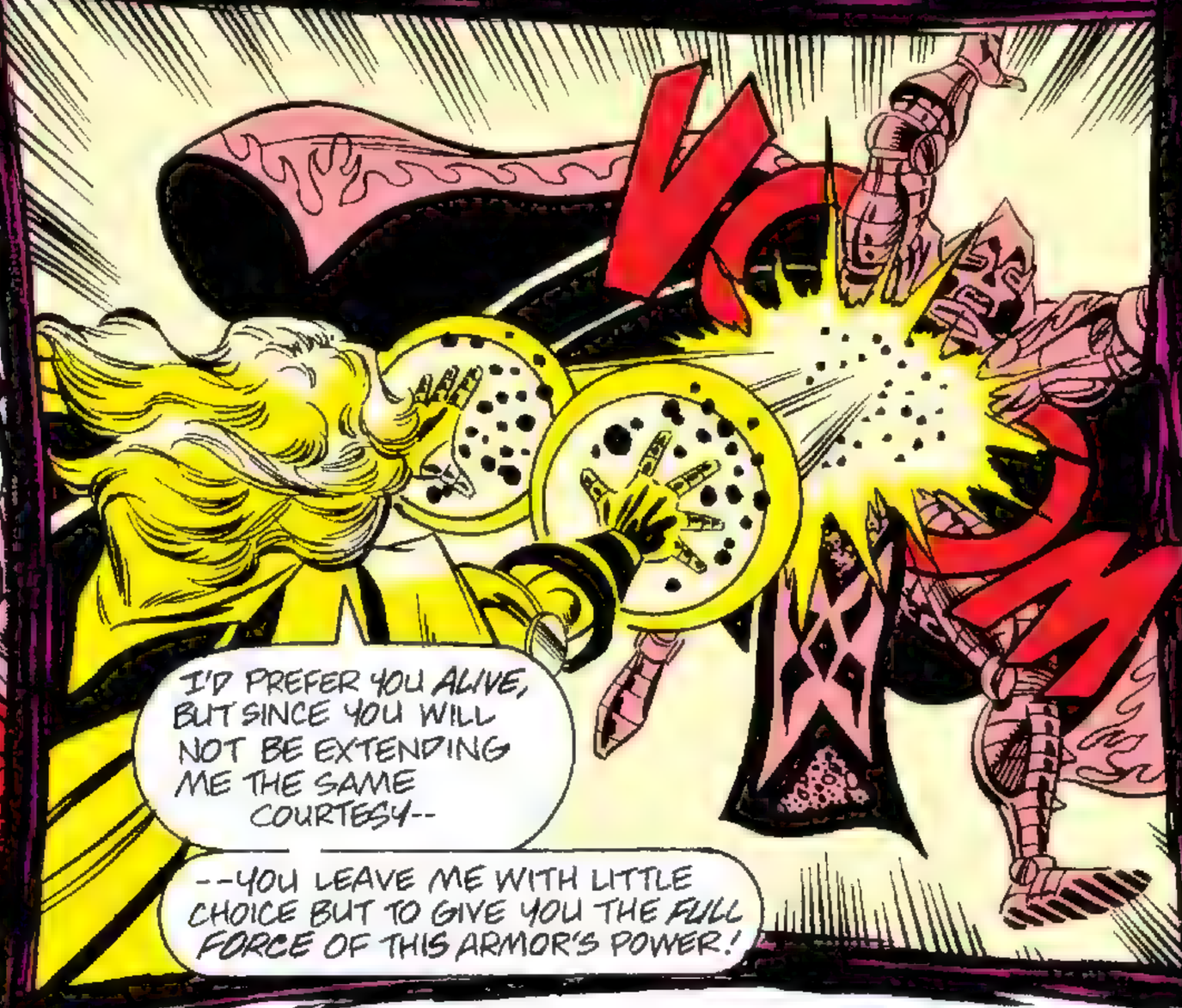

KRUNCH

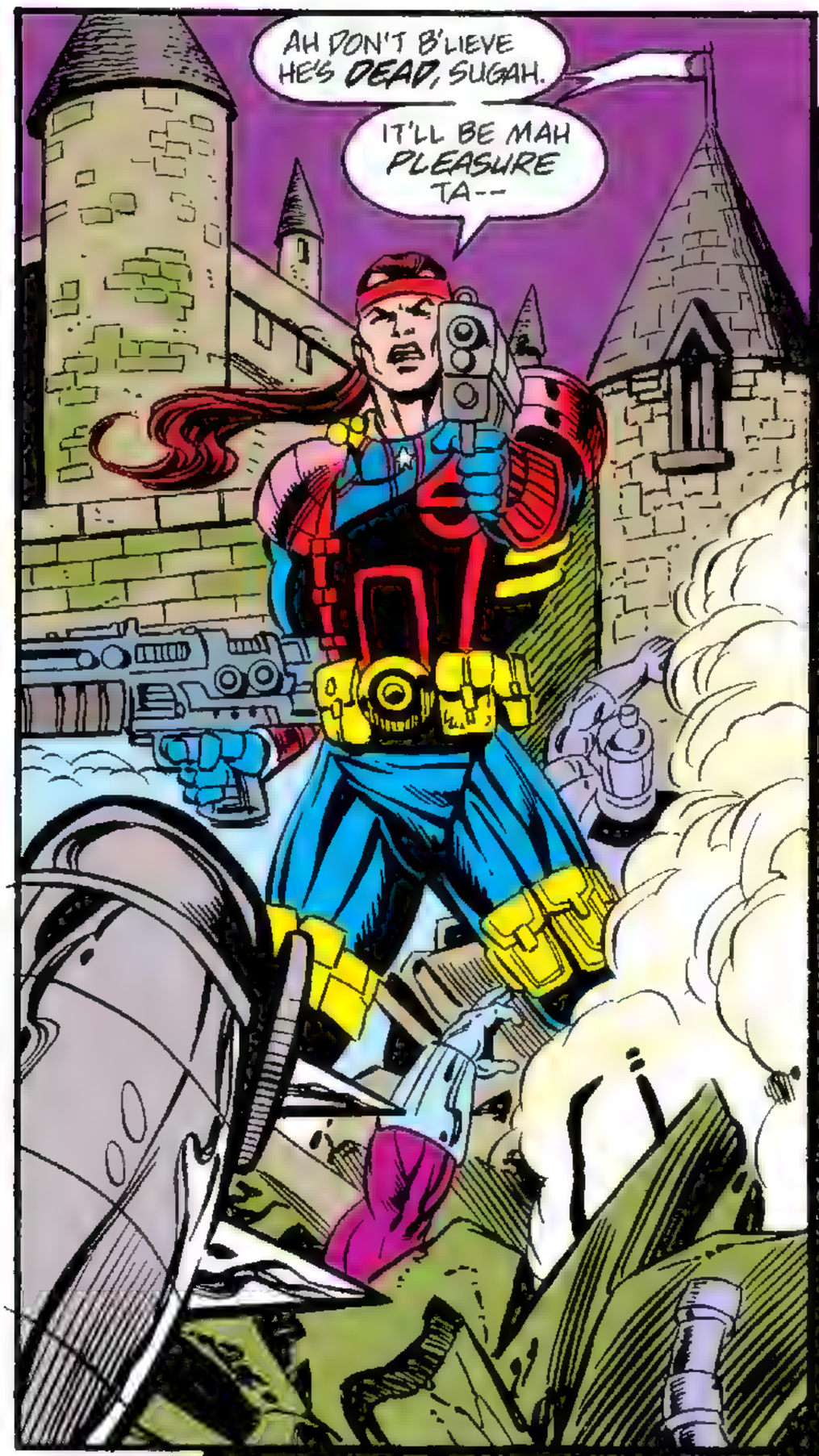
YOU WOULD DO WELL NOT TO DISCOUNT DOOM BEFORE YOU SEE HIM BURIED IN THE GROUND!
UHHN!

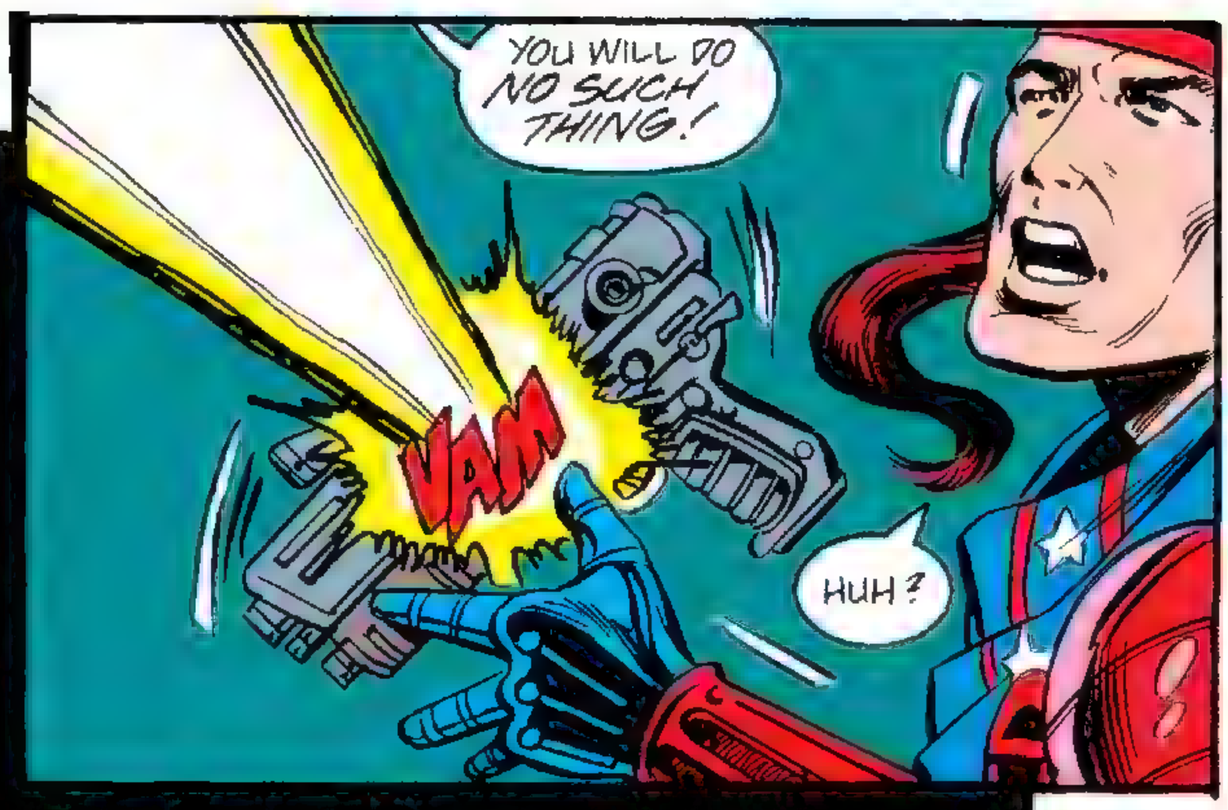

EH? NOW THAT'S A PECULIAR SIGHT!

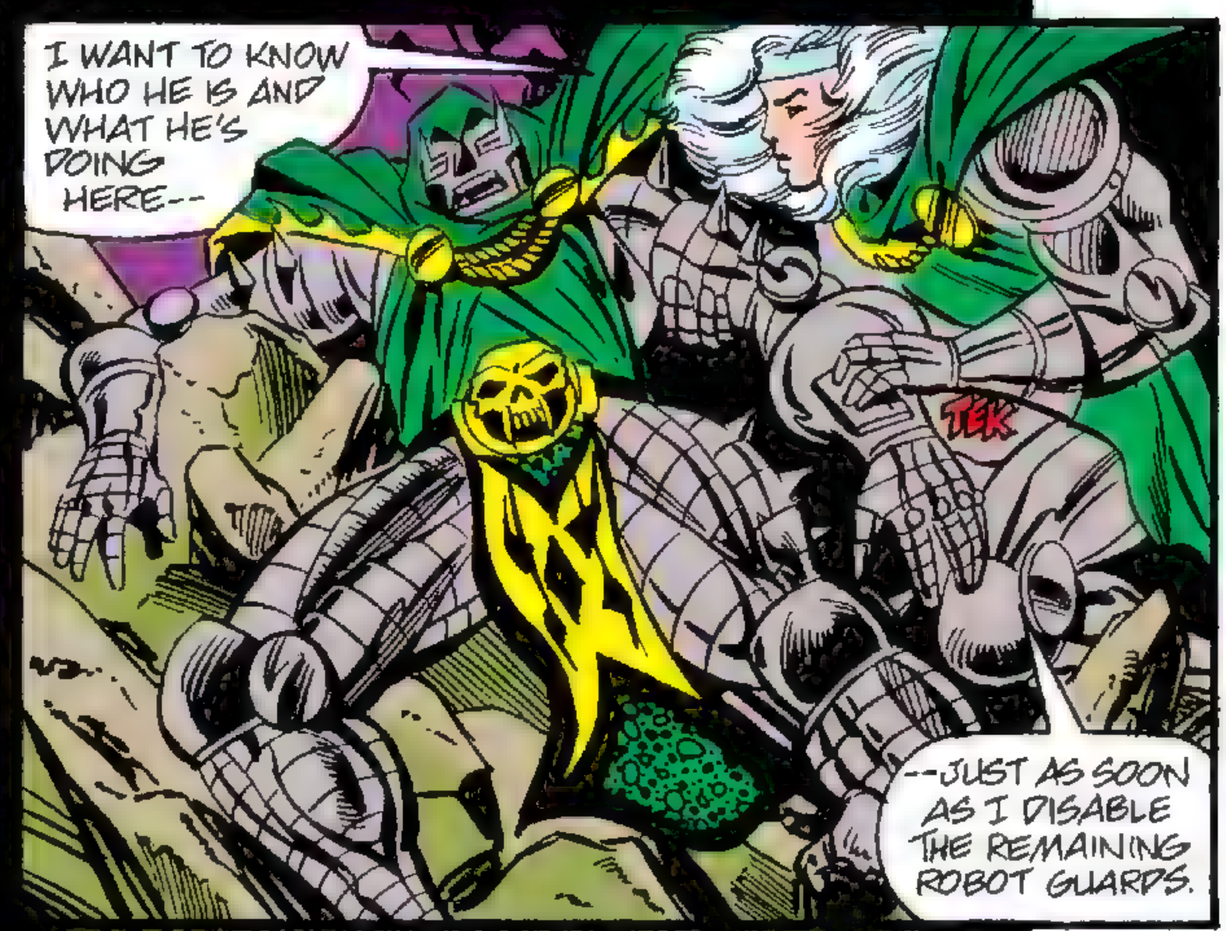
AH'LL JUS' TAKE--UH OH--SABLE!

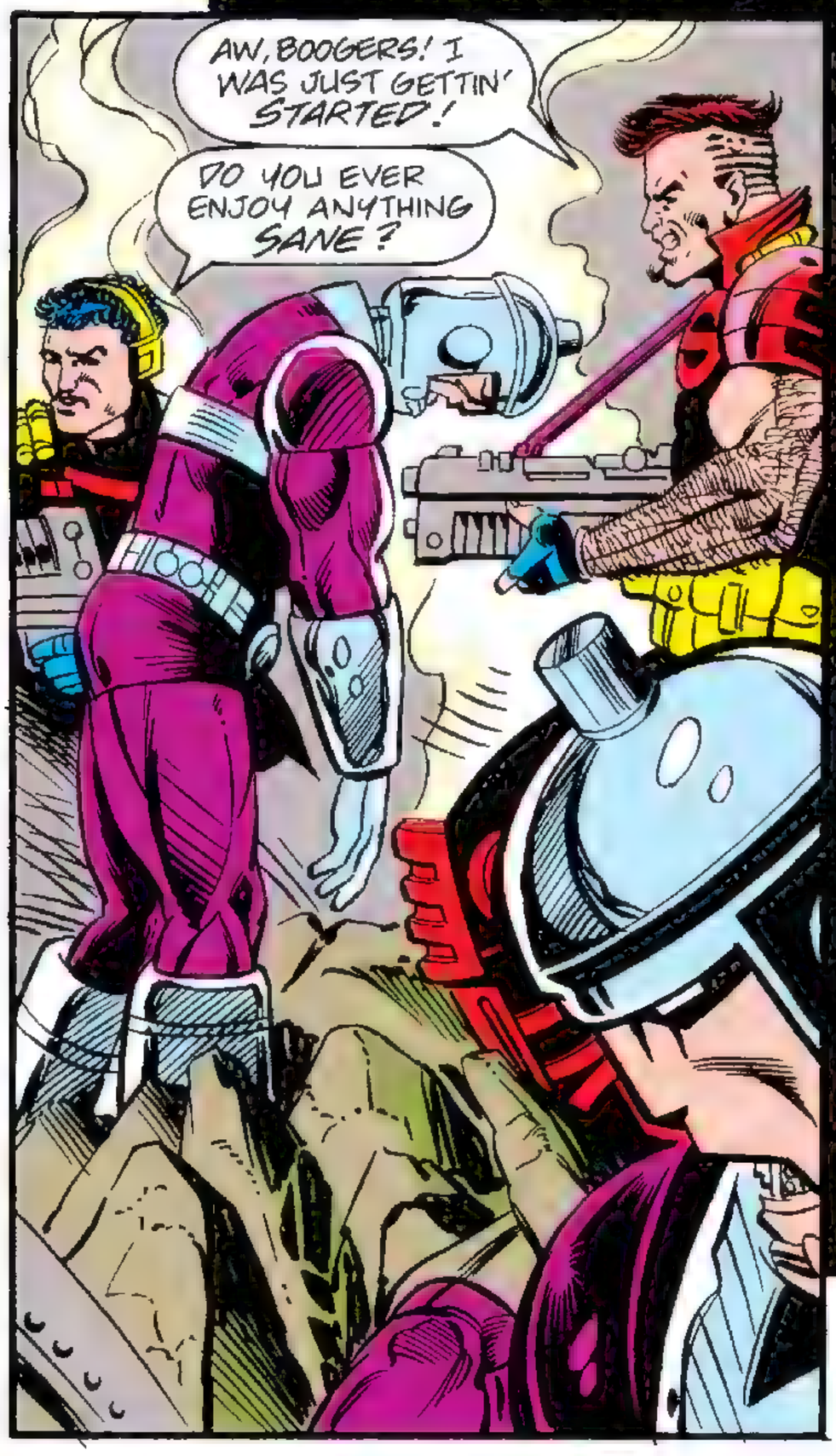
WOULDN'T WANT TA KILL THE FILLY 'FORE AH WIN MAH BET WITH SANDMAN--
--NOT THAT AH'D WANT TA KILL HER IN THE FIRST PLACE!

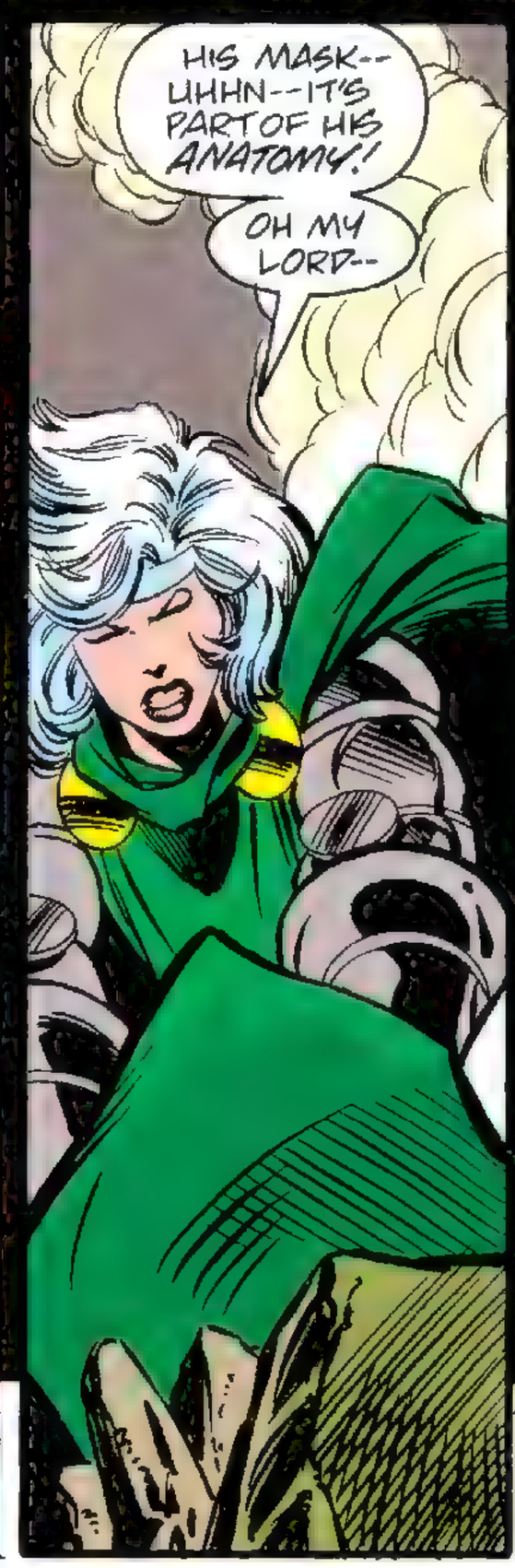

I'D PREFER YOU ALIVE, BUT SINCE YOU WILL NOT BE EXTENDING ME THE SAME COURTESY--
--YOU LEAVE ME WITH LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GIVE YOU THE FULL FORCE OF THIS ARMOR'S POWER!


AH DON'T B'LIEVE HE'S DEAD, SUGAH.
IT'LL BE MAH PLEASURE TA--


YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING!
VAM
HUH?

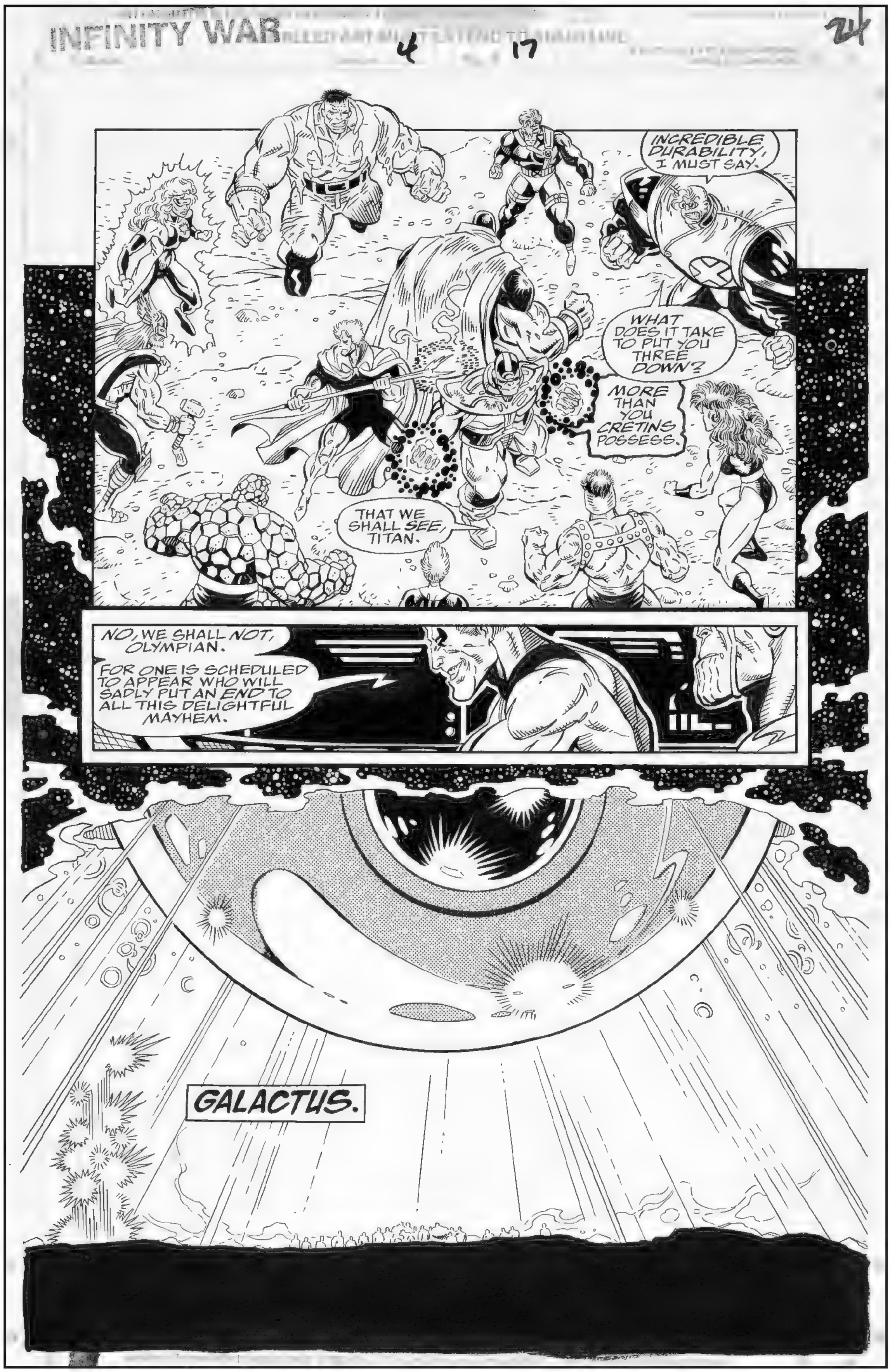

I WANT TO KNOW WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DOING HERE--
TEK
--JUST AS SOON AS I DISABLE THE REMAINING ROBOT GUARDS.


AW, BOOGERS! I WAS JUST GETTIN' STARTED!
DO YOU EVER ENJOY ANYTHING SANE?


HIS MASK-- UHHN--IT'S PART OF HIS ANATOMY!
OH MY LORD--

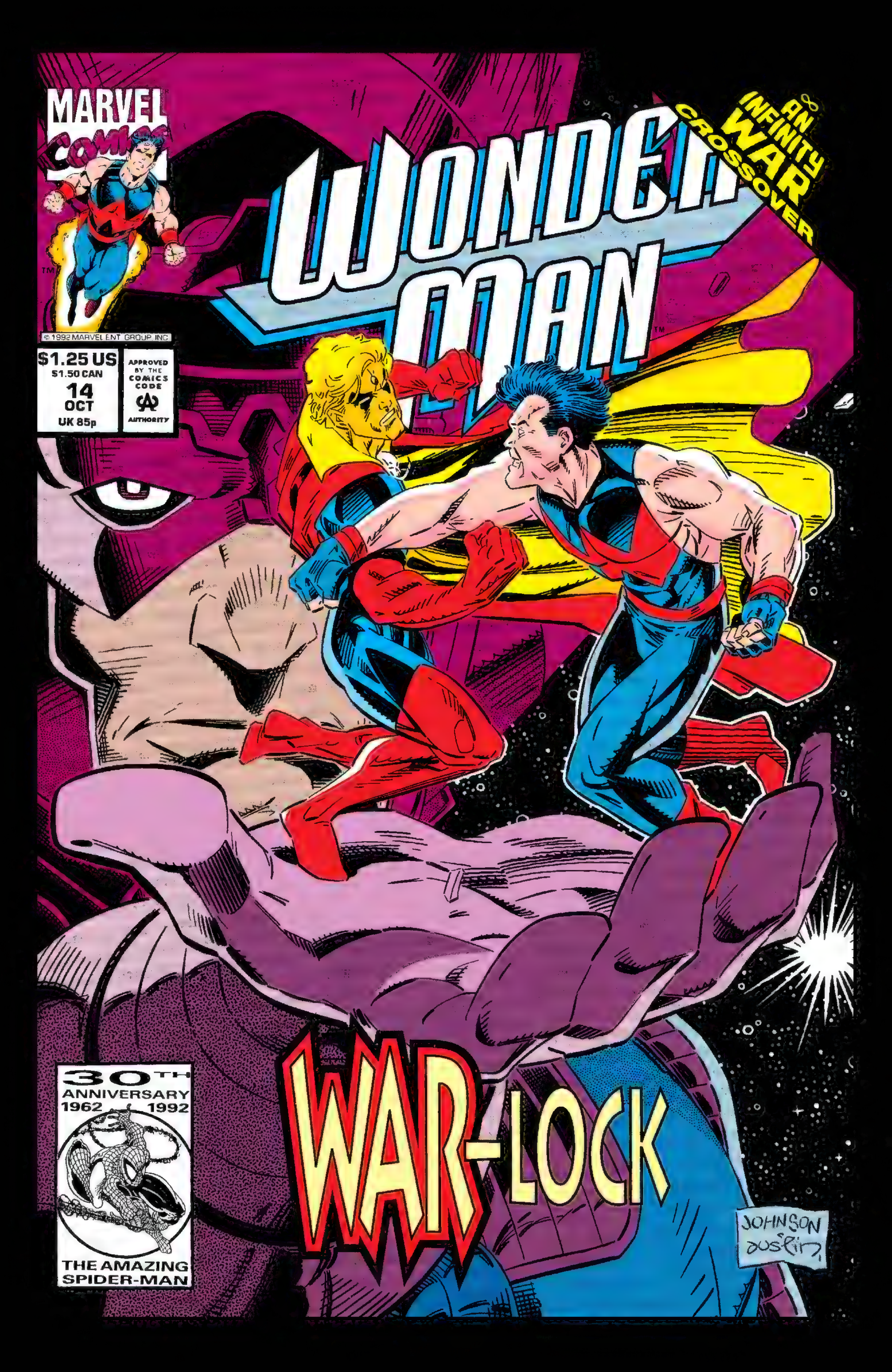
--IT'S TRANS-FORMING INTO--
WHATEVER IT IS, AH'M KILLIN' IT!
SUGAH? YOU AIN'T PLANNIN' ON DOCKIN' OUR PAY AGAIN, ARE YA?
NOT THIS TIME, POWELL. NOT THIS TIME.

THE FATE OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HANGS OVER THE ABYSS! THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR HEROES (AND THE REAL DOCTOR DOOM) IS TO KEEP READING THE INFINITY WAR-- ON SALE NOW!



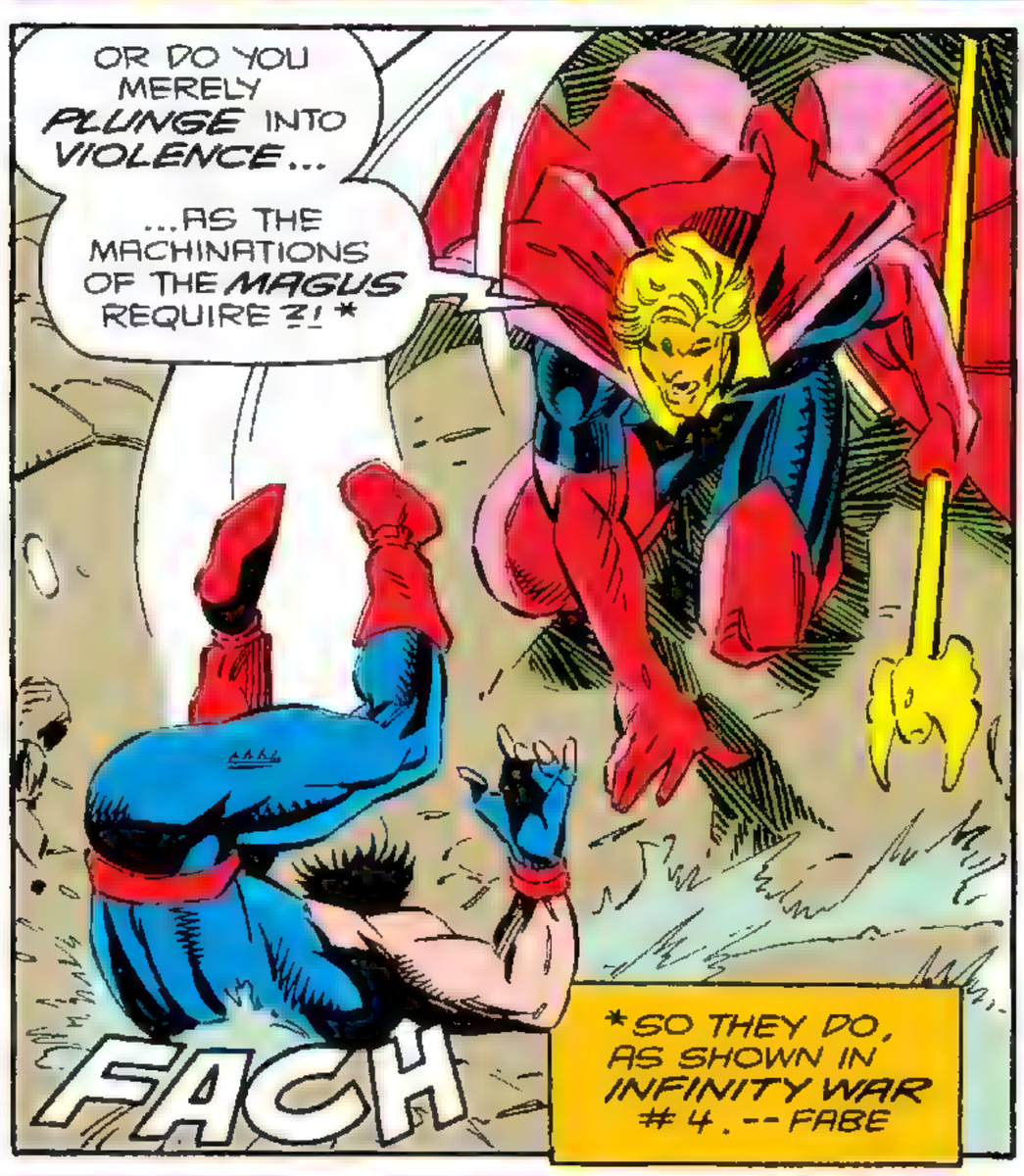
***INFINITY WAR #4*, PAGE 17 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

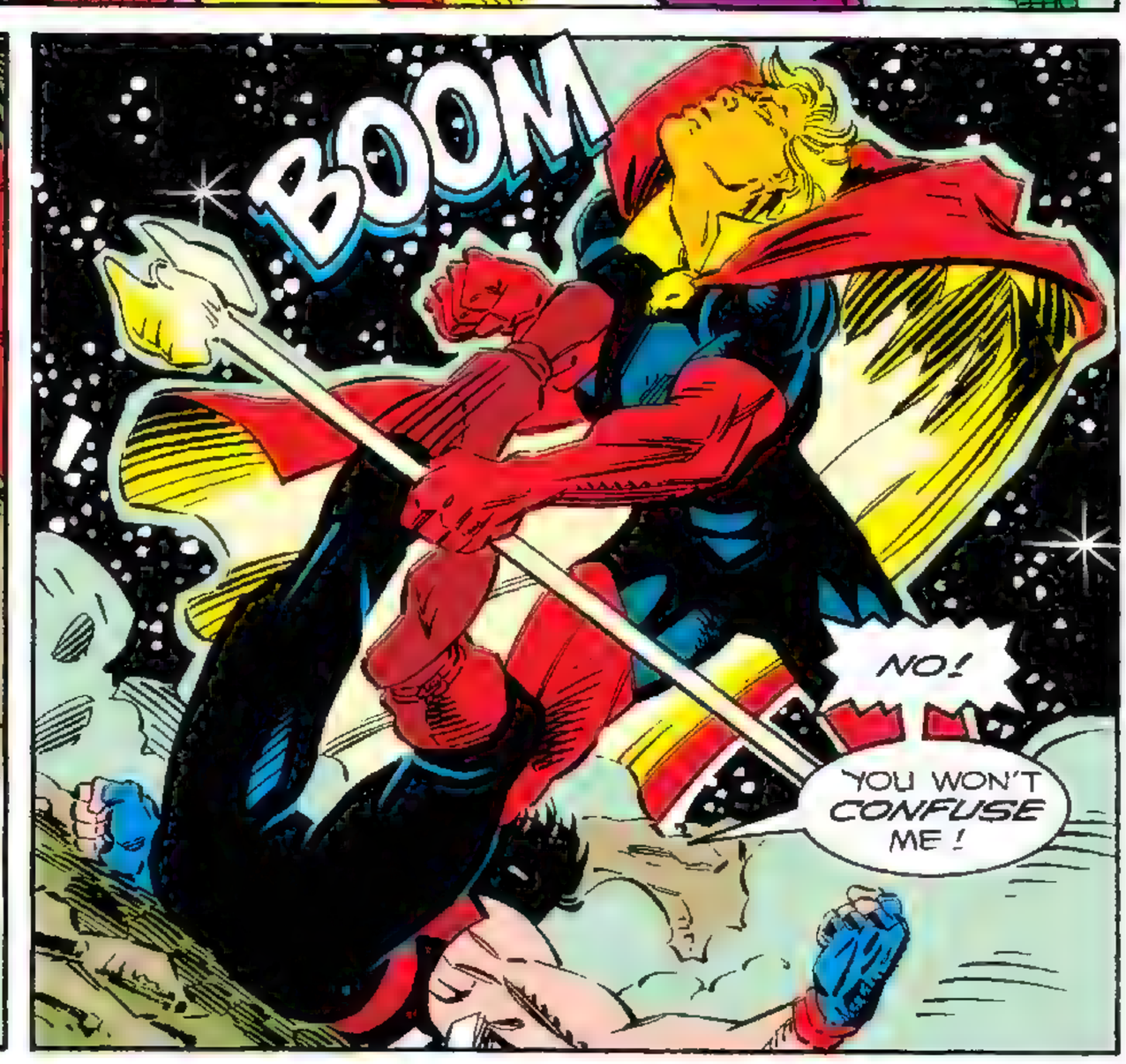
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM


MARVEL COMICS
WONDER MAN
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
WAR-LOCK
© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC
$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN
14
OCT
UK 85p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
JOHNSON austin

FOR EARTH--
--FOR MY SANITY--
--I'VE GOT TO STOP ADAM WARLOCK!!
KARMM
THE PLACE: A RELAY POINT IN THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE. THE SITUATION: AN OUT-OF-CONTROL SUPER HERO BRAWL!
INFINITE MEMORY
GERARD JONES WRITER / JEFF JOHNSON PENCILER / DAN PANOSIAN INKER / PAT BROSSEAU LETTERER / JOE ROSAS COLORIST / FABIAN NICIEZA EDITOR / TOM DeFALCO INFINITE-CHIEF

WHAK
"HEROES" OF EARTH!
DOZENS OF YOU, SENT TO STOP ME AND THANOS AND THE INFINITY WATCH!
HAVE YOU ASKED WHY YOU FIGHT THIS FIGHT?

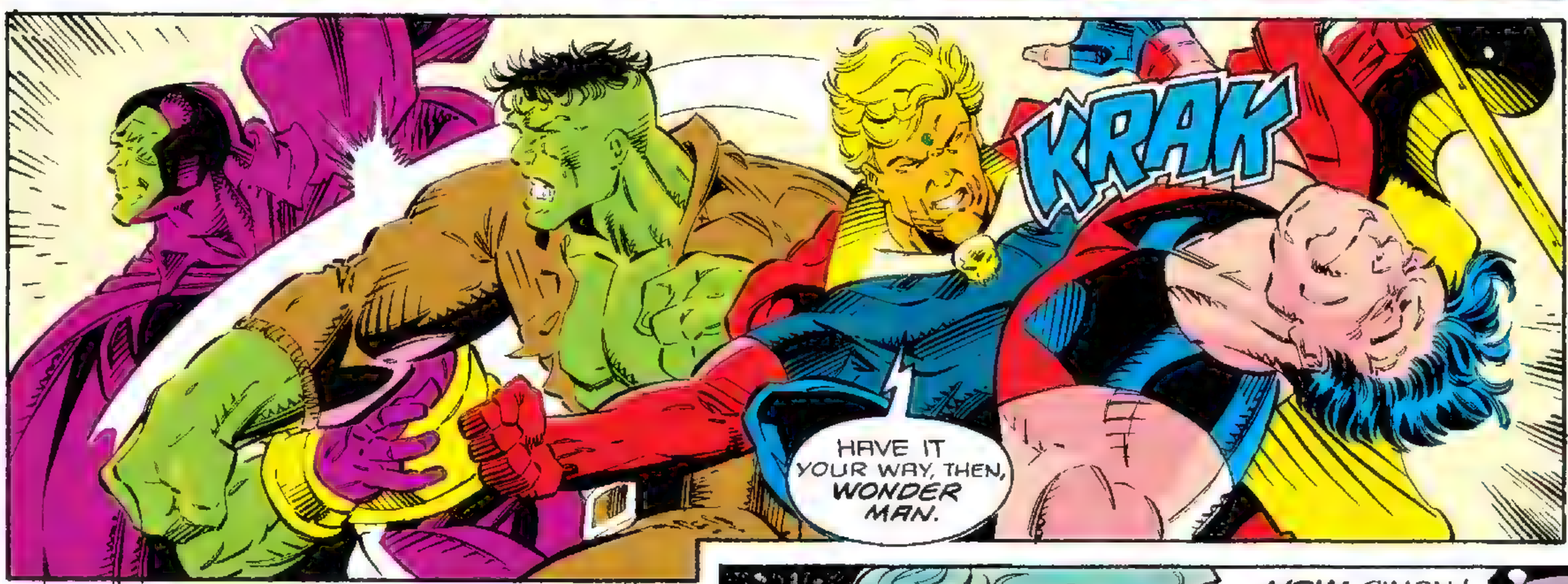

OR DO YOU MERELY PLUNGE INTO VIOLENCE...
...AS THE MACHINATIONS OF THE MAGUS REQUIRE?! *
FACH
*SO THEY DO, AS SHOWN IN INFINITY WAR #4. -- FABE


BOOM
NO!
YOU WON'T CONFUSE ME!

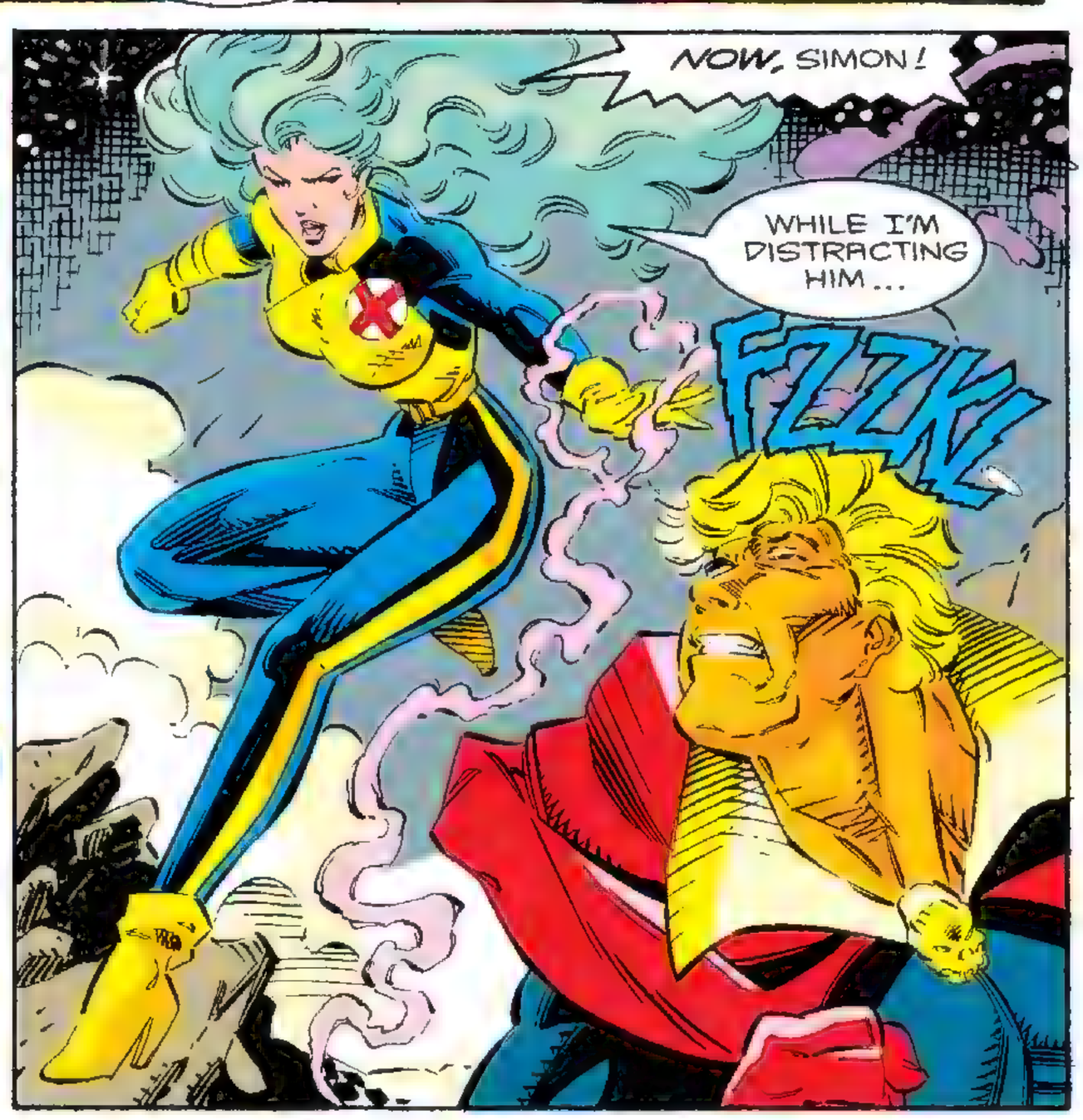
"CONFUSE" YOU... WITH THE TRUTH?
OH, THE MAD ARROGANCE OF YOU SUPPOSED "SUPER HUMANS"...
...TO THINK THAT ANYTHING THAT STOPS YOUR VIOLENCE MUST BE A LIE!

MADNESS ...
ARROGANCE ...
VIOLENCE ...
NO, WARLOCK!
YOU WON'T...
YOU WON'T...

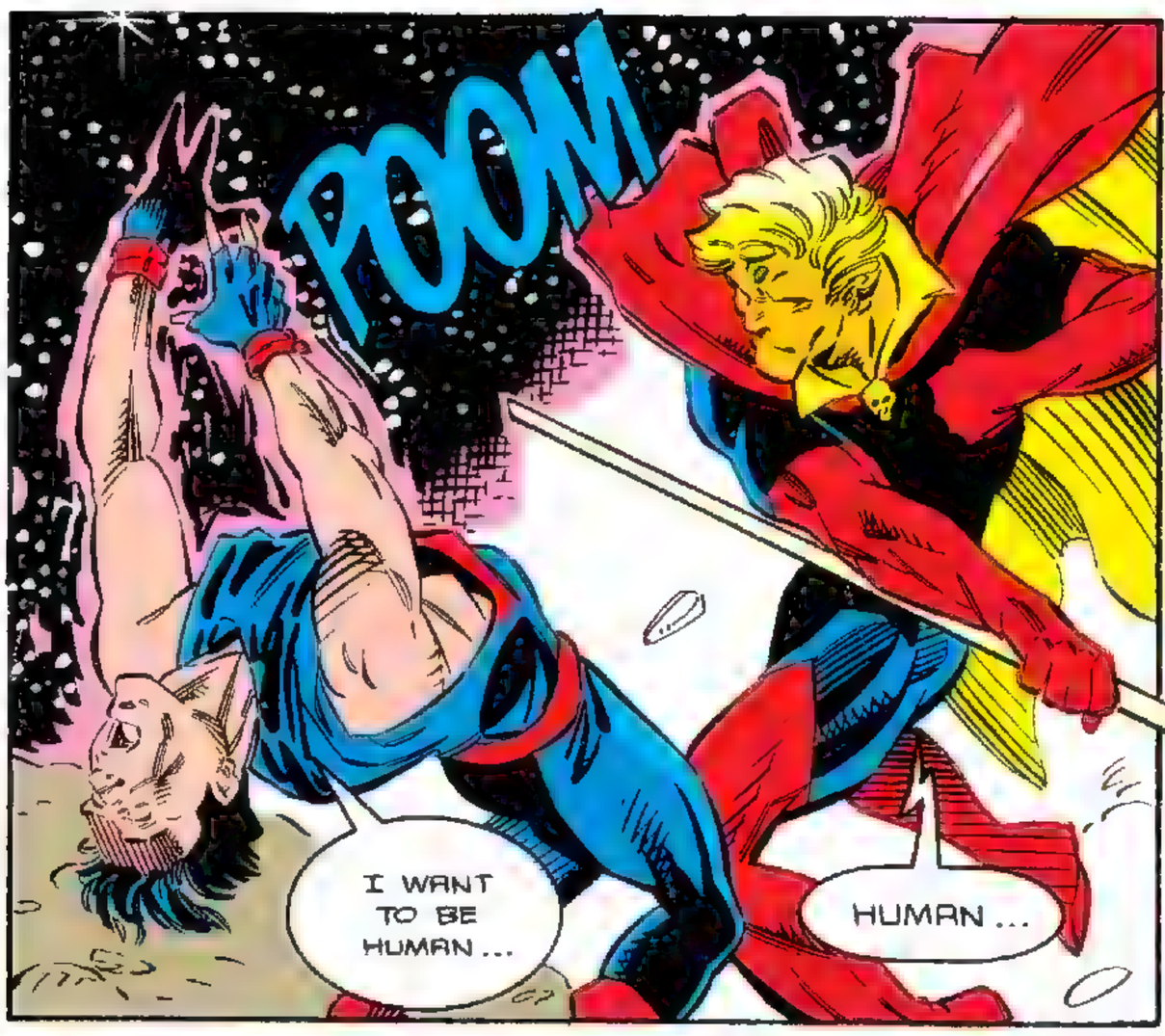
SH'WOOM


KRAK
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN, WONDER MAN.

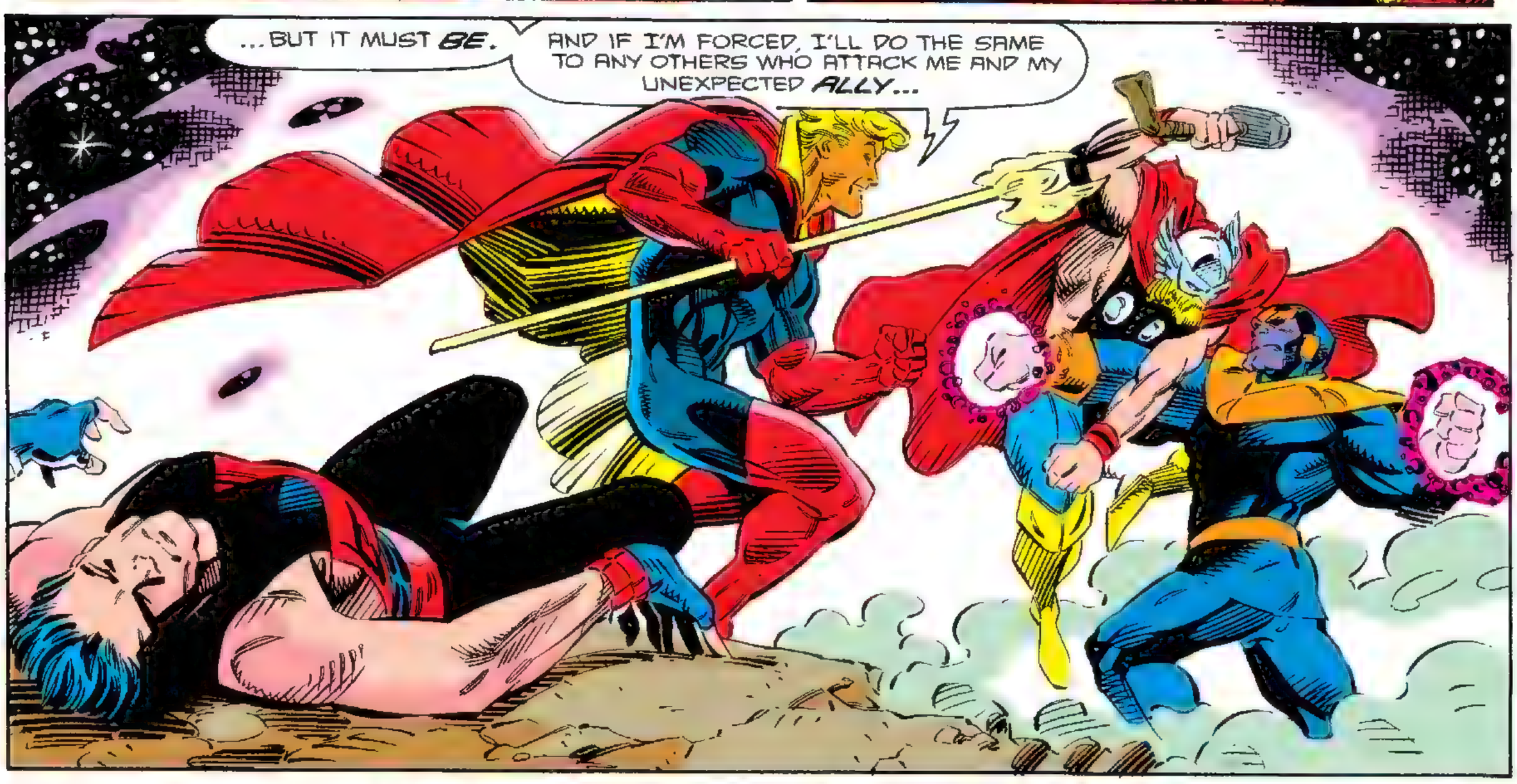
IF POWER IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE YOU UNDERSTAND...
...THEN LET MY POWER HAVE THE LAST WORD!
POWERS--
--BLASTED--
POWERS--

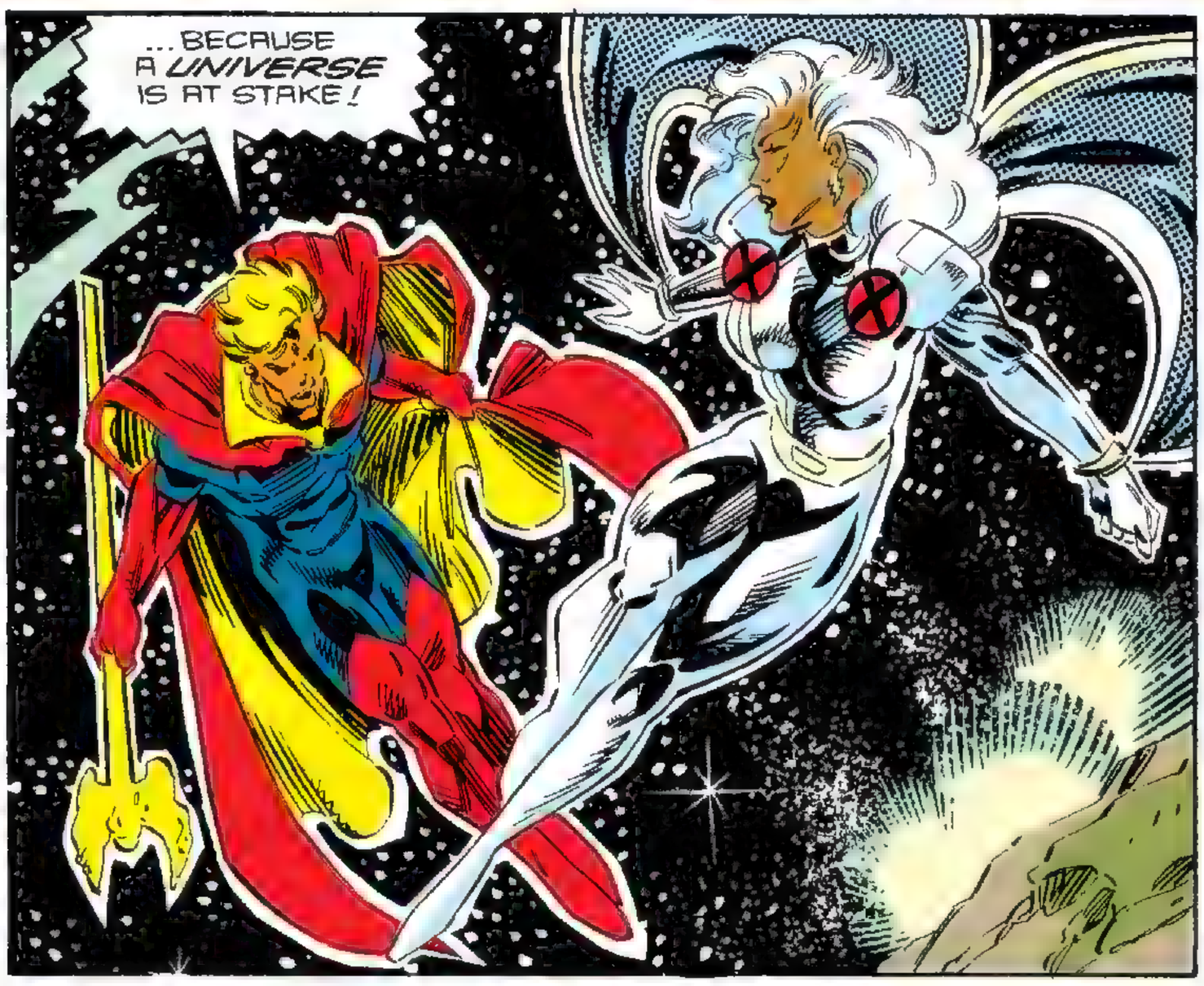

NOW, SIMON!
WHILE I'M DISTRACTING HIM...
FZZK!

NOW.
KARMMMM
NGHH--
SHUT YOUR MIND DOWN. JUST--
YES. SHUT YOUR MIND DOWN...
...TO MAKE YOURSELF A BETTER PAWN FOR EVIL.
CHOK
AN EVIL GREAT ENOUGH TO BRING ME TOGETHER WITH THANOS!
NO!
HE ATTACKED COLOSSUS AND POLARIS. I HAVE TO STOP HIM.
I WANT TO BE HUMAN! I--
BUT I WANT TO THINK-- NOT JUST PUNCH! I DON'T WANT TO JUST BE A BUNDLE OF RAGE-- I WANT TO KNOW!
PACH

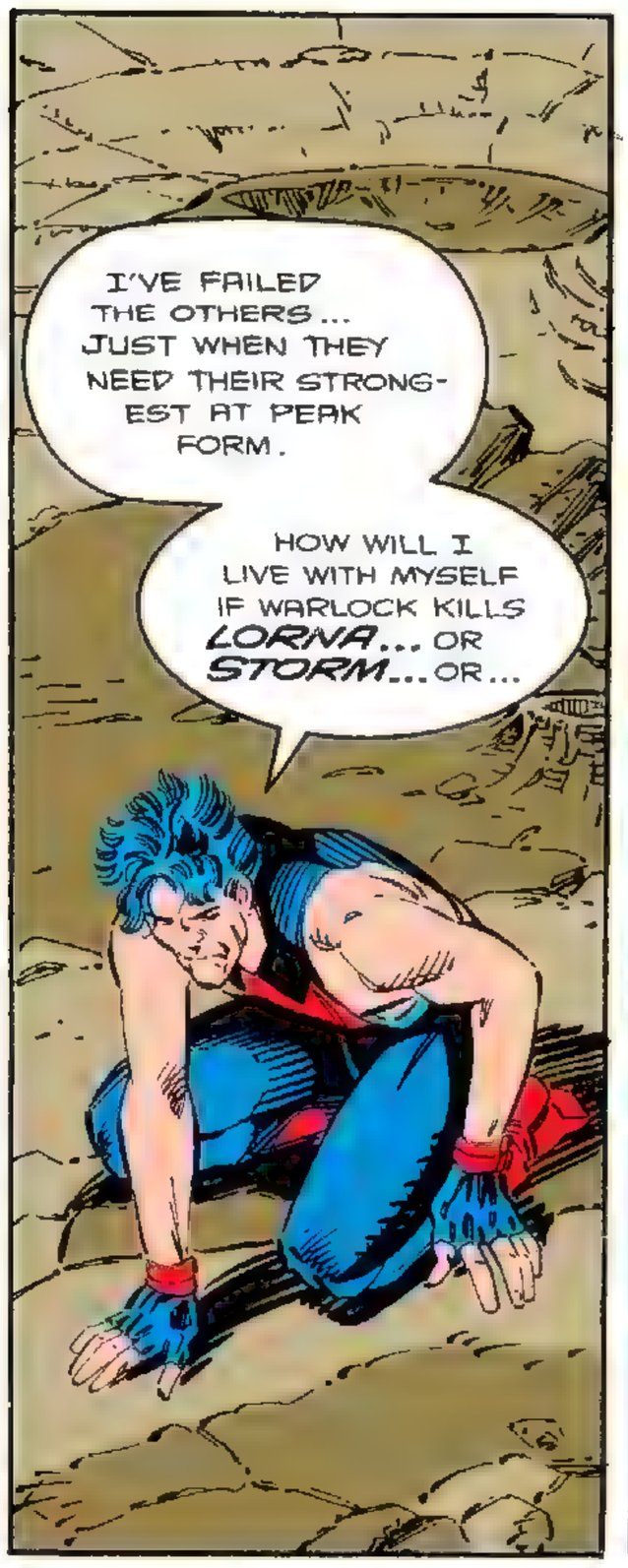

POOM
I WANT TO BE HUMAN...
HUMAN...

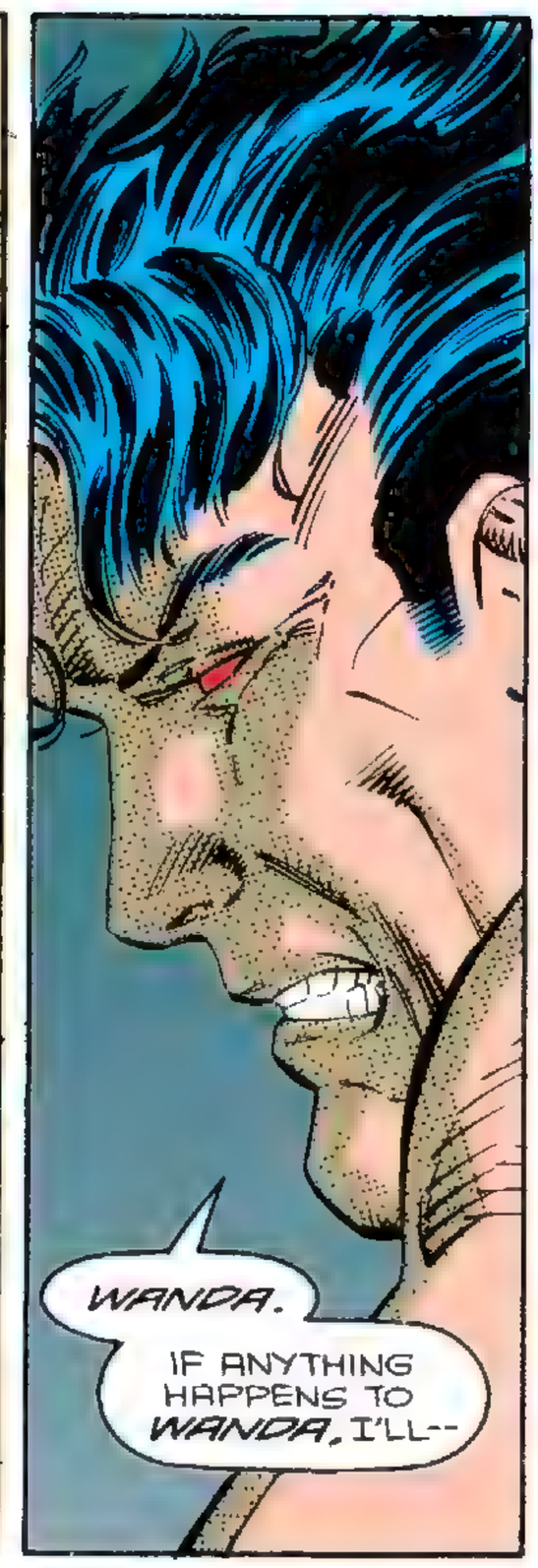
...ALL TOO HUMAN, WONDER MAN.
AND BECOMING ALL THE MORE SO AS I WATCH YOUR BODY DEFLATES BEFORE MY EYES.
IF I'VE DONE YOU DAMAGE, I AM SORRY...

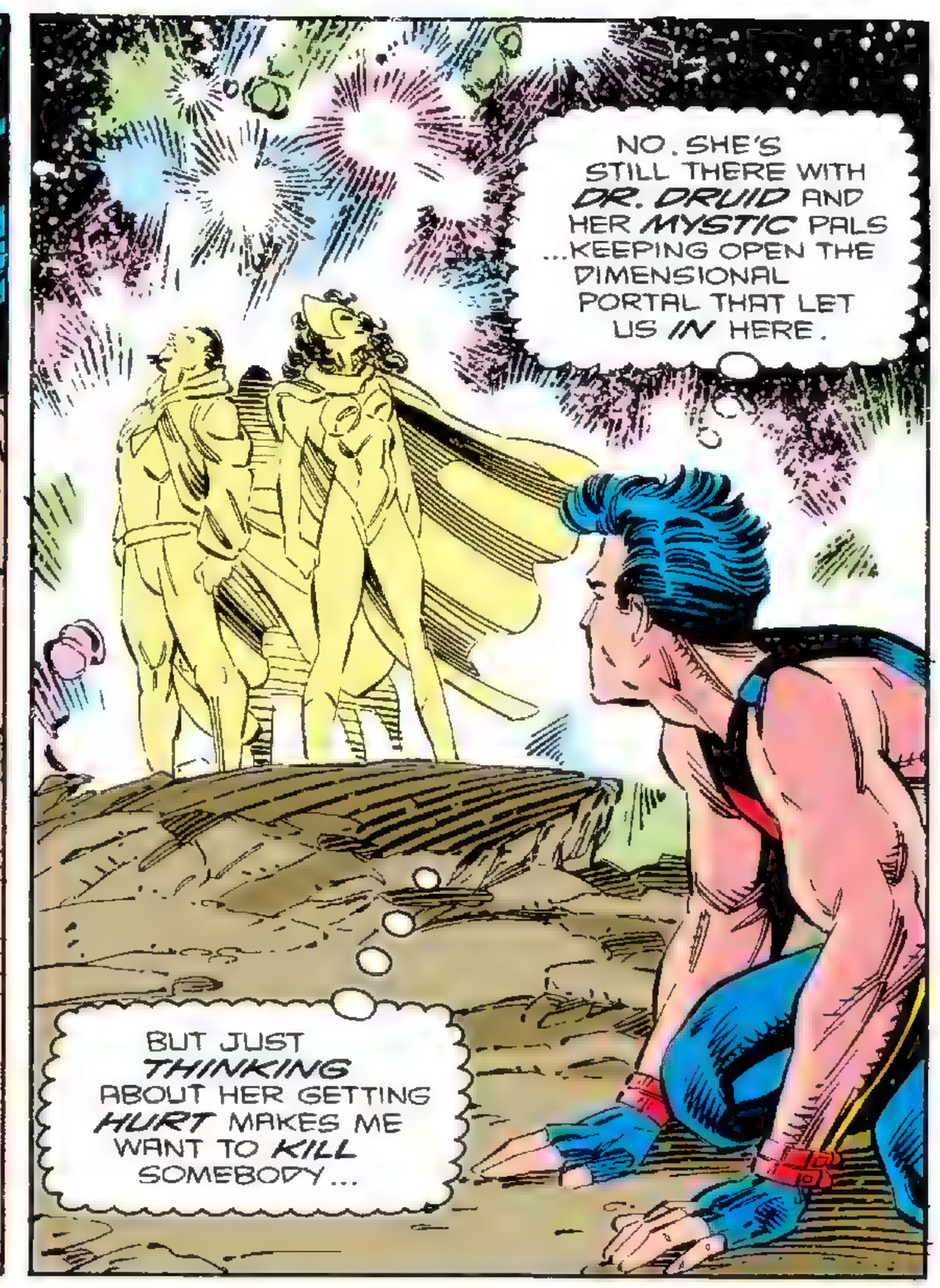

...BUT IT MUST BE.
AND IF I'M FORCED, I'LL DO THE SAME TO ANY OTHERS WHO ATTACK ME AND MY UNEXPECTED ALLY...

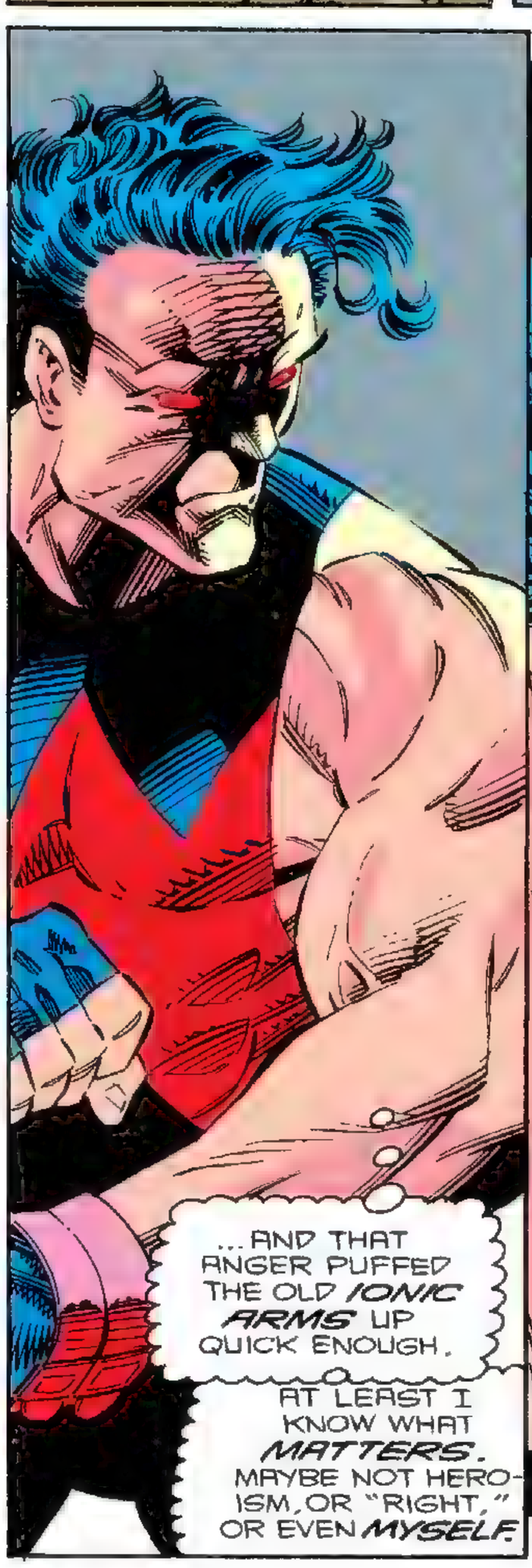

...BECAUSE A UNIVERSE IS AT STAKE!

POWERS... DESERTED ME... AGAIN.
TOO MANY QUESTIONS... ABOUT WHO I AM. ABOUT WHAT MY PAST HAS DONE TO ME.
SUPPOSED TO BE A HERO... BUT WHAT KIND OF HERO CAN ONLY BE STRONG WHEN HE'S ENRAGED.
...WHO CAN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT... AND THEN FIGHT FOR IT?

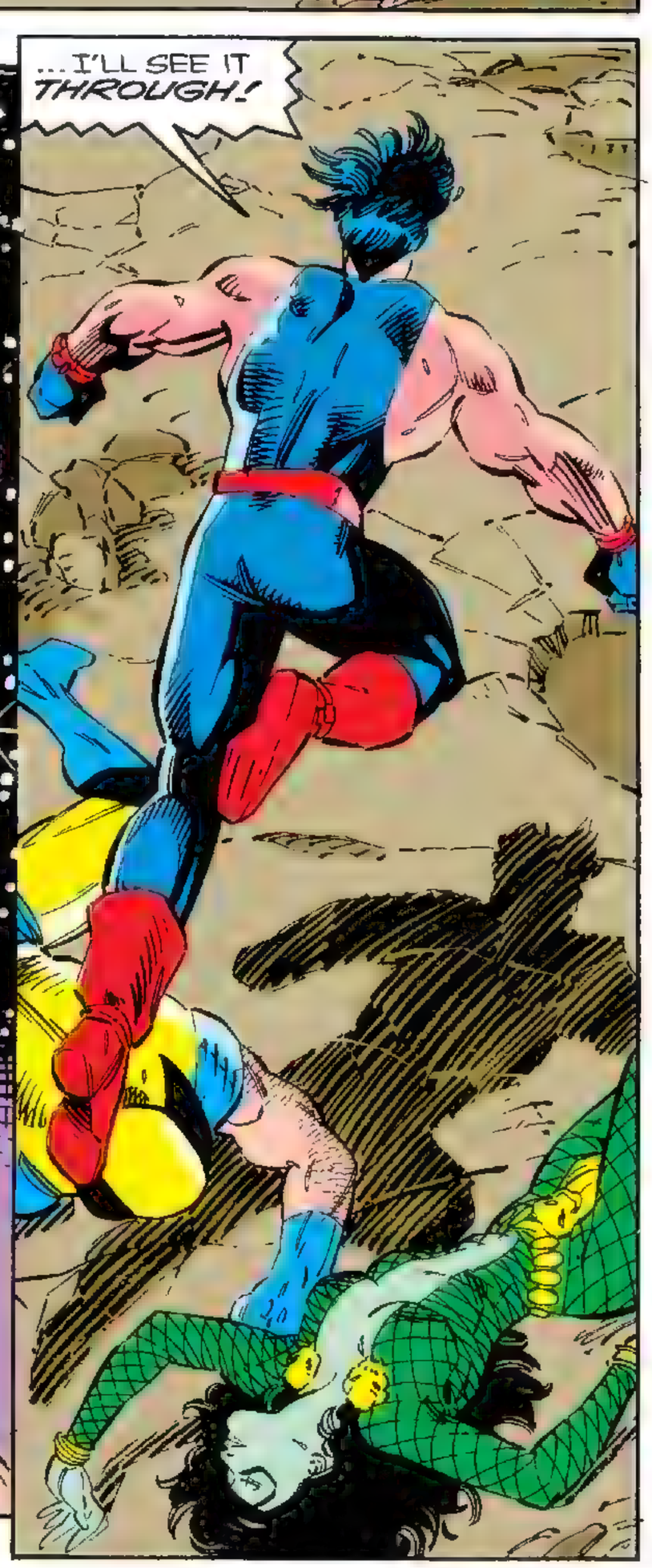

I'VE FAILED THE OTHERS... JUST WHEN THEY NEED THEIR STRONGEST AT PEAK FORM.
HOW WILL I LIVE WITH MYSELF IF WARLOCK KILLS LORNA... OR STORM... OR...

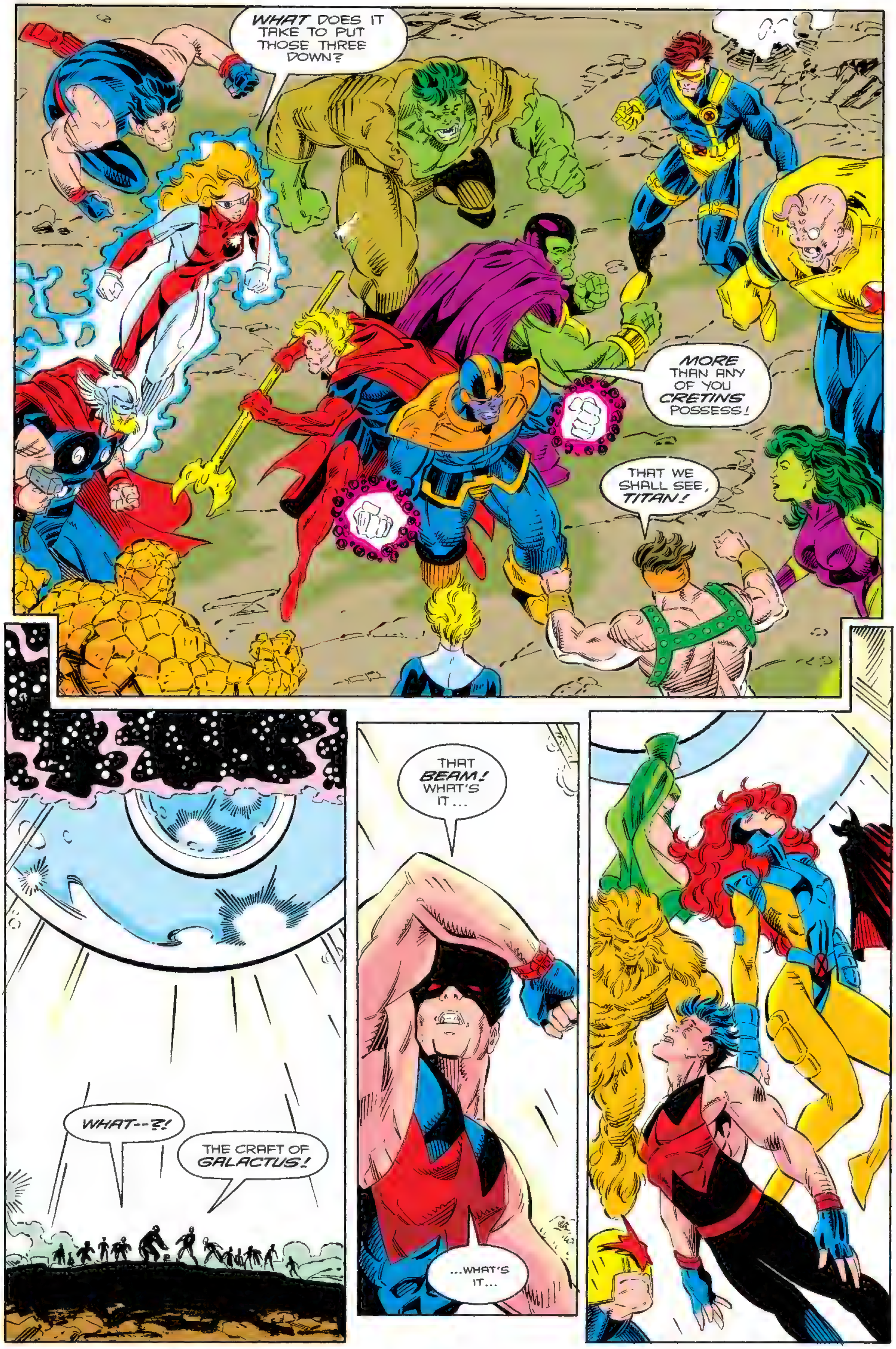

WANDA.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO WANDA, I'LL--


NO. SHE'S STILL THERE WITH DR. DRUID AND HER MYSTIC PALS ...KEEPING OPEN THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL THAT LET US IN HERE.
BUT JUST THINKING ABOUT HER GETTING HURT MAKES ME WANT TO KILL SOMEBODY...

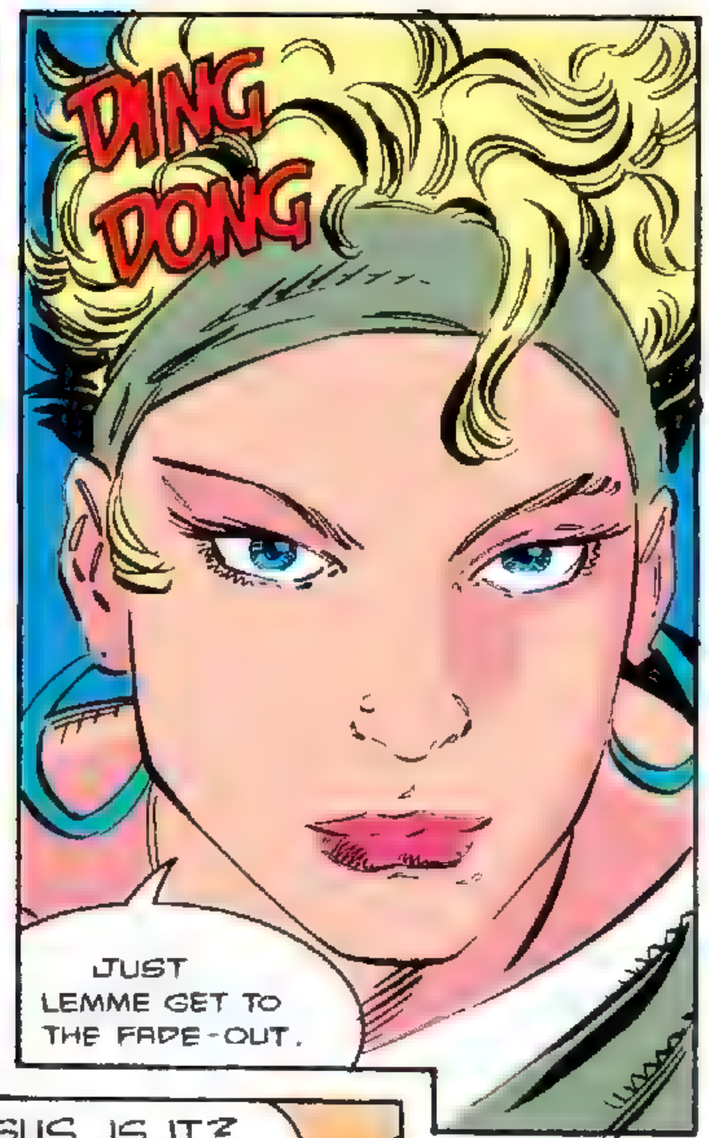

...AND THAT ANGER PUFFED THE OLD IONIC ARMS UP QUICK ENOUGH.
AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT MATTERS. MAYBE NOT HEROISM, OR "RIGHT," OR EVEN MYSELF.

...BUT WANDA.
DECISIONS ABOUT HEROISM WILL HAVE TO WAIT! I'M IN THIS NOW...
...AND EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR HER...

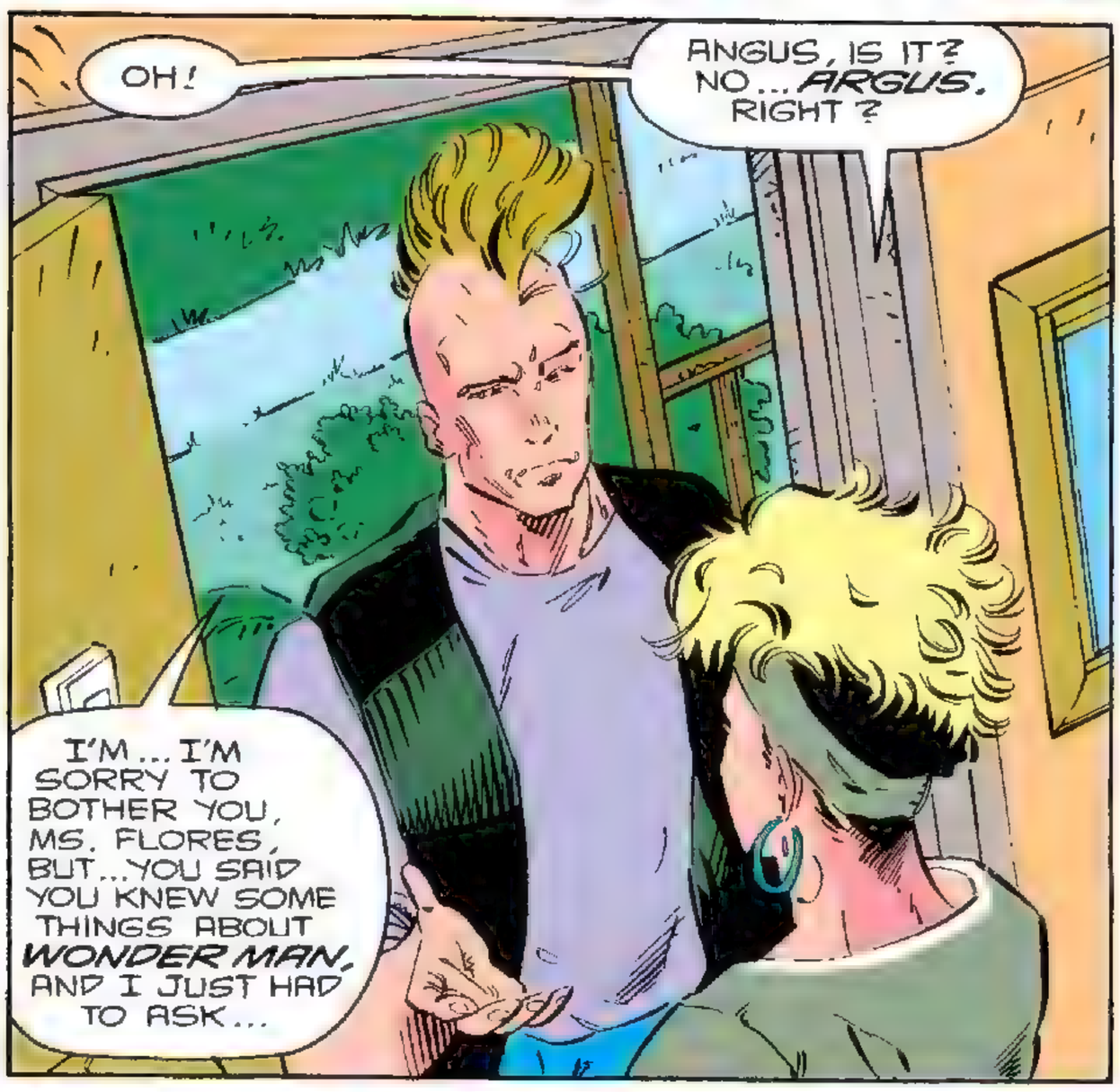

...I'LL SEE IT THROUGH!

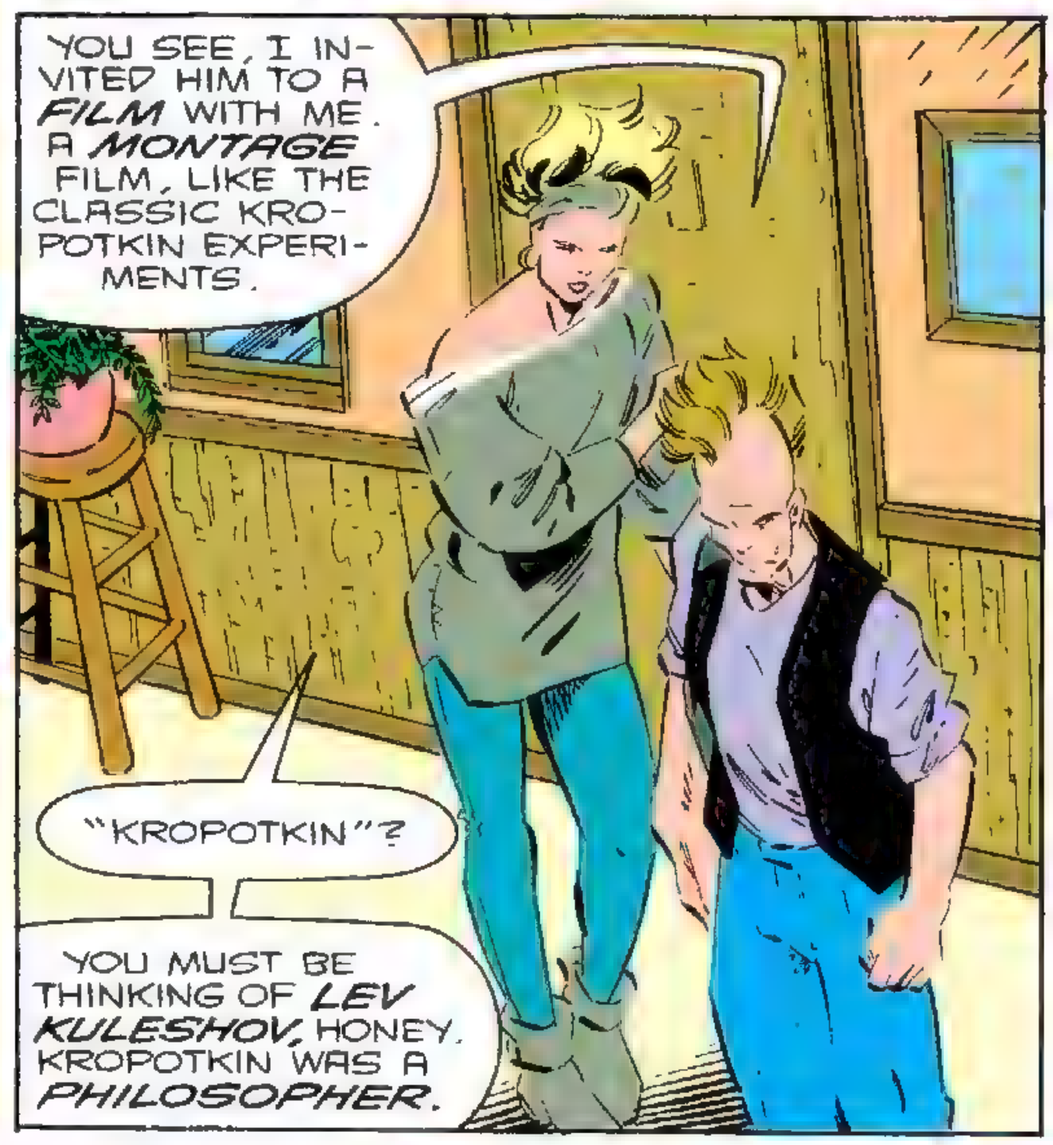

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PUT THOSE THREE DOWN?
MORE THAN ANY OF YOU CRETINS POSSESS!
THAT WE SHALL SEE, TITAN!
WHAT--?!
THE CRAFT OF GALACTUS!
THAT BEAM! WHAT'S IT...
...WHAT'S IT...

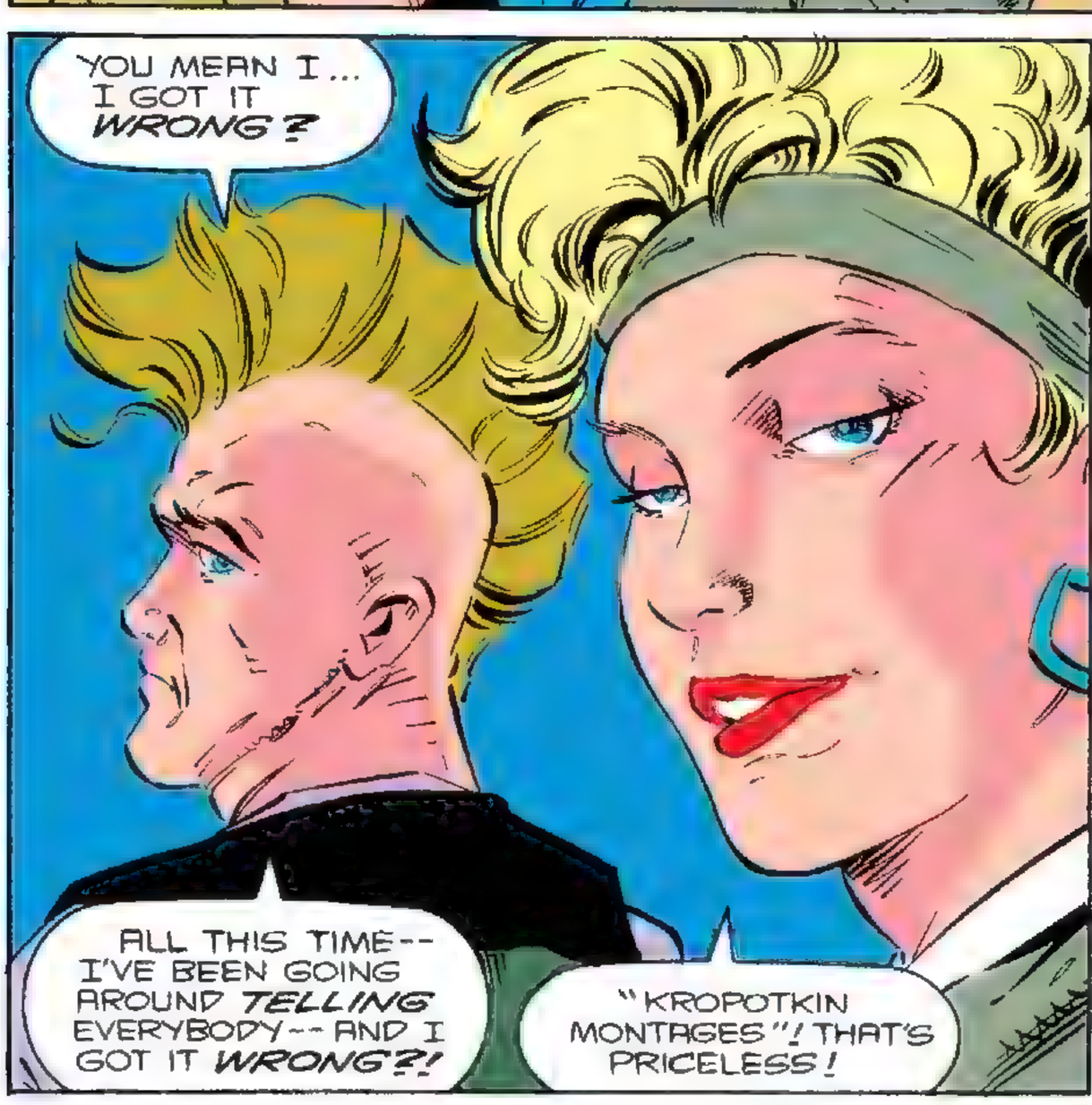
BILLY WILDER'S
THE APARTMENT
JACK LEMMON
SHIRLEY MACLAINE
DING DONG
COMING.


DING DONG
JUST LEMME GET TO THE FADE-OUT.

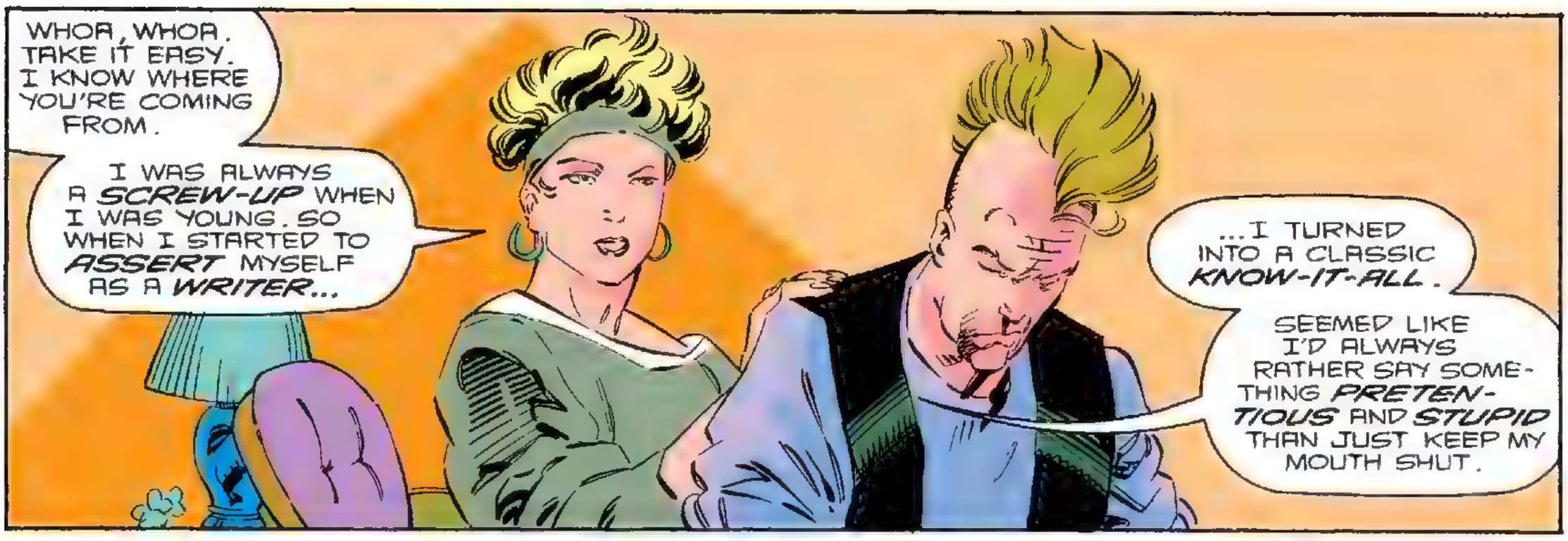
DING DONG
OKAY, OKAY! GIVE IT A REST, WILL YA? I'M--


OH!
ANGUS, IS IT? NO... ARGUS, RIGHT?
I'M... I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MS. FLORES, BUT... YOU SAID YOU KNEW SOME THINGS ABOUT WONDER MAN, AND I JUST HAD TO ASK...


YOU SEE, I INVITED HIM TO A FILM WITH ME. A MONTAGE FILM, LIKE THE CLASSIC KROPOTKIN EXPERIMENTS.
"KROPOTKIN"?
YOU MUST BE THINKING OF LEV KULESHOV, HONEY. KROPOTKIN WAS A PHILOSOPHER.


YOU MEAN I... I GOT IT WRONG?
ALL THIS TIME-- I'VE BEEN GOING AROUND TELLING EVERYBODY-- AND I GOT IT WRONG?!
"KROPOTKIN MONTAGES"! THAT'S PRICELESS!

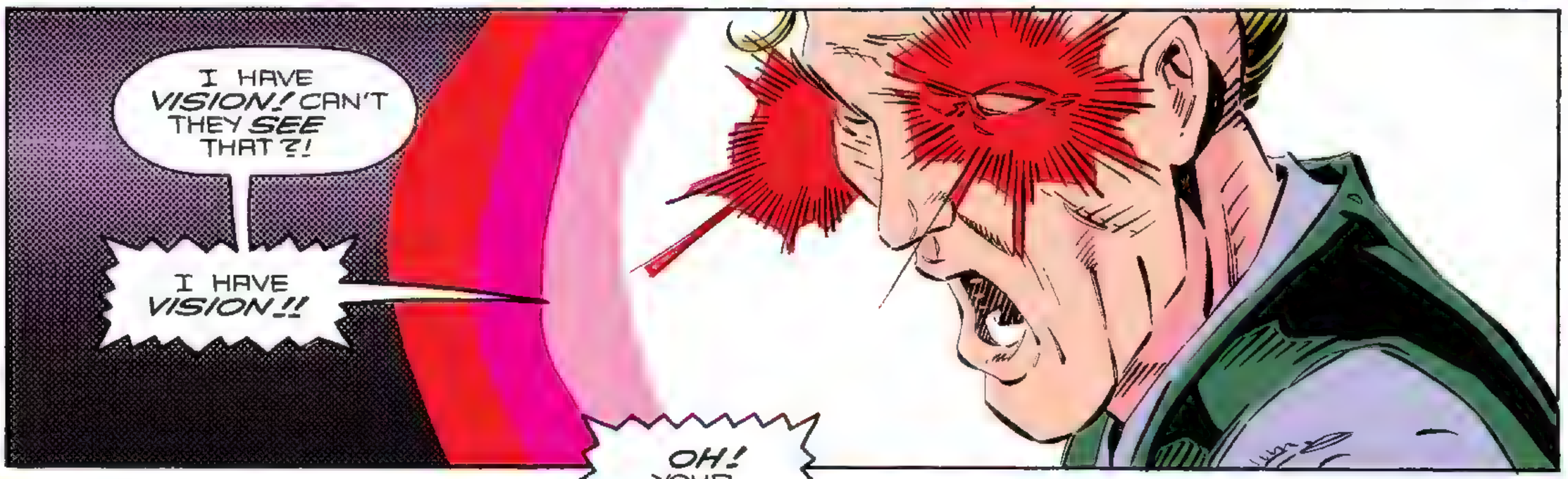
PRICELESS?!
I'M SICK OF GETTING EVERYTHING WRONG! I'M SICK OF BEING A FOOL!

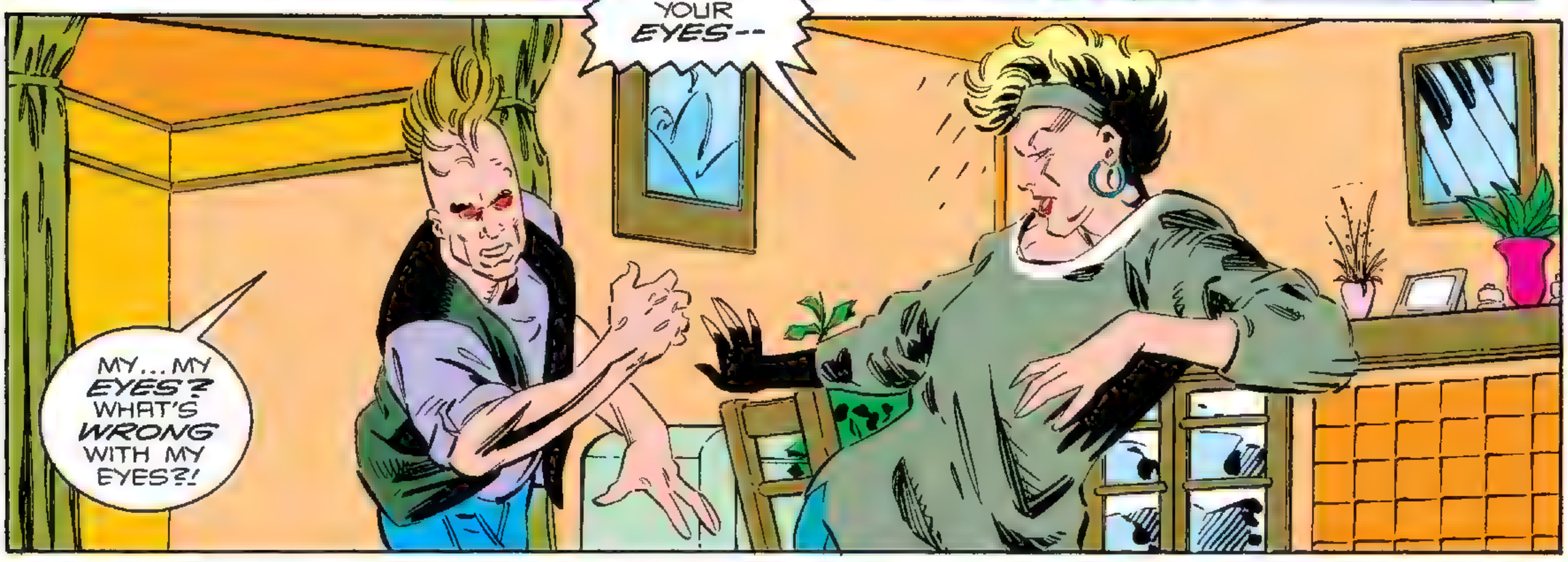

WHOA, WHOA. TAKE IT EASY. I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.
I WAS ALWAYS A SCREW-UP WHEN I WAS YOUNG. SO WHEN I STARTED TO ASSERT MYSELF AS A WRITER...
...I TURNED INTO A CLASSIC KNOW-IT-ALL.
SEEMED LIKE I'D ALWAYS RATHER SAY SOMETHING PRETENTIOUS AND STUPID THAN JUST KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

THIS WORLD MAKES IT HARD TO BE INTELLIGENT. IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A GEEK IF YOU WANT TO THINK...
...IF YOU WANT TO LEARN.

SOMETIMES THE HARDEST THING IS LEARNING TO BE COMFORTABLE WITH WHAT YOU KNOW...
...AND WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
YES, YES, YES...

...BUT I KNOW I'LL BE A GREAT FILMMAKER!
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONVINCE PEOPLE!

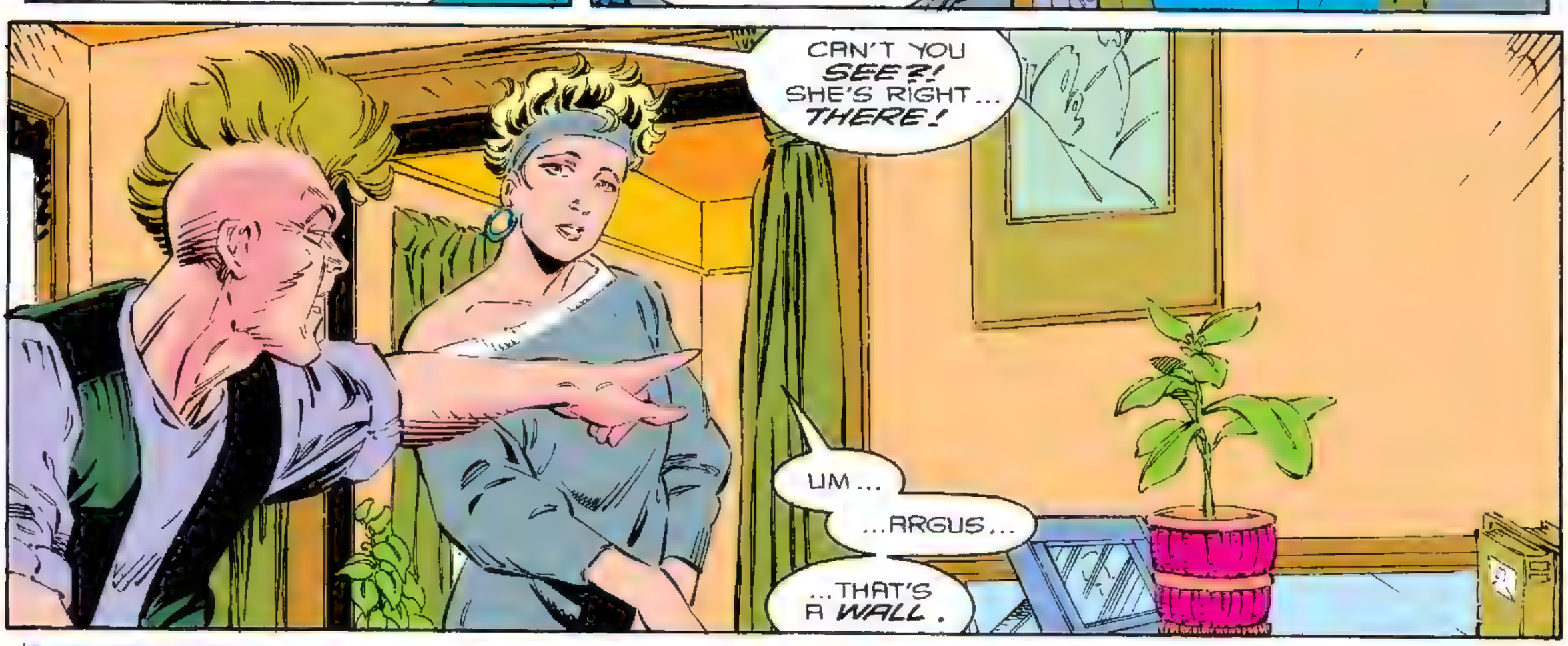

I HAVE VISION! CAN'T THEY SEE THAT?!
I HAVE VISION!!
OH! YOUR EYES--

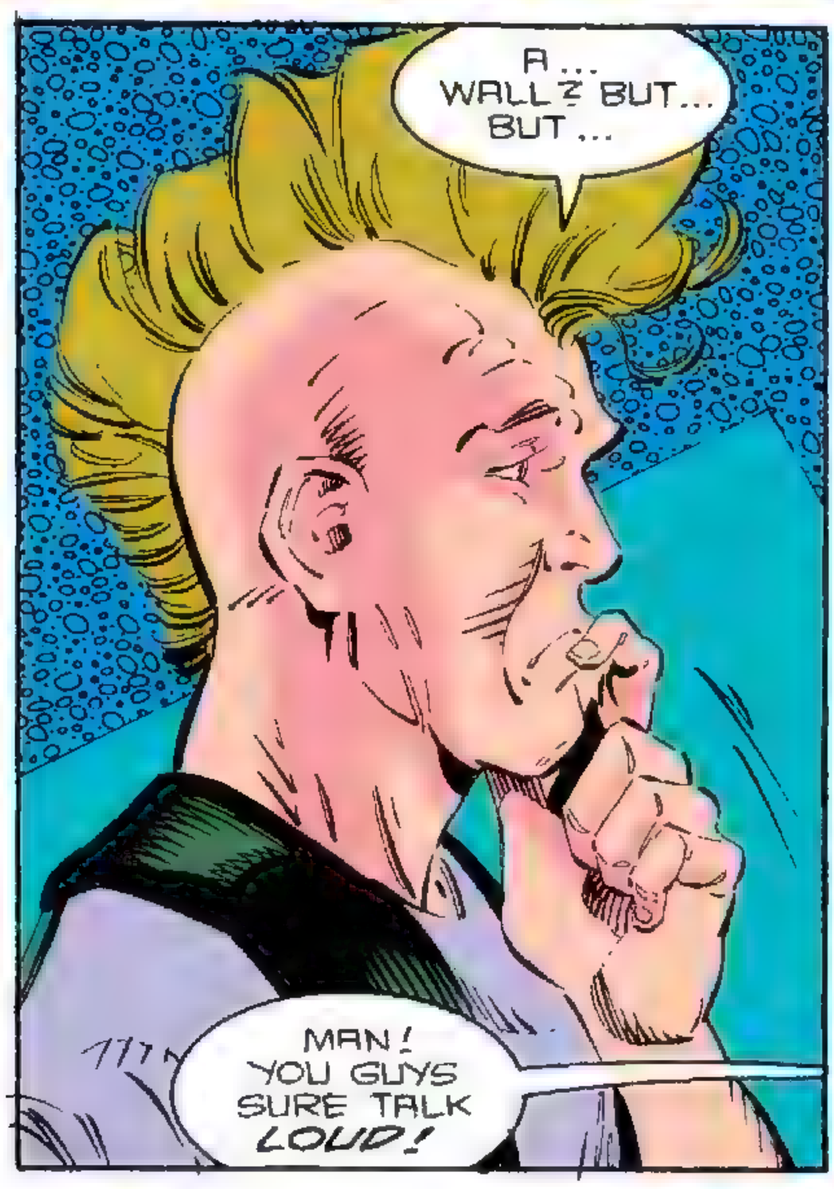

MY...MY EYES? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EYES?!

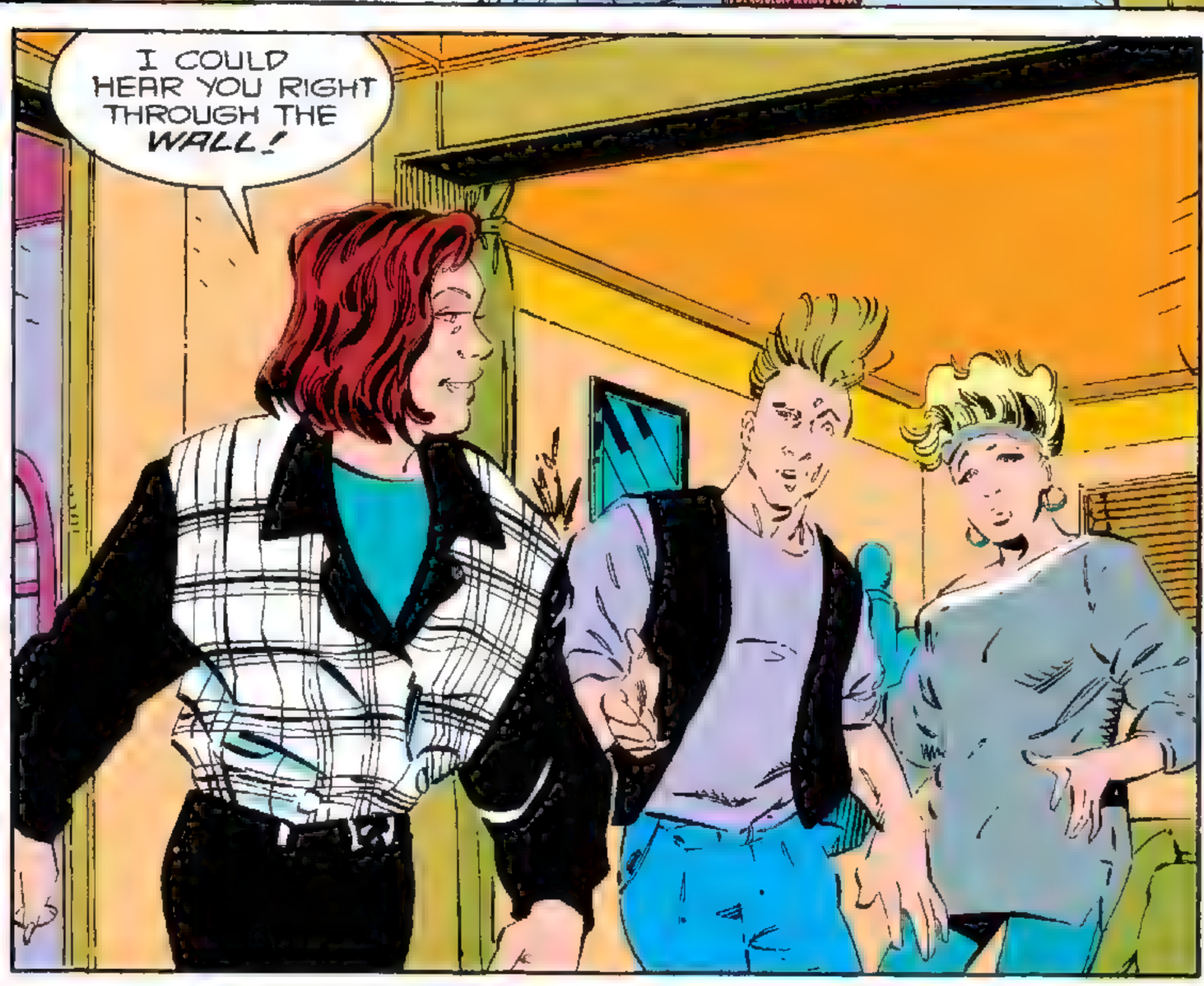
NOTHING MUCH. JUST SHOOTING FIRE.
FIRE.
EVER SINCE I WAS BLASTED BY WONDER MAN'S ENERGY, I... I'VE BEEN FEELING STRANGE TINGLINGS...

OH... JEEZ. YOU TOO?
MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING!

WHERE IS SHE? I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD, I--
SHE'S RIGHT THERE.
WHERE?


CAN'T YOU SEE?! SHE'S RIGHT... THERE!
UM...
...ARGUS...
...THAT'S A WALL.


A... WALL? BUT... BUT...
MAN! YOU GUYS SURE TALK LOUD!


I COULD HEAR YOU RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!

THE DIMENSIONAL CROSSROADS...

NOW MAY WE *RETURN* TO THE TASK AT HAND?

I HAVE ENTRANCED THESE EARTH-LINGS--

--IN HOPE THAT THEY MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE I NEED TO THWART THE *MAGUS'S* BID FOR COSMIC POWER.

THE *QUICKEST WAY* TO GAIN THE INTELLIGENCE I SEEK IS THROUGH A *CEREBRAL SCAN* OF ALL RECENT MEMORIES.

STEADY YOURSELVES, MORTALS. THIS UNIT IS *NOT* ADEQUATELY *INSULATED* FOR THE SENSITIVITIES OF YOUR *FRAIL SYSTEMS*.

I CANNOT GUESS WHAT MEMORIES IT WILL STIR.

"NOW I CAN DIE--"

NO.

"--KNOWING THAT I DIDN'T LIVE--"

NO. NOT DEAD.

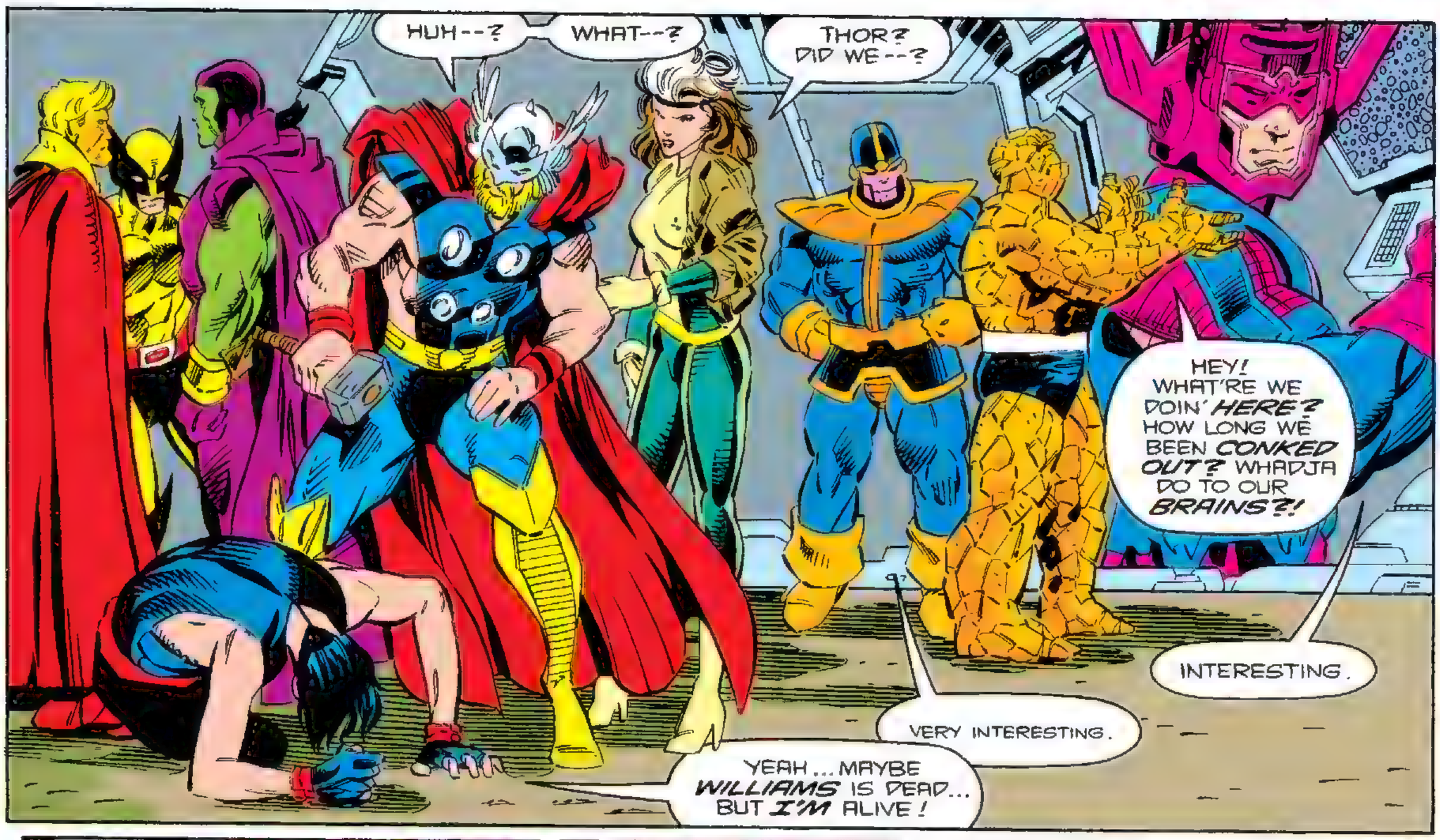
"I HAVE CREATED A NEW BREED OF MAN--"

"--A LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION!"

IT'S NOT *TRUE!!*

" I'M YOUR BROTHER, SIMON! YOU CAN SAVE ME... OR YOU CAN MAKE ME A CRIMINAL..."
"...SIMON WILLIAMS, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR EMBEZZLEMENT..."
"...NO PLACE TO TURN... DO AS WE SAY... WE CAN OFFER YOU WEALTH ...POWER..."
"...CREATED A NEW BREED... A LIVING ENGINE..."
"...HE WAS A STRANGE MIXTURE OF GOOD AND EVIL... HE WAS... HE WAS..."
"...YOU WERE DEAD, WONDER MAN... DEAD..."
"...NO MAN DIES AND COMES BACK... MORTAL... NO HUMAN..."
"...I'M YOUR BROTHER, SIMON... THE GRIM REAPER... YOUR BROTHER DEATH..."
"...YOUR BROTHER... YOUR GHOST... YOUR SELF!"

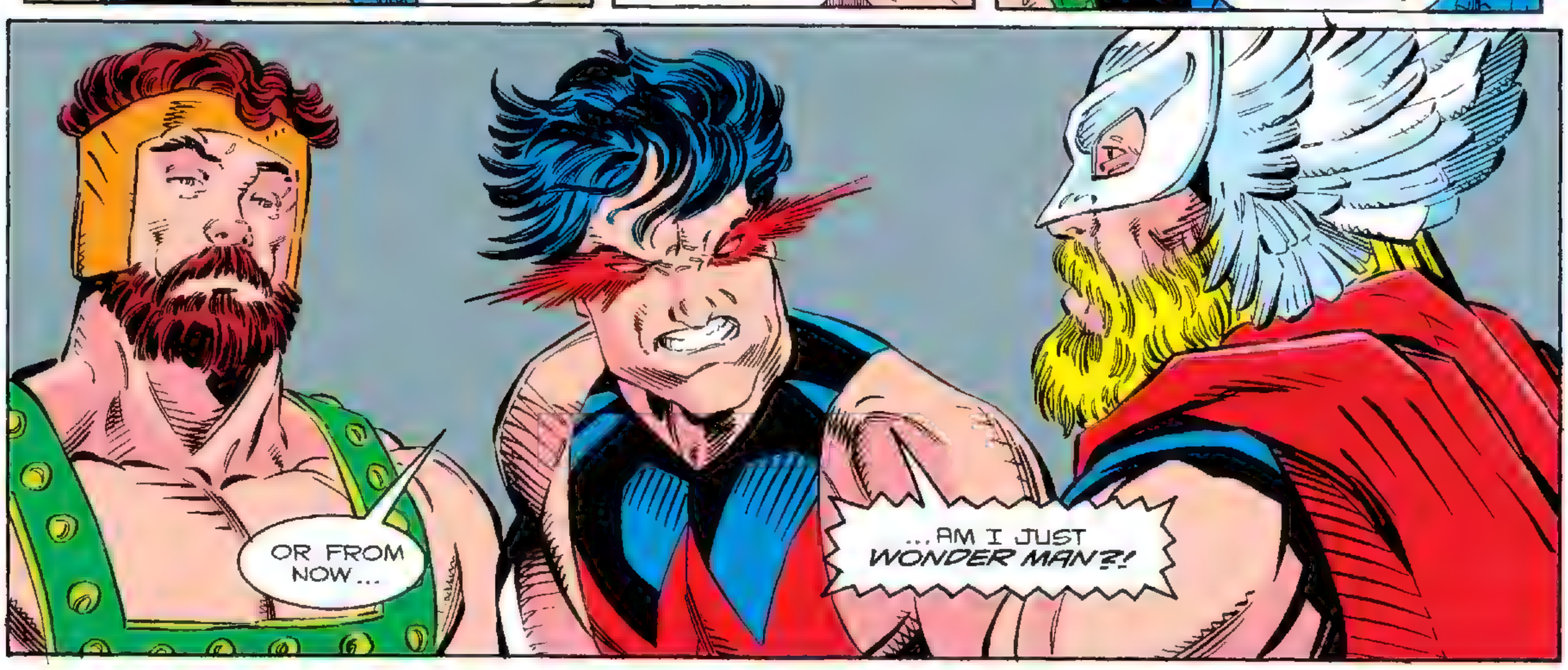
IT'S A LIE!
I'M NOT DEAD! I'M NOT INHUMAN! I'M SIMON WILLIAMS!
YOU WANT ME TO THINK I'M JUST A MEMORY...
...JUST A PATTERN OF ENERGY THAT THINKS IT'S WILLIAMS! BUT...
OH, DEAR LORD.
MY... BODY...
...I'M LOSING...
...MY BODY...
I'M ALIVE!!
I'M NOT AN... ILLUSION.
AM I?
AM I ONLY...A SELF-DECEPTION?
DO I LIVE...JUST BECAUSE I REPRESS THE TRUTH? BECAUSE I WON'T ADMIT...
...THAT SIMON WILLIAMS DIED... YEARS AGO?
AND IF I...
...IF I STOP... PRETENDING...?
NO.
NO.
NO!
MAYBE I'M NOT SIMON WILLIAMS.
MAYBE WILLIAMS IS DEAD.


HUH--?
WHAT--?
THOR? DID WE--?
HEY! WHAT'RE WE DOIN' HERE? HOW LONG WE BEEN CONKED OUT? WHADJA DO TO OUR BRAINS?!
INTERESTING.
VERY INTERESTING.
YEAH... MAYBE WILLIAMS IS DEAD... BUT I'M ALIVE!

WONDY!
YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MUSCLES?
JUST AN... IONIC FLUCTUA-TION...

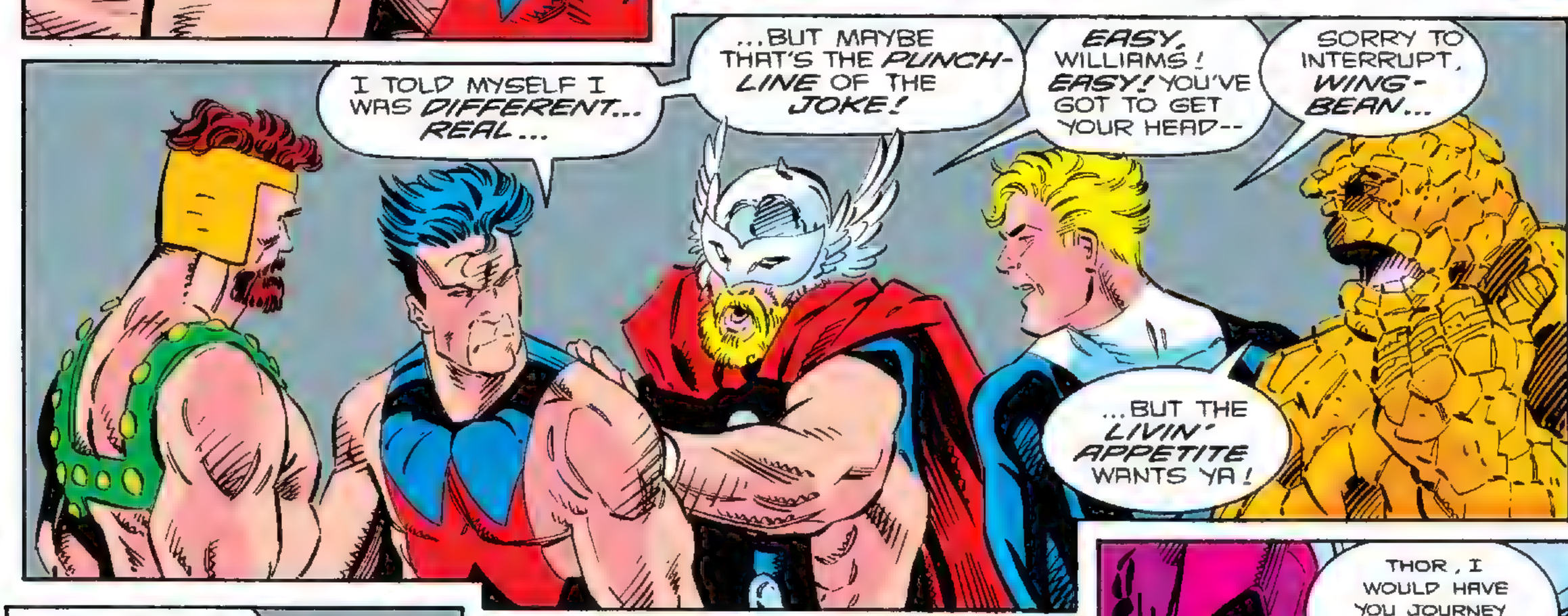
SOMETHING A HUMAN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

YET, SIMON, THOU ART--
"ART" WHAT?
AM I EVEN "SIMON" ANYMORE?

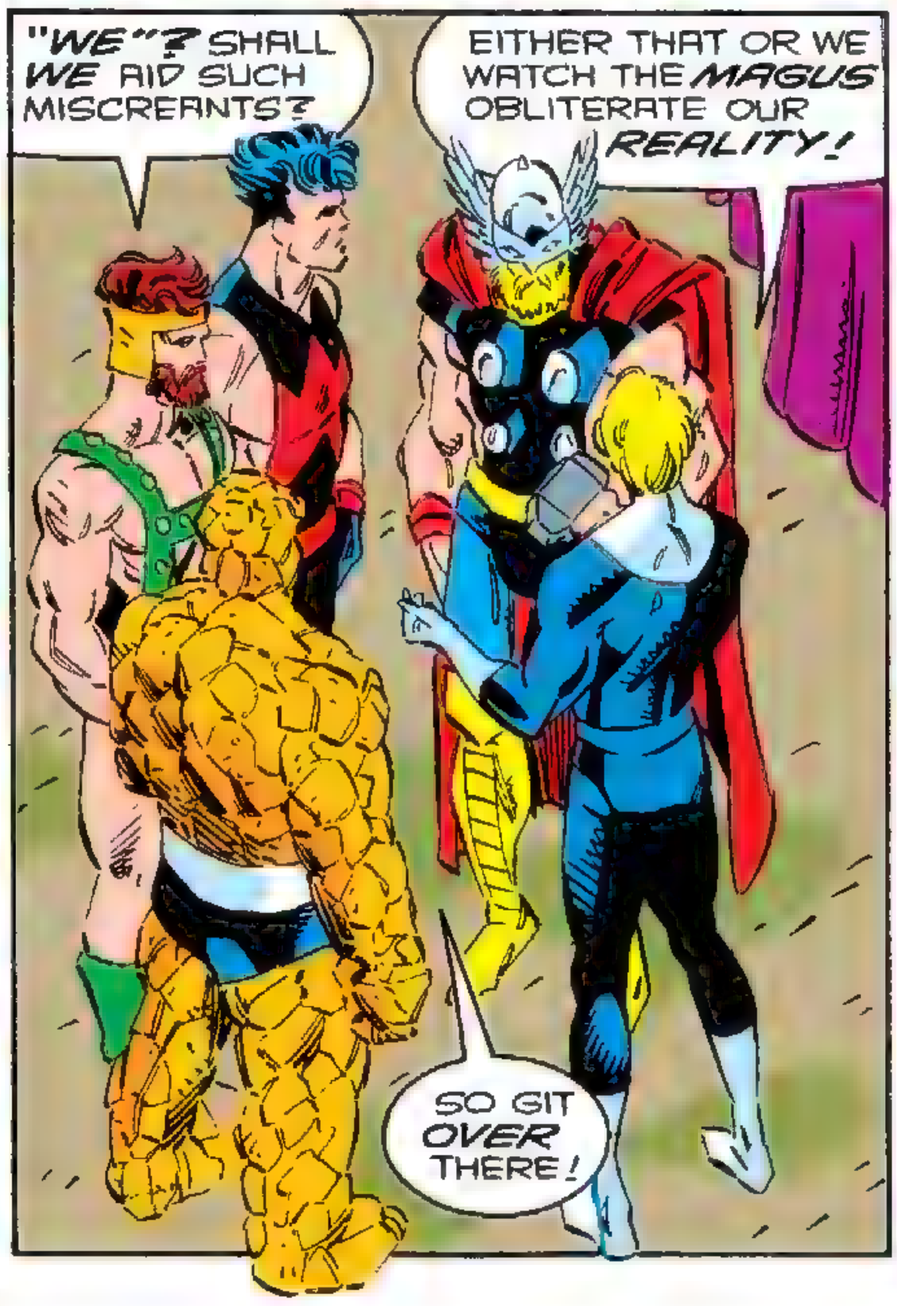

OR FROM NOW...
...AM I JUST WONDER MAN?!

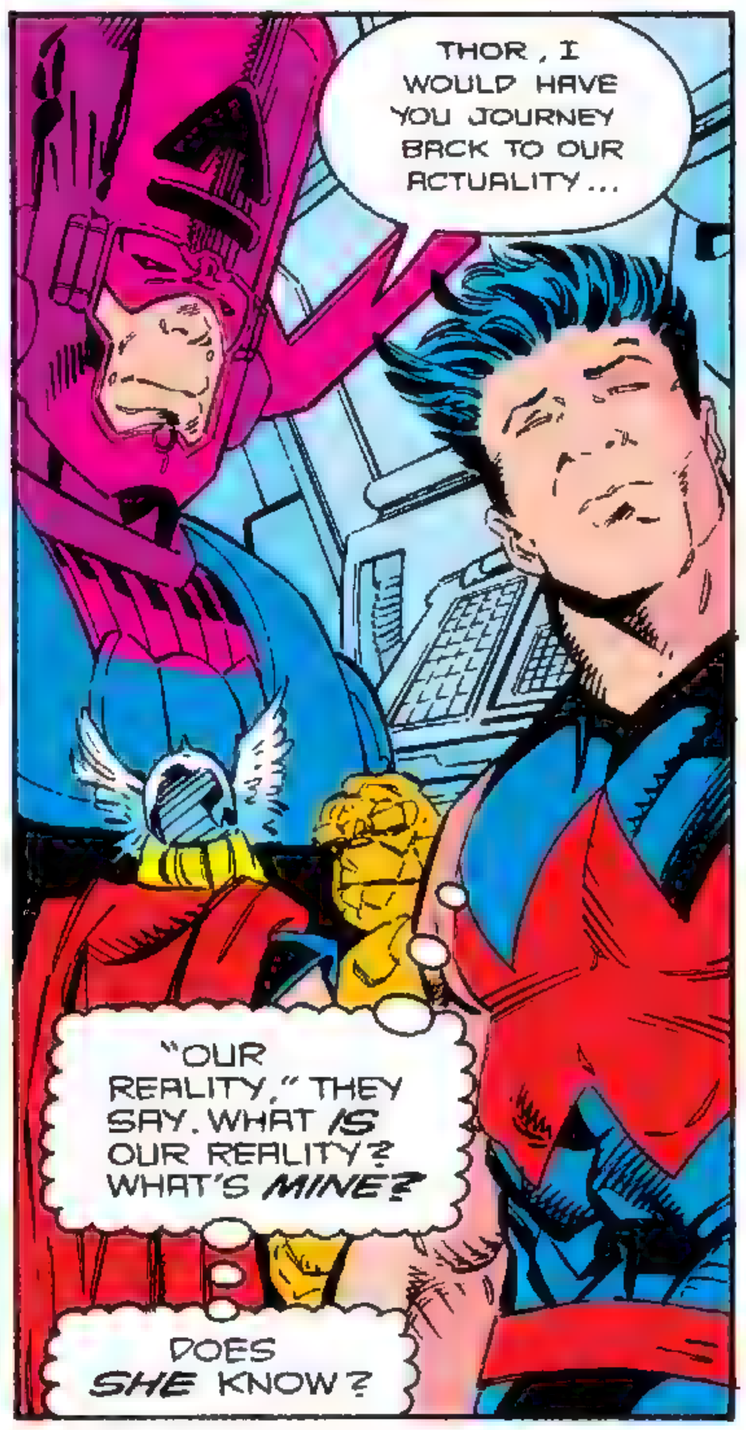
MY FRIEND -- WHAT AGRIEVEST THEE? 'TWAS BUT YESTERDAY THAT THOU WERT DRIV'N TO A RAGE E'EN MORE DIRE...
...BY A MEETING WITH THINE DOPPELGANGER!

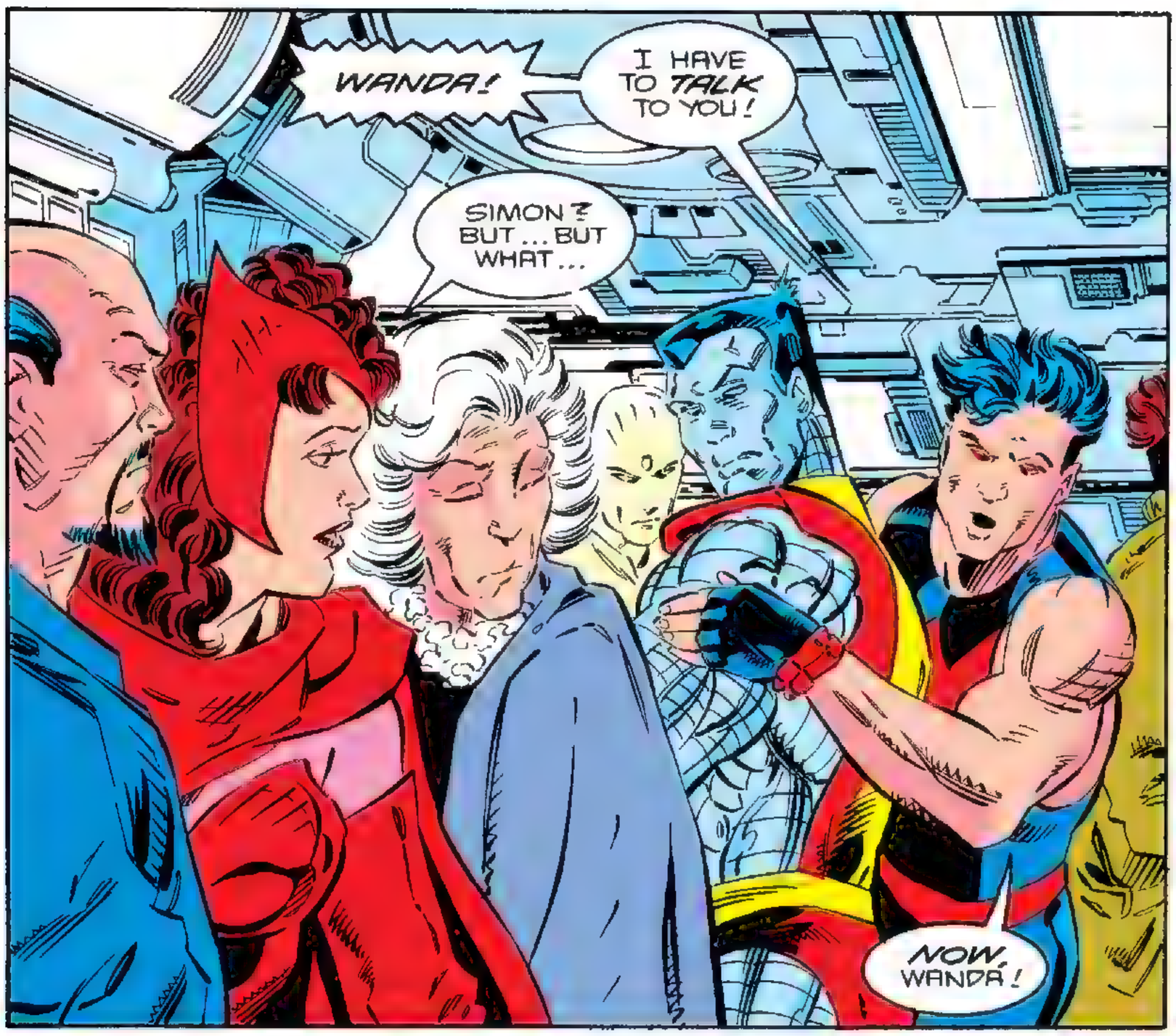
MY DOPPEL-GANGER!
THAT ALIEN THING -- TAKING MY SHAPE --
TAUNTING ME -- WITH MY OWN INHUMANITY!

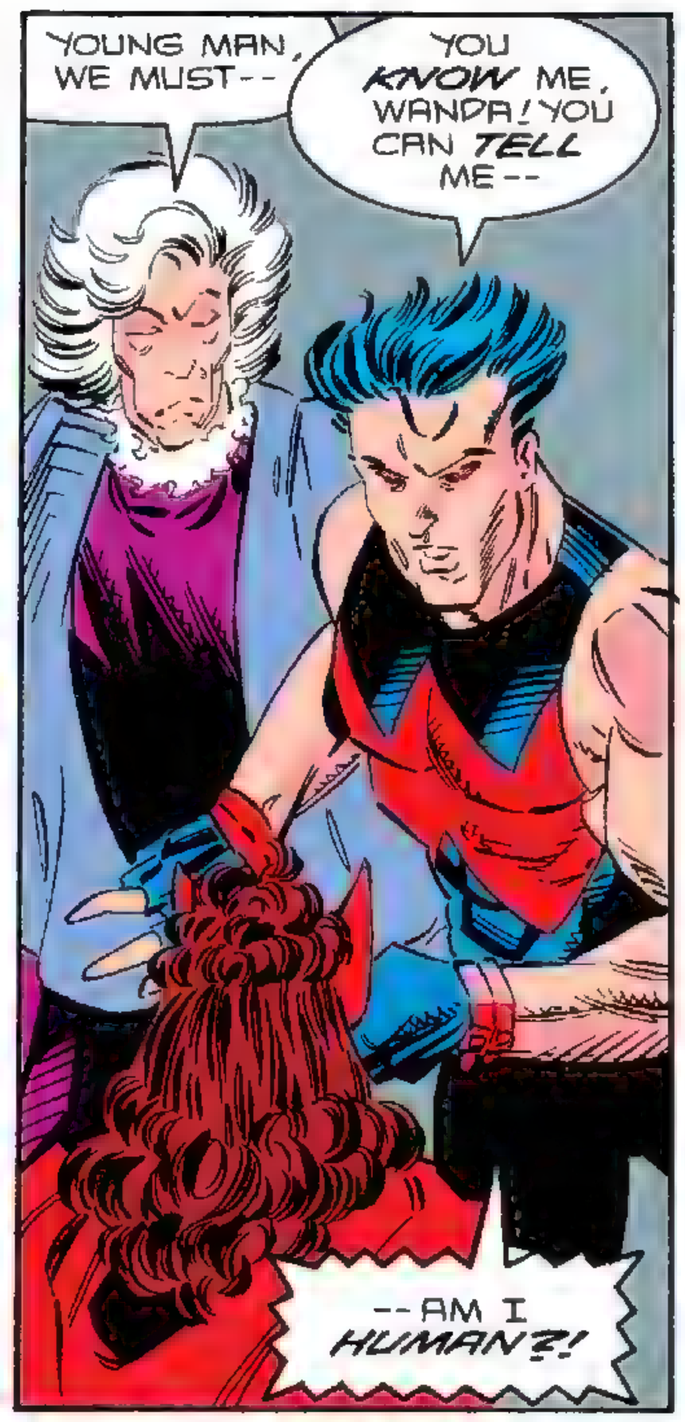

I TOLD MYSELF I WAS DIFFERENT... REAL...
...BUT MAYBE THAT'S THE PUNCH-LINE OF THE JOKE!
EASY, WILLIAMS! EASY! YOU'VE GOT TO GET YOUR HEAD--
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, WING-BEAN...
...BUT THE LIVIN' APPETITE WANTS YA!

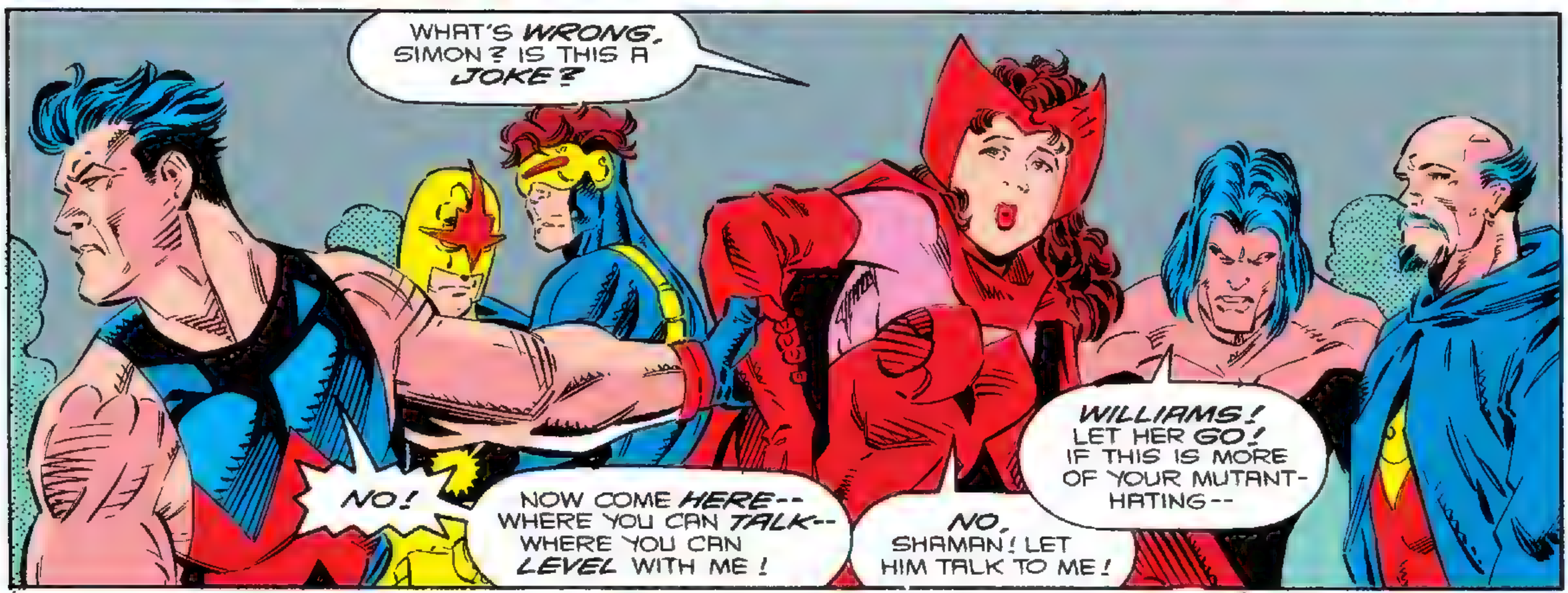
GALACTUS? WHAT FOR?
'PEARS HOW HIM, THANOS, AN' WARLOCK ARE ON THE SAME SIDE -- THE GOOD SIDE, YET!
WE'RE UP AGAINST THAT WARLOCK SPIN-OFF CALLED THE MAGUS... BUT WE DON'T KNOW HIS POWER-SOURCE.

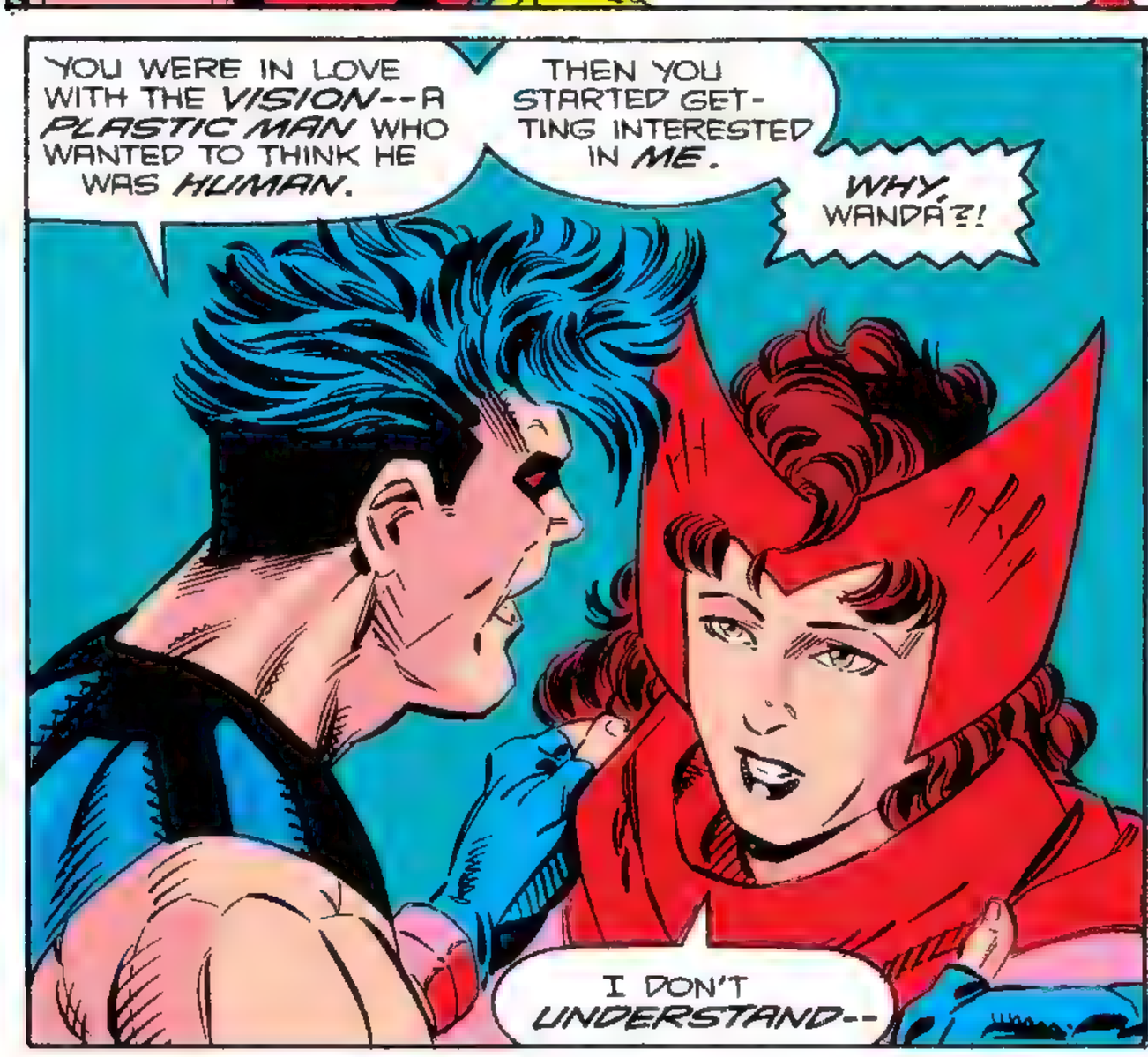

"WE"? SHALL WE AID SUCH MISCREANTS?
EITHER THAT OR WE WATCH THE MAGUS OBLITERATE OUR REALITY!
SO GIT OVER THERE!


THOR, I WOULD HAVE YOU JOURNEY BACK TO OUR ACTUALITY...
"OUR REALITY," THEY SAY. WHAT IS OUR REALITY? WHAT'S MINE?
DOES SHE KNOW?

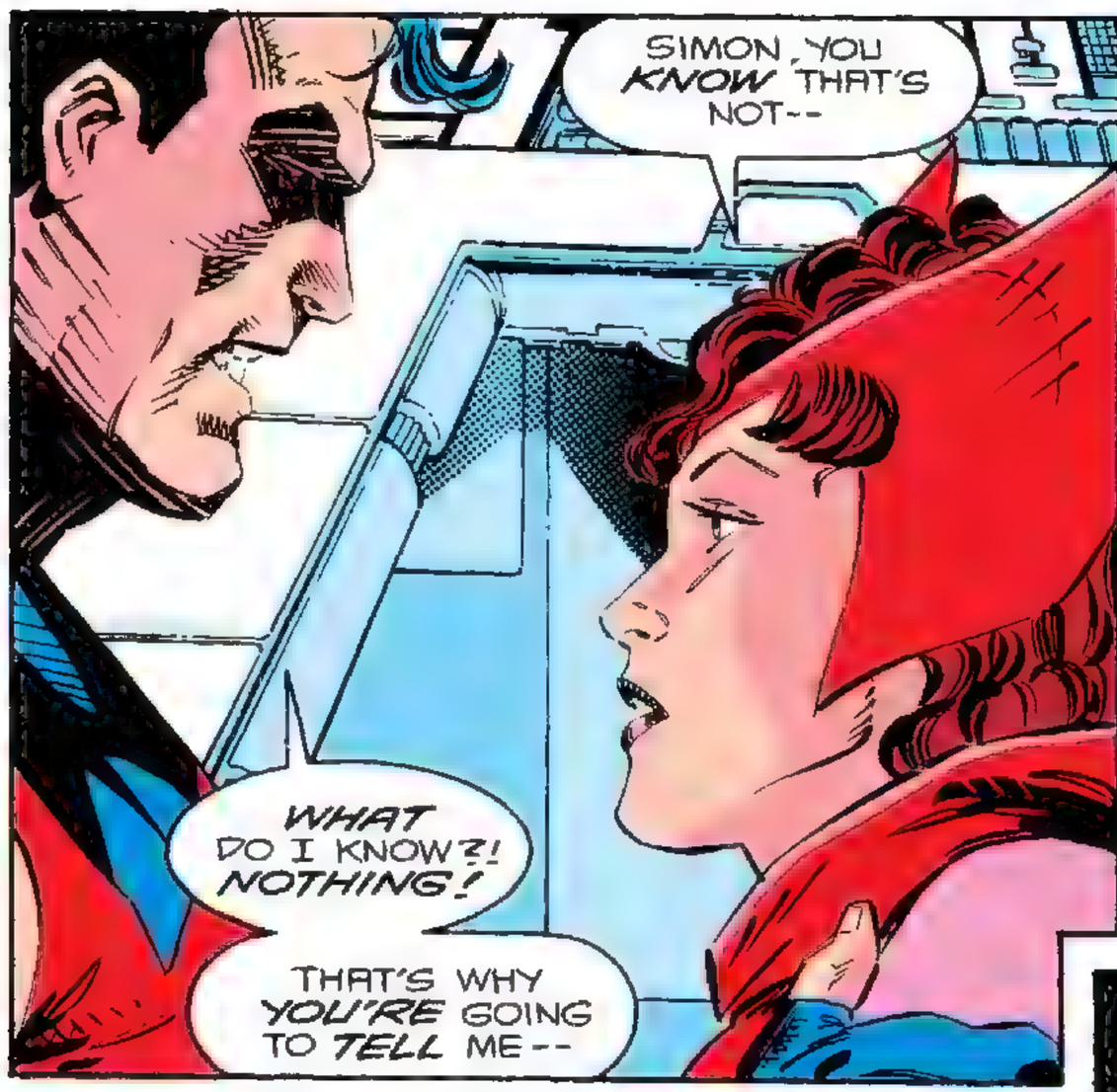

WANDA!
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
SIMON? BUT... BUT WHAT...
NOW, WANDA!


YOUNG MAN, WE MUST--
YOU KNOW ME, WANDA! YOU CAN TELL ME--
--AM I HUMAN?!

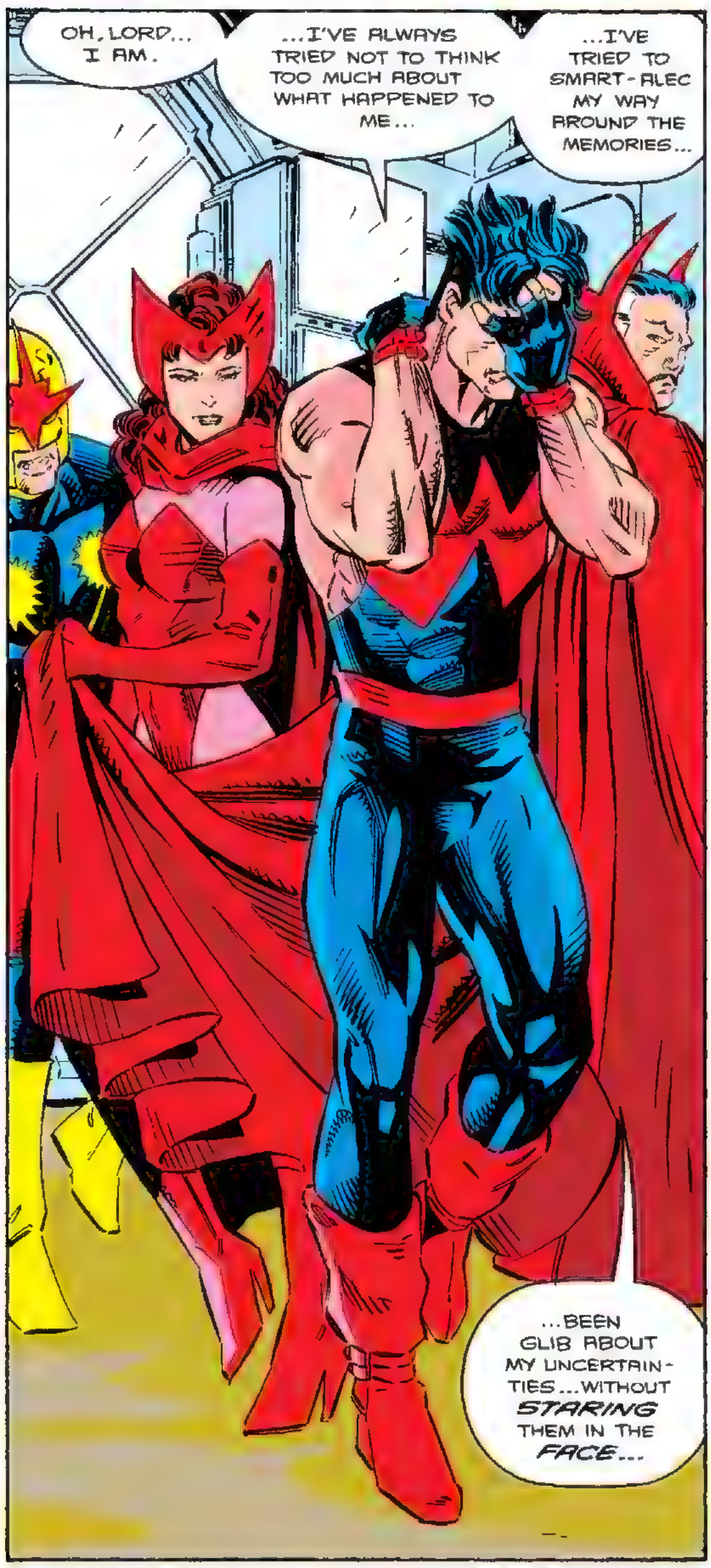

WHAT'S WRONG, SIMON? IS THIS A JOKE?
NO!
NOW COME HERE-- WHERE YOU CAN TALK-- WHERE YOU CAN LEVEL WITH ME!
NO, SHAMAN! LET HIM TALK TO ME!
WILLIAMS! LET HER GO! IF THIS IS MORE OF YOUR MUTANT-HATING--

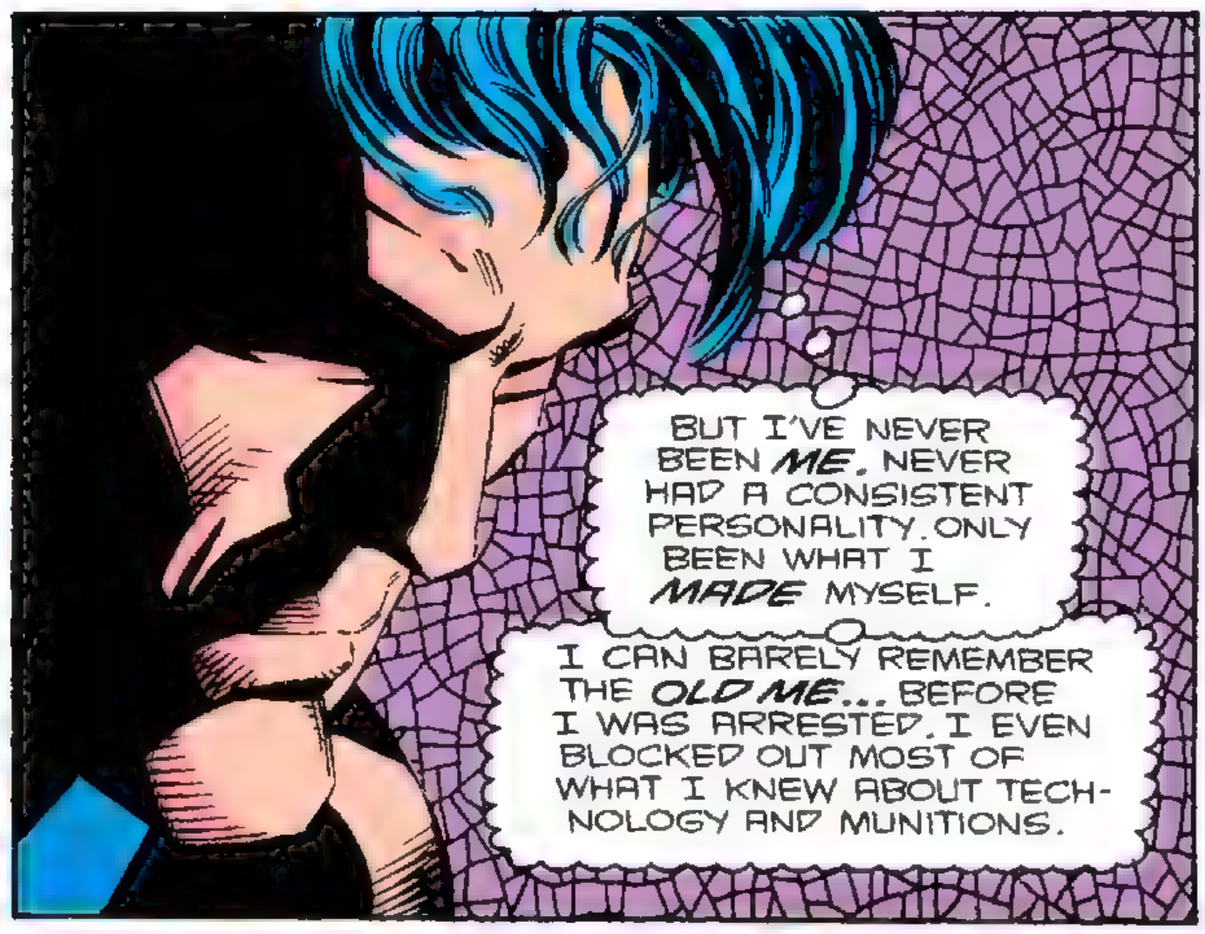

YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH THE VISION--A PLASTIC MAN WHO WANTED TO THINK HE WAS HUMAN.
THEN YOU STARTED GETTING INTERESTED IN ME.
WHY, WANDA?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--

IS IT BECAUSE I'M FAKE, TOO? BECAUSE I'M JUST A BUNDLE OF IONIC ENERGY... PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN?
ARE YOU TURNED ON BY ARTIFICIAL MEN?!


SIMON, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT--
WHAT DO I KNOW?! NOTHING!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME--

LET GO OF ME!
YOU'RE ACTING INSANE!
INSANE?!


OH, LORD... I AM.
...I'VE ALWAYS TRIED NOT TO THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...
...I'VE TRIED TO SMART-ALEC MY WAY AROUND THE MEMORIES...
...BEEN GLIB ABOUT MY UNCERTAINTIES...WITHOUT STARING THEM IN THE FACE...


BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ME. NEVER HAD A CONSISTENT PERSONALITY. ONLY BEEN WHAT I MADE MYSELF.
I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THE OLD ME... BEFORE I WAS ARRESTED. I EVEN BLOCKED OUT MOST OF WHAT I KNEW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND MUNITIONS.

SIMON...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW, WANDA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT "ALL RIGHT" IS... FOR ME.
I JUST KNOW I NEVER WANTED TO BE WHAT I AM... THE IONIC MAN. THE SUPER HERO.

AND NOW I KNOW THAT I CAN NEVER BE THE ONE THING I DID WANT TO BE...
...JUST HUMAN.
WHEN I TRY TO BE NORMAL, I FAIL. AND WHEN I TRY TO FORCE MYSELF INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S NORMALITY...

"...I DESTROY IT."

MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT *EFFECT* SIMON'S ENERGY HAD ON EACH OF US.

I THINK WE SHOULD ALL SEE A *DOCTOR!*

A *DOCTOR?* ARGUS, A *DOCTOR* PROBABLY WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE *TALKING* ABOUT!

WE SHOULD ALL COMPARE *NOTES*. I JUST WISH I KNEW HOW TO REACH *GINGER* AND THAT REPULSIVE *BROTHER* OF HERS...

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!

I'VE GOT *SPIDER'S* PHONE NUMBER IN MY ROOM!

AND *HOW* DID THAT HAPPEN, PRAY TELL?

LAST NIGHT...WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER. HE SLIPPED HIS NUMBER INTO MY *SHIRT!*

INTO YOUR *SHIRT?!*

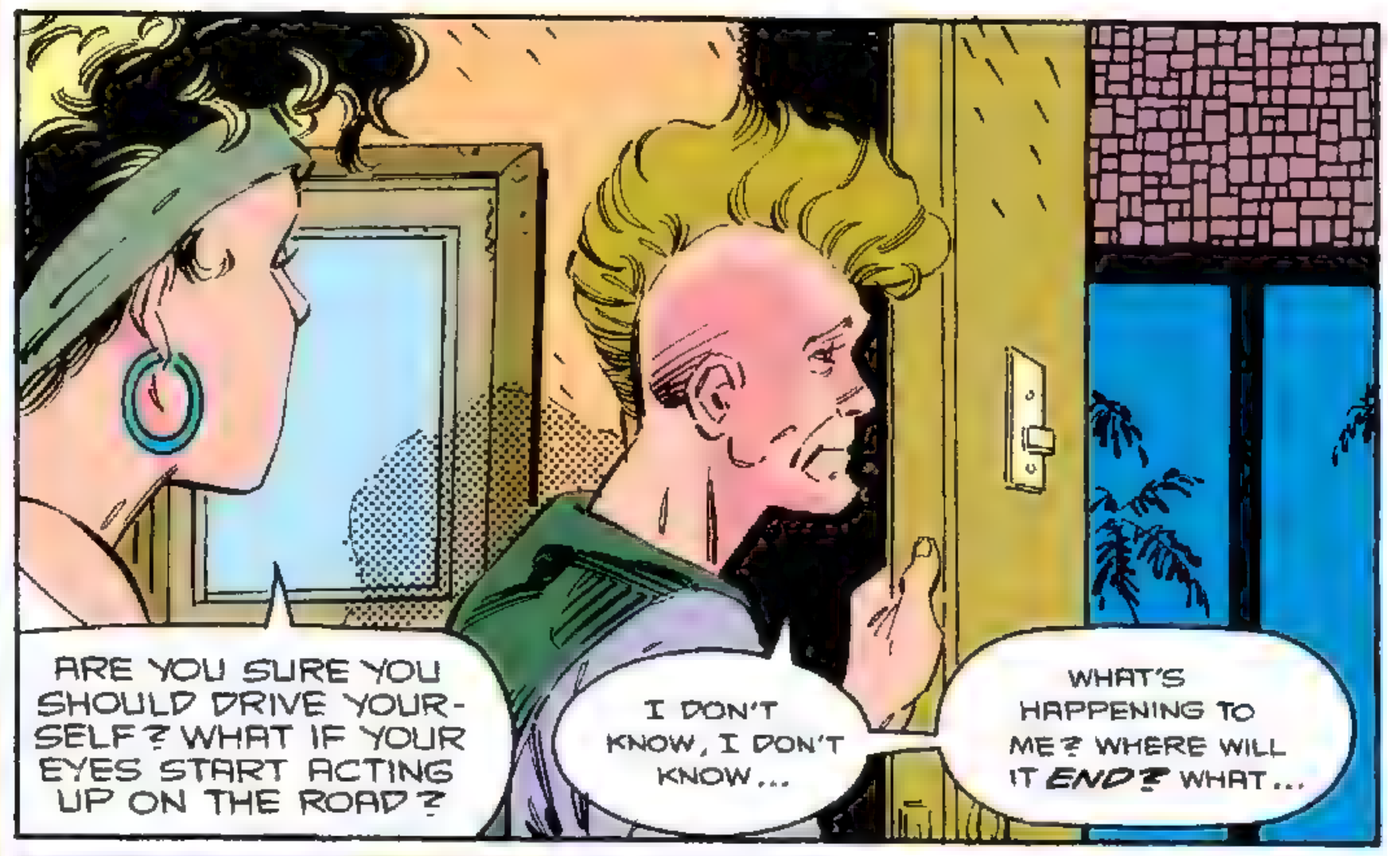
INTO THE *POCKET*, MOM! *REMEMBER?* I WAS WEARING THAT SHIRT WITH THE BIG *POCKETS?*

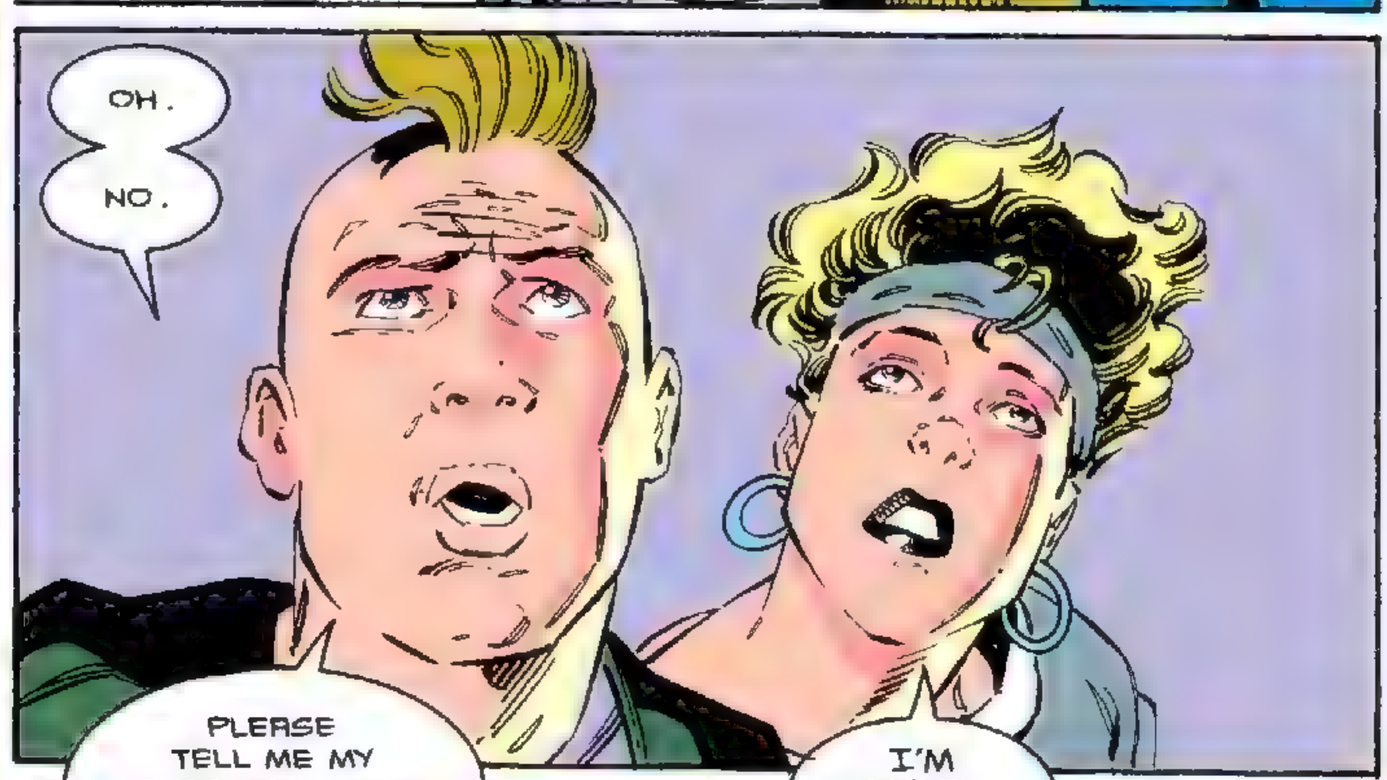
JEEZ!

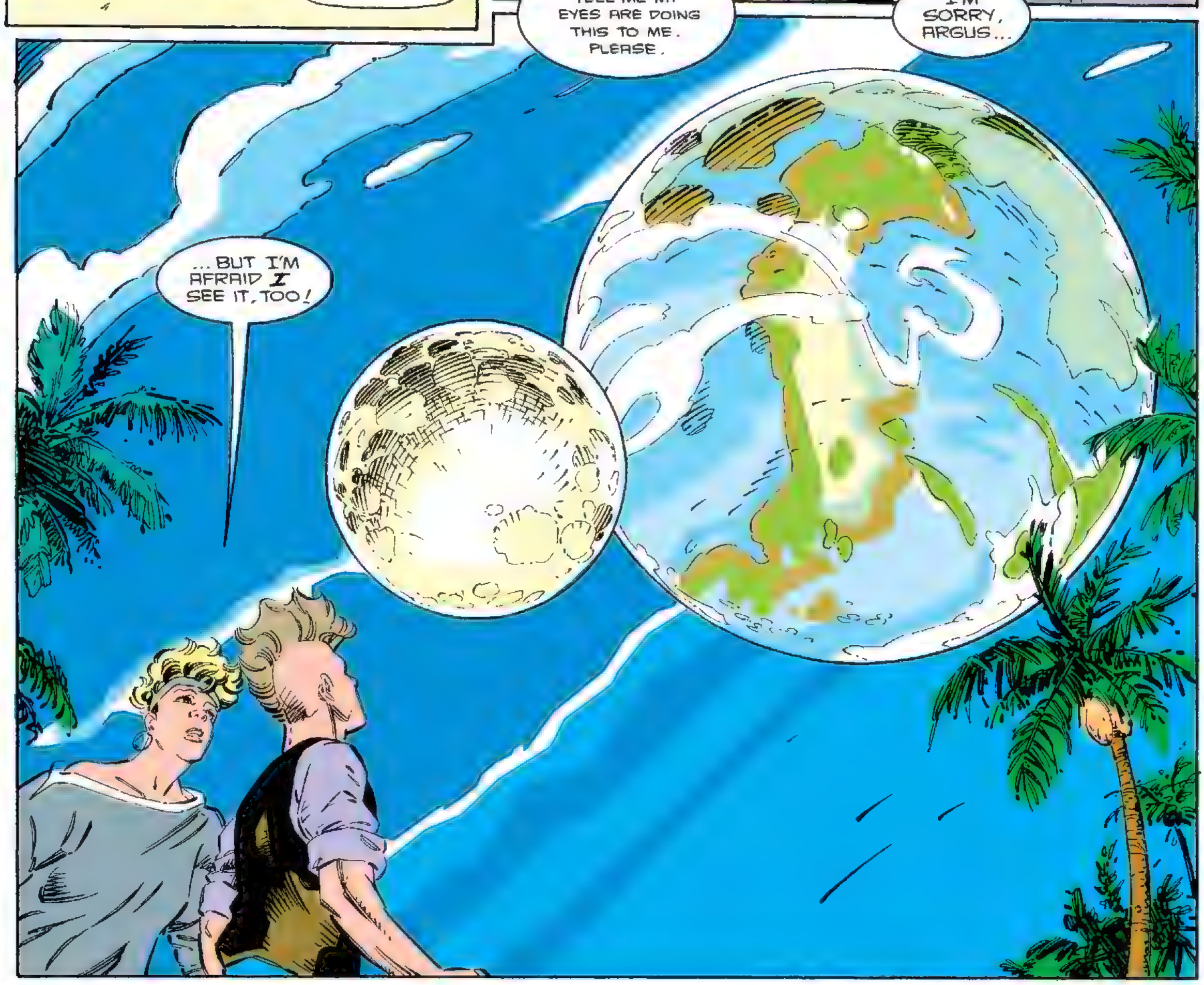
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. JUST *GET* IT.

HAVE *YOU* BEEN AFFECTED BY THE BLAST YET, MS. FLORES?

NOPE. NEITHER HAS JAMIE. EXCEPT FOR A STRANGE DREAM--BUT THAT'S NORMAL FOR HER.
YOU THINK YOU SHOULD CALL THOSE NEIGHBORS OF YOURS?
I SHOULD DO IT IN PERSON. GLORIA'S SUCH AN EXCITABLE WOMAN, IF I TOLD HER THIS OVER THE PHONE...


ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD DRIVE YOURSELF? WHAT IF YOUR EYES START ACTING UP ON THE ROAD?
I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHERE WILL IT END? WHAT...


OH.
NO.
PLEASE TELL ME MY EYES ARE DOING THIS TO ME. PLEASE.
I'M SORRY, ARGUS...


...BUT I'M AFRAID I SEE IT, TOO!

AT THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR--

--THE BATTLE COMES TO AN ABRUBT END--

NOW WHAT?

WITH THE MAGUS HAVING JUST *KIDNAPPED* WARLOCK--

GALACTUS' MISSION IS SUDDENLY *MOOT*.

I THINK WE JUST SAW THE UNIVERSE'S *LAST HOPE* FADE AWAY.

...AND TALKING SO CALMLY. ANALYZING IT LIKE A BASKETBALL GAME. LIKE DEEP IN THEIR HEARTS-- THEY DON'T BELIEVE IT CAN HAPPEN.

BUT *YOU* KNOW--*DON'T* YOU, CAP?

KNOW?

KNOW HOW *REALITY* CAN DESERT YOU. HOW *YOUR UNIVERSE* CAN *VANISH* ON YOU.

WE MAY *ALL* KNOW SOON--

--WITH GALACTUS GONE AND WARLOCK *ABDUCTED* BY THE MAGUS!*

MAYBE. OR MAYBE THE BAD GUYS WILL JUST GET *BEAT*, AS *USUAL*.

* IN *INFINITY WAR* #4.

BUT *MY* UNIVERSE--*MY* REALITY--WILL *NEVER* BE THE SAME.

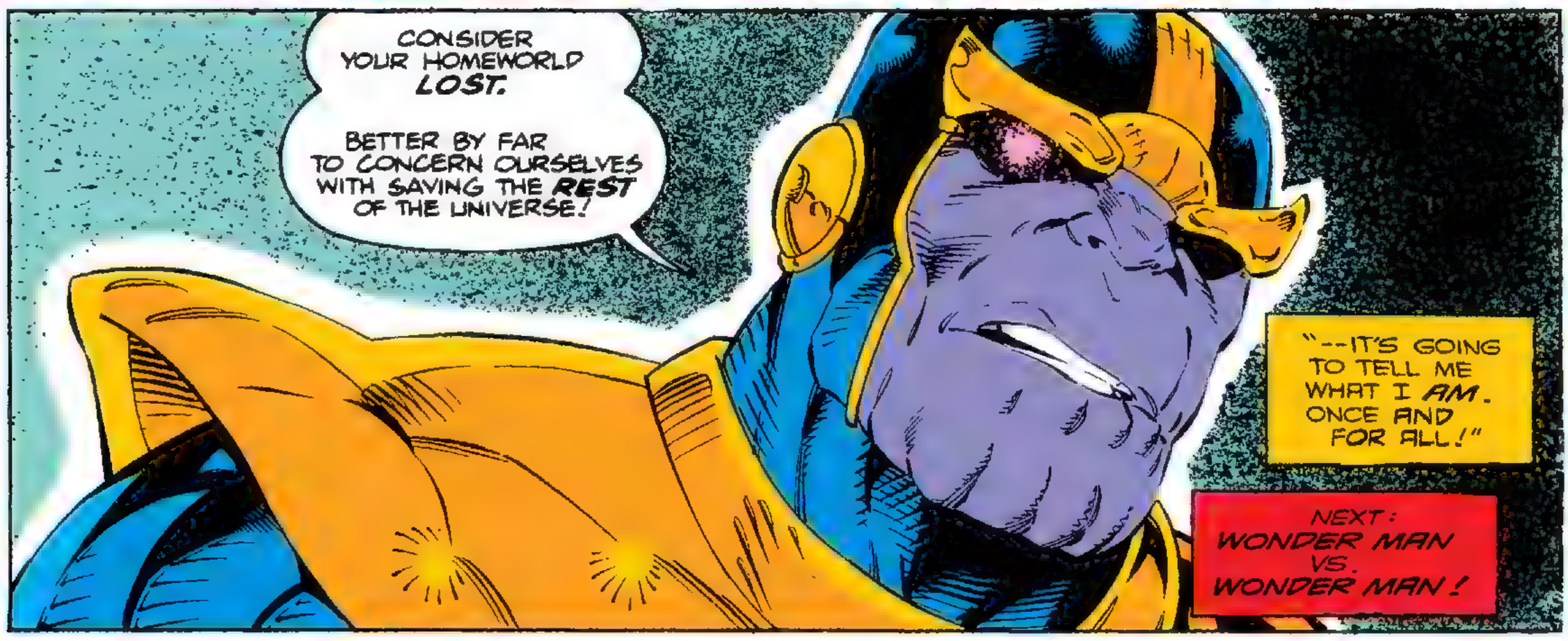
THANOS IS ABOUT TO TELL US SOMETHING. ARE YOU *WITH* US, SIMON?

HE HAS USED HIS VAST *UNKNOWN POWER* TO CREATE A *DUPLICATE REALITY* WHICH IS NOW MERGING WITH THE *ORIGINAL*.

WHEN THAT MERGER IS *COMPLETE* THE GALAXY WILL BE TOTALLY IN HIS *THRALL*. AS ARE THE *DOPPELGANGERS* THAT DEFEATED YOUR LOST FRIENDS.

DEAR LORD, YES!

WHATEVER I HAVE TO FIGHT NEXT--MAGUS, "UNKNOWN POWER," OR *DOPPELGANGER*--



INFINITY WAR #4, **PAGE 36 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
FACE OFF AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA!
KRAPISZ & BRUNER

SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE MARC SPECTOR DIED-BUT WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR DEDICATED HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN A WORLD THAT HAS NONE. STAN LEE PRESENTS..

MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

WHEN I... EVAPORATED MOONSHADE*, I DIDN'T EXACTLY EXPECT MY DISAPPEARING DOPPELGANGER TO TAKE REALITY WITH HIM--

* LAST ISSUE.-- JOEY

MUCH BETTER.

JUST TOOK A FEW MOMENTS FOR MOONSHADE'S DIMENSIONAL WARP TO FADE OUT.

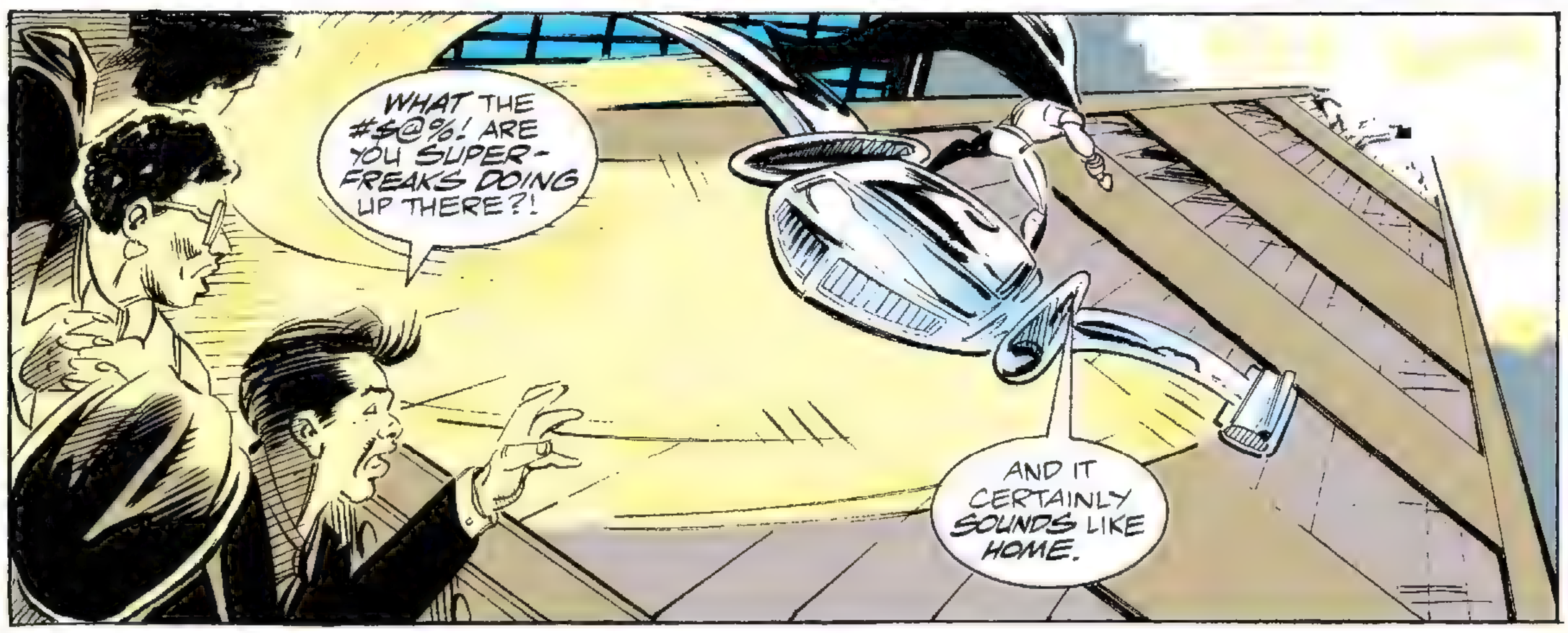
I'VE RETURNED DIRECTLY TO THE FOOT OF FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.

BUT IS THIS MY NEW YORK...

...OR JUST ANOTHER OF THE MYRIAD MANHATTANS THROUGHOUT THE MULTIVERSE?

THAT LOOKS LIKE MY ANGELWING. IT'S RESPONDING TO MY REMOTE-CONTROL SIGNAL FROM ITS SELF-GENERATED CLOUD CAMOUFLAGE.

HEY--!



YEEEAAIII!
HHSSS
SPOING
SKRASH
YUP...
...I'M DEFINITELY BACK IN THE BIG APPLE.
HSSS
HSSS
HSSS
MULTIPLE MANIACS
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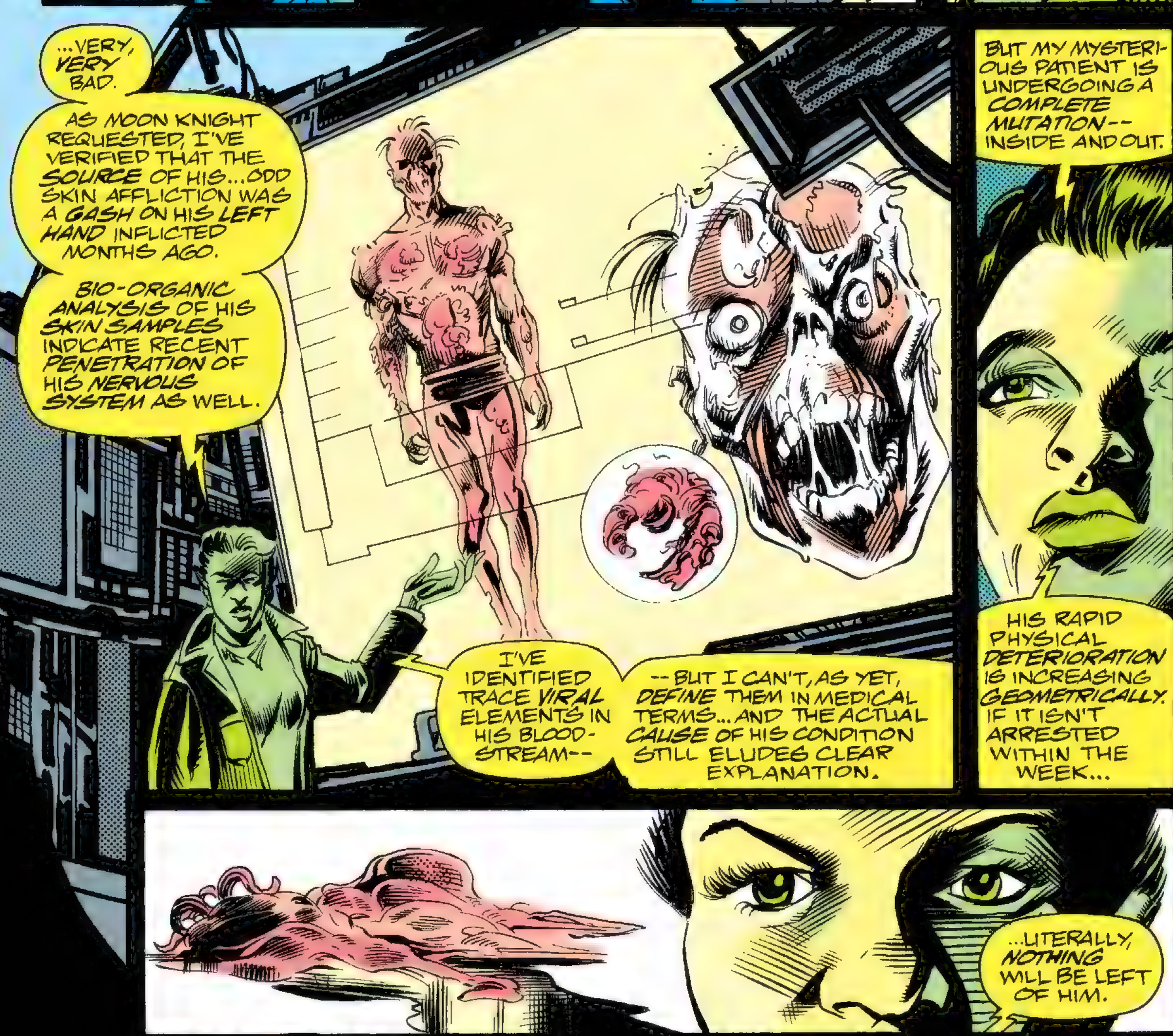
AS THE "INFINITY WAR" BETWEEN ASSEMBLED SUPER HEROES AND THE OMNI-POWERFUL MAD MAGUS CONTINUES TO RAGE AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE*...
*INFINITY WAR #4.-- JOEY
...MOON KNIGHT REJOINS THE REMAINDER OF EARTH'S DESPERATE DEFENDERS BATTLING THEIR EVIL DOPPELGANGERS.
BUT, EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR AN ENTIRE CITY TO HOLD ITS BREATH IN FEAR...
...NEW YORK COULDN'T BE BOTHERED.
IT'S GOT ITS OWN PROBLEMS.
HOWEVER, BY ITS VERY NATURE, MANHATTAN IS A METROPOLIS THAT BREEDS SOLUTIONS IN ITS MOST HIDDEN NICHES...

...IN THE FORM OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ACTION FOUND THERE.
CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

MARC WAS IN REALLY BAD SHAPE WHEN HE LEFT THE SHADOWKEEP.
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE MOON KNIGHT RESPONDED TO THE EMERGENCY SUMMONS AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.
TEK

HAVE TO FOLLOW HIS AGENDA...
PROGNOSIS, MERCY...?
BRRZZT
BAD, FRIEND...


...VERY, VERY BAD.
AS MOON KNIGHT REQUESTED, I'VE VERIFIED THAT THE SOURCE OF HIS...ODD SKIN AFFLICTION WAS A GASH ON HIS LEFT HAND INFLICTED MONTHS AGO.
BIO-ORGANIC ANALYSIS OF HIS SKIN SAMPLES INDICATE RECENT PENETRATION OF HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM AS WELL.
I'VE IDENTIFIED TRACE VIRAL ELEMENTS IN HIS BLOOD-STREAM--
--BUT I CAN'T, AS YET, DEFINE THEM IN MEDICAL TERMS...AND THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF HIS CONDITION STILL ELUDES CLEAR EXPLANATION.
BUT MY MYSTERIOUS PATIENT IS UNDERGOING A COMPLETE MUTATION--INSIDE AND OUT.
HIS RAPID PHYSICAL DETERIORATION IS INCREASING GEOMETRICALLY. IF IT ISN'T ARRESTED WITHIN THE WEEK...
...LITERALLY, NOTHING WILL BE LEFT OF HIM.

MERCI, DOCTOR... KEEP THE SHADOWKEEP SYSTEMS UPDATED ON YOUR PROGRESS.
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS-- DR. TRUMBULL'S FINDINGS ONLY CONFIRMED MARC'S SUSPICION ABOUT THE SOURCE OF HIS INFECTION.
TEK TEK TEK TEK
NEXT STEP IS TO GATHER RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR QUARRY, BUT WITH MY CURRENT... SITUATION--
--THAT'LL REQUIRE MORE HELP FROM THE SHADOW CABINET.

DESIGNED TO KEEP MOON KNIGHT'S IDENTITY A SECRET EVEN FROM THEM, MY VOICE IS FILTERED THROUGH A MODULATOR, AND THEIR HOLO-JECTIONS CAN'T SEE...
...SO THE APPROPRIATE SHADOW CABINET MEMBERS WON'T NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MARC SPECTOR AND FRENCHIE DUCHAMP.
BRZZT
SHARK... SHERIFF... THANK YOU FOR "SHOWING UP" SO QUICKLY.
BRZZT

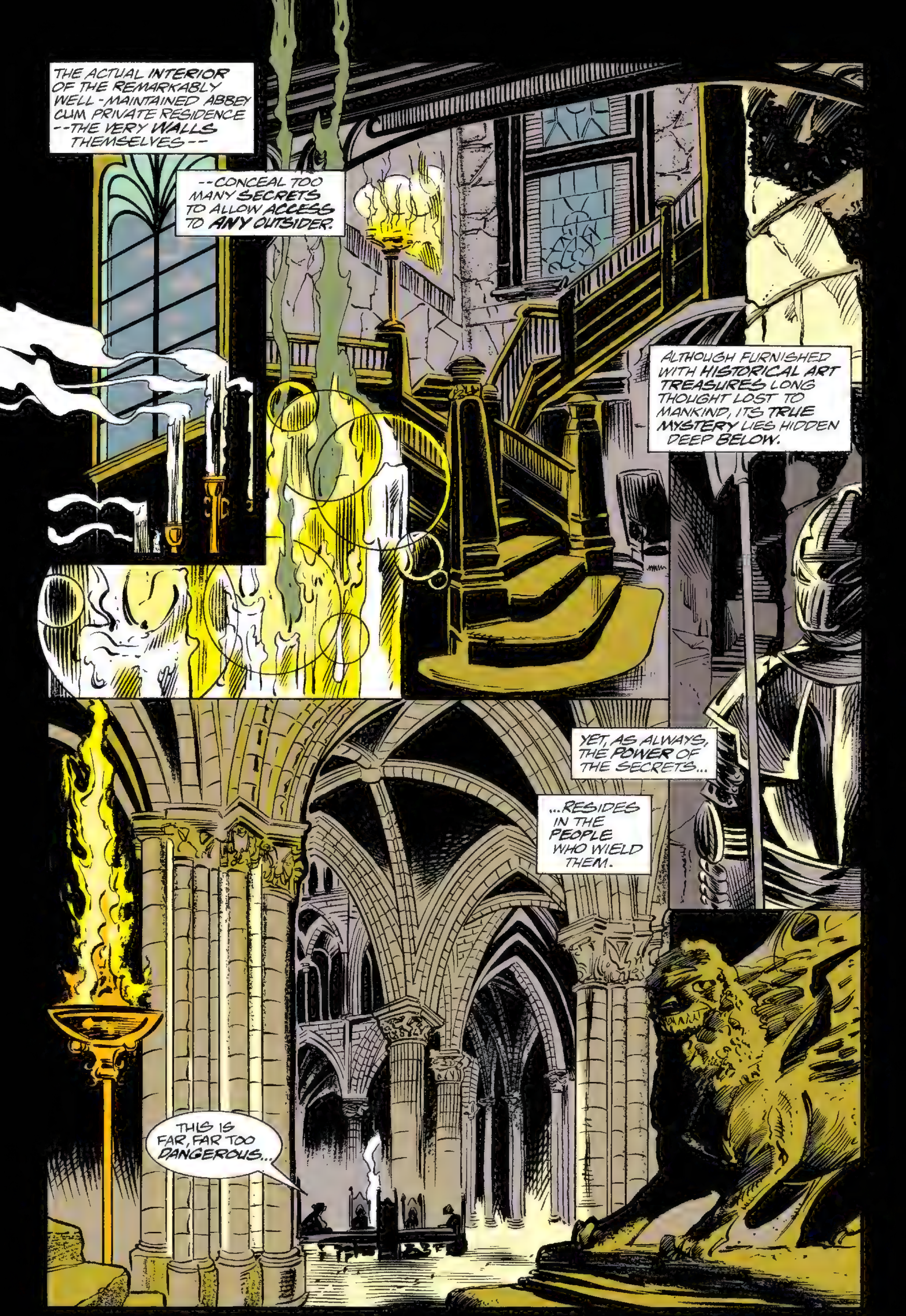
PSYCHO AND FINGERS AREN'T AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT TO JOIN THIS STRATEGY TABLE SESSION, BUT THEY'LL GET THE SAME INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT OUR TARGET...
... THE HOBGOBLIN!

MEANWHILE...
TCHK
THESE TWISTED COPIES OF US ARE EVERY-WHERE...
...BUT THE MOON KNIGHT VERSUS BLACK KNIGHT CHALLENGE IS TOO INTERESTING TO PASS UP.
KTANG
YOU WON'T GET A STORY-BOOK BATTLE OF CHIVALRY FROM ME!
ONCE I SKEWER YOU, I'LL--
=URG=
THUK
YOU WERE SAYING...?
REEEARGH!
NO... THAT WASN'T IT.

THE REAL BEAST WOULD NEVER HAVE ATTACKED WITHOUT LEVERAGE...
...LIVE AND LEARN!
TOO BAD YOU WILL NOT BE AFFORDED THE SAME OPPORTUNITY, LITTLE MAN.
ACTUALLY, HAIRY-- ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES...
WUD
NOP
...IS MY SPECIALTY!
THRAK

KWOK
THEN WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON, FOOL...
...LIVE AND LEARN!
ARMOR... CRACKING...
SKRIK
ONLY... CHANCE... MAGNETICALLY ...RECALL...
...MY EVER-FAITHFUL ADAMANTIUM TRUNCHEON.
THUD
UHNNN...
WHO'S GOT THE LEVERAGE NOW, EARTHLING?
NICE STYLE, AVENGER.
ONLY WISH CAPTAIN AMERICA SHARED YOUR SENTIMENTS, FRIEND.

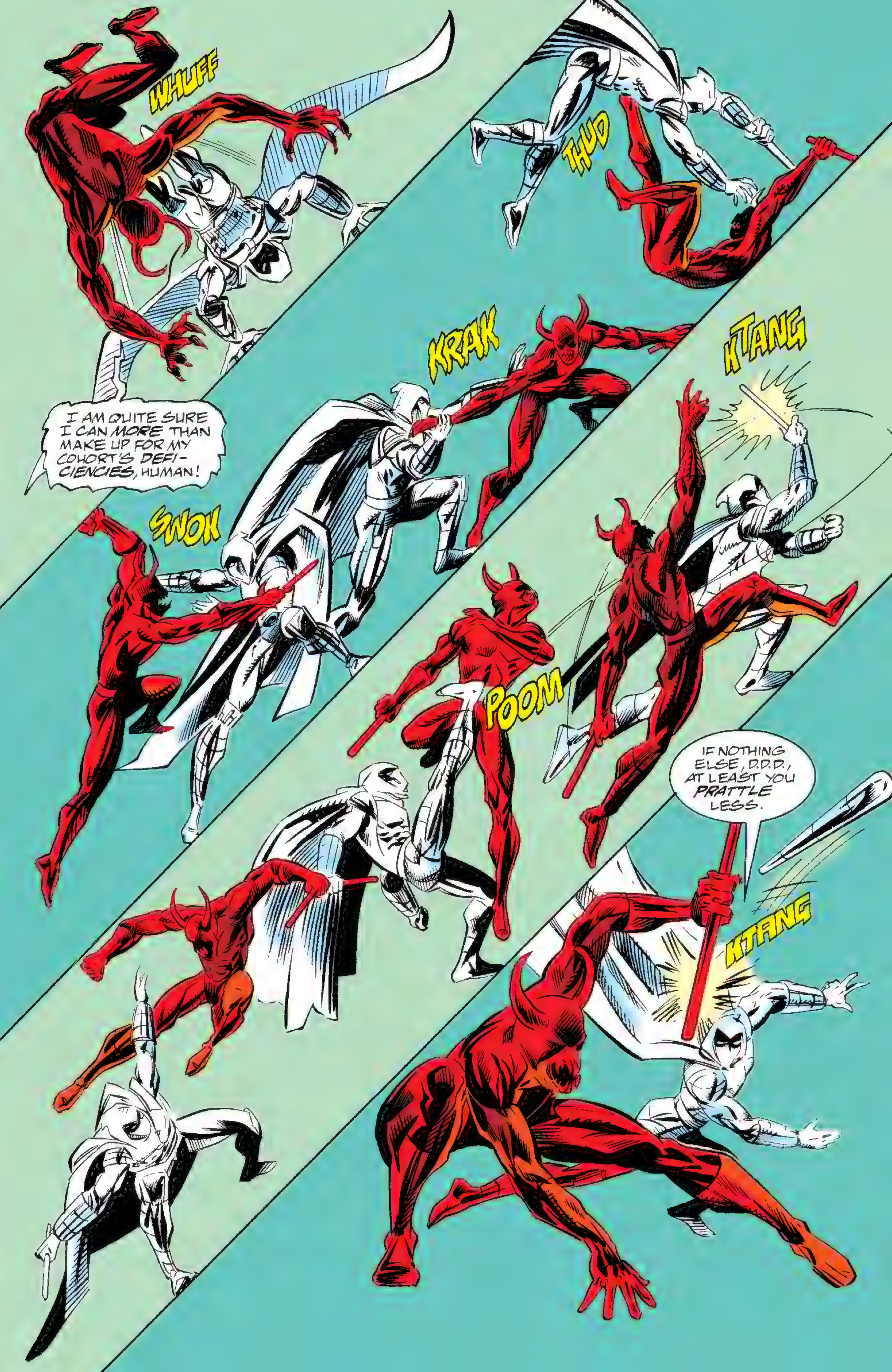
WHILE INTER-DIMENSIONAL ARMAGEDDON RAGES AT TWO ENDS OF THE GALAXY...
...A BUCOLIC VILLAGE IN WESTERN SCOTLAND--IN ALL THE WAYS THAT TRULY MATTER, AS FAR FROM NEW YORK CITY AS ANY ALIEN SETTING--
--SLEEPS PEACEFULLY IN THE SHADE OF A VERY ANCIENT MONASTERY...
...WITH A VERY MODERN APPROACH TO SELF-DEFENSE.


THE ACTUAL INTERIOR OF THE REMARKABLY WELL-MAINTAINED ABBEY CUM PRIVATE RESIDENCE --THE VERY WALLS THEMSELVES--
--CONCEAL TOO MANY SECRETS TO ALLOW ACCESS TO ANY OUTSIDER.
ALTHOUGH FURNISHED WITH HISTORICAL ART TREASURES LONG THOUGHT LOST TO MANKIND, ITS TRUE MYSTERY LIES HIDDEN DEEP BELOW.
YET, AS ALWAYS, THE POWER OF THE SECRETS...
...RESIDES IN THE PEOPLE WHO WIELD THEM.
THIS IS FAR, FAR TOO DANGEROUS...

...IT IS WITH GOOD REASON THAT NO FIVE OF OUR RANK HAVE GATHERED IN THE SAME LOCATION FOR WELL OVER SIX HUNDRED YEARS.
AS YOU ARE ONLY TOO AWARE, DEMOLAY, EVEN PHILLIPPE IV'S PURGE PALED BEFORE THE CRISIS FACING US NOW.
WE CERTAINLY COULD NOT RISK THE LUXURY OF MODERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS-- ONLY TOO SUSCEPTIBLE TO INTERCEPTION!
OUR ENEMY ATTACKS FROM WITHIN, LAMBERTON, SO WE MUST LOOK OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE TO MEET THE THREAT.
YOUR PERSONAL CONNECTIONS COLOR YOUR THINKING, CHILD...
TO INSURE OUR DESTINY, THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR MUST TAKE JEAN-PAUL DuCHAMP.
...THE WEAPON IS NOT YET READY.
I DISAGREE, CHRÉTIEN, MY SINGULAR POSITION QUALIFIES ME TO JUDGE HIS DEVELOPMENT--AND HE HAS BEEN HONED TO NEAR-PERFECTION FOR OUR PURPOSES.

FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
WHAT--?!
THWIK
YOU ARE DEAD, KNIGHT.
BY THE WAY, ISN'T "DARK DARKHAWK" A BIT REDUNDANT?
...I JUST WENT THROUGH THE "SQUEEZE OF DEATH" ROUTINE WITH ANOTHER OF YOUR FELLOW INVADERS.
MY CLAW CABLE WILL CRUSH THE LAST BREATH FROM YOUR LIFELESS BODY BEFORE YOU--
SORRY, PAL...
TCHIK
AAIIEE!
WHUD
THEN PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
LET ME GUESS... IS IT "DARK DAREDEVIL" OR "DAREDEVIL DEVIL"?

--YOU'RE THE DAREDEVIL WANNA-BE, RIGHT?
WELL, DON'T EXPECT ANY SYMPATHY FROM ME.
CHUK
YAAAIIEEE
AARGH!
SHKT
THE BLACK KNIGHT IS EQUALLY UNFORGIVING.
WUH
NAMORITA'S DOUBLE IS DOWN ALREADY, PUCK... HELP ME OUT WITH MINE BEFORE--
TOO LATE ALREADY, MULTIPLE MAN.
KWOK
AS FAST AS WE FALL, WE ARE RESTORED.


WHUFF
THUD
I AM QUITE SURE I CAN MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR MY COHORT'S DEFICIENCIES, HUMAN!
KRAK
KTANG
SNOK
POOM
IF NOTHING ELSE, D.D.D., AT LEAST YOU PRATTLE LESS.
KTANG

DEMON'S AVOIDING MY CRESCENT-DARTS TOO EASILY...
CHUT
CHUT
...ALMOST AS IF IT CAN ANTICIPATE THEIR TRAJECTORY BEFORE I FIRE.
PRETTY MUCH PROVES MY THEORY THAT ITS TEMPLATE EMPLOYS SOME KIND OF EXTRA ENHANCED SENSE--OR SENSES--
SPEAKING OF THE REAL DAREDEVIL, I COULD USE HIM RIGHT ABOUT NOW--
--AND I HOPE HE BRINGS THOR, WOLVERINE, AND THE HULK WITH HIM.

SHADOWKEEP...
--PLAN ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED, MERCY! IT VIOLATES THE PRISONER'S CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLETELY.
SHARK'S RIGHT-- AND DEPARTMENT RECORDS INDICATE THE DEMOGOBLIN'S EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE HOBGOBLIN.
...IT'S JUST TOO BIG A RISK.
* SINCE THEY SPLIT INTO TWO DISTINCT ENTITIES IN WEB OF SPIDEY #86.-- YOUR PAL JOEY
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, SHERIFF...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO THE REST OF YOU ARE OR WHY YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SHADOW CABINET--
--BUT I DO IT BECAUSE I HAVE GOOD REASON TO TRUST THE MAN BEHIND IT ALL.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STANDING IDLY BY WHILE HE DIES... PIECE BY PIECE.
YOU MADE YOUR POINT ALREADY, MERCY, BUT IT'S UP TO SHARK AND SHERIFF TO EFFECT MY TRANSFER...
BUT EVEN WITH PSYCHO IN POSITION INSIDE THE PRISON, NO SELF-RESPECTING SECOND-STORY MAN WOULD HAVE THE--

ENOUGH ALREADY, FINGERS!
UNTIL WE CAN FIND THE REAL HOBGOBLIN, THE DEMOGOBLIN'S OUR ONLY ACCESSIBLE CHOICE.
AND EVERYONE'S GOING TO DO WHAT'S REQUIRED OF THEM--
--INCLUDING YOU, OR THE PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES COULD GET UNCOMFORTABLE...AS I'M SURE YOU'RE WELL AWARE.
TEK TEK TEK
TEK TEK

ONLY "FINGERS" HANEY HEARD MY SIGN-OFF THREAT...HE'S ONLY PART OF THE CABINET DUE TO SOME BLACKMAIL MARC HAS ON HIM. BUT I HATE HOLDING IT OVER HIS HEAD LIKE THAT.
WILL THIS ALL BE WORTH IT, MERCY...?

IF YOU MEAN, "WILL THE PATIENT LIVE, DOCTOR?"...

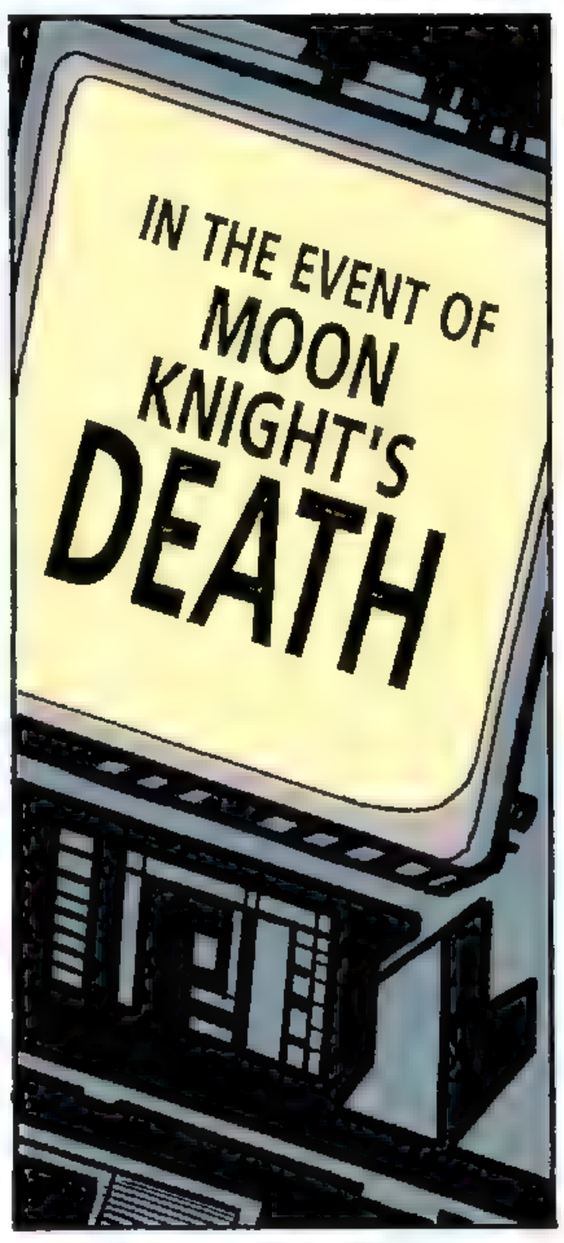
I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT WE'RE WORKING IN THE DARK HERE ON ALL LEVELS.
BUT IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE...

BRZZT
...SO LET'S CLING TO IT.

MARC REALLY CAN'T EXPECT ME TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS...

TEK

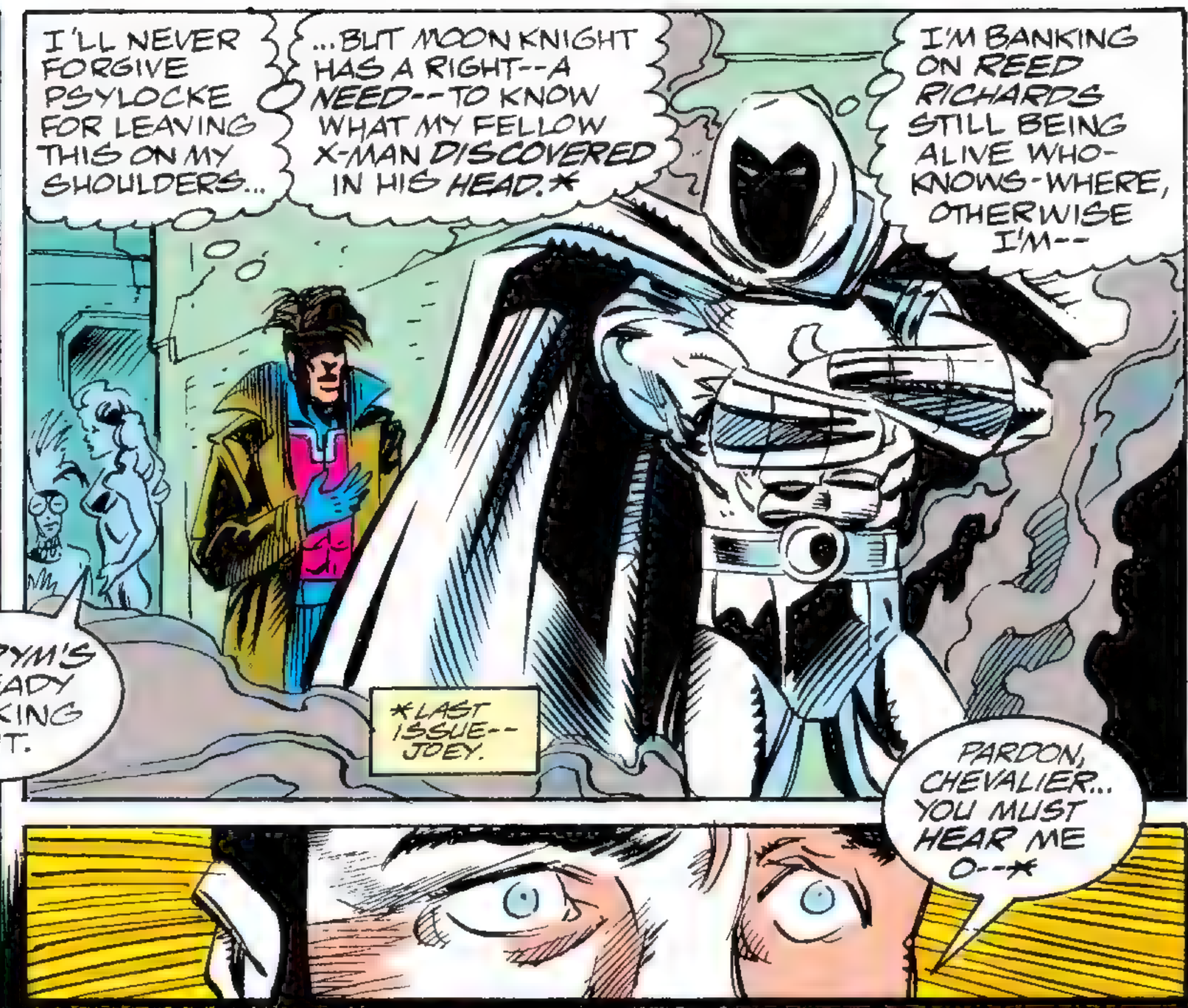
LEGACY QUEST SCENARIO


IN THE EVENT OF
MOON KNIGHT'S
DEATH

...BUT HE KNOWS I CAN DO LITTLE ELSE ANYMORE.

THE REMAINS OF FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
SINCE YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOU'RE NOTHING BUT ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCTS...
YEEARGH!
KOOM
CHUT
CHUT
POOM
...THE KID GLOVES ARE COMING OFF!
EXPLOSIVE CRESCENT-DARTS ACTUALLY TOOK SOME OF YOU MONSTERS OUT PERMANENTLY... NO RETURN, NO EXCHANGE. YOUR BOSS'S SCHEME MUST HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORS --
TOOM
URK
TOO LATE TO SAVE YOU!

AU CONTRAIRE, UGLY...
JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.
POK
WHOK
ZUKK
THE DOPPELGANGERS HAVE ALL REVERTED TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORMS.
SO WE WON, RIGHT...?
WE OBVIOUSLY RECEIVED SOME ELEVENTH-HOUR HELP FROM OUR COMRADES ELSEWHERE.*
BUT WE STILL WON, RIGHT...?
THE CRISIS IS HARDLY OVER, SPEEDBALL...
FOR SOME OF US, THE NIGHTMARE'S JUST BEGUN.
*FOR THE STORY OF DR. STRANGE AND THE SILVER SURFER'S LONG-DISTANCE INTERVENTION SEE INFINITY WAR #4.-- JOEY



BUT, WITHOUT EVEN A RIPPLE OF WARNING, REALITY ITSELF GRINDS TO A PAINFUL HALT FOR THE GATHERED HEROES...

...AS CATACLYSMIC EVENTS ELSEWHERE SEAL THE FINAL FATE OF THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE!*

*INFINITY WAR #5 AND #6, THAT IS! --JOEY

NEXT ISSUE--THE END OF REALITY AS WE KNOW IT... AND THEN THE TROUBLE REALLY STARTS FOR MOON KNIGHT!

MARVEL COMICS
QUASAR
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
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39
OCT
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THANOS GIVETH...
...DEATHURGE TAKETH AWAY!

WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

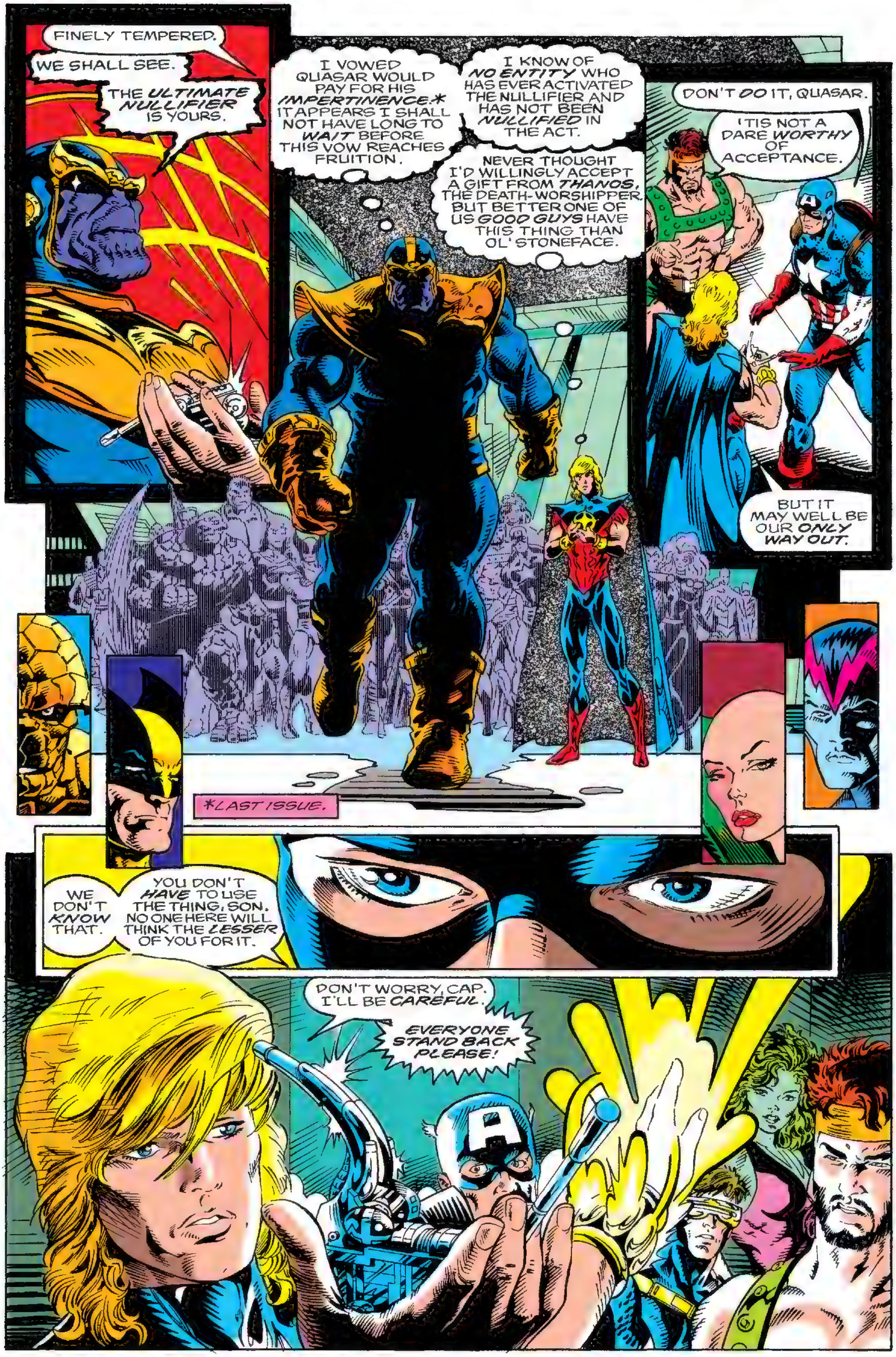
Stan Lee presents

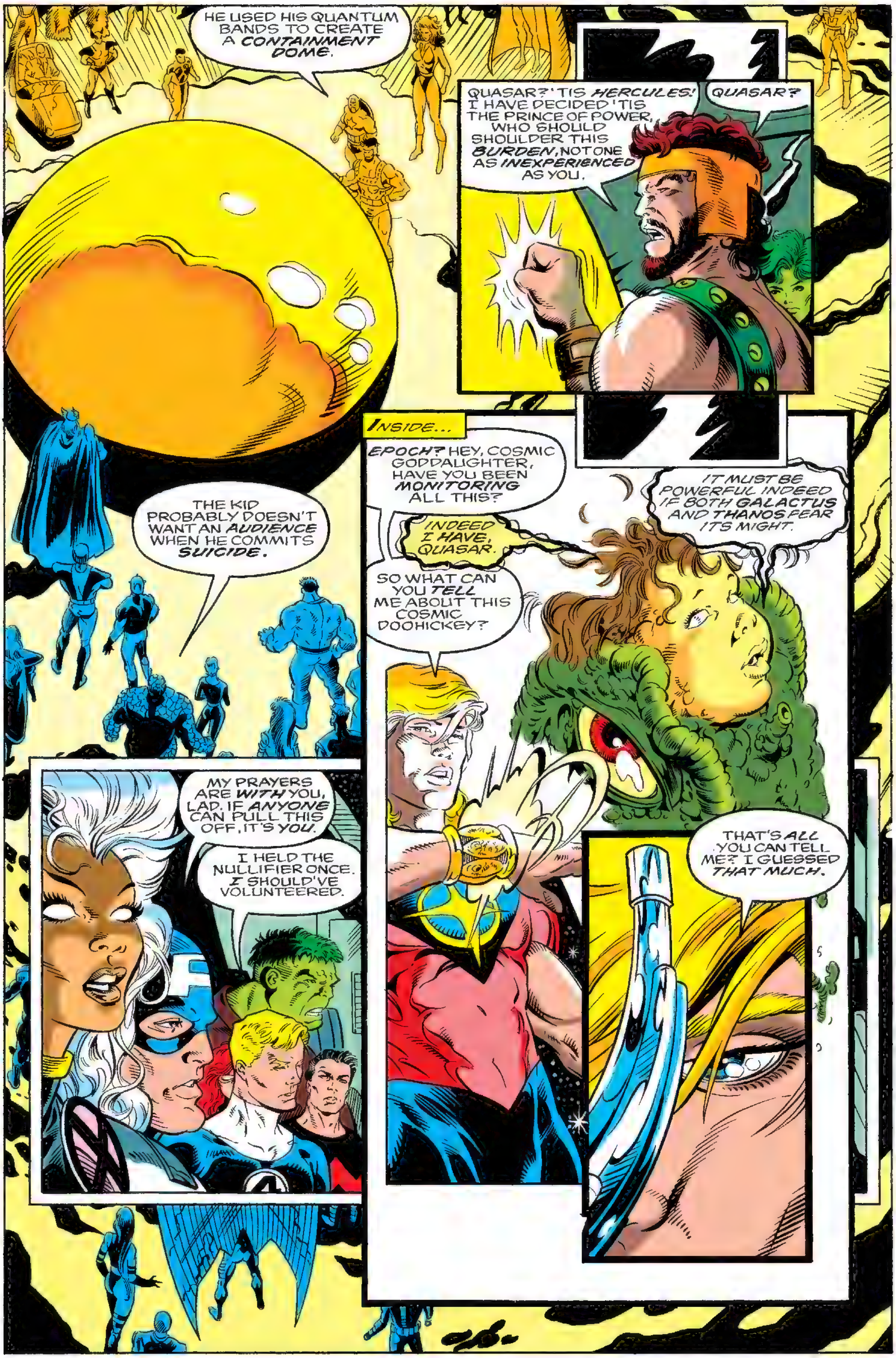
QUASAR

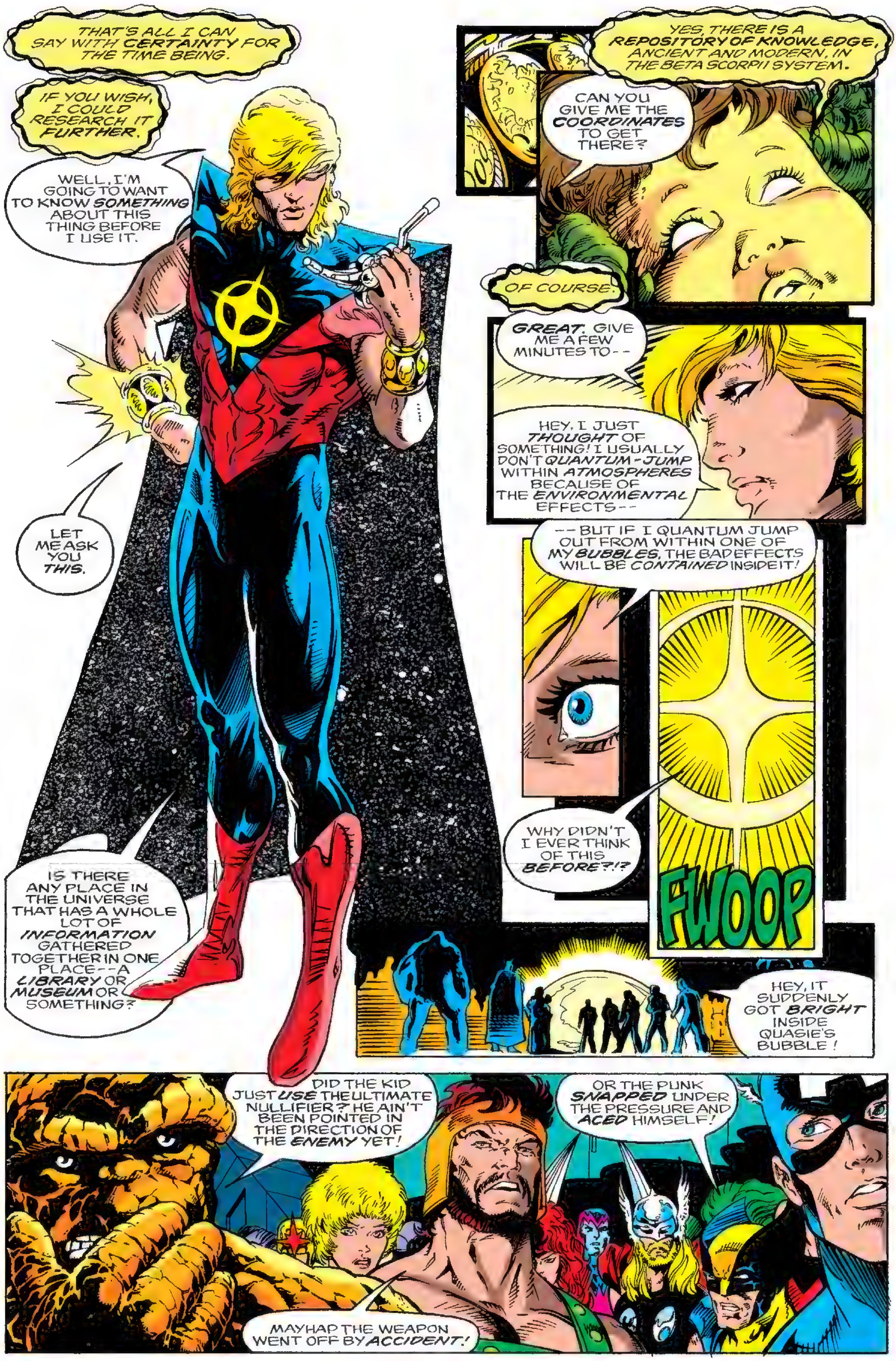
TO BE OR NOT TO BE

*THIS STORY CONTINUES FROM INFINITY WAR #4, NOW ON SALE!

MARK GRUENWALD • WRITER
STEVE LIGHTLE • PENCILER
CANDELARIO / McKENNA • INKERS
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
PAUL BECTON • COLORIST
KELLY CORVESE • EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • THANOS-IN-CHIEF


FINELY TEMPERED.
WE SHALL SEE.
THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER IS YOURS.
I VOWED QUASAR WOULD PAY FOR HIS IMPERTINENCE.* IT APPEARS I SHALL NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT BEFORE THIS VOW REACHES FRUITION.
I KNOW OF NO ENTITY WHO HAS EVER ACTIVATED THE NULLIFIER AND HAS NOT BEEN NULLIFIED IN THE ACT.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D WILLINGLY ACCEPT A GIFT FROM THANOS, THE DEATH-WORSHIPPER. BUT BETTER ONE OF US GOOD GUYS HAVE THIS THING THAN OL' STONEFACE.
DON'T DO IT, QUASAR.
'TIS NOT A DARE WORTHY OF ACCEPTANCE.
BUT IT MAY WELL BE OUR ONLY WAY OUT.
*LAST ISSUE.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE THE THING, SON. NO ONE HERE WILL THINK THE LESSER OF YOU FOR IT.
DON'T WORRY, CAP. I'LL BE CAREFUL.
EVERYONE STAND BACK PLEASE!


HE USED HIS QUANTUM BANDS TO CREATE A CONTAINMENT DOME.
QUASAR? 'TIS HERCULES! I HAVE DECIDED 'TIS THE PRINCE OF POWER, WHO SHOULD SHOULDER THIS BURDEN, NOT ONE AS INEXPERIENCED AS YOU.
QUASAR?
THE KID PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT AN AUDIENCE WHEN HE COMMITS SUICIDE.
INSIDE...
EPOCH? HEY, COSMIC GODDAUGHTER, HAVE YOU BEEN MONITORING ALL THIS?
INDEED I HAVE, QUASAR.
IT MUST BE POWERFUL INDEED IF BOTH GALACTUS AND THANOS FEAR ITS MIGHT.
SO WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS COSMIC DOOHICKEY?
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU, LAD. IF ANYONE CAN PULL THIS OFF, IT'S YOU.
I HELD THE NULLIFIER ONCE. I SHOULD'VE VOLUNTEERED.
THAT'S ALL YOU CAN TELL ME? I GUESSED THAT MUCH.


THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY FOR THE TIME BEING.
IF YOU WISH, I COULD RESEARCH IT FURTHER.
WELL, I'M GOING TO WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS THING BEFORE I USE IT.
LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
IS THERE ANY PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE THAT HAS A WHOLE LOT OF INFORMATION GATHERED TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE--A LIBRARY OR MUSEUM OR SOMETHING?
YES, THERE IS A REPOSITORY OF KNOWLEDGE, ANCIENT AND MODERN, IN THE BETA SCORPII SYSTEM.
CAN YOU GIVE ME THE COORDINATES TO GET THERE?
OF COURSE.
GREAT. GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO--
HEY, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! I USUALLY DON'T QUANTUM-JUMP WITHIN ATMOSPHERES BECAUSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS--
--BUT IF I QUANTUM JUMP OUT FROM WITHIN ONE OF MY BUBBLES, THE BAD EFFECTS WILL BE CONTAINED INSIDE IT!
WHY DIDN'T I EVER THINK OF THIS BEFORE?!?
FWOOP
HEY, IT SUDDENLY GOT BRIGHT INSIDE QUASIE'S BUBBLE!
DID THE KID JUST USE THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER? HE AIN'T BEEN POINTED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ENEMY YET!
OR THE PUNK SNAPPED UNDER THE PRESSURE AND ACED HIMSELF!
MAYHAP THE WEAPON WENT OFF BY ACCIDENT!

MEANWHILE, ON THE DISTANT PLANET SCADAM, AN EARTH WOMAN NAMED HOLLY STECKLEY IS SOLE WITNESS TO AN EVENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT QUASAR PROFOUNDLY WERE HE TO LEARN OF IT...

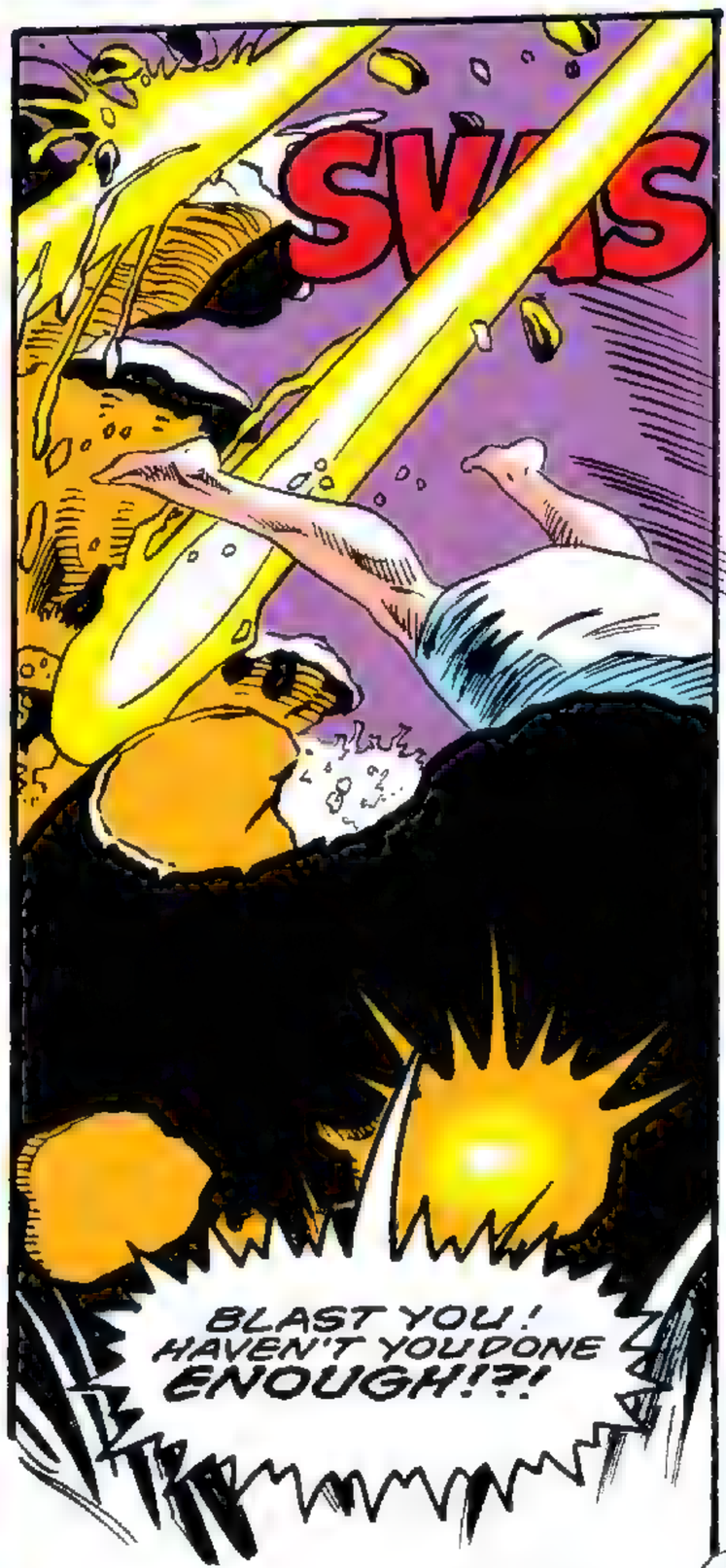
...HIS GIRLFRIEND HAS JUST DIED!

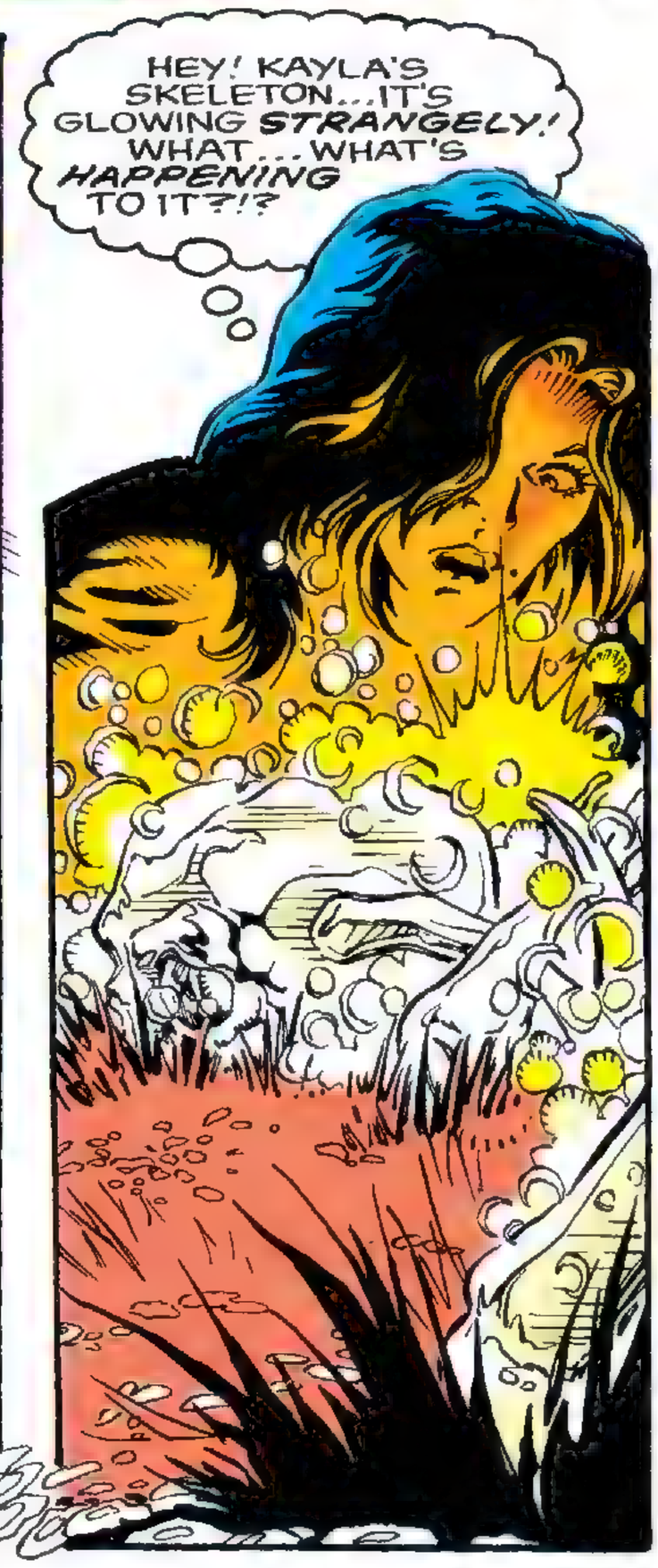
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! PLEASE TELL ME THIS CHARRED SKELETON ISN'T KAYLA BALLANTINE!

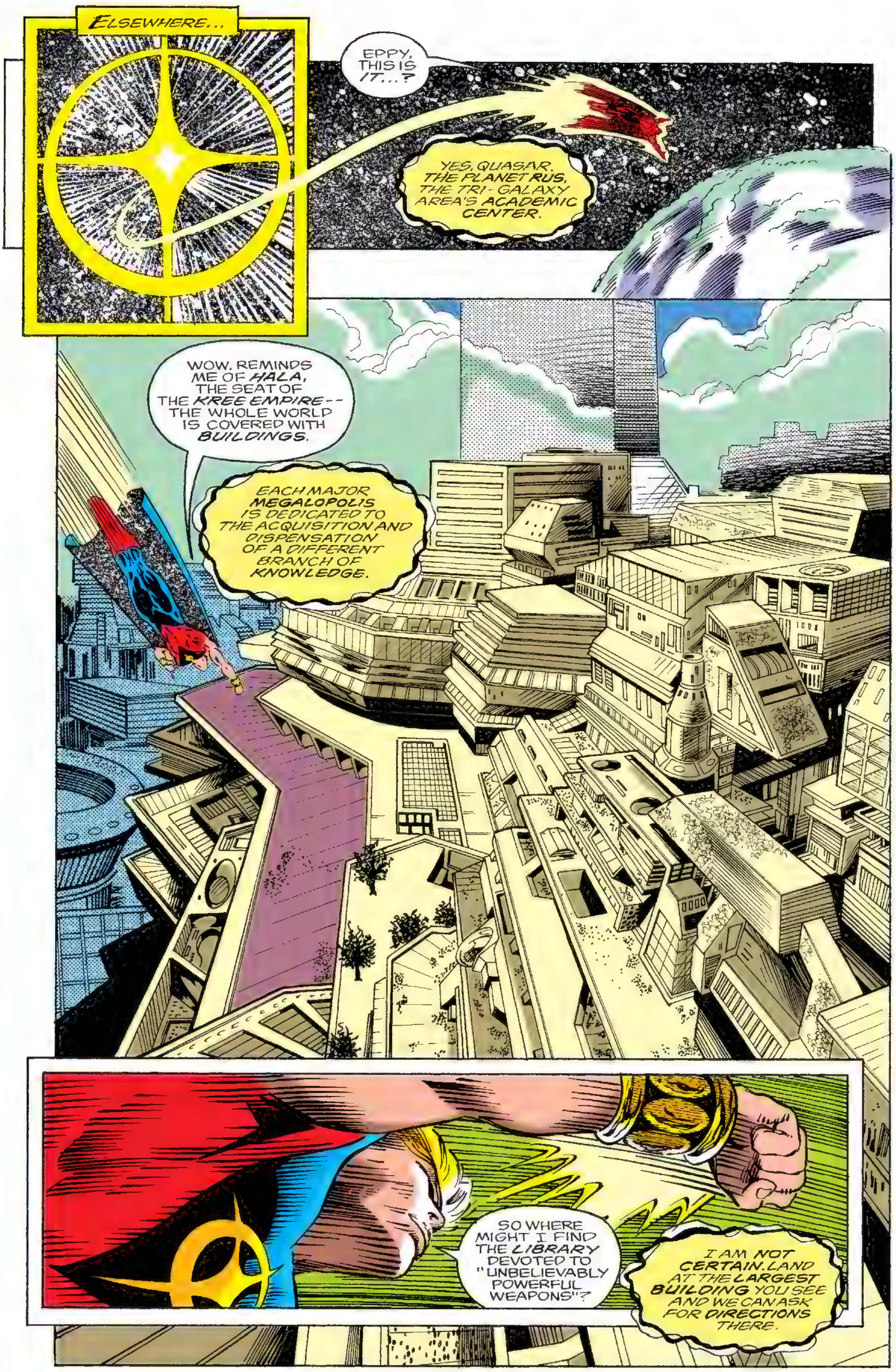
I WAS CERTAIN SHE HAD THE POWER TO BLAST THOSE ALIEN WARSHIPS OUT OF THE SKY--THAT'S WHY SHE WAS KIDNAPPED HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

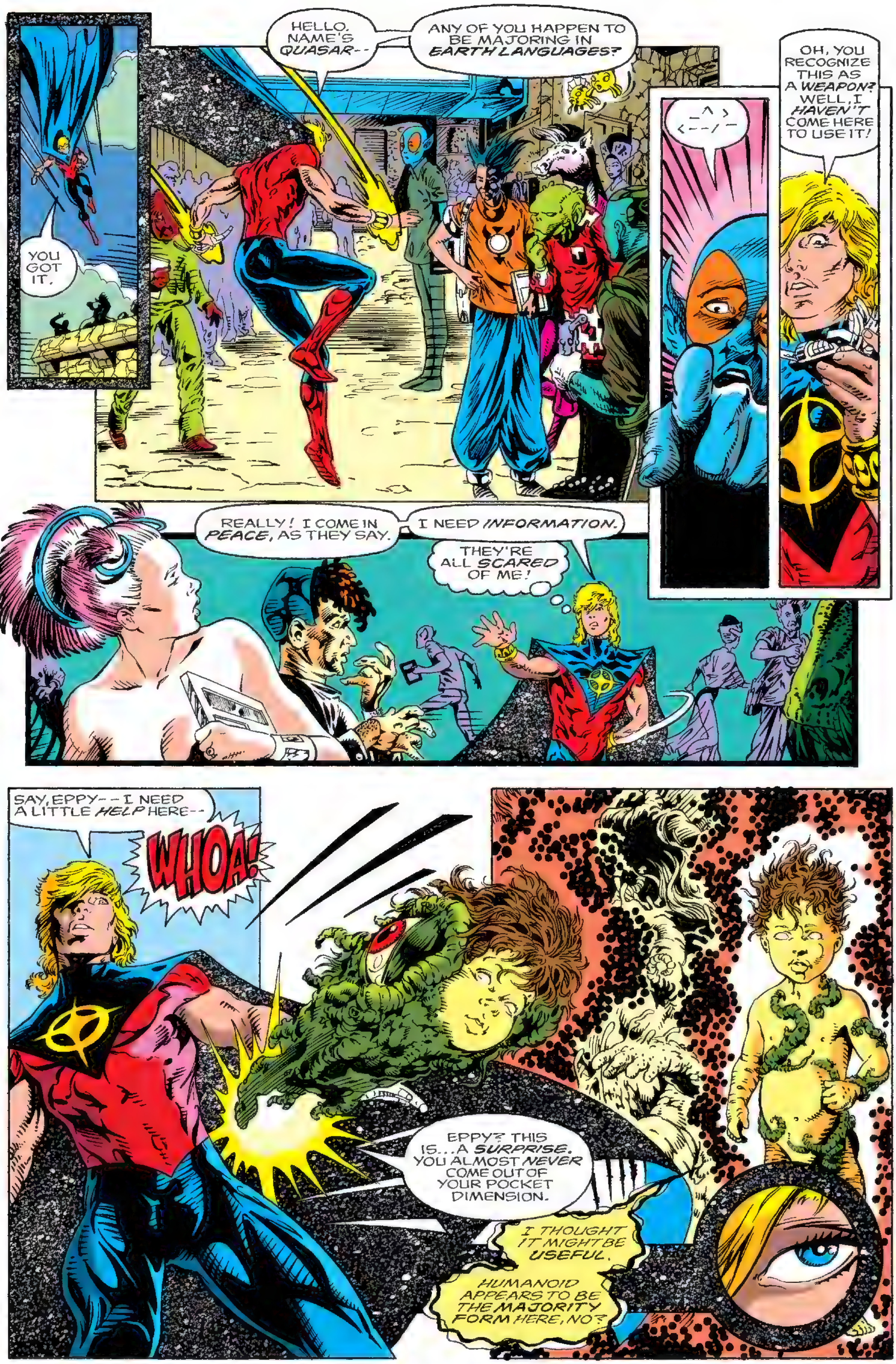
SOME "FRIEND" I TURNED OUT TO BE! I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD HER TO GO AND TRY--!

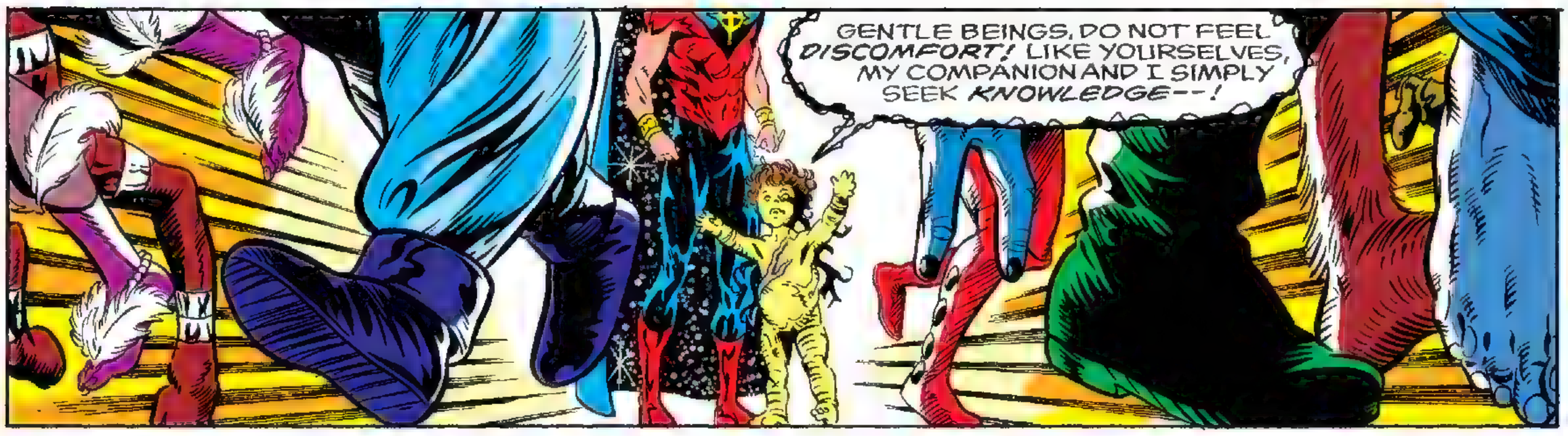
SUCH A WASTE! WHY DID I EVER ACCOMPANY HER HERE?

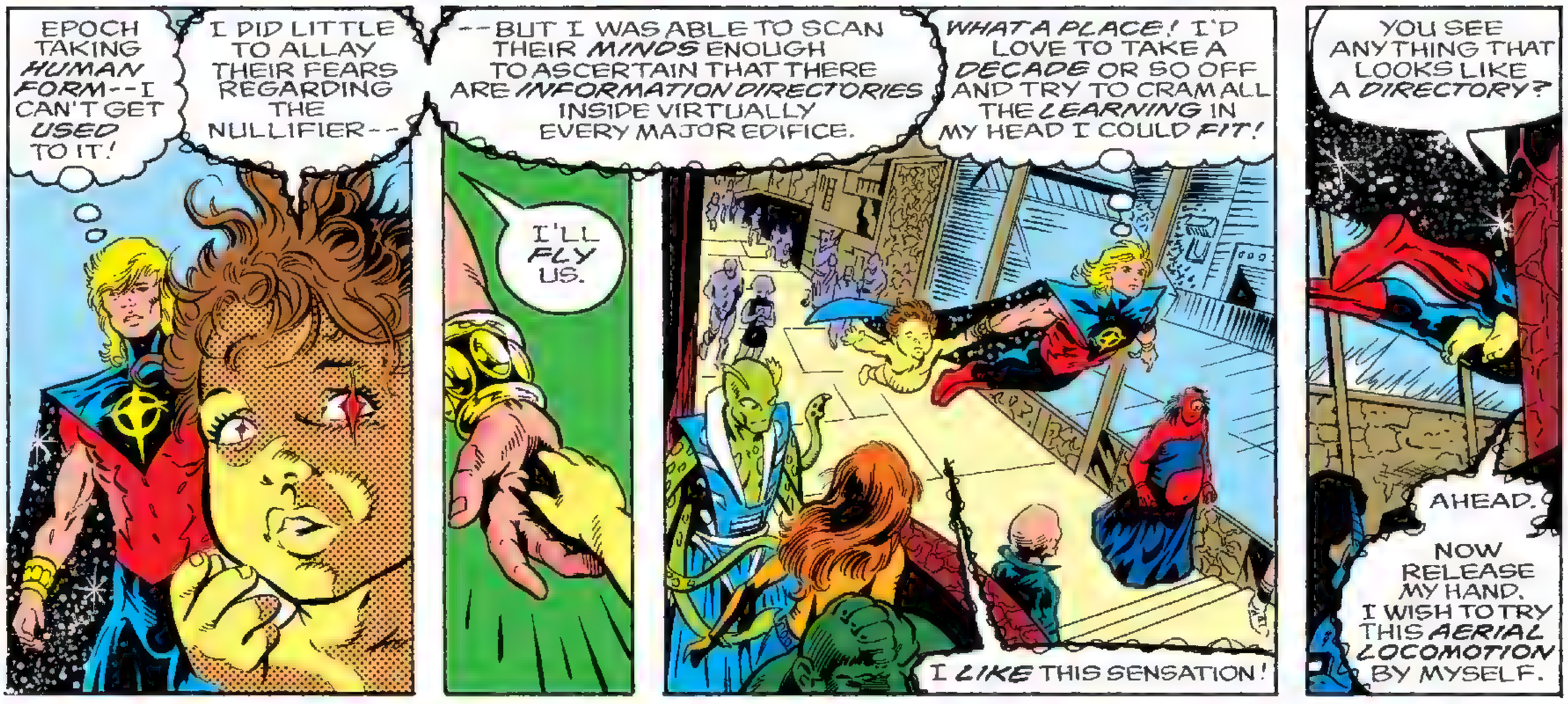




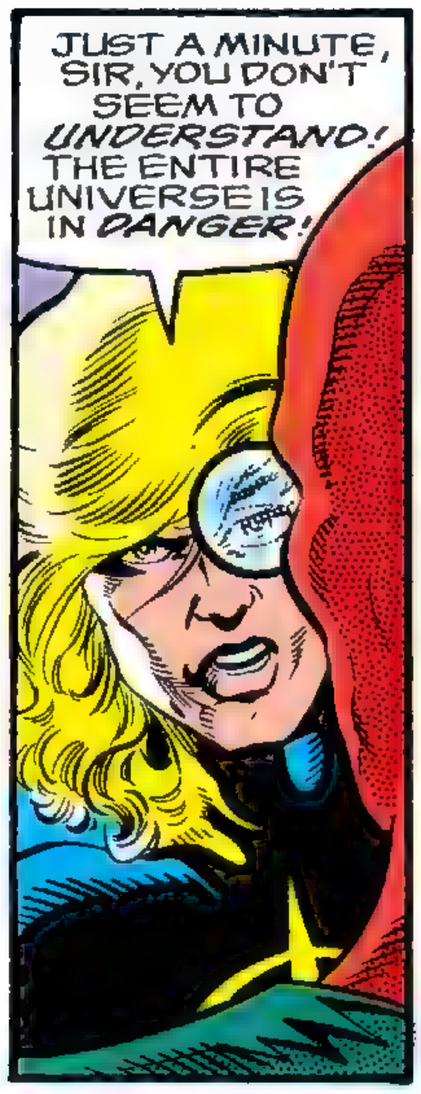

ELSEWHERE...
EPPY, THIS IS IT...?
YES, QUASAR. THE PLANET RUS, THE TRI-GALAXY AREA'S ACADEMIC CENTER.
WOW. REMINDS ME OF HALA, THE SEAT OF THE KREE EMPIRE-- THE WHOLE WORLD IS COVERED WITH BUILDINGS.
EACH MAJOR MEGALOPOLIS IS DEDICATED TO THE ACQUISITION AND DISPENSATION OF A DIFFERENT BRANCH OF KNOWLEDGE.
SO WHERE MIGHT I FIND THE LIBRARY DEVOTED TO "UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL WEAPONS"?
I AM NOT CERTAIN. LAND AT THE LARGEST BUILDING YOU SEE AND WE CAN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS THERE.

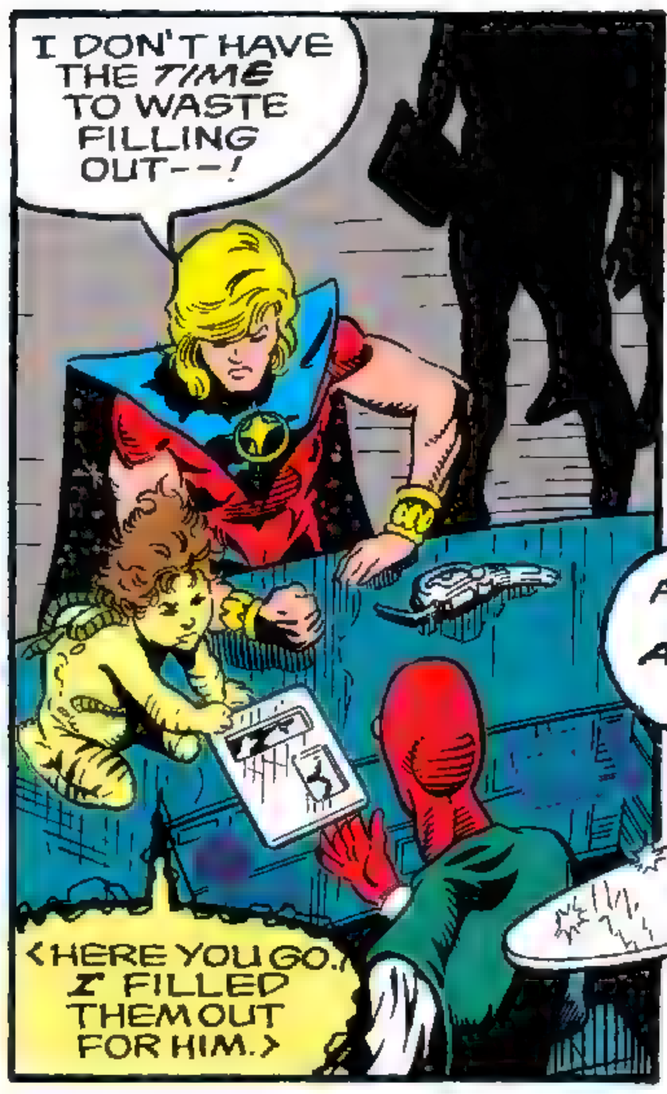

YOU GOT IT.
HELLO. NAME'S QUASAR--
ANY OF YOU HAPPEN TO BE MAJORING IN EARTH LANGUAGES?
_^ >
<--/ _
OH, YOU RECOGNIZE THIS AS A WEAPON? WELL, I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO USE IT!
REALLY! I COME IN PEACE, AS THEY SAY.
I NEED INFORMATION.
THEY'RE ALL SCARED OF ME!
SAY, EPPY--I NEED A LITTLE HELP HERE--
WHOA!
EPPY? THIS IS...A SURPRISE. YOU ALMOST NEVER COME OUT OF YOUR POCKET DIMENSION.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.
HUMANOID APPEARS TO BE THE MAJORITY FORM HERE, NO?

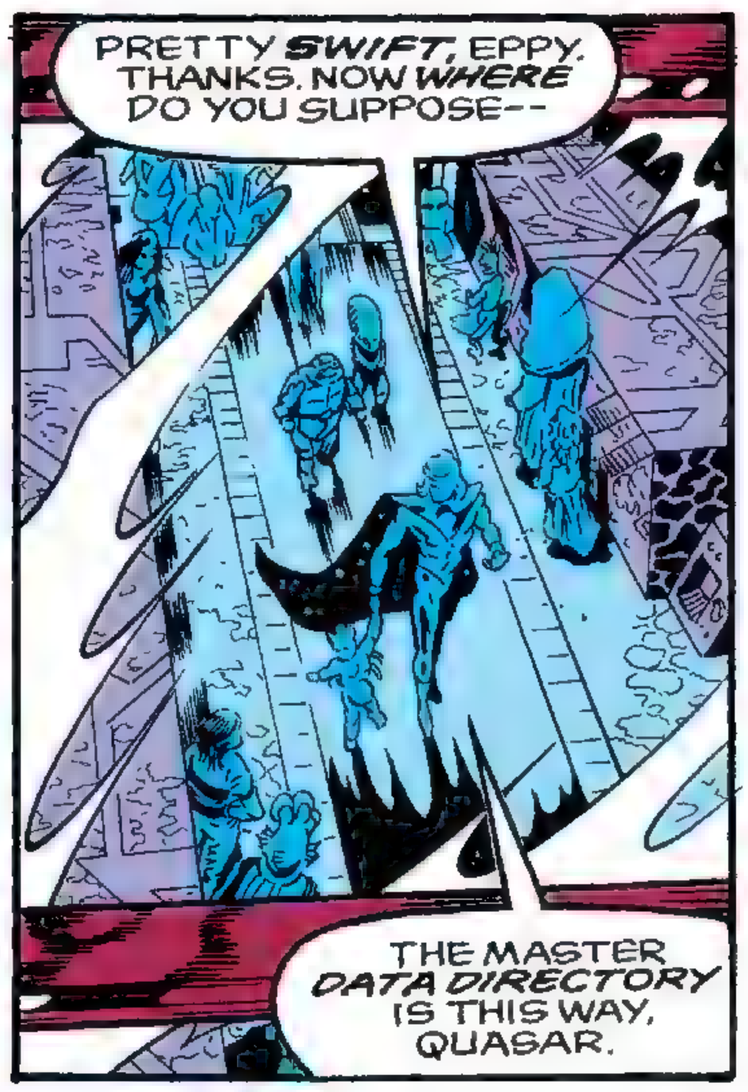




*TRANSLATED FROM ERGONESE.







AND...

HMM. IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF COMPUTER. IS THERE SOME SORT OF INSTRUCTION BOOKLET SOMEWHERE?

NO NEED. I'VE DECIPHERED IT ALREADY. COMPARED TO ORGANIC INTELLIGENCES, COMPUTER INTELLIGENCES ARE EASY TO COMPREHEND--

OKAY... THEN SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND ON THE ULTIMATE--

--NULLIFIER--?!?

WHAT--?

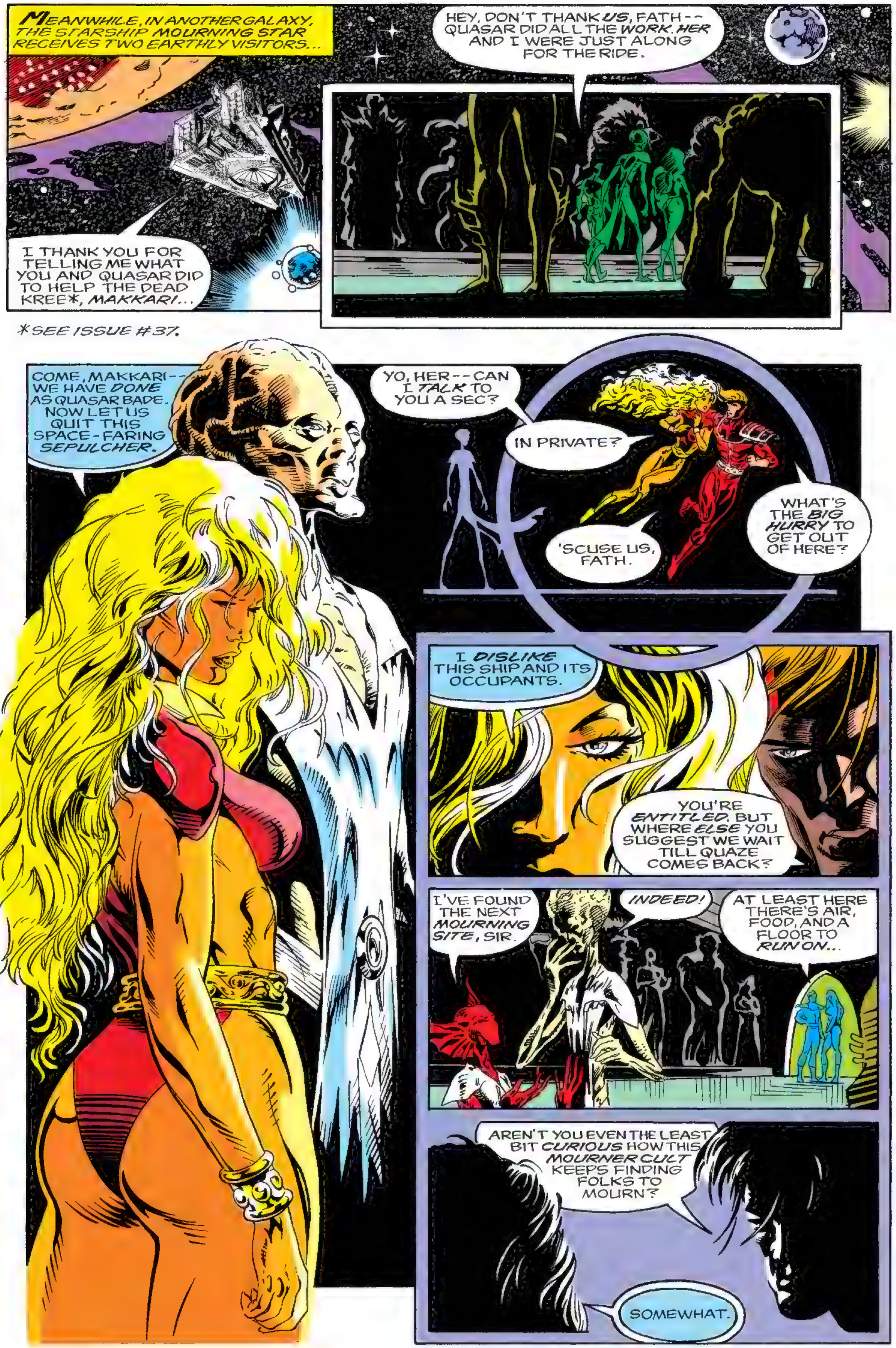
AW, NO-- DEATHURGE!

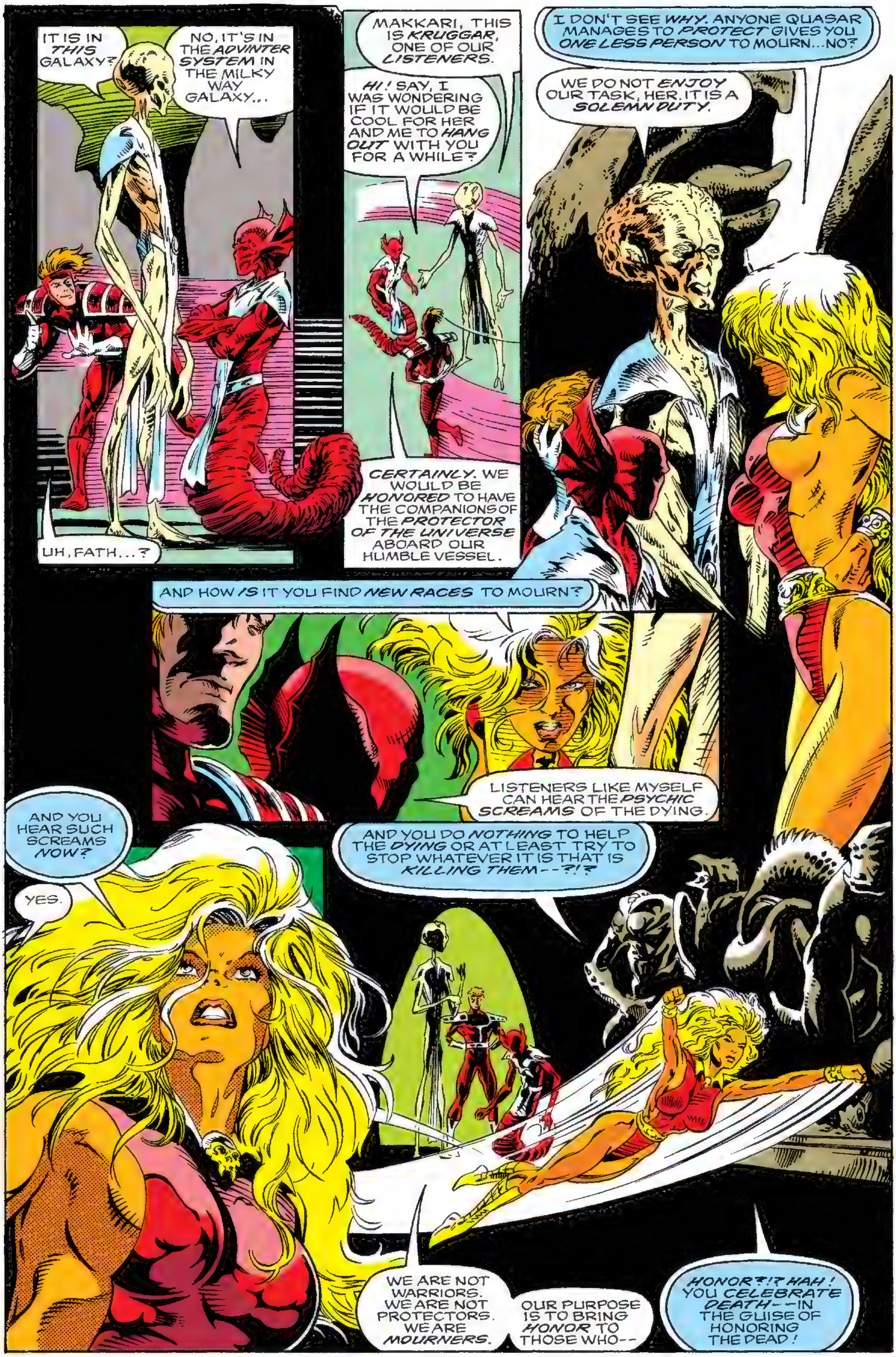
I AM PLEASED YOU RECOGNIZE ME, CHAMPION OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHASH

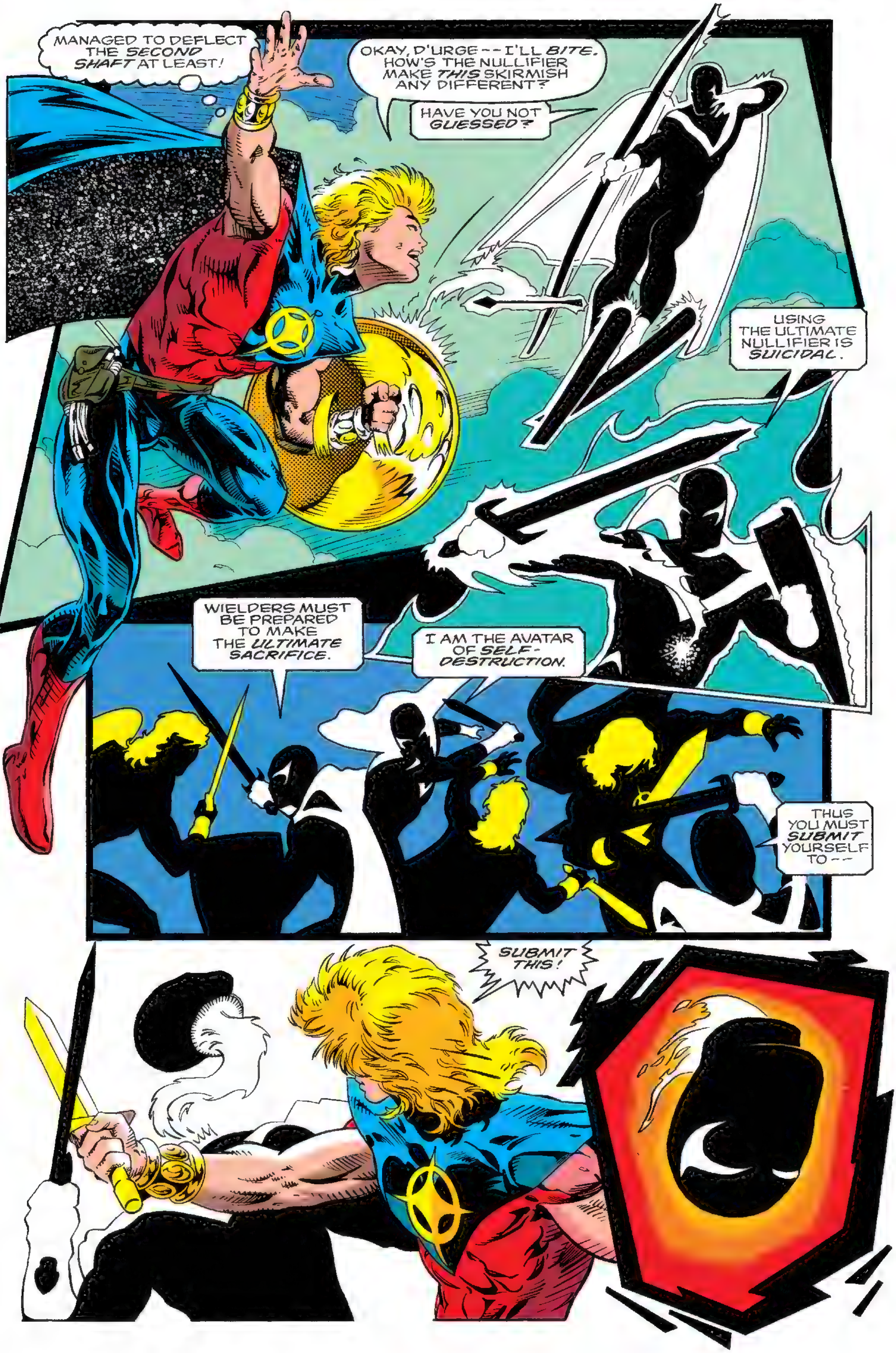
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT GRAVESTONE YOU CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER!

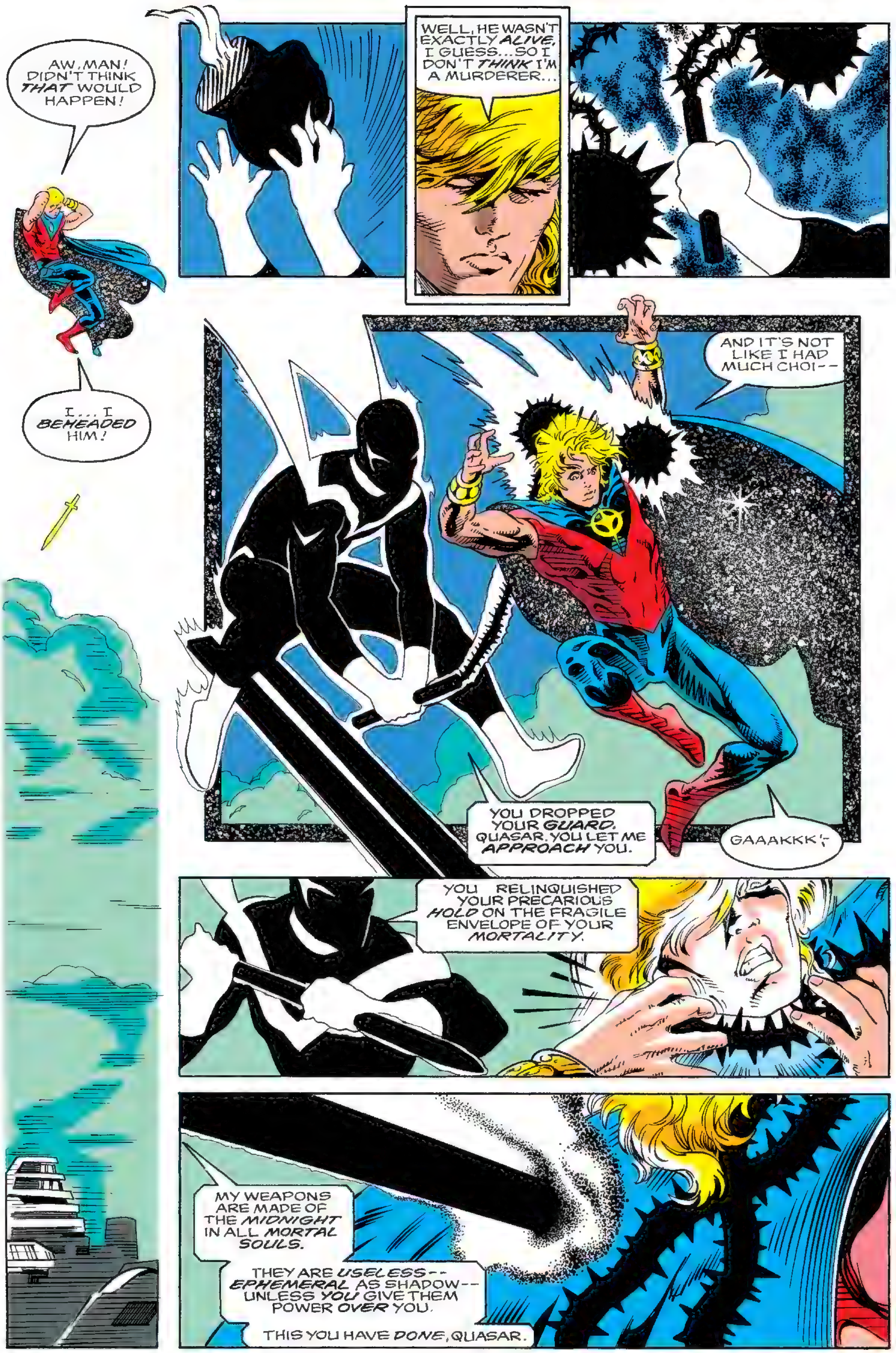
LOOK, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO HORSE AROUND WITH YOU JUST NOW.
THE UNIVERSE--OR SOME FRACTION THEREOF--IS IN JEOPARDY AND I'VE GOT TO DO MY PART TO SAVE IT!
I KNOW. WHY ELSE WOULD I BE HERE?
YOU HOLD THE NULLIFIER, A WEAPON CAPABLE OF PLUNGING UNTOLD EXPANSES OF REALITY INTO OBLIVION.
I AM AN AGENT OF OBLIVION. CONSEQUENTLY, WHAT YOU DO CONCERNS ME.
GO ON, QUASAR--FIGHT WITH HIM IF YOU WISH.
I'LL STAY HERE AND RESEARCH THE NULLIFIER FOR YOU.
MM, OKAY.
GOT TO LEAD HIM AWAY FROM EP SO HE DOESN'T DO MORE DAMAGE!
COME AND GET ME, TAR-FACE!
SUCH IS MY DESTINY--SUCH IS YOUR DOOM!

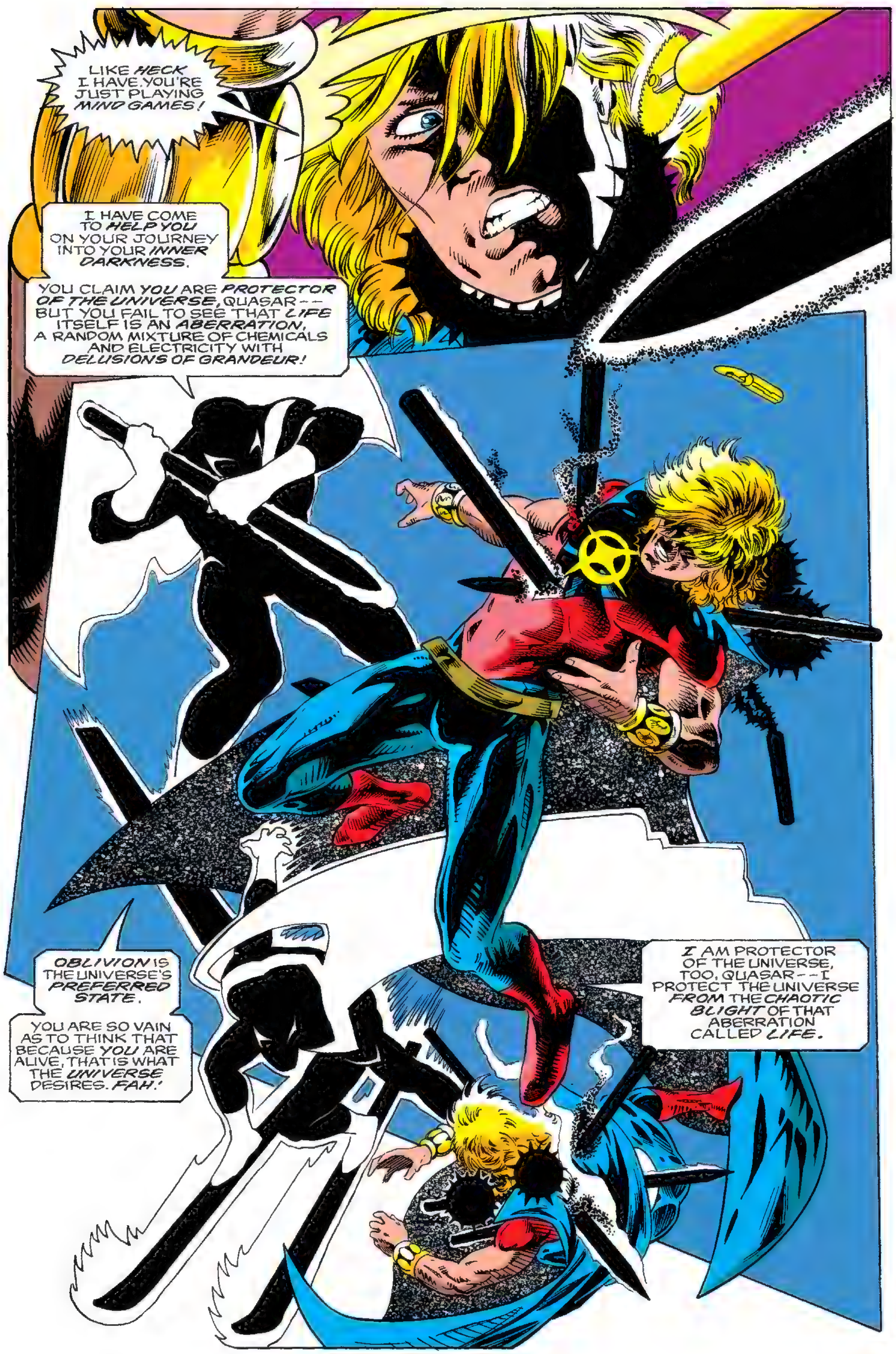

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER GALAXY, THE STARSHIP MOURNING STAR RECEIVES TWO EARTHLY VISITORS...
HEY, DON'T THANK US, FATH -- QUASAR DID ALL THE WORK. HER AND I WERE JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
I THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME WHAT YOU AND QUASAR DID TO HELP THE DEAD KREE*, MAKKARI...
*SEE ISSUE #37.
COME, MAKKARI -- WE HAVE DONE AS QUASAR BADE. NOW LET US QUIT THIS SPACE-FARING SEPULCHER.
YO, HER -- CAN I TALK TO YOU A SEC?
IN PRIVATE?
'SCUSE US, FATH.
WHAT'S THE BIG HURRY TO GET OUT OF HERE?
I DISLIKE THIS SHIP AND ITS OCCUPANTS.
YOU'RE ENTITLED, BUT WHERE ELSE YOU SUGGEST WE WAIT TILL QUAZE COMES BACK?
I'VE FOUND THE NEXT MOURNING SITE, SIR.
INDEED!
AT LEAST HERE THERE'S AIR, FOOD, AND A FLOOR TO RUN ON...
AREN'T YOU EVEN THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS HOW THIS MOURNER CULT KEEPS FINDING FOLKS TO MOURN?
SOMEWHAT.

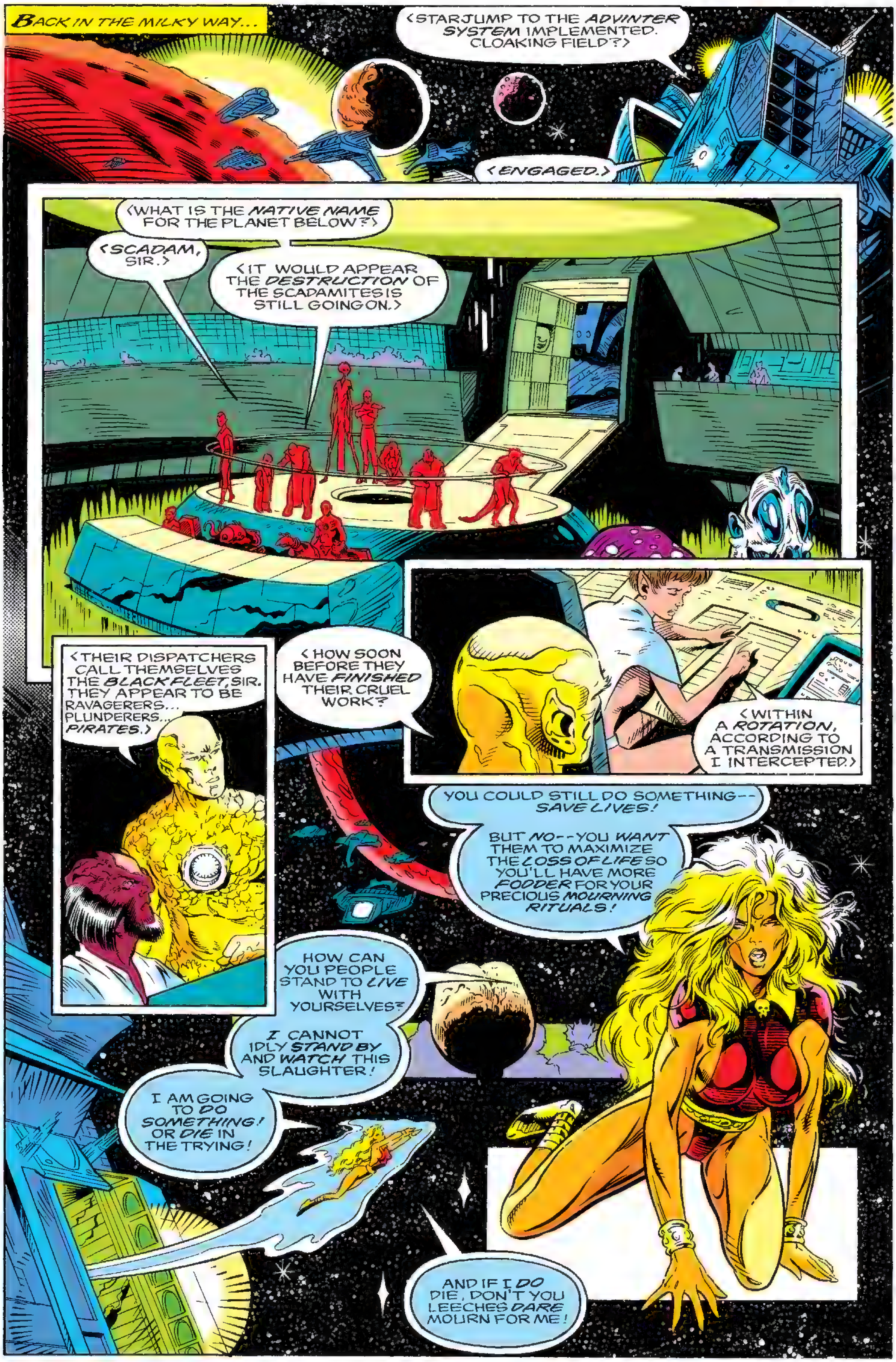

IT IS IN THIS GALAXY?
NO, IT'S IN THE ADVINTER SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY...
UH, FATH...?
MAKKARI, THIS IS KRUGGAR, ONE OF OUR LISTENERS.
HI! SAY, I WAS WONDERING IF IT WOULD BE COOL FOR HER AND ME TO HANG OUT WITH YOU FOR A WHILE?
CERTAINLY. WE WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE THE COMPANIONS OF THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE ABOARD OUR HUMBLE VESSEL.
I DON'T SEE WHY. ANYONE QUASAR MANAGES TO PROTECT GIVES YOU ONE LESS PERSON TO MOURN...NO?
WE DO NOT ENJOY OUR TASK, HER. IT IS A SOLEMN DUTY.
AND HOW IS IT YOU FIND NEW RACES TO MOURN?
LISTENERS LIKE MYSELF CAN HEAR THE PSYCHIC SCREAMS OF THE DYING.
AND YOU HEAR SUCH SCREAMS NOW?
YES.
AND YOU DO NOTHING TO HELP THE DYING OR AT LEAST TRY TO STOP WHATEVER IT IS THAT IS KILLING THEM--?!?
WE ARE NOT WARRIORS. WE ARE NOT PROTECTORS. WE ARE MOURNERS.
OUR PURPOSE IS TO BRING HONOR TO THOSE WHO--
HONOR?!? HAH! YOU CELEBRATE DEATH--IN THE GUISE OF HONORING THE DEAD!

BACK ON RUS...
YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED ME TWICE BEFORE, QUASAR--
--YET YOU STILL PERSIST IN THE BELIEF YOU CAN OUTRUN ME!
WELL, D'URGE...
--THE FACT THAT I SURVIVED OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS FILLS ME WITH CONFIDENCE I CAN DO SO AGAIN!
SNAGGED 'IM!
THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT.
OOPS! ALL THAT DID WAS WRECK SOME REAL ESTATE!
I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE LATER.
THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER IN YOUR POSSESSION MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.
<YOU QUERY HIM AS TO HOW, GAIRHEE-->
<THE BLACK ONE PULLS WEAPONS FROM WITHIN HIS BODY!>
<--I AM ENGAGED IN SELF-PRESERVATION!>
HE TOOK OUT HIS BOW!
GOT TO BLOCK--!
WHOA--! CAME AT ME SO FAST I COULDN'T FORM A QUANTUM-SHIELD IN TIME!


MANAGED TO DEFLECT THE SECOND SHAFT AT LEAST!
OKAY, D'URGE -- I'LL BITE. HOW'S THE NULLIFIER MAKE THIS SKIRMISH ANY DIFFERENT?
HAVE YOU NOT GUESSED?
USING THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER IS SUICIDAL.
WIELDERS MUST BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.
I AM THE AVATAR OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.
THUS YOU MUST SUBMIT YOURSELF TO --
SUBMIT THIS!


AW, MAN! DIDN'T THINK THAT WOULD HAPPEN!
WELL, HE WASN'T EXACTLY ALIVE, I GUESS...SO I DON'T THINK I'M A MURDERER...
I... I BEHEADED HIM!
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH CHOI--
YOU DROPPED YOUR GUARD, QUASAR. YOU LET ME APPROACH YOU.
GAAAKKK!
YOU RELINQUISHED YOUR PRECARIOUS HOLD ON THE FRAGILE ENVELOPE OF YOUR MORTALITY.
MY WEAPONS ARE MADE OF THE MIDNIGHT IN ALL MORTAL SOULS.
THEY ARE USELESS-- EPHEMERAL AS SHADOW-- UNLESS YOU GIVE THEM POWER OVER YOU.
THIS YOU HAVE DONE, QUASAR.


LIKE HECK I HAVE. YOU'RE JUST PLAYING MIND GAMES!
I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY INTO YOUR INNER DARKNESS.
YOU CLAIM YOU ARE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, QUASAR -- BUT YOU FAIL TO SEE THAT LIFE ITSELF IS AN ABERRATION, A RANDOM MIXTURE OF CHEMICALS AND ELECTRICITY WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!
OBLIVION IS THE UNIVERSE'S PREFERRED STATE.
YOU ARE SO VAIN AS TO THINK THAT BECAUSE YOU ARE ALIVE, THAT IS WHAT THE UNIVERSE DESIRES. FAH!
I AM PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, TOO, QUASAR -- I PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM THE CHAOTIC BLIGHT OF THAT ABERRATION CALLED LIFE.


BACK IN THE MILKY WAY...
<STARJUMP TO THE ADVINTER SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED. CLOAKING FIELD?>
<ENGAGED.>
<WHAT IS THE NATIVE NAME FOR THE PLANET BELOW?>
<SCADAM, SIR.>
<IT WOULD APPEAR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCADAMITES IS STILL GOING ON.>
<THEIR DISPATCHERS CALL THEMSELVES THE BLACK FLEET, SIR. THEY APPEAR TO BE RAVAGERERS... PLUNDERERS... PIRATES.>
<HOW SOON BEFORE THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR CRUEL WORK?
<WITHIN A ROTATION, ACCORDING TO A TRANSMISSION I INTERCEPTED.>
YOU COULD STILL DO SOMETHING-- SAVE LIVES!
BUT NO--YOU WANT THEM TO MAXIMIZE THE LOSS OF LIFE SO YOU'LL HAVE MORE FODDER FOR YOUR PRECIOUS MOURNING RITUALS!
HOW CAN YOU PEOPLE STAND TO LIVE WITH YOURSELVES?
I CANNOT IDLY STAND BY AND WATCH THIS SLAUGHTER!
I AM GOING TO DO SOMETHING! OR DIE IN THE TRYING!
AND IF I DO DIE, DON'T YOU LEECHES DARE MOURN FOR ME!

UNKNOWN TO HER, ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET BELOW IS ANOTHER OF QUASAR'S ACQUAINTANCES, ONE HOLLY STECKLEY...

WITH KAYLA INCINERATED AND HER FORMIDABLE POWER GONE, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN LAST.

THOUGH I'M...NOT WITHOUT SOME RESOURCES MYSELF, THE BLACK FLEET SEEMS INTENT UPON WIPING ALL LIFE OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET!

IF ONLY KAYLA'S BOYFRIEND QUASAR KNEW WHAT HAD--

OH!

HOLLY... I FEEL SO STRANGE...!

KAYLA--?!?

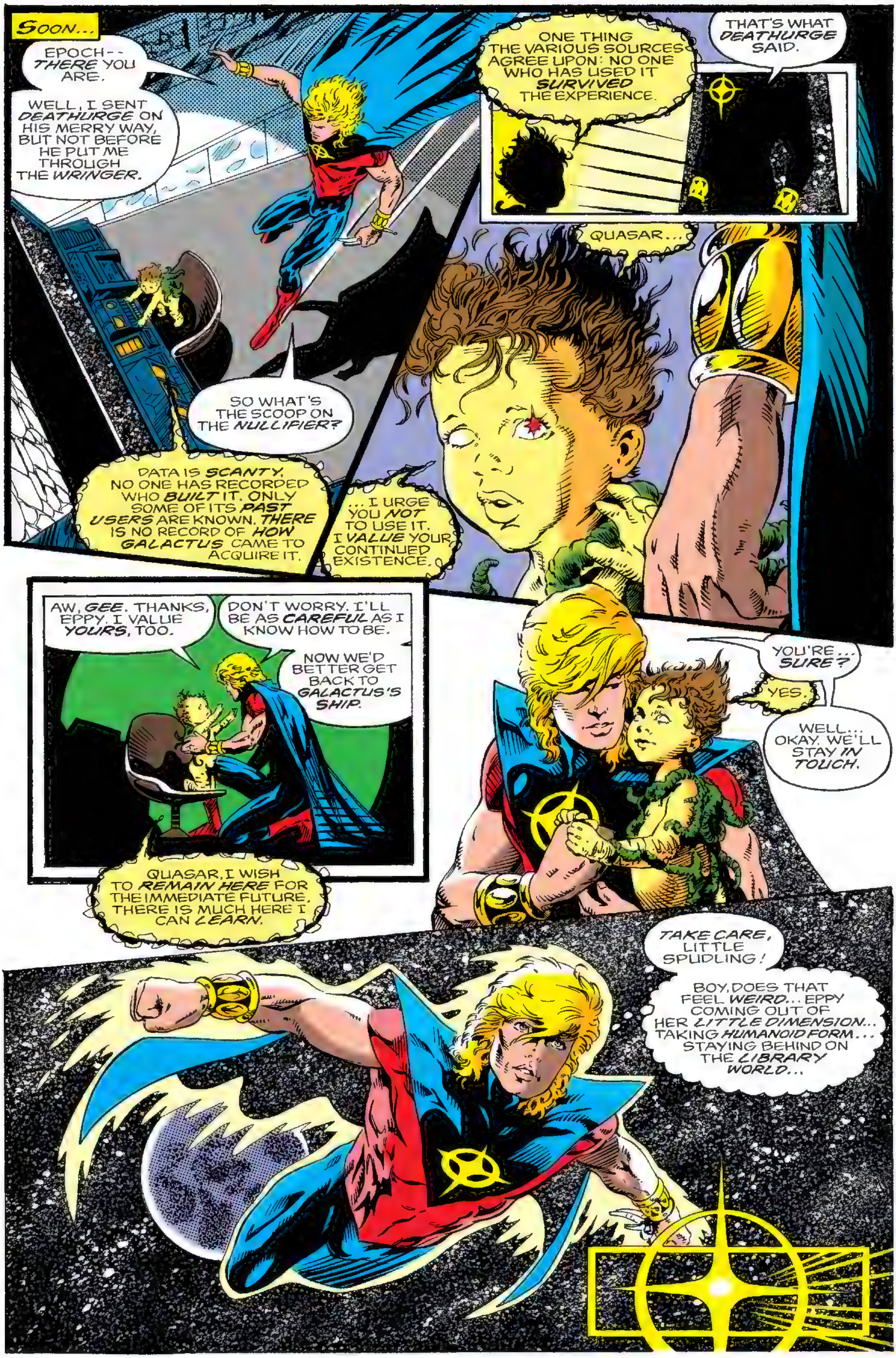
THE PLANET RUS...

I'VE BEATEN YOU, AS I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD. YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A REFRESHING SENSE OF FUTILITY ABOUT YOU!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IF YOU TAKE ME NOW... I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE NULLIFIER...

...AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONSIGN A BEING OF FAR GREATER POWER THAN ME TO YOUR MASTER OBLIVION!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, QUASAR. I'M NOT HERE TO KILL YOU.
I VISIT EVERYONE WHO IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING USING THE NULLIFIER, AND MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BEARER OF NOTHINGNESS.
TO DISPENSE THE VOID, ONE MUST ACCEPT THE VOID, IN YOUR HEART!
NO!
I REFUSE!
THEN YOU WILL FAIL TO ACTIVATE THE NULLIFIER.
I THINK YOU WILL SUCCEED.
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, FELLOW PROTECTOR!
DISAPPEARING--?
HE'S WRONG ABOUT THE NULLIFIER.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO USE IT--WITHOUT PERISHING IN THE PROCESS.


SOON...
EPOCH-- THERE YOU ARE.
WELL, I SENT DEATHURGE ON HIS MERRY WAY, BUT NOT BEFORE HE PUT ME THROUGH THE WRINGER.
SO WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON THE NULLIFIER?
DATA IS SCANTY. NO ONE HAS RECORDED WHO BUILT IT. ONLY SOME OF ITS PAST USERS ARE KNOWN. THERE IS NO RECORD OF HOW GALACTUS CAME TO ACQUIRE IT.
... I URGE YOU NOT TO USE IT. I VALUE YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE.
ONE THING THE VARIOUS SOURCES AGREE UPON: NO ONE WHO HAS USED IT SURVIVED THE EXPERIENCE.
THAT'S WHAT DEATHURGE SAID.
QUASAR...
AW, GEE. THANKS, EPPY. I VALUE YOURS, TOO.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE AS CAREFUL AS I KNOW HOW TO BE.
NOW WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO GALACTUS'S SHIP.
QUASAR, I WISH TO REMAIN HERE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THERE IS MUCH HERE I CAN LEARN.
YOU'RE... SURE?
YES.
WELL... OKAY. WE'LL STAY IN TOUCH.
TAKE CARE, LITTLE SPUDLING!
BOY, DOES THAT FEEL WEIRD... EPPY COMING OUT OF HER LITTLE DIMENSION... TAKING HUMANOID FORM... STAYING BEHIND ON THE LIBRARY WORLD...

GALACTUS'S SHIP...

QUASAR'S LOCKED HIMSELF INSIDE THAT *BUBBLE* FOR ALMOST AN *HOUR* NOW. WHAT CAN HE BE *DOING?*

MEBBE HE'S NOT EVEN *IN THERE* ANYMORE. MEBBE HE FOUND A WAY TA TAKE A *POWDER*.

DID HE *ACTIVATE* IT...?

IT WOULD NOT BE ADVANTAGEOUS IF HE HAD. THE ENEMY WE WISH HIM TO NULLIFY IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

WAIT-- ANOTHER *FLASH OF LIGHT* FROM INSIDE!

QUASAR... I SURE WISH YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE US IN THE *DARK* ABOUT THIS.

MADE IT BACK SO *SMOOTHLY* I DOUBT MANY WERE AWARE I'D EVEN *GONE*.

NOW TO FIGURE OUT THE *ACTIVATION SEQUENCE*...

...DROP MY *PROTECTIVE* DOME.

...AND ASK *THANOS* WHERE HE WANTS ME TO *POINT* THIS BABY.

YOU MUST NOT MISS--

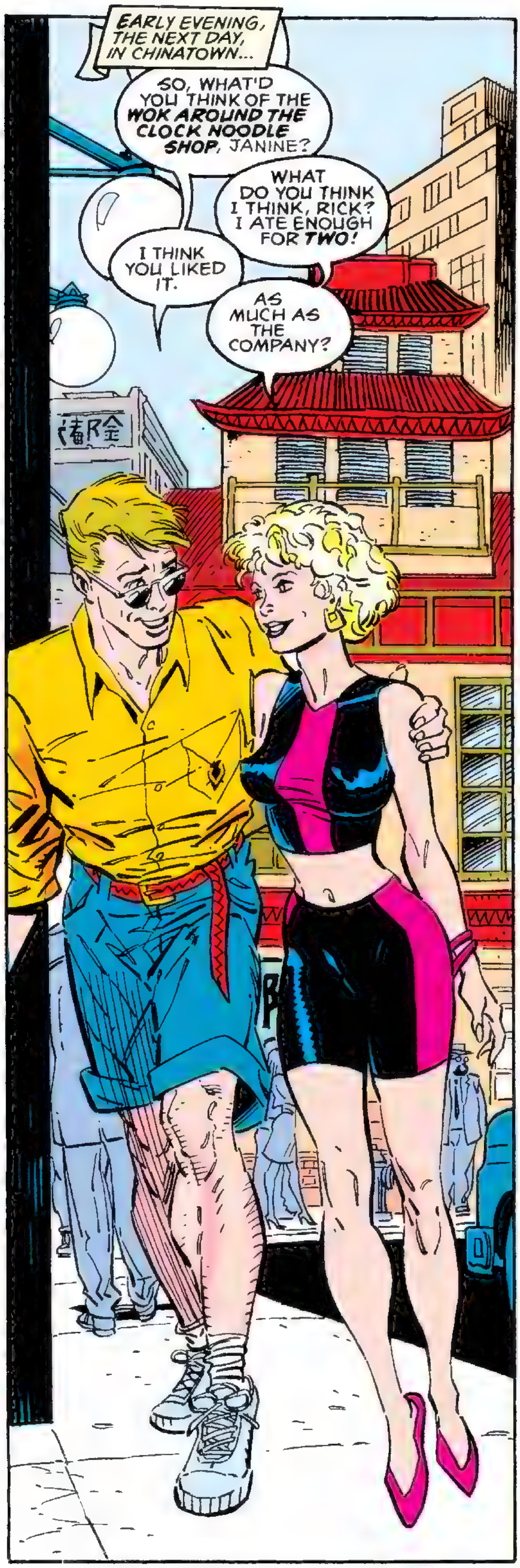
#5 AS QUASAR PULLS THE COSMIC TRIGGER!

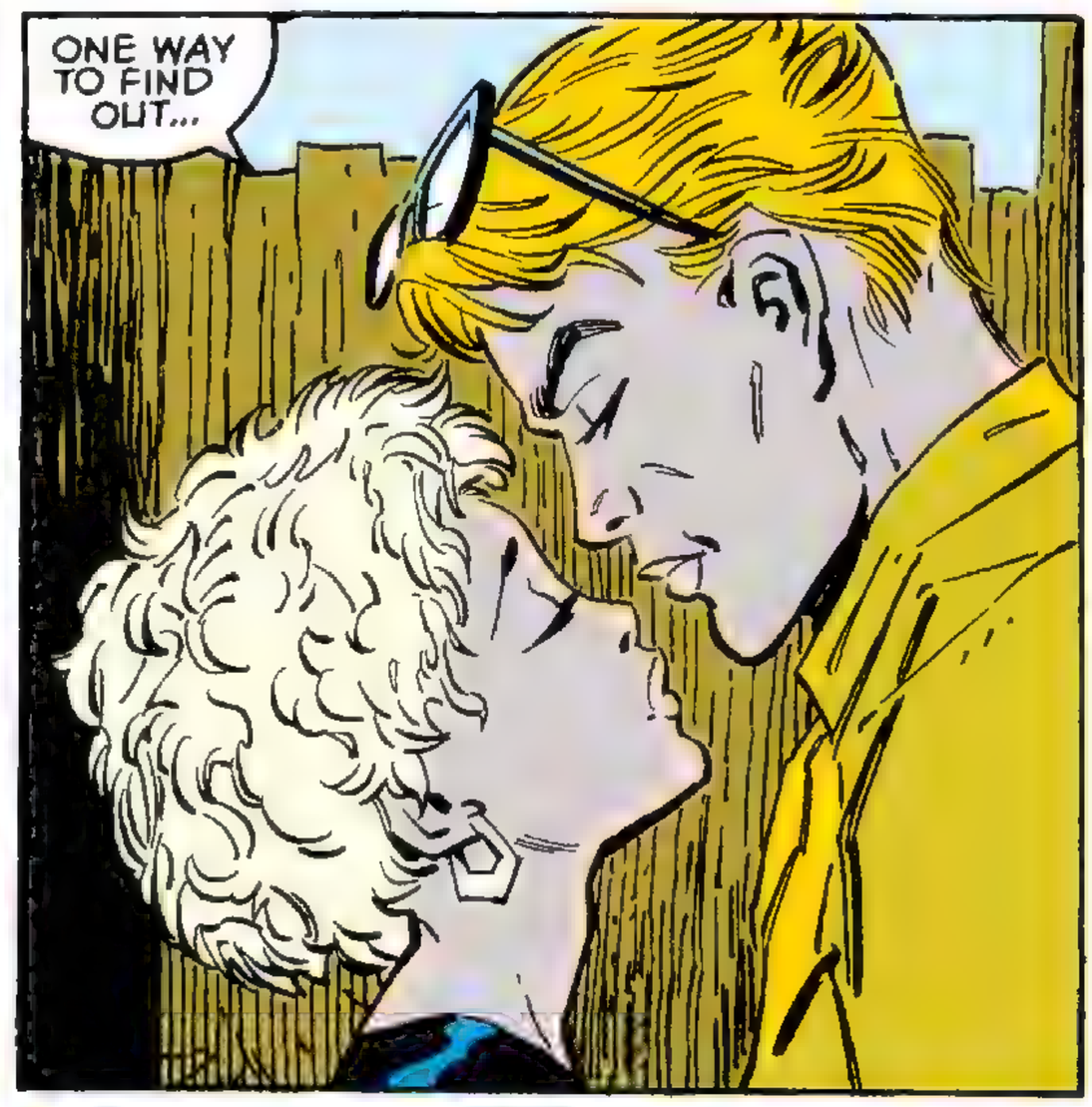
NEXT ISSUE:

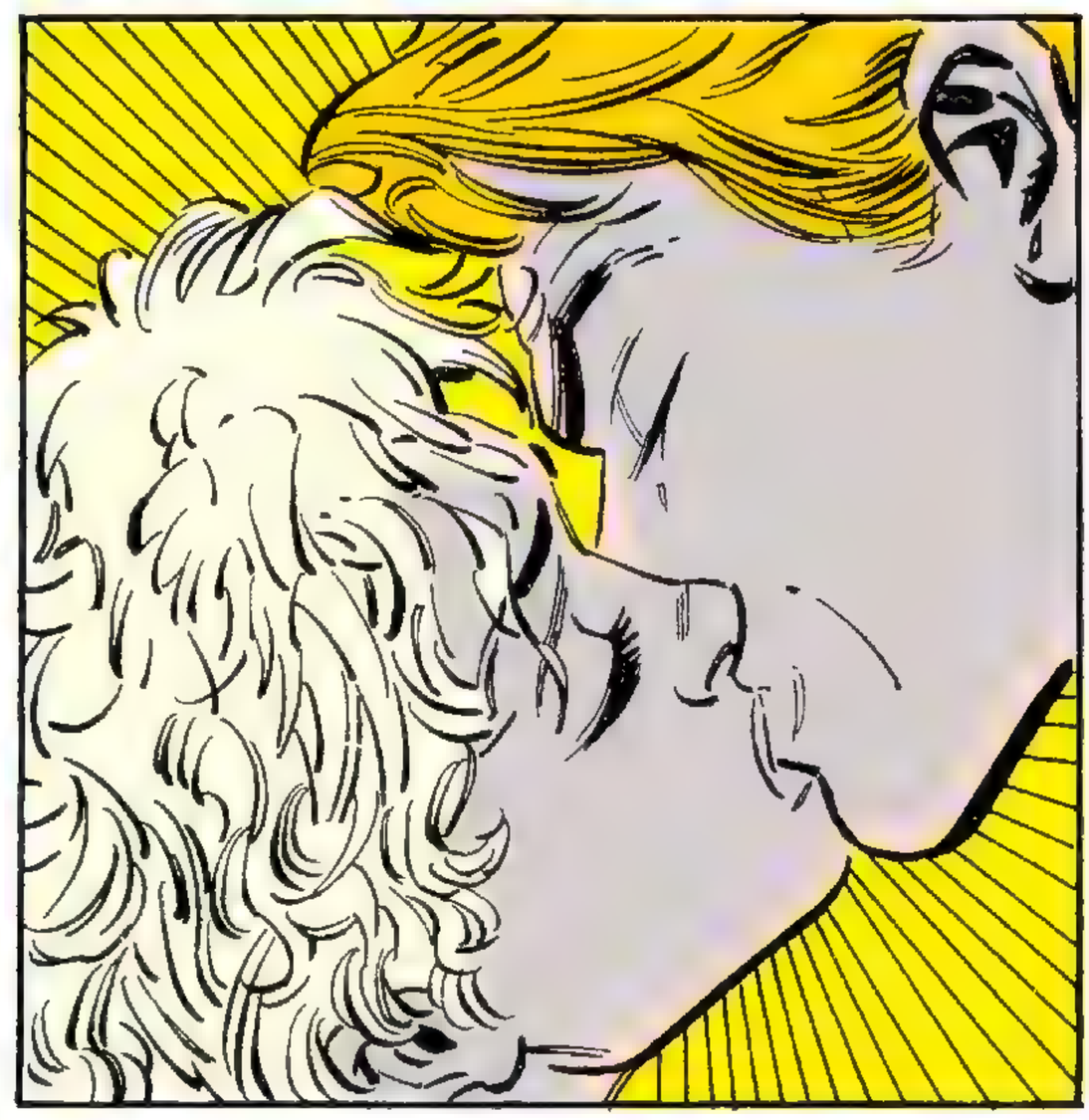
NOTHINGNESS!

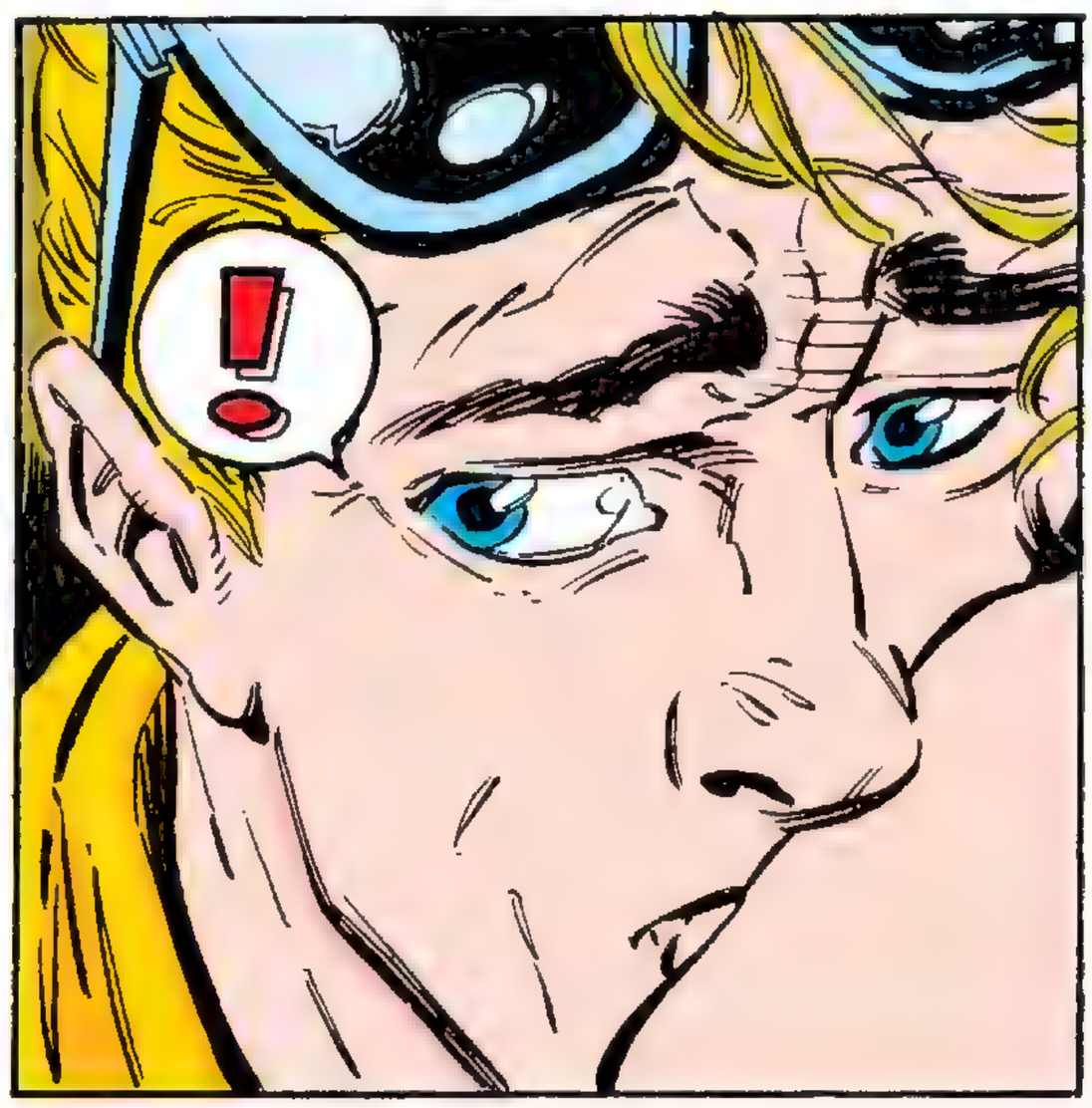
Excerpt from Sleepwalker #17

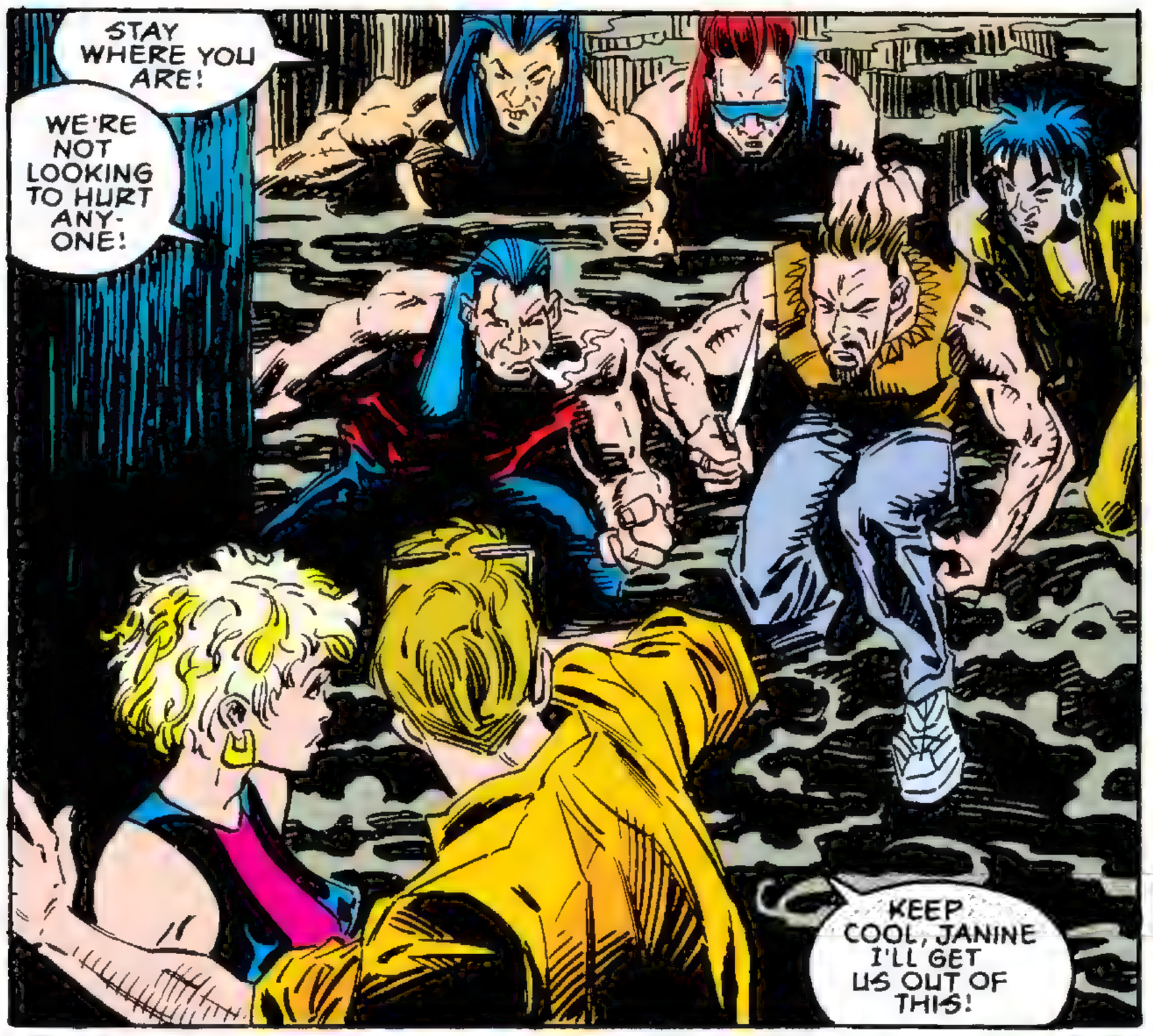
Writer: Bob Budiansky • Penciler: Bret Blevins • Inker: Mike Manley • Colorist: Marie Javins • Letterer: Richard Starkings • Assistant Editor: Tim Tuohy • Editor: Don Daley

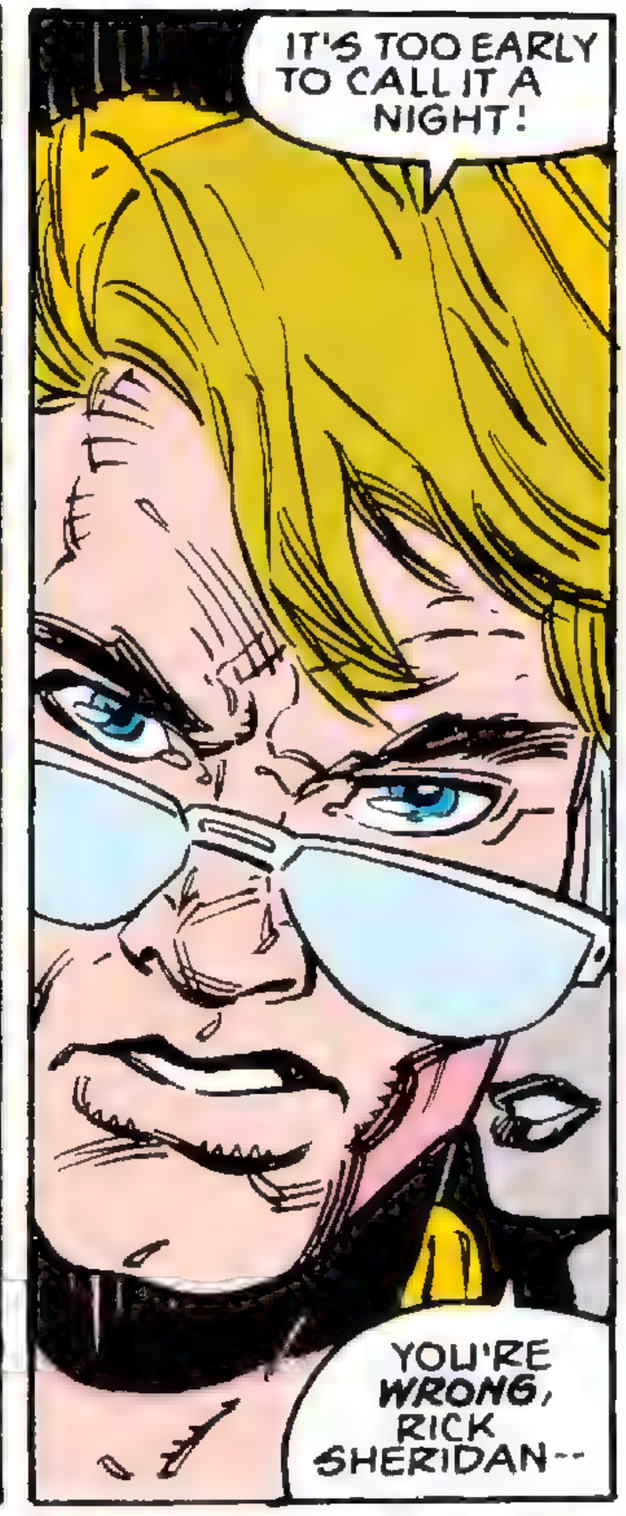


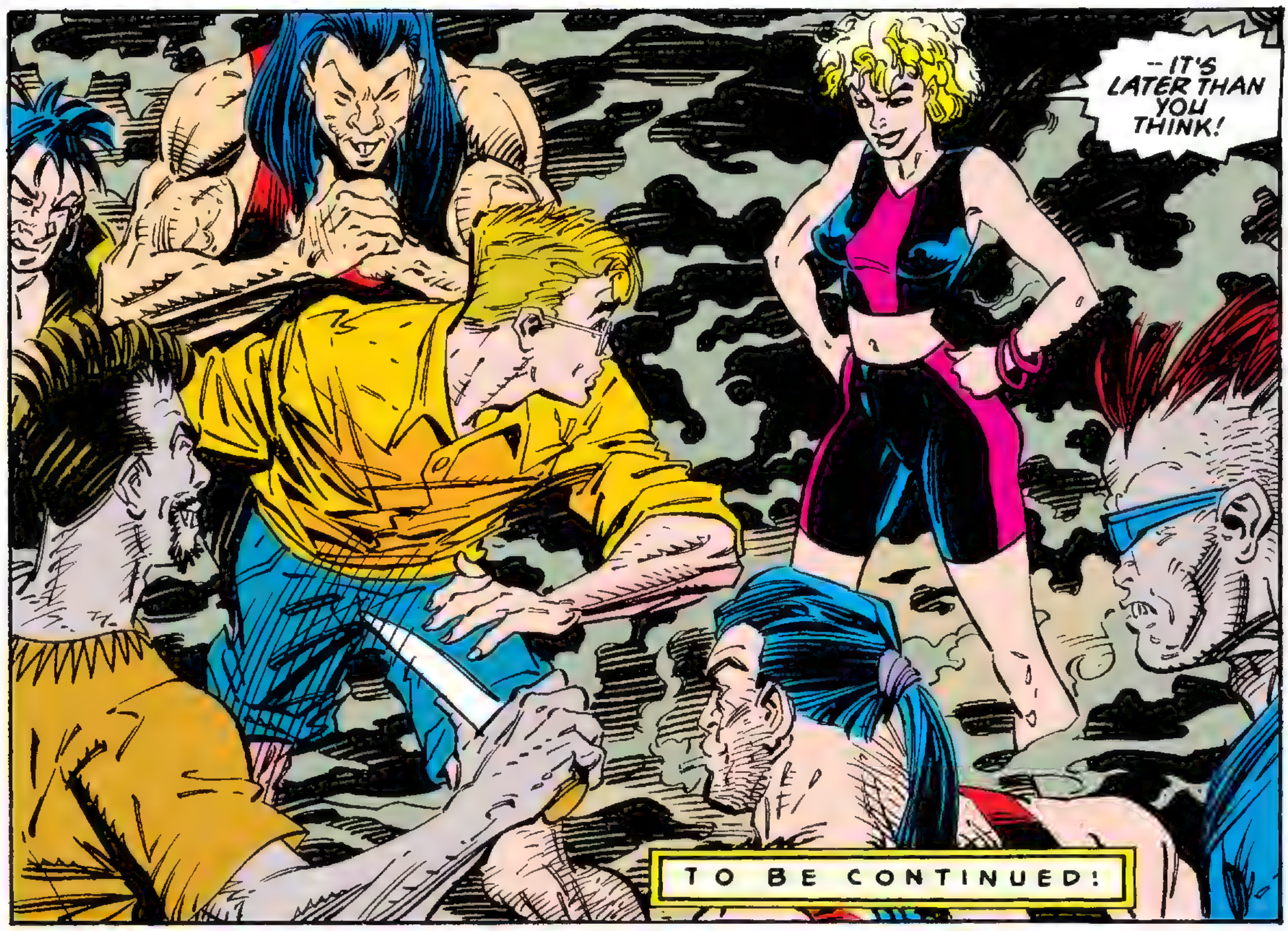












NEXT: SLEEPY FIGHTS ON THE FRONT LINES IN AN **INFINITY WARS** CROSSOVER!

GUEST-STARRING> THE BEAST! DAREDEVIL! FIRESTAR!

(OR, AT LEAST, A CLOSE APPROXIMATION OF THEM...!)

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AUTHORITY
SLEEPWALKER
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
QUESADA 1992
WILLIAMSON

Trapped in the mind of college student **Rick Sheridan** is a mysterious alien who claims he's a guardian of the **Mindscape,** the dimension that borders on the minds of all intelligent beings. And when Rick **sleeps,** the alien **walks** — into **our** reality, where he can continue his noble mission and use his powers to strike fear in the hearts of Earthen evildoers everywhere!

REST IN PEACE!

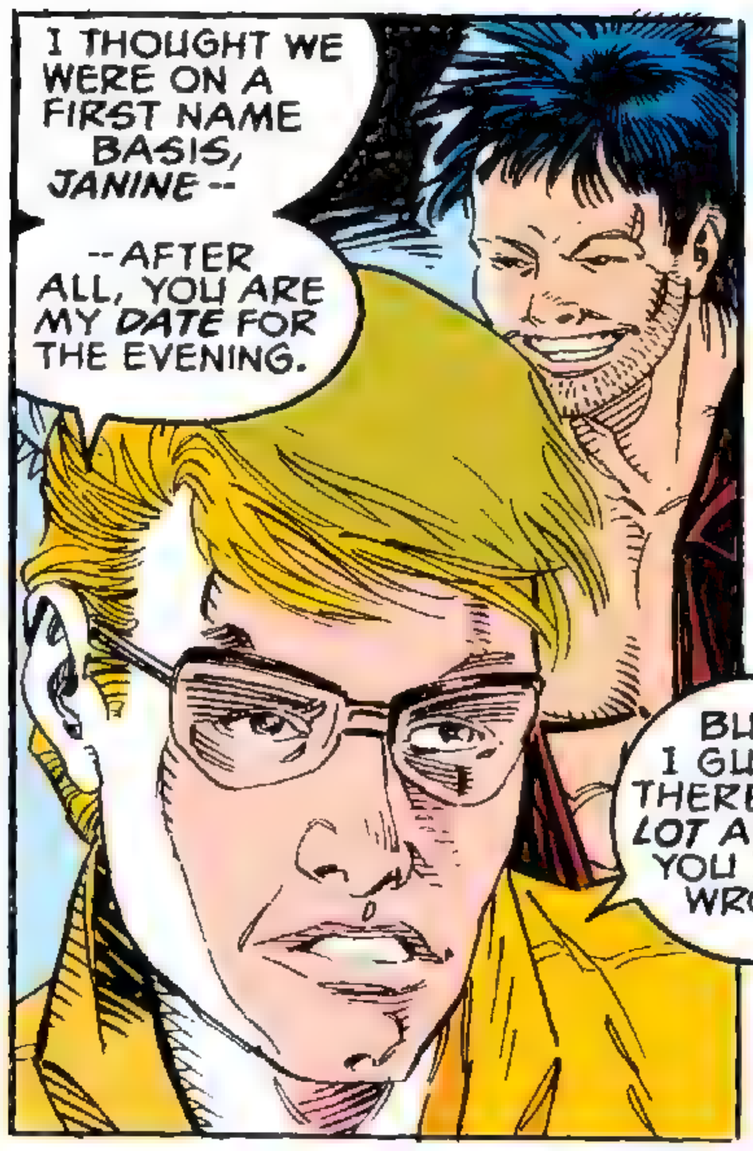
CREATED BY **BOB BUDIANSKY** WRITER • **KELLY KRANTZ** PENCILER • **RODNEY RAMOS** INKER • **RICHARD STARKINGS** LETTERER • **MARIE JAVINS** COLORIST • **DON DALEY** EDITOR • **TOM DeFALCO** EDITOR IN CHIEF

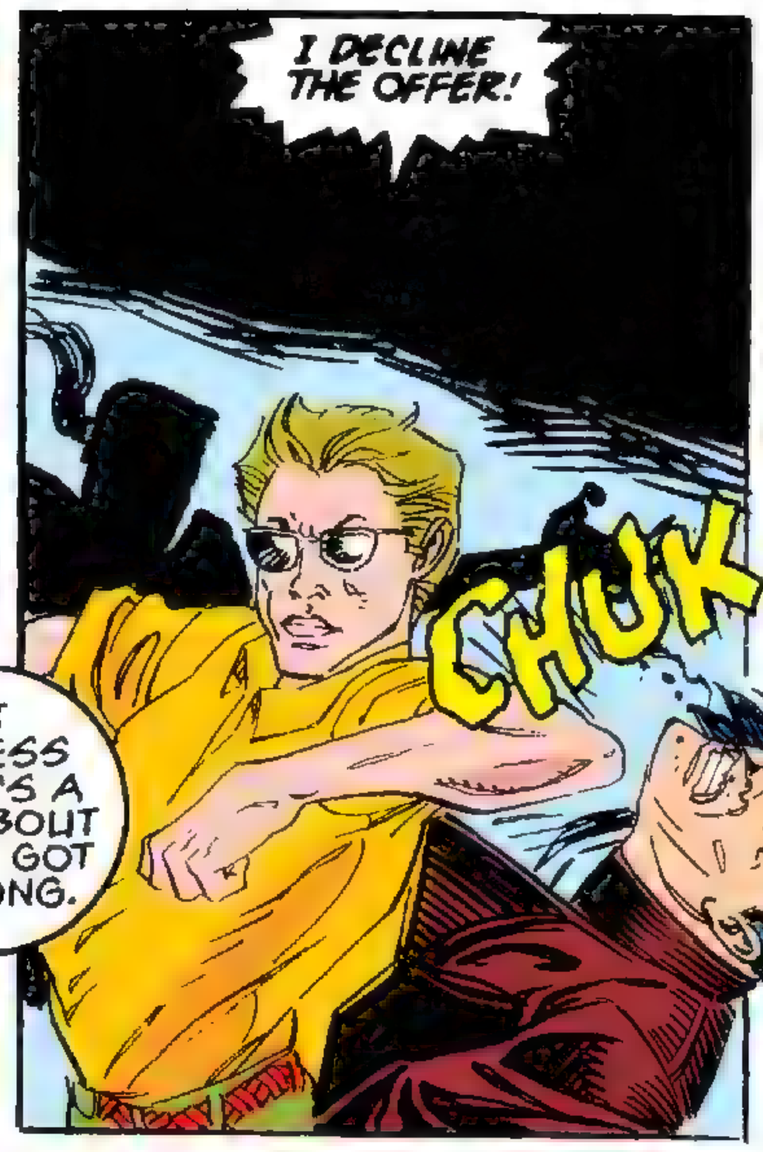
DEAD-END ALLEY IN NEW YORK CITY'S CHINATOWN...

WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE WANT?!

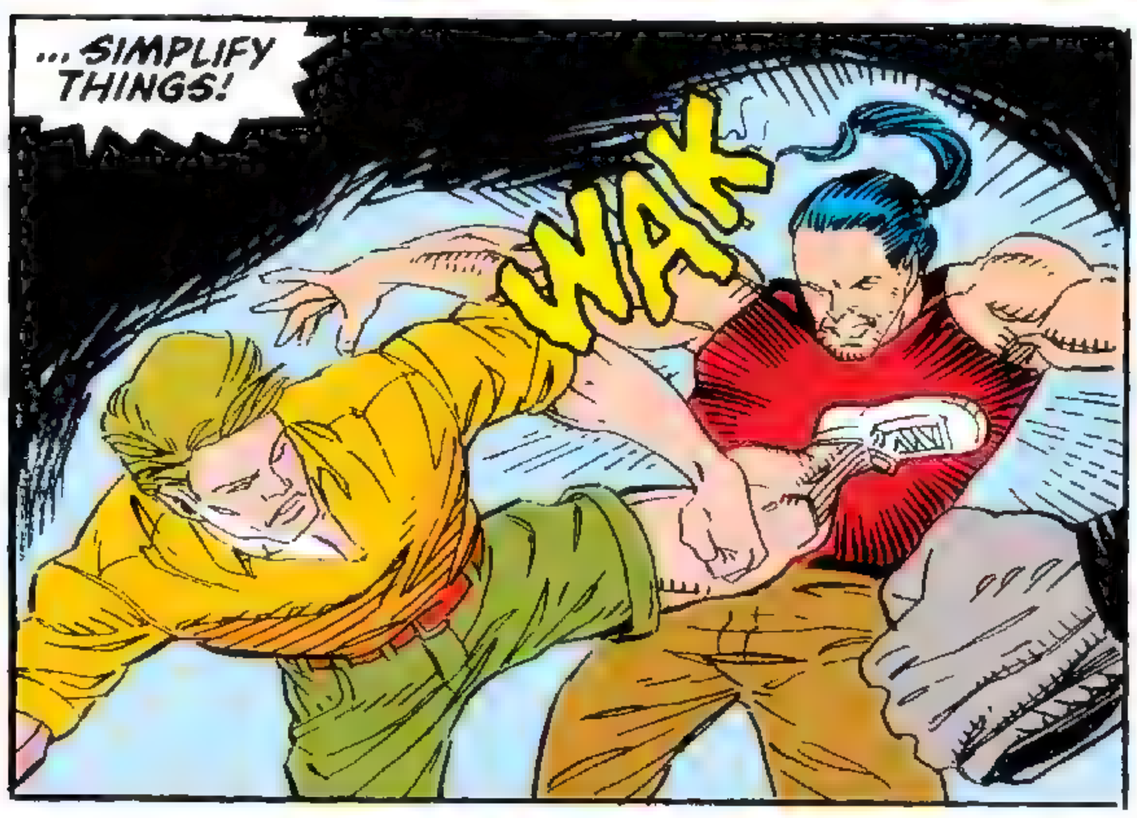
IT'S VERY SIMPLE, MR. SHERIDAN --

--WE WANT YOU TO COME WITH US!

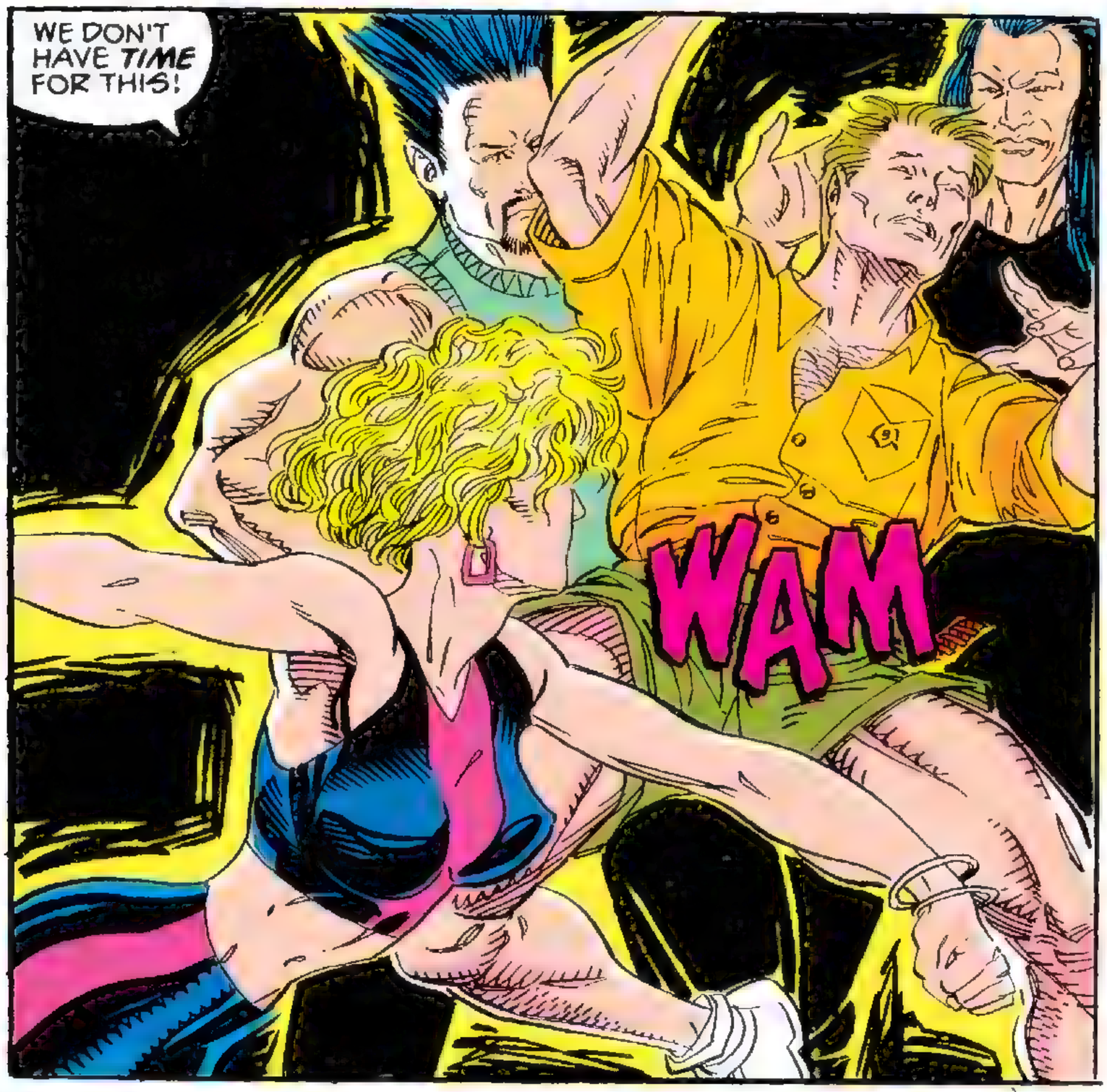

I THOUGHT WE WERE ON A FIRST NAME BASIS, JANINE --
--AFTER ALL, YOU ARE MY DATE FOR THE EVENING.
BUT I GUESS THERE'S A LOT ABOUT YOU I GOT WRONG.

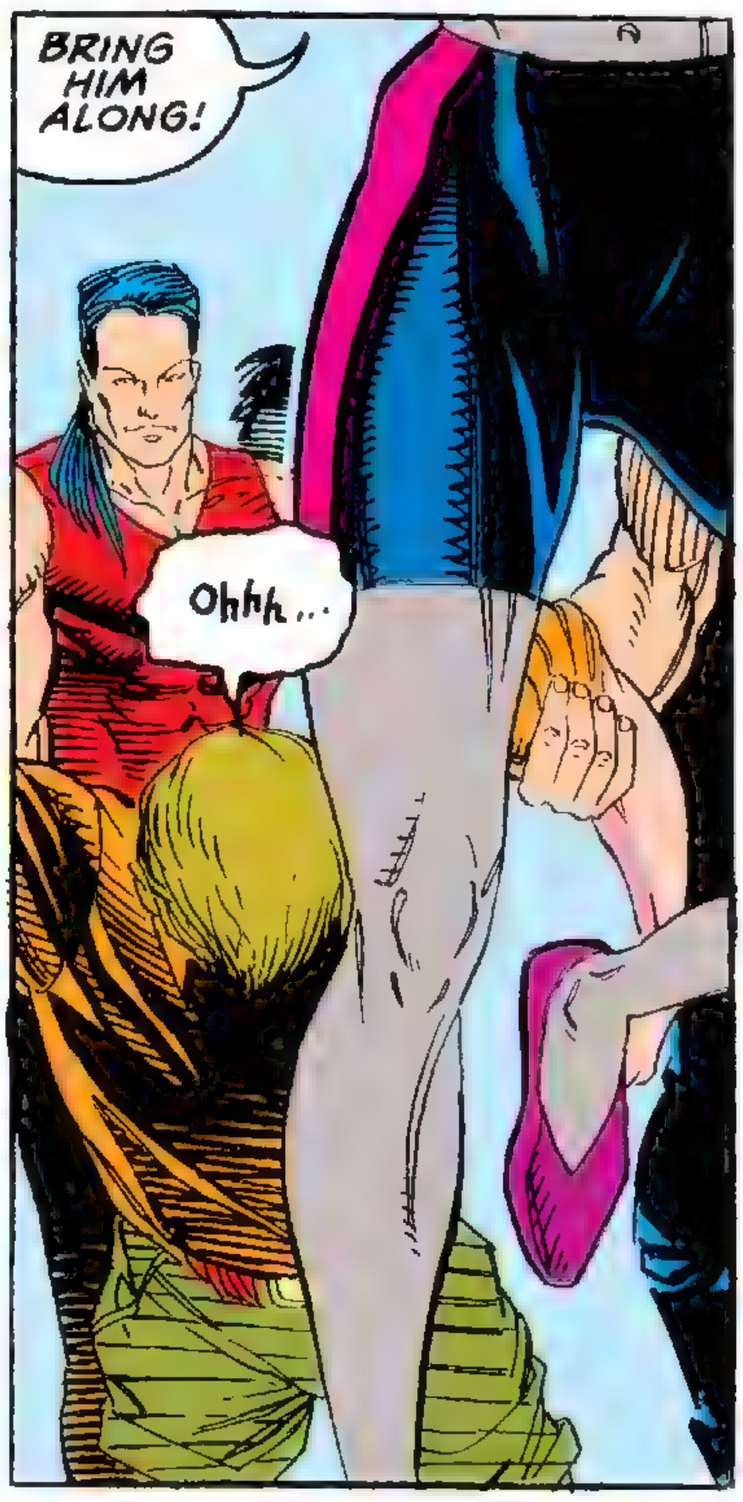

I DECLINE THE OFFER!
CHUK

YOU'RE MAKING THIS UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT!
THEN LET ME...


...SIMPLIFY THINGS!
WAK

YOU DELAY THE INEVITABLE, MR. SHERIDAN!
THOK
OOF!


WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
WAM


BRING HIM ALONG!
Ohhh...

MINUTES LATER, IN A NEARBY BASEMENT ROOM...

THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GREEN DRAGONS, MR. SHERIDAN.

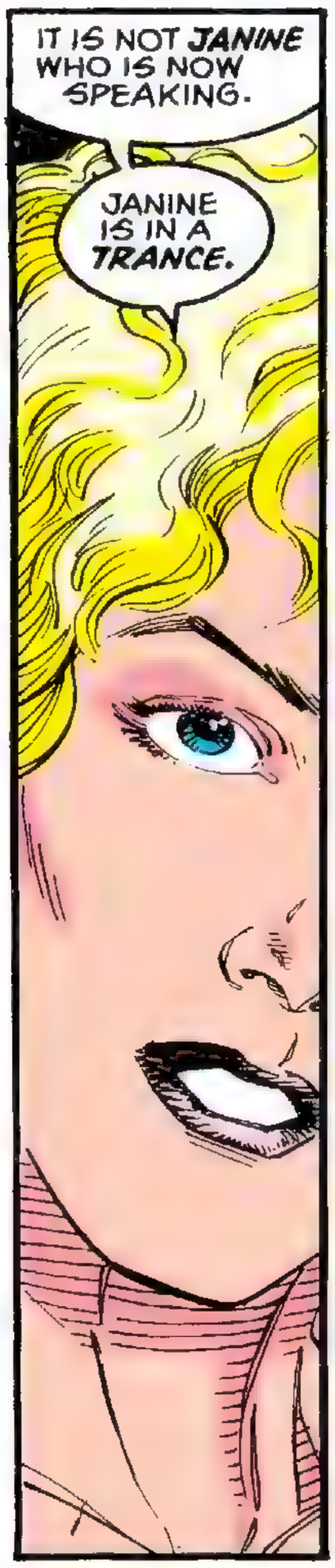
YOU'RE JUST FULL OF SURPRISES TONIGHT. I WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED YOU WERE THE LEADER OF A CHINESE STREET GANG!

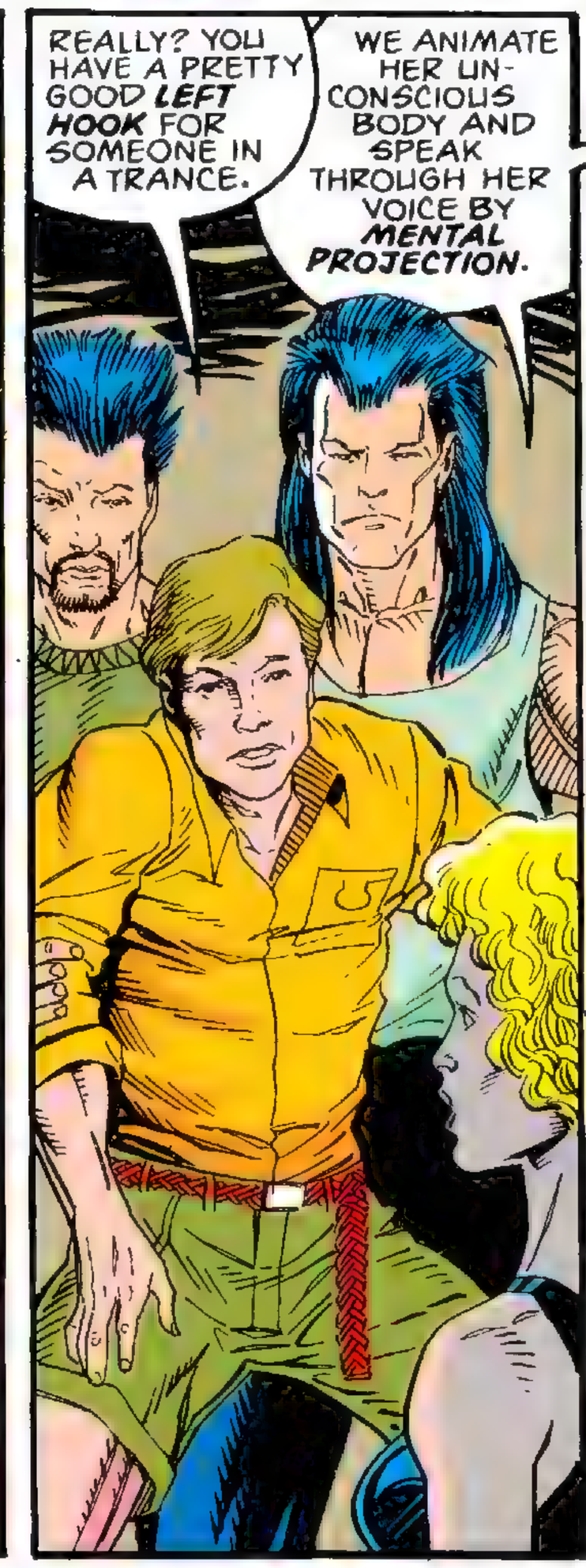
HARDLY. BUT I HAVE ANOTHER SURPRISE.

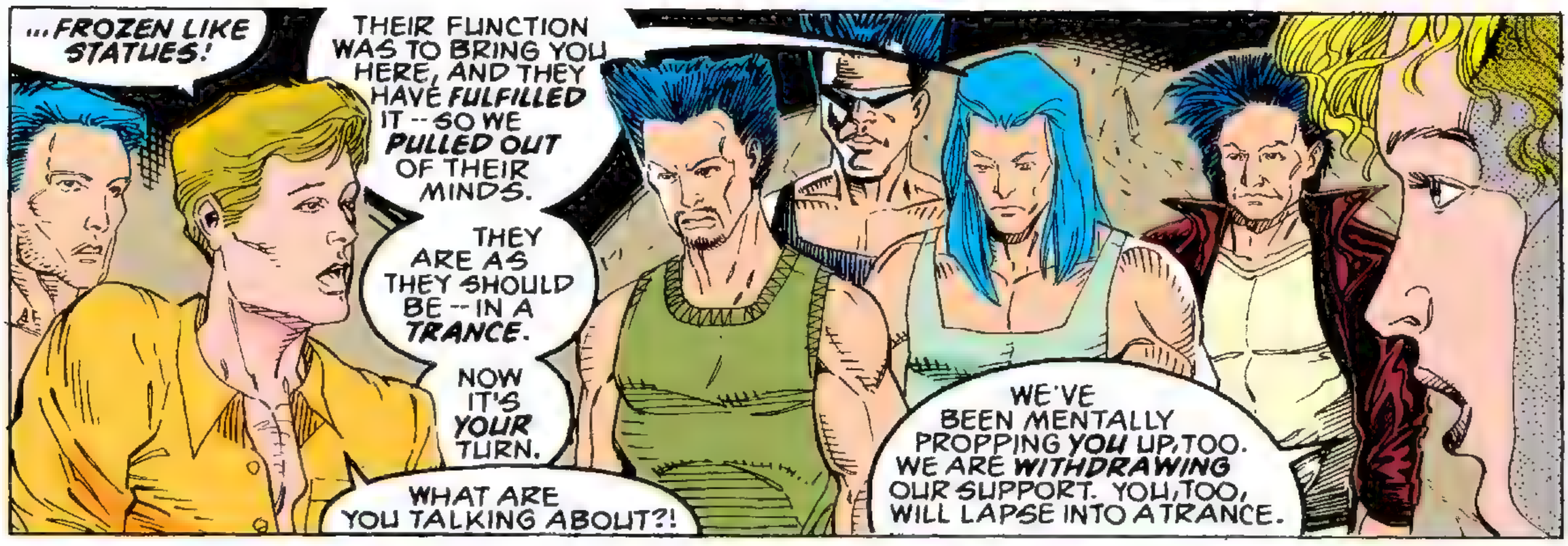
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR DECORATING THIS DUMP?

YOUR RESISTANCE DOES NOT MAKE THIS ANY EASIER.

TELL ME. I'M ALL EARS. I LOVE SUR-PRISES.

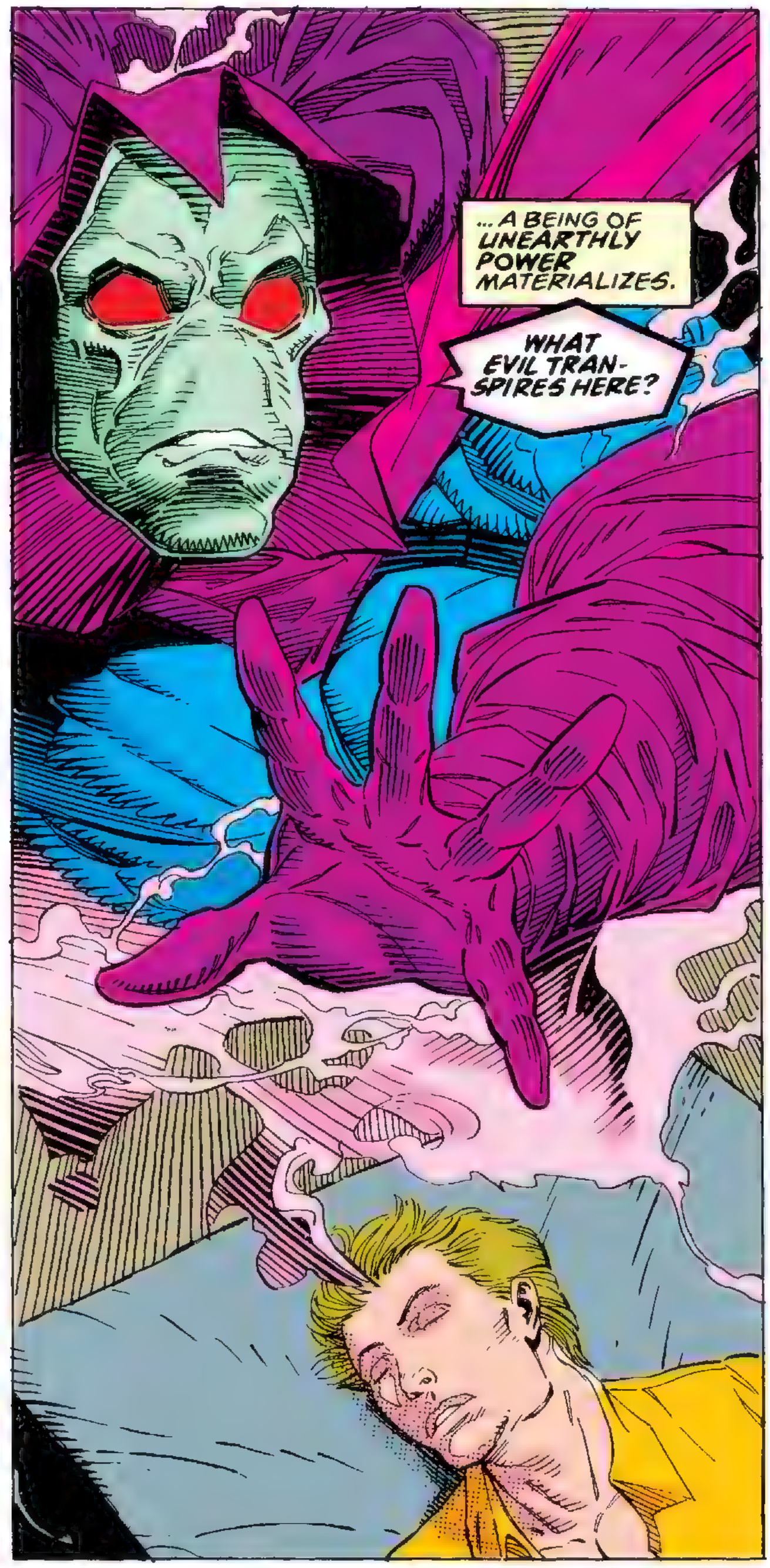


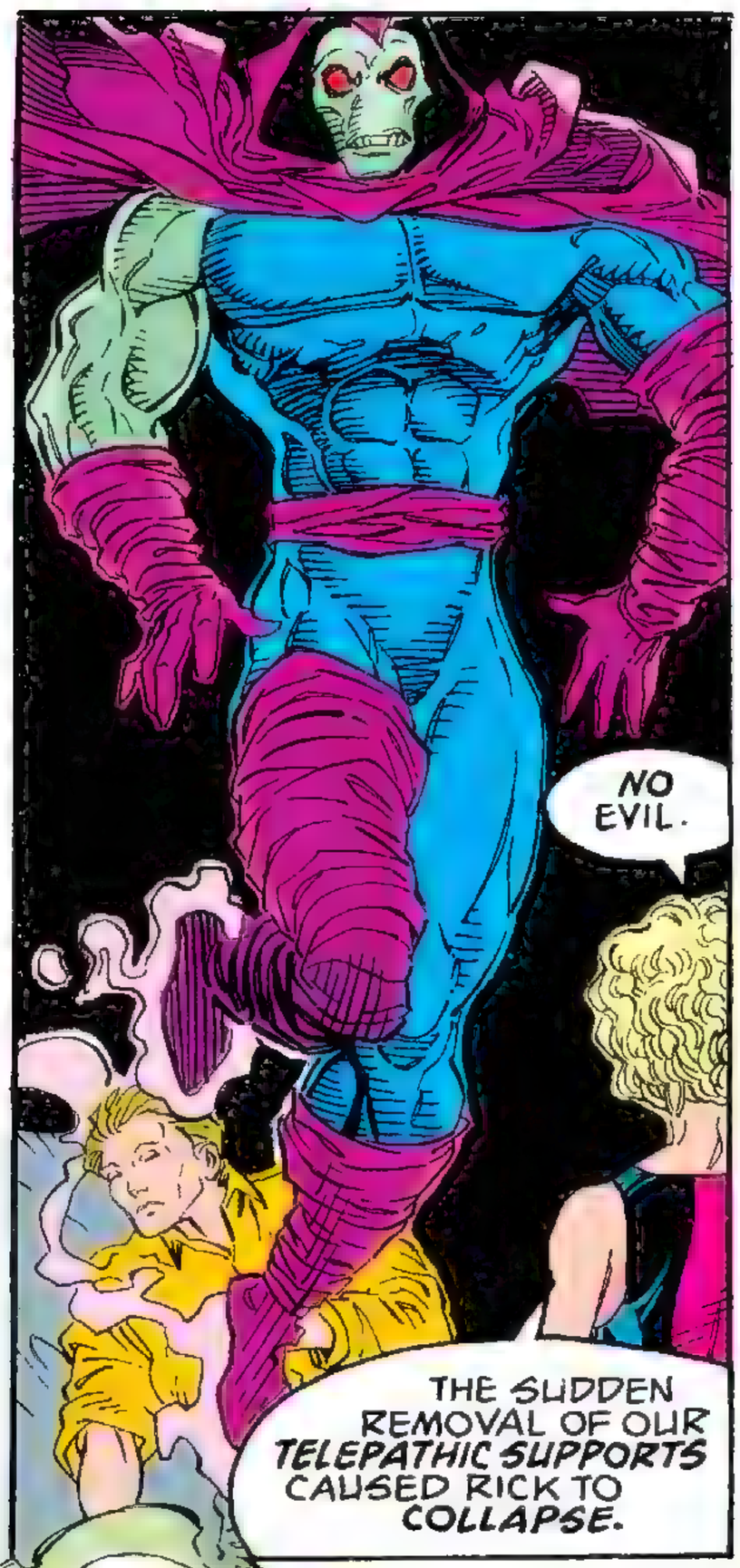


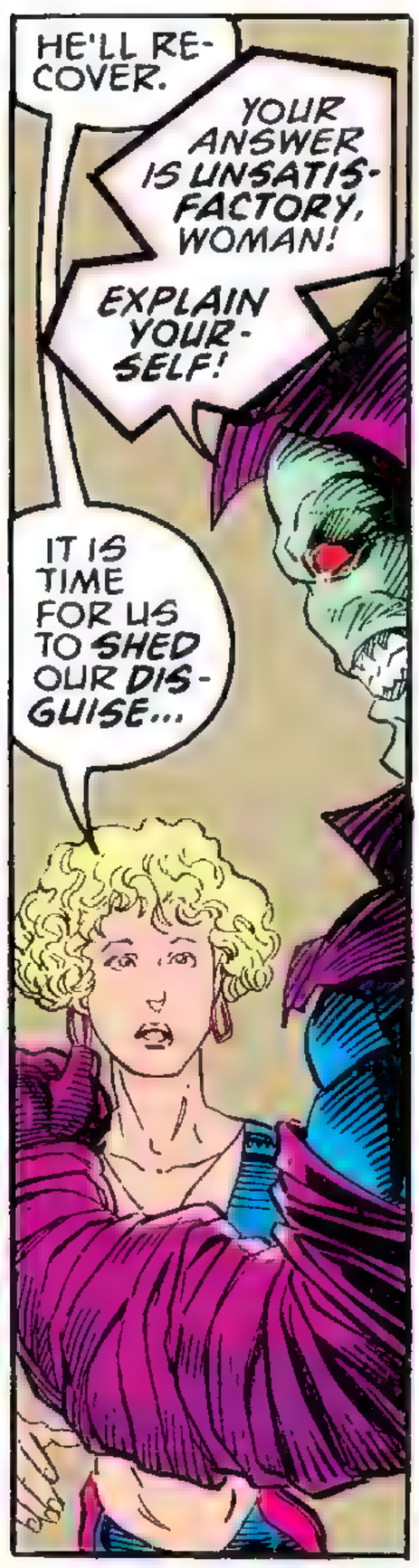

...FROZEN LIKE STATUES!
THEIR FUNCTION WAS TO BRING YOU HERE, AND THEY HAVE FULFILLED IT -- SO WE PULLED OUT OF THEIR MINDS.
THEY ARE AS THEY SHOULD BE -- IN A TRANCE.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WE'VE BEEN MENTALLY PROPPING YOU UP, TOO. WE ARE WITHDRAWING OUR SUPPORT. YOU, TOO, WILL LAPSE INTO A TRANCE.

"ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN THE SLEEPWALKER BE RELEASED FROM YOUR MIND!"
NO!
I...
... WON'T...
WON'T...

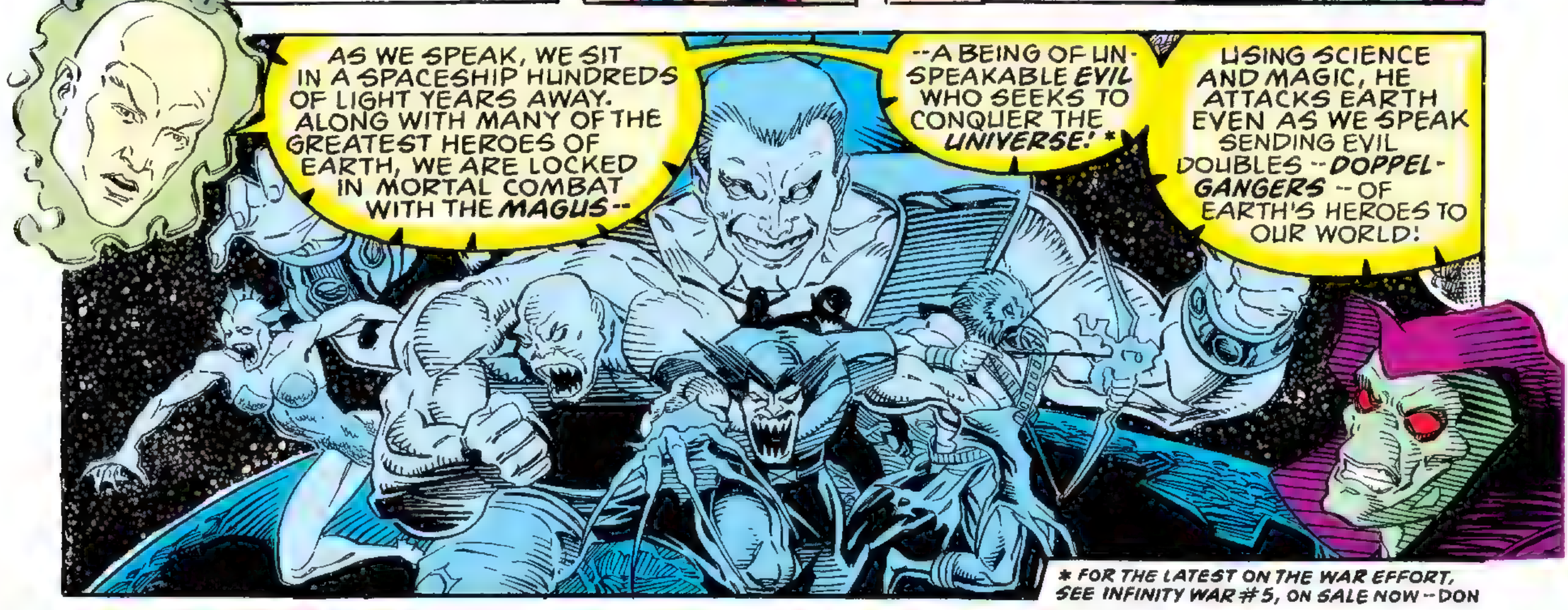
LET YOU...
AND, AS RICK FALLS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

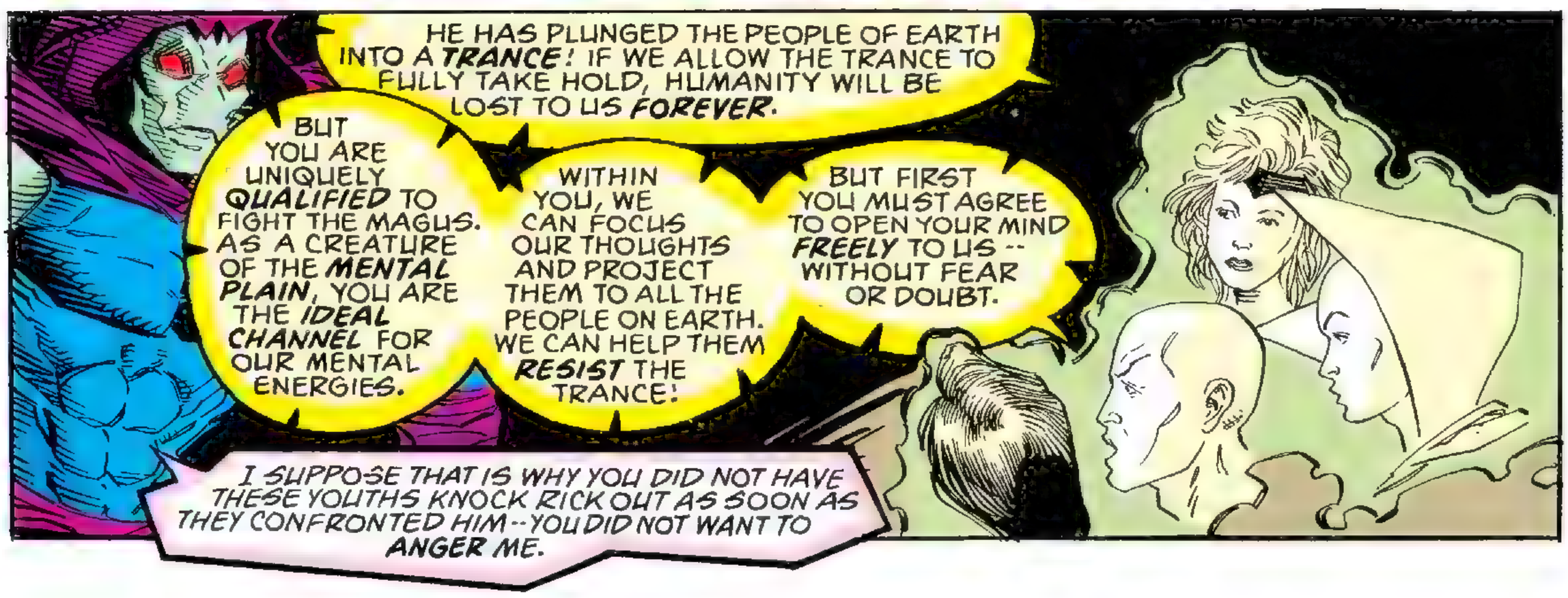

...A BEING OF UNEARTHLY POWER MATERIALIZES.
WHAT EVIL TRANSPIRES HERE?

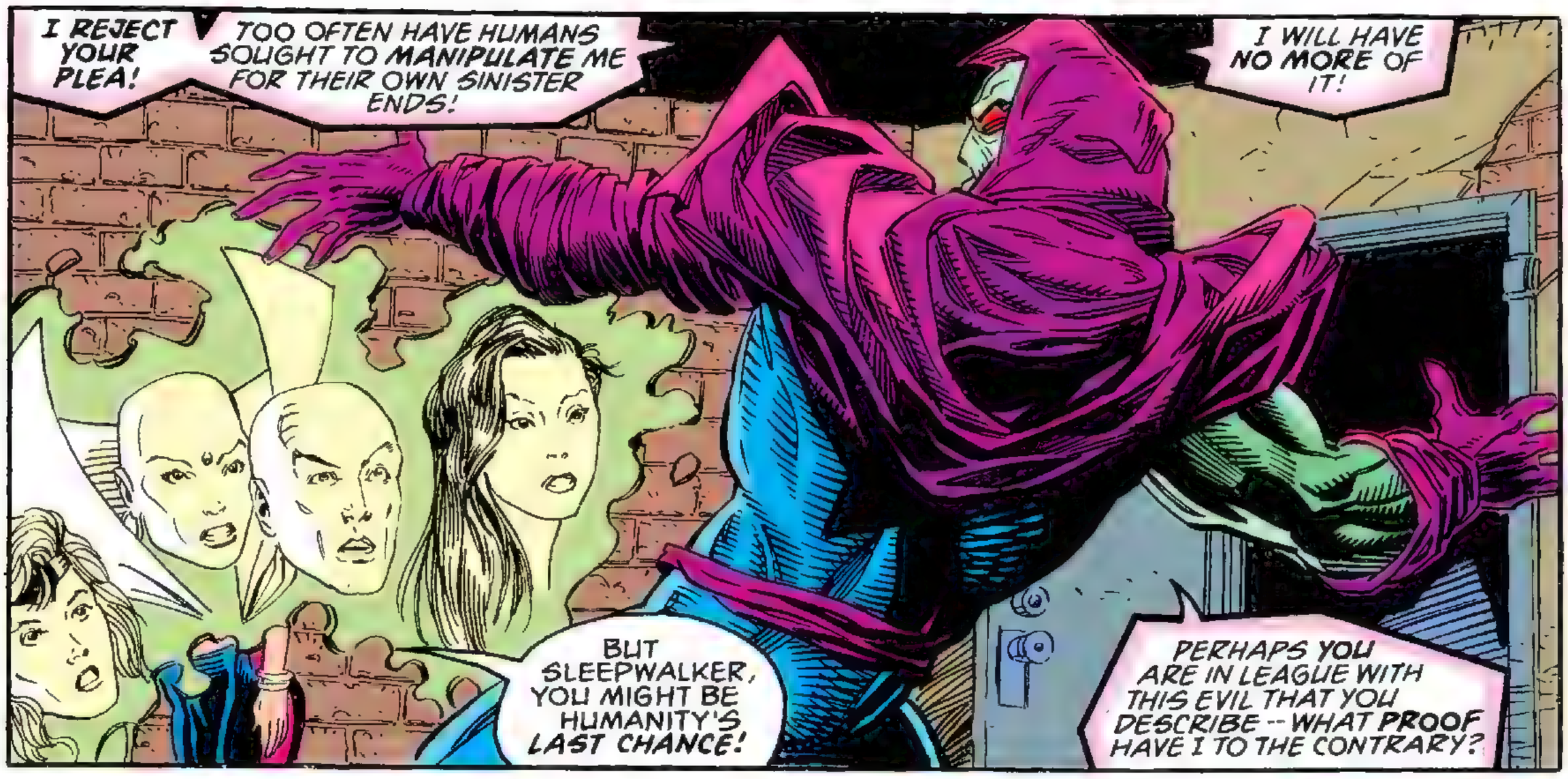

NO EVIL.
THE SUDDEN REMOVAL OF OUR TELEPATHIC SUPPORTS CAUSED RICK TO COLLAPSE.

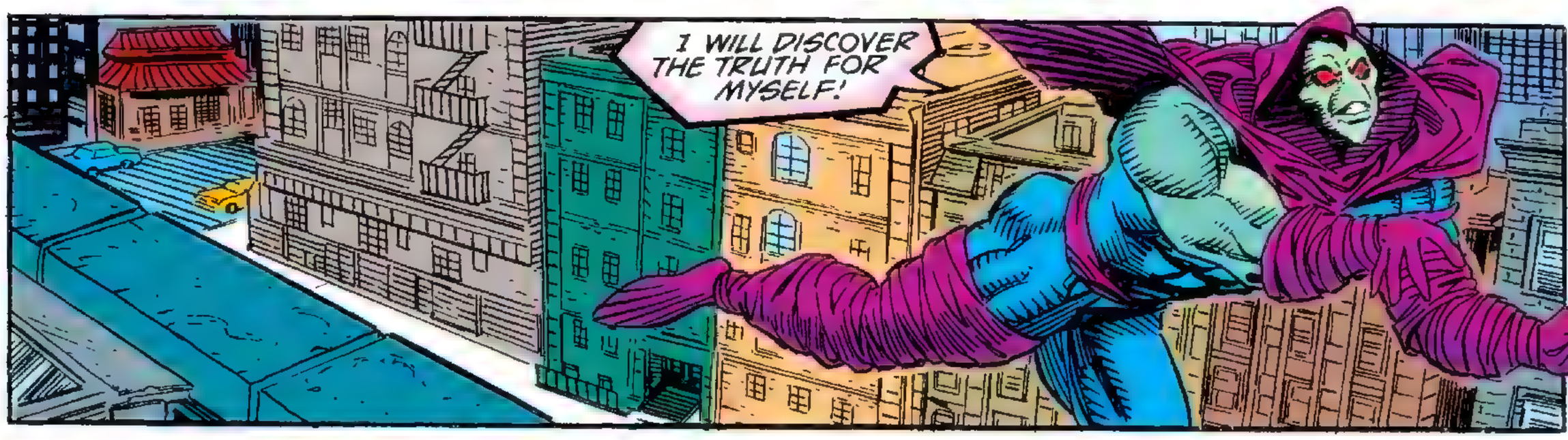

HE'LL RECOVER.
YOUR ANSWER IS UNSATISFACTORY, WOMAN!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
IT IS TIME FOR US TO SHED OUR DISGUISE...

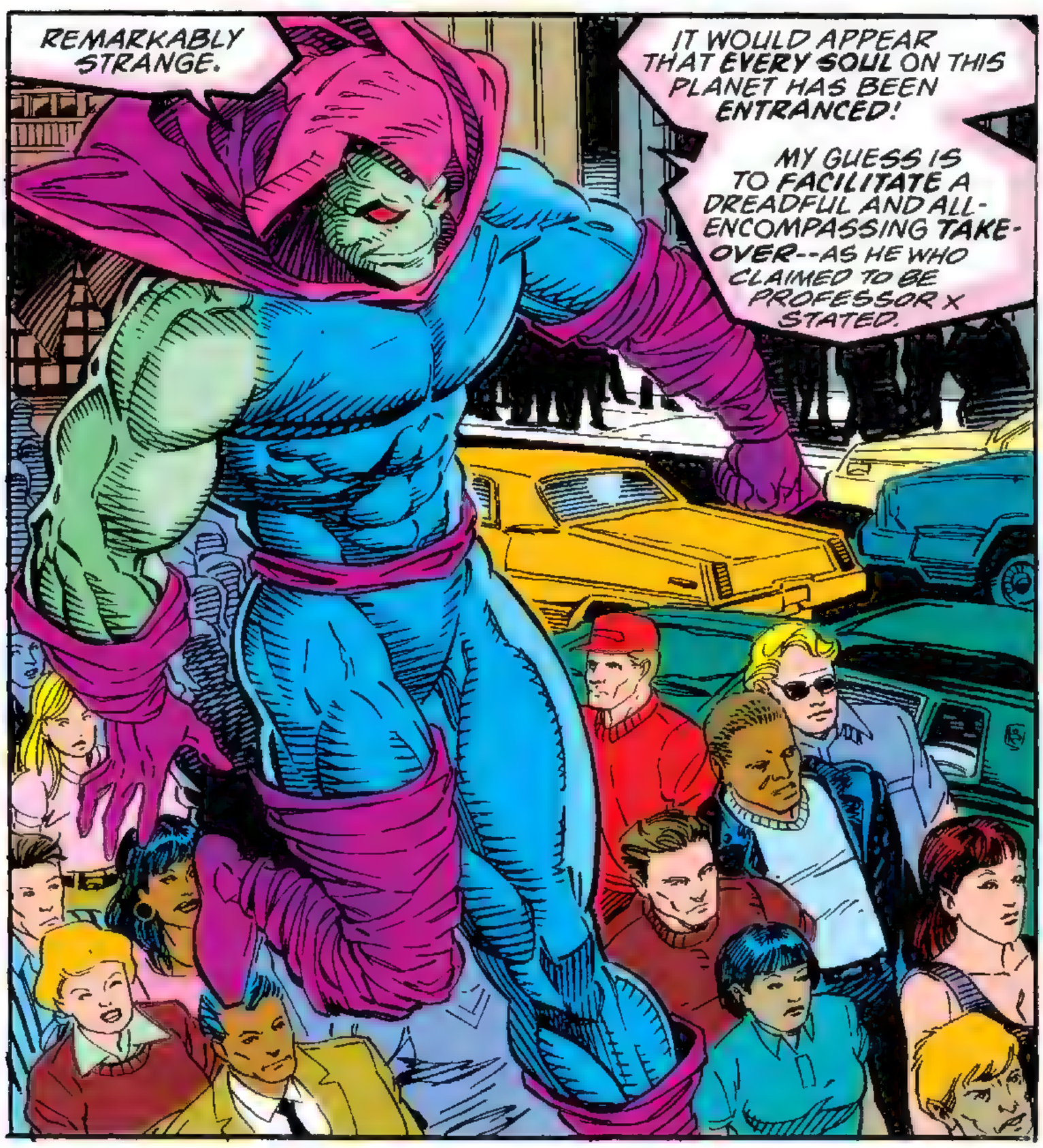
I AM PROFESSOR X! WITH ME ARE JEAN GREY, MOONDRAGON AND PSYLOCKE.
WE ARE AMONG THE THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATHS IN THE GALAXY.
WE HAD USED OUR POWERS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THIS WOMAN, AS WELL AS THE STREET GANG, AS A MEANS OF MAKING CONTACT WITH YOU.
IT IS THROUGH MENTAL PROJECTION THAT WE APPEAR TO YOU NOW.
WHAT MAKES ME WORTHY OF SO GREAT AN EFFORT?


AS WE SPEAK, WE SIT IN A SPACESHIP HUNDREDS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY. ALONG WITH MANY OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF EARTH, WE ARE LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT WITH THE MAGUS--
--A BEING OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL WHO SEEKS TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE! *
USING SCIENCE AND MAGIC, HE ATTACKS EARTH EVEN AS WE SPEAK SENDING EVIL DOUBLES --DOPPELGANGERS -- OF EARTH'S HEROES TO OUR WORLD!
* FOR THE LATEST ON THE WAR EFFORT, SEE INFINITY WAR #5, ON SALE NOW -- DON


HE HAS PLUNGED THE PEOPLE OF EARTH INTO A TRANCE! IF WE ALLOW THE TRANCE TO FULLY TAKE HOLD, HUMANITY WILL BE LOST TO US FOREVER.
BUT YOU ARE UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO FIGHT THE MAGUS. AS A CREATURE OF THE MENTAL PLAIN, YOU ARE THE IDEAL CHANNEL FOR OUR MENTAL ENERGIES.
WITHIN YOU, WE CAN FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND PROJECT THEM TO ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH. WE CAN HELP THEM RESIST THE TRANCE!
BUT FIRST YOU MUST AGREE TO OPEN YOUR MIND FREELY TO US -- WITHOUT FEAR OR DOUBT.
I SUPPOSE THAT IS WHY YOU DID NOT HAVE THESE YOUTHS KNOCK RICK OUT AS SOON AS THEY CONFRONTED HIM--YOU DID NOT WANT TO ANGER ME.


I REJECT YOUR PLEA!
TOO OFTEN HAVE HUMANS SOUGHT TO MANIPULATE ME FOR THEIR OWN SINISTER ENDS!
I WILL HAVE NO MORE OF IT!
BUT SLEEPWALKER, YOU MIGHT BE HUMANITY'S LAST CHANCE!
PERHAPS YOU ARE IN LEAGUE WITH THIS EVIL THAT YOU DESCRIBE -- WHAT PROOF HAVE I TO THE CONTRARY?


I WILL DISCOVER THE TRUTH FOR MYSELF!

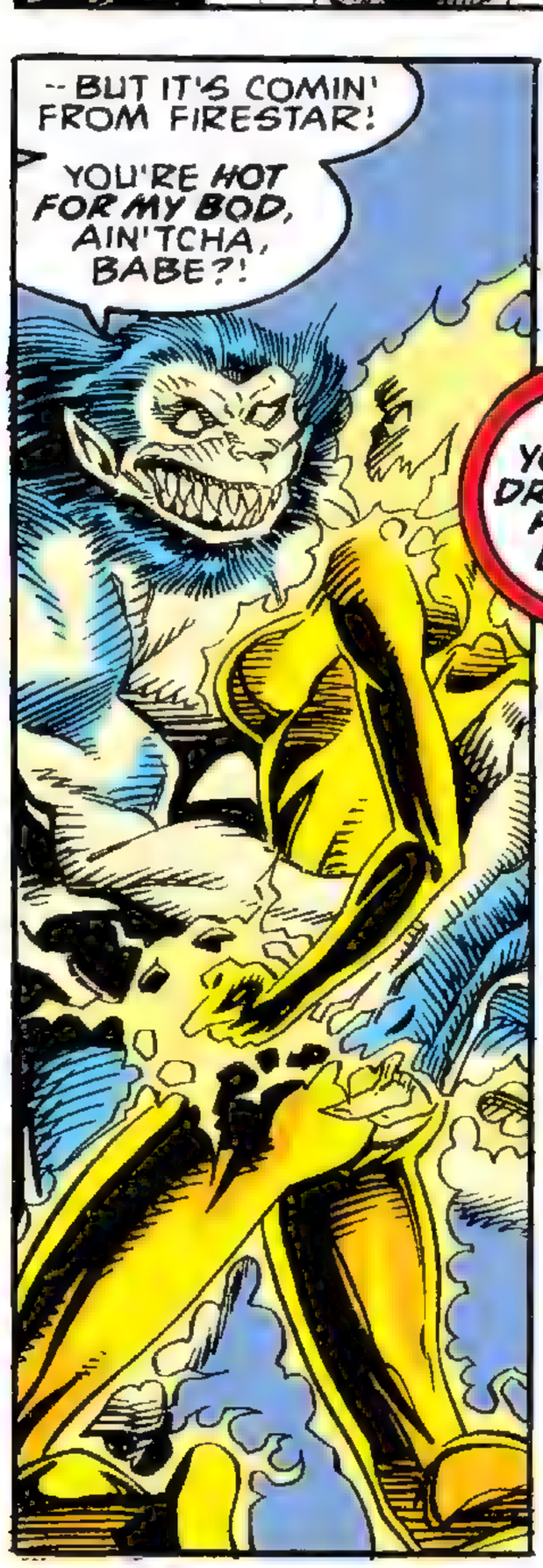

REMARKABLY STRANGE.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EVERY SOUL ON THIS PLANET HAS BEEN ENTRANCED!
MY GUESS IS TO FACILITATE A DREADFUL AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING TAKE-OVER--AS HE WHO CLAIMED TO BE PROFESSOR X STATED.

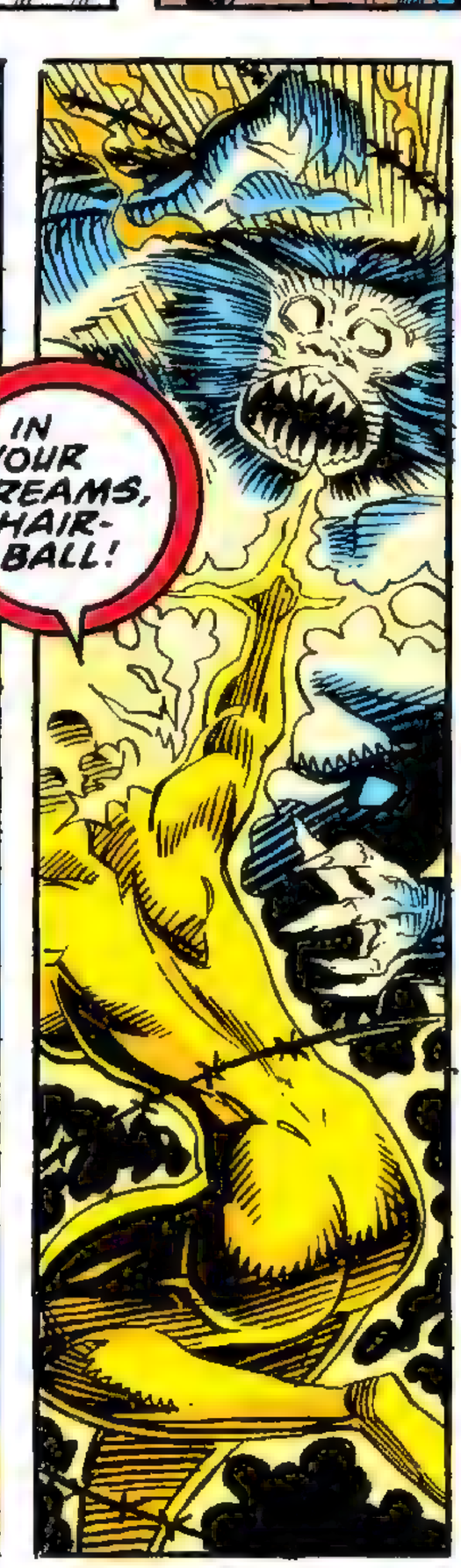
BUT, FOR THE MOMENT, I SEE NO WAY EVEN A SLEEPWALKER CAN THWART THIS DARK SCHEME.

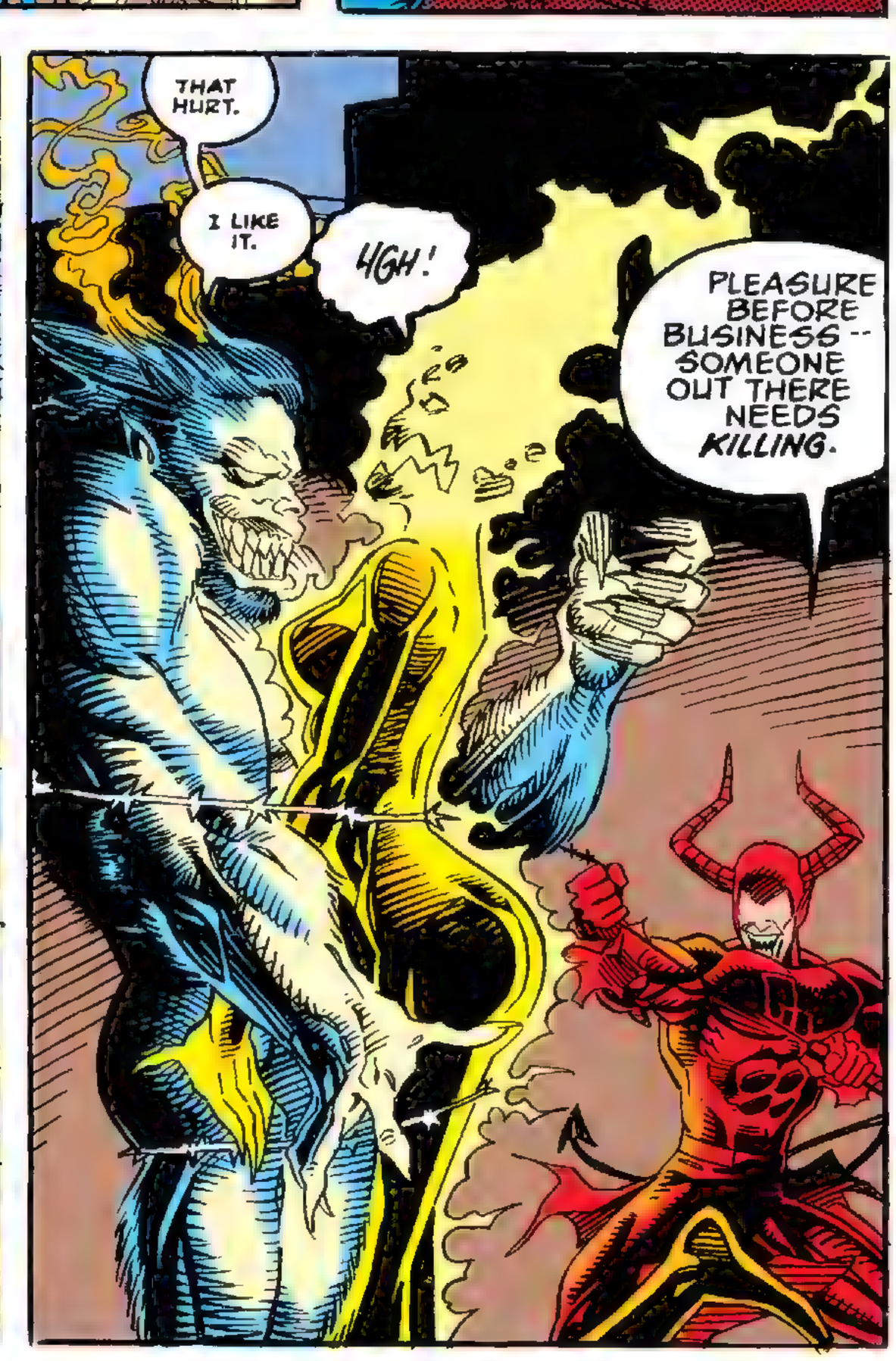
ELSEWHERE...
THE WHOLE WORLD-- OURS FOR THE TAKING!
REMEMBER OUR PRESENT MISSION, FIRESTAR-- TO MAKE SURE NO ONE RESISTS THE TRANCE!
BUT IT WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE FUN IF SOME OF 'EM DID, DAREDEVIL.

--I'D LOVE TO BITE THE HEADS OF A FEW RESISTERS!

KEEP THOSE TEETH SHARP AND READY, BEAST --I SENSE SOMEONE IS AWAKE NOT TOO FAR AWAY!
I SENSE SOMETHIN' TOO --


--BUT IT'S COMIN' FROM FIRESTAR!
YOU'RE HOT FOR MY BOD, AIN'TCHA, BABE?!


IN YOUR DREAMS, HAIR-BALL!

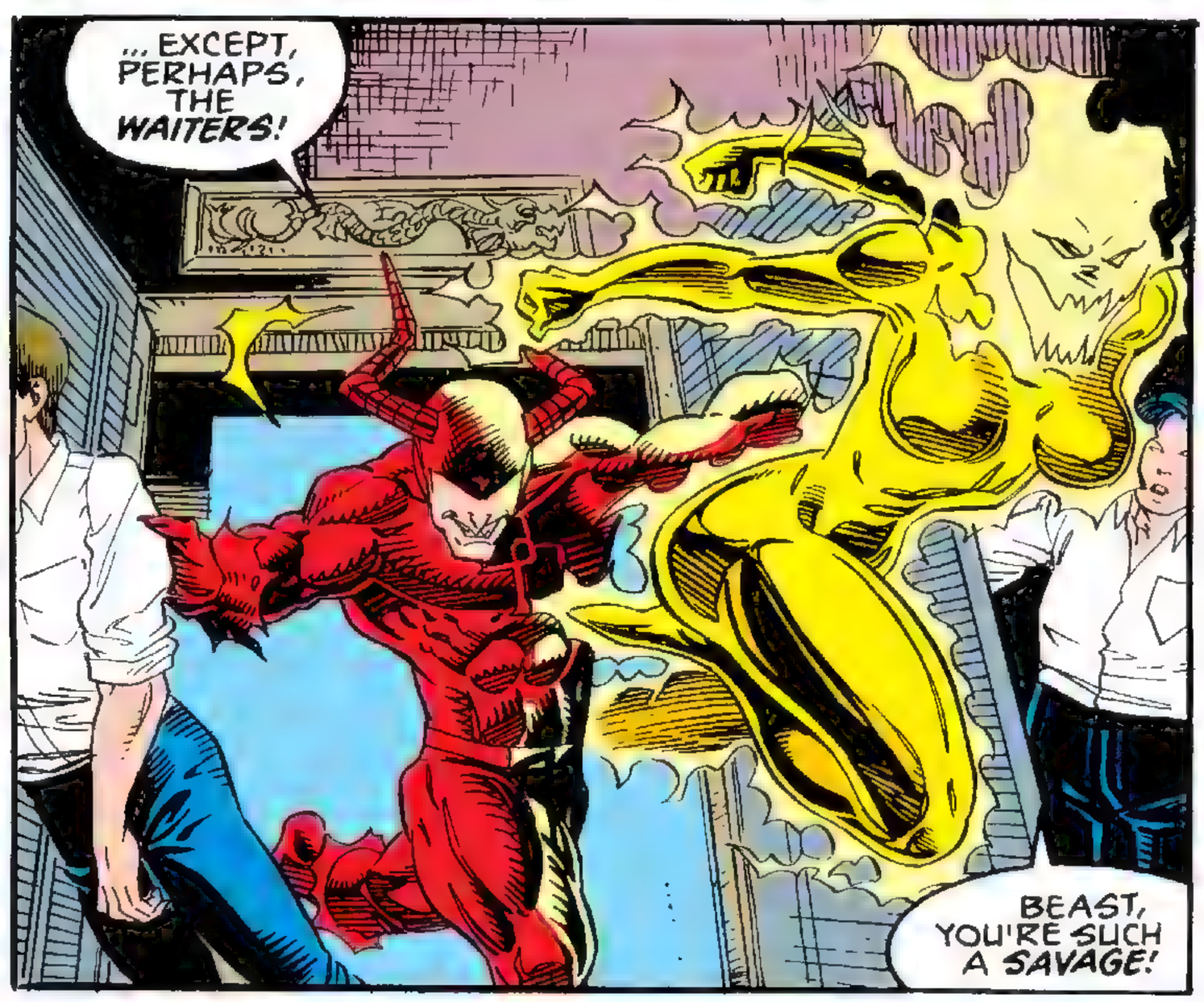

THAT HURT.
I LIKE IT.
UGH!
PLEASURE BEFORE BUSINESS -- SOMEONE OUT THERE NEEDS KILLING.

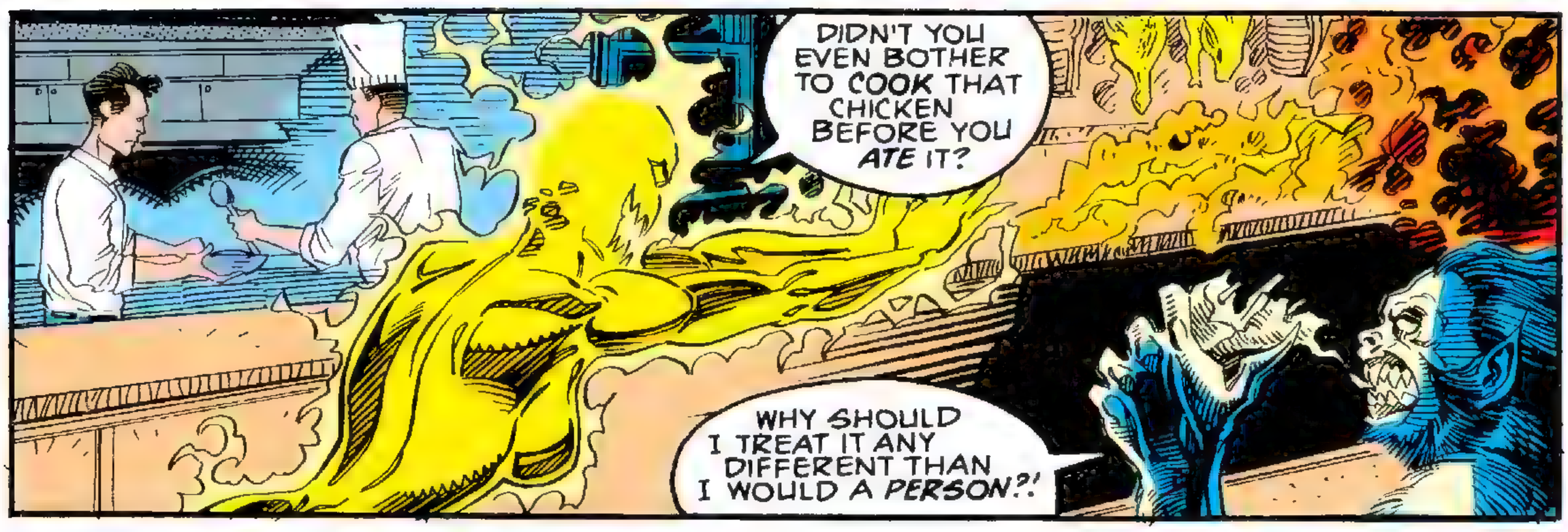
MINUTES LATER...
CHINA-TOWN!
THERE'S A LOTTA GOOD EATIN' 'ROUND HERE!

I SENSE OUR PREY IS IN THIS AREA, TOO!
THE PREY CAN WAIT!

I'M HUNGRY NOW!
KRESH

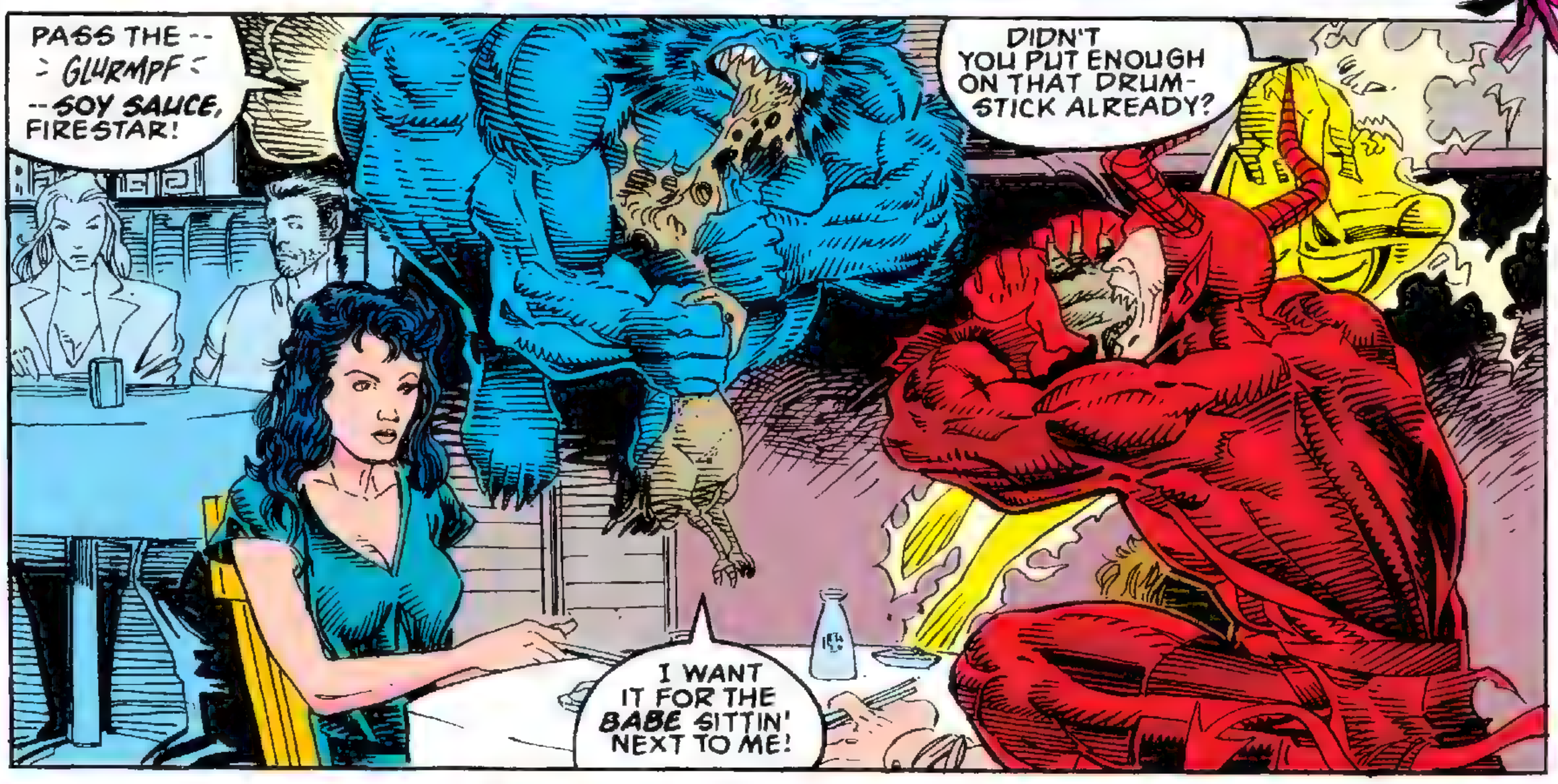
I SUPPOSE A LITTLE SNACK WOULDN'T HURT ANY-ONE...
PEKING

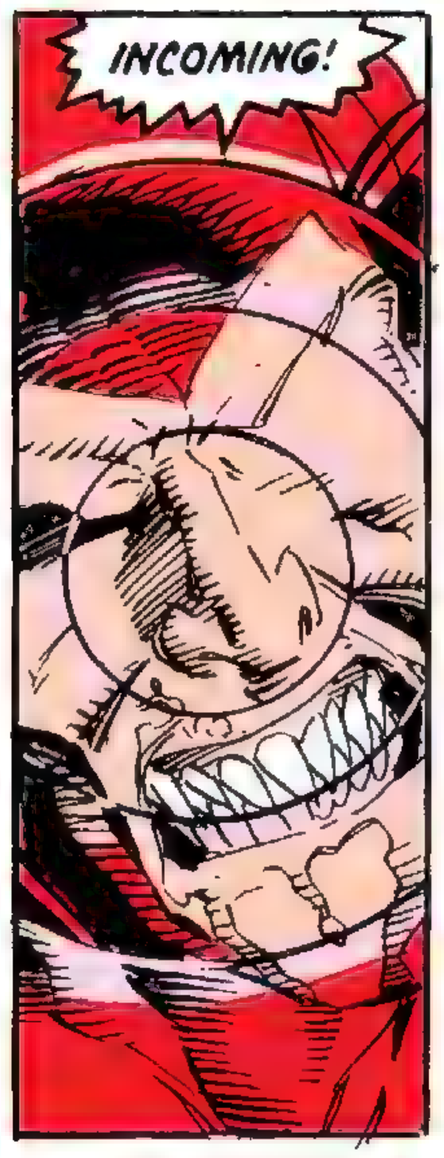

...EXCEPT, PERHAPS, THE WAITERS!
BEAST, YOU'RE SUCH A SAVAGE!

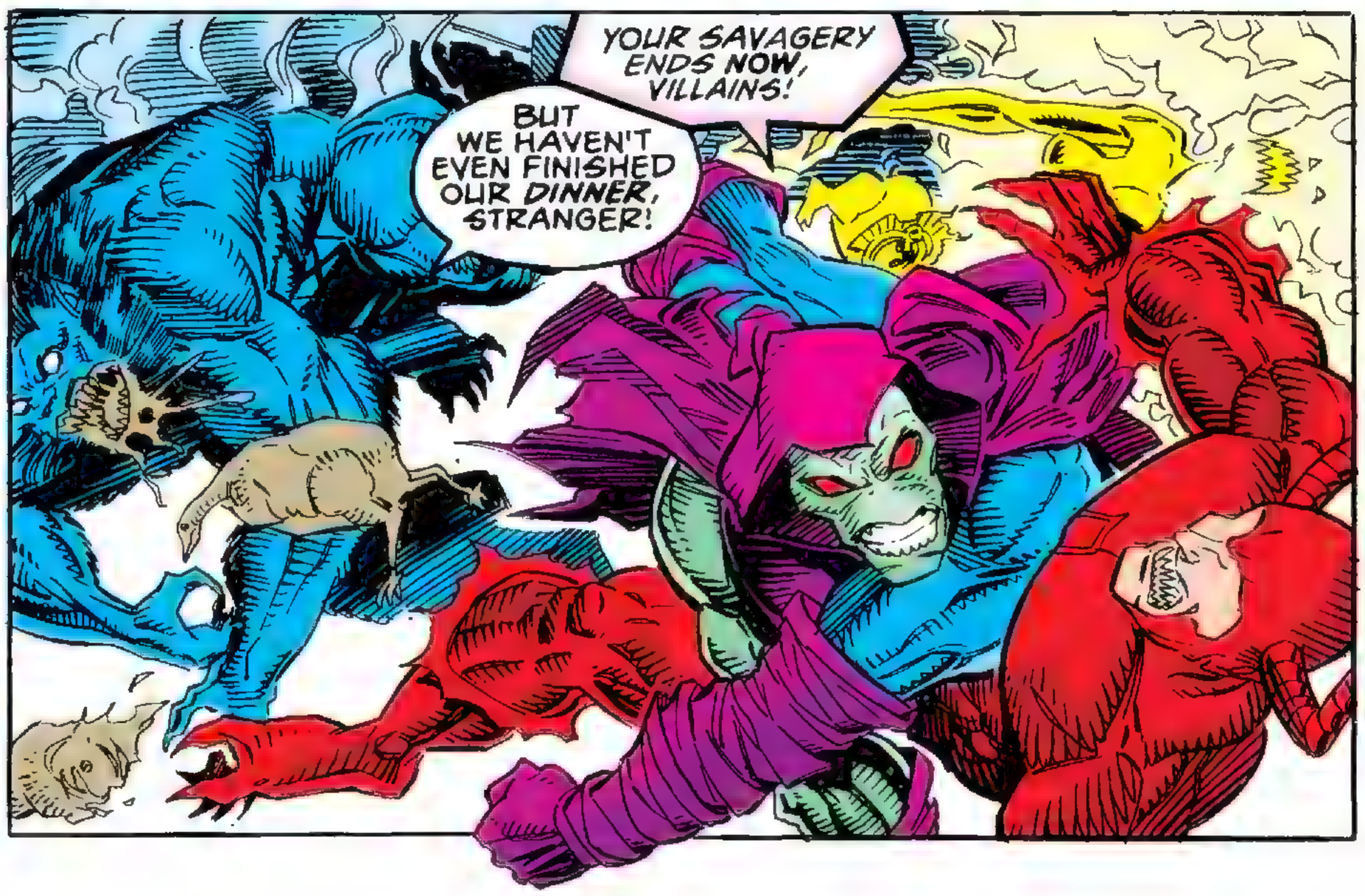

DIDN'T YOU EVEN BOTHER TO COOK THAT CHICKEN BEFORE YOU ATE IT?
WHY SHOULD I TREAT IT ANY DIFFERENT THAN I WOULD A PERSON?!

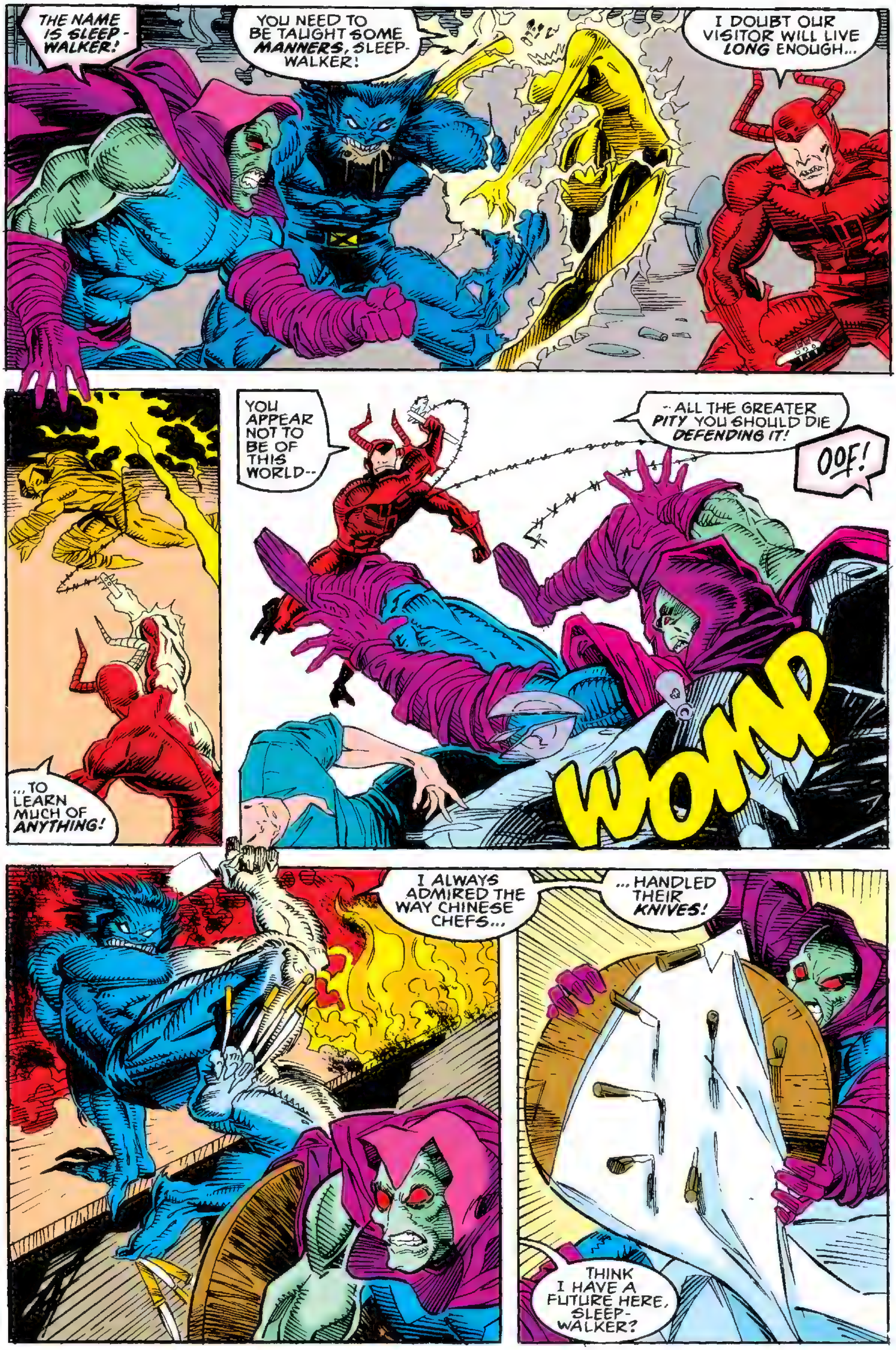
SMOKE!

A SURE SIGN OF TROUBLE — WHICH MEANS MY SERVICES ARE REQUIRED!

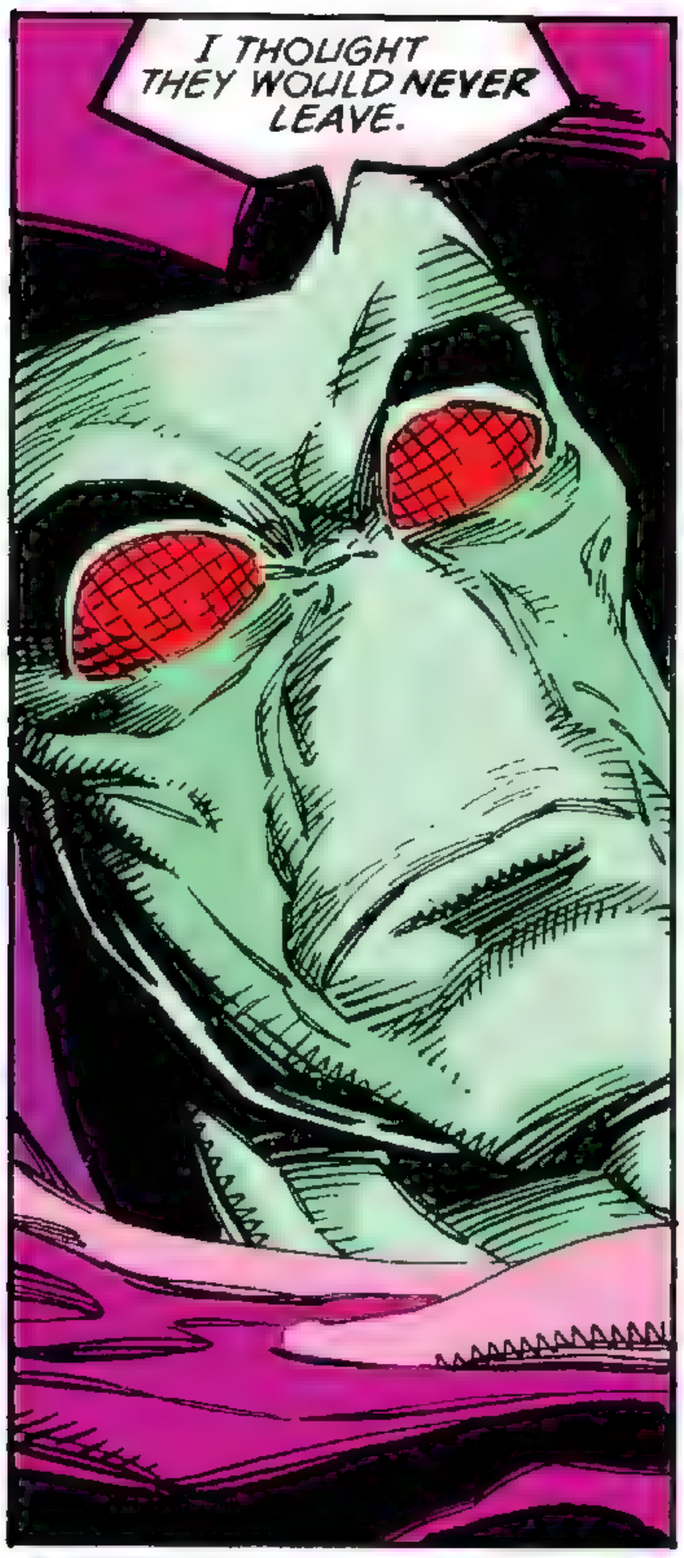

PASS THE -- GLURMPF -- SOY SAUCE, FIRESTAR!
DIDN'T YOU PUT ENOUGH ON THAT DRUM-STICK ALREADY?
I WANT IT FOR THE BABE SITTIN' NEXT TO ME!

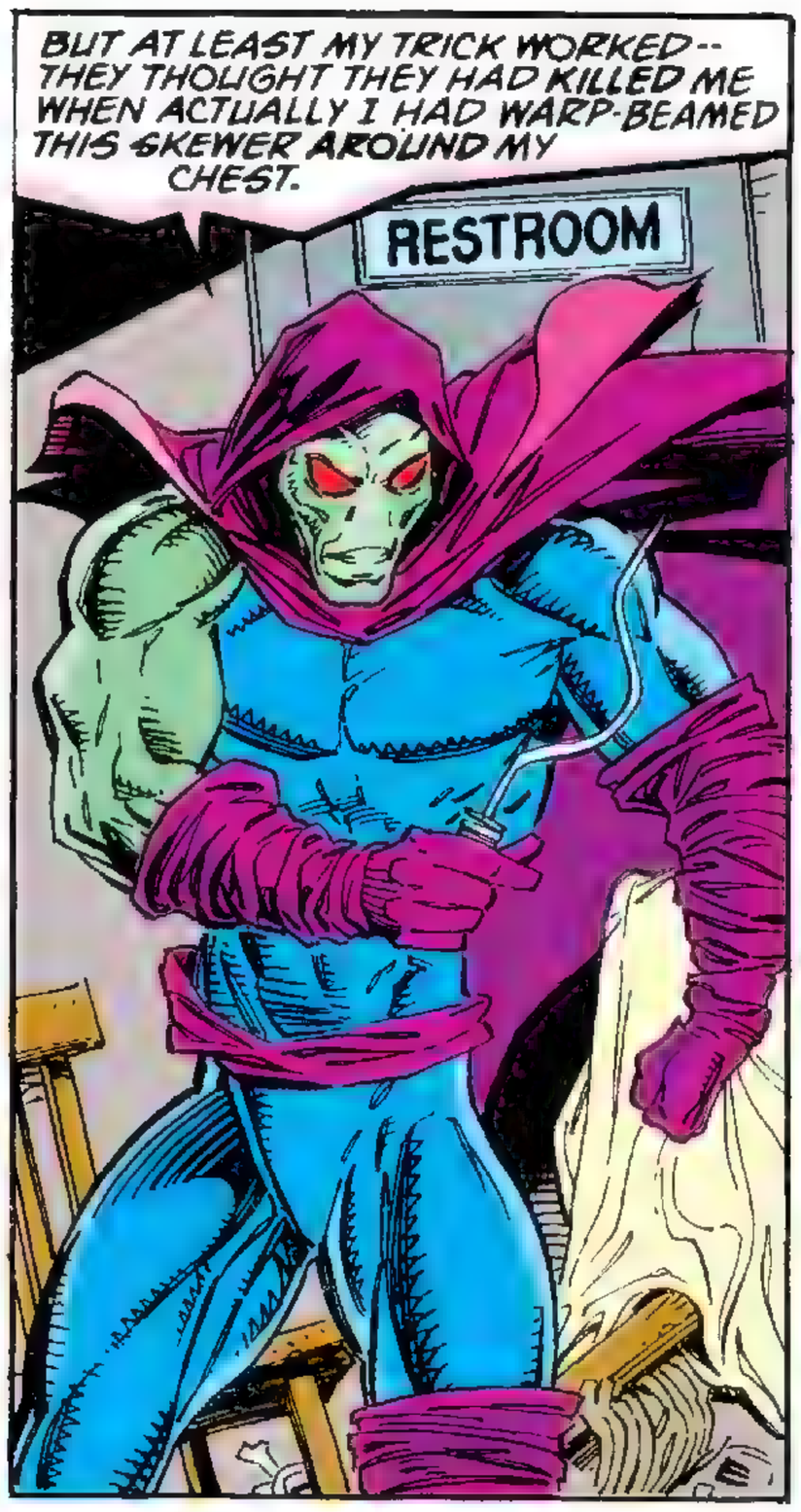

INCOMING!

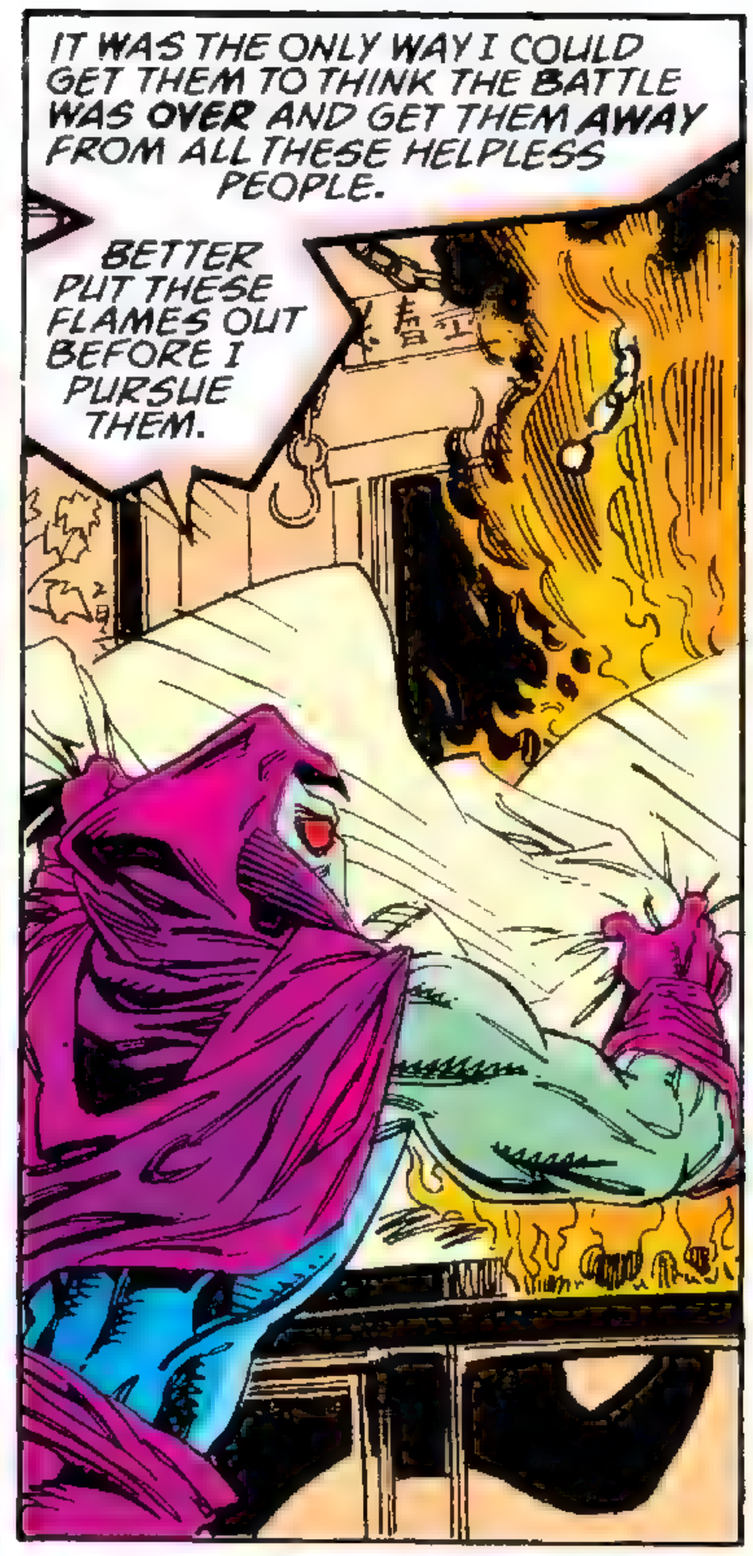

YOUR SAVAGERY ENDS NOW, VILLAINS!
BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED OUR DINNER, STRANGER!

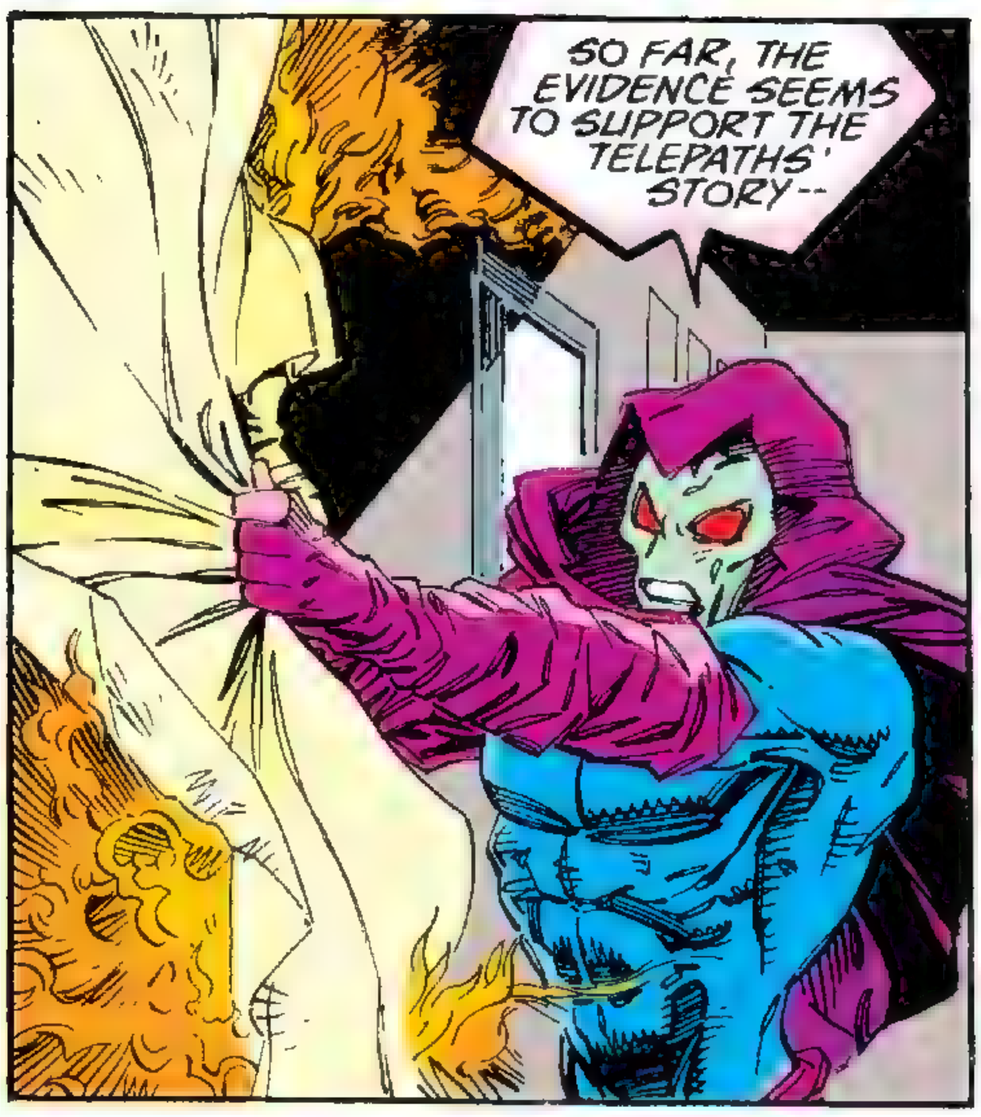

THE NAME IS SLEEP-WALKER!
YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT SOME MANNERS, SLEEP-WALKER!
I DOUBT OUR VISITOR WILL LIVE LONG ENOUGH...
...TO LEARN MUCH OF ANYTHING!
YOU APPEAR NOT TO BE OF THIS WORLD--
--ALL THE GREATER PITY YOU SHOULD DIE DEFENDING IT!
OOF!
WOMP
I ALWAYS ADMIRED THE WAY CHINESE CHEFS...
...HANDLED THEIR KNIVES!
THINK I HAVE A FUTURE HERE, SLEEP-WALKER?

TOO MANY INNOCENT, HELPLESS PEOPLE HERE WHO COULD GET HUR-
AGKK
DO YOU FIND THE SOFT CARESS OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OFFENSIVE, LOVER?
HOLD HIM, FIRESTAR--
--THERE'S A POINT I WANT TO MAKE!
MUST TIME THIS JUST RIGHT...
AIEEE
ENOUGH OF THESE GAMES-- I SENSE ANOTHER RESISTER NEARBY!
BUT I'M STILL HUNGRY!
YOU CAN EAT AFTER WE KILL OUR PREY, BEAST!
COME!

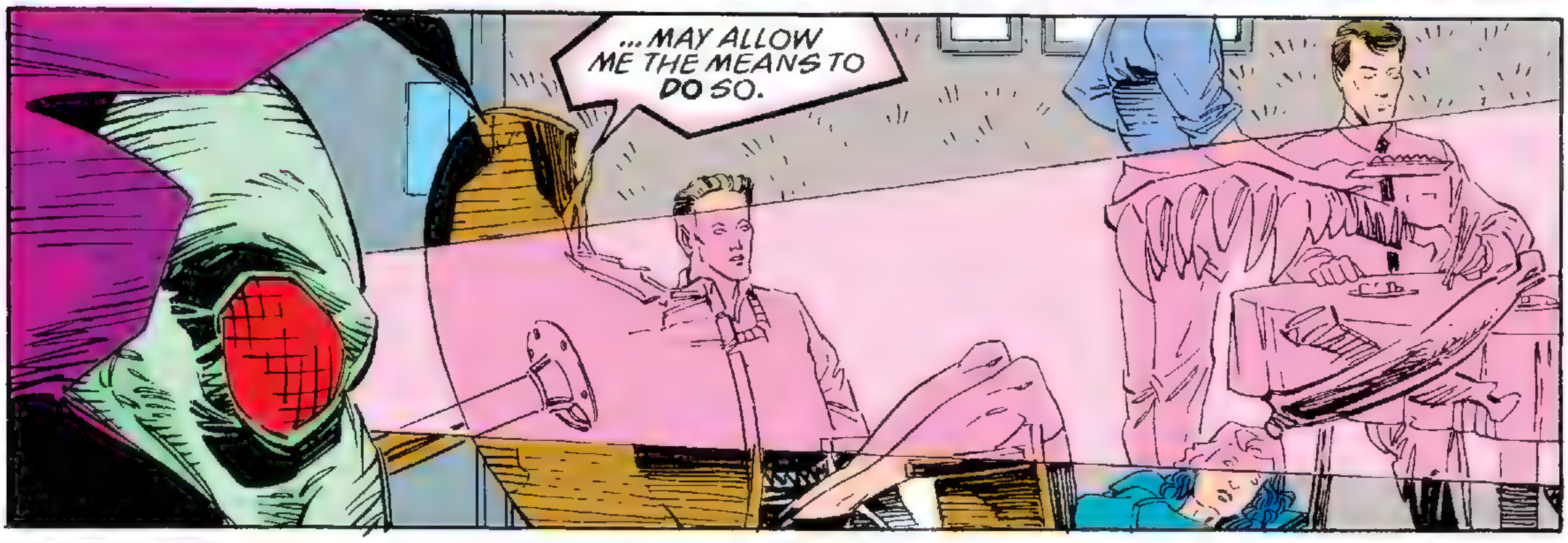

I THOUGHT THEY WOULD NEVER LEAVE.


BUT AT LEAST MY TRICK WORKED -- THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD KILLED ME WHEN ACTUALLY I HAD WARP-BEAMED THIS SKEWER AROUND MY CHEST.
RESTROOM

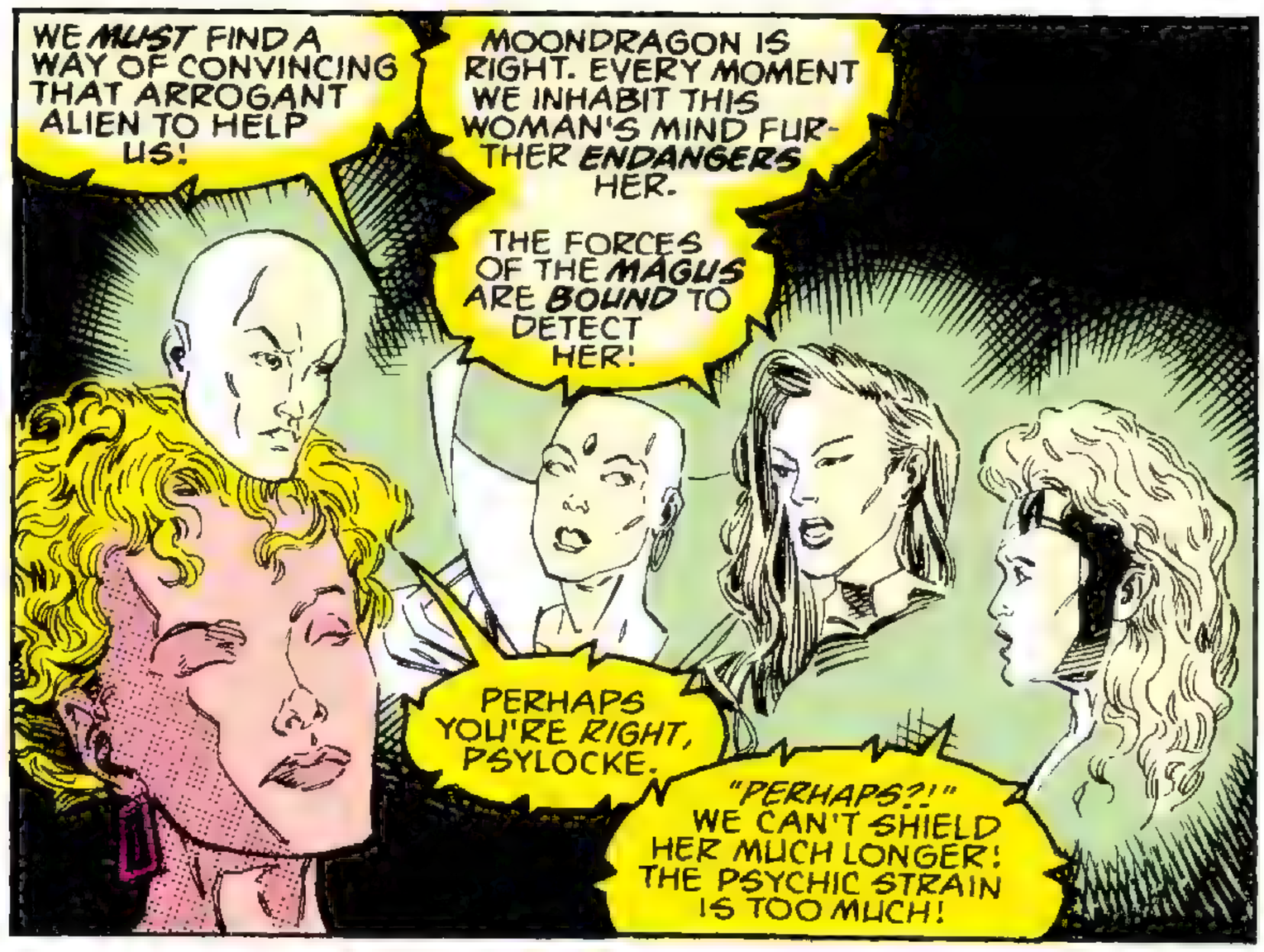

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET THEM TO THINK THE BATTLE WAS OVER AND GET THEM AWAY FROM ALL THESE HELPLESS PEOPLE.
BETTER PUT THESE FLAMES OUT BEFORE I PURSUE THEM.

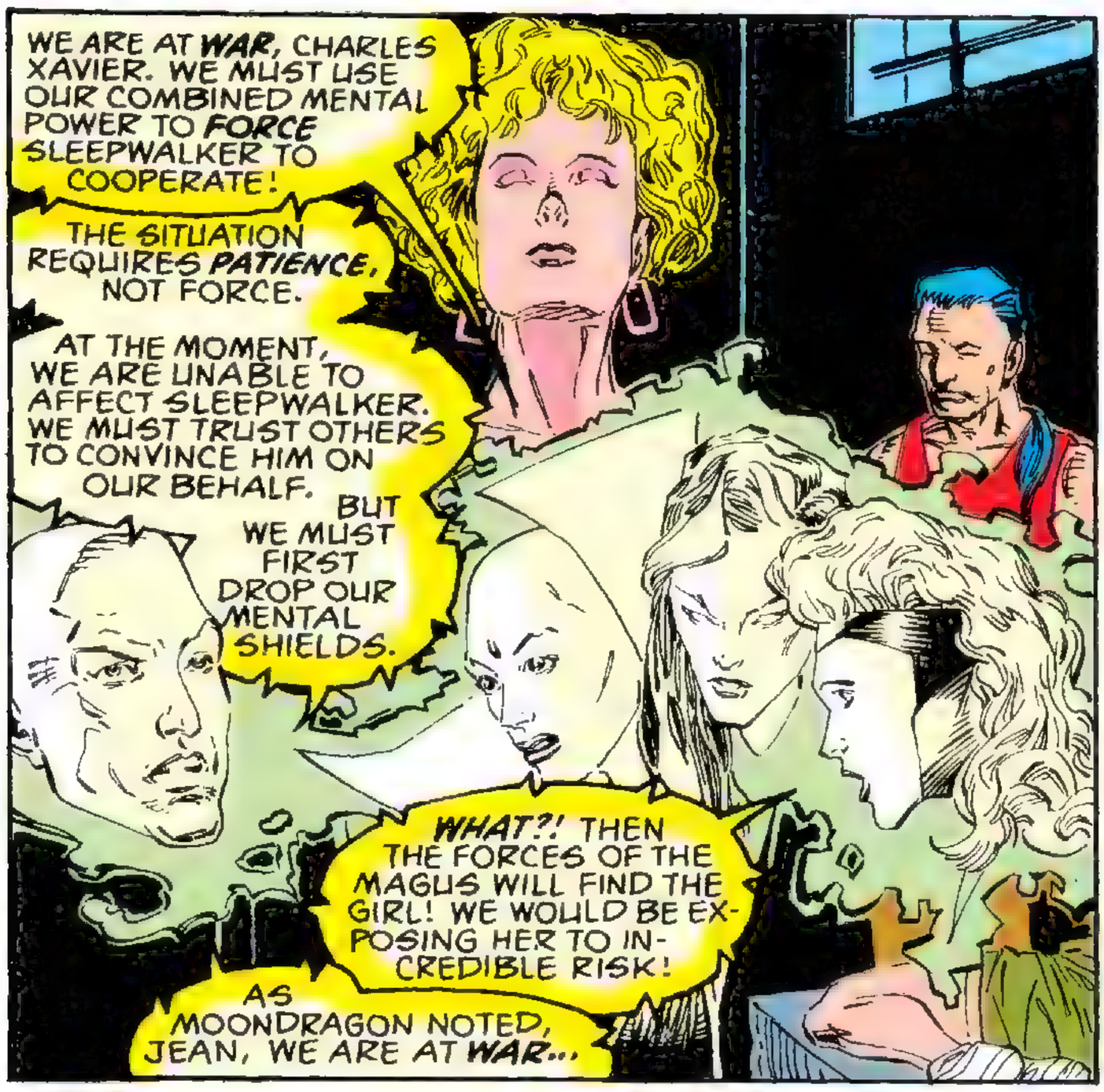

SO FAR, THE EVIDENCE SEEMS TO SUPPORT THE TELEPATHS' STORY--

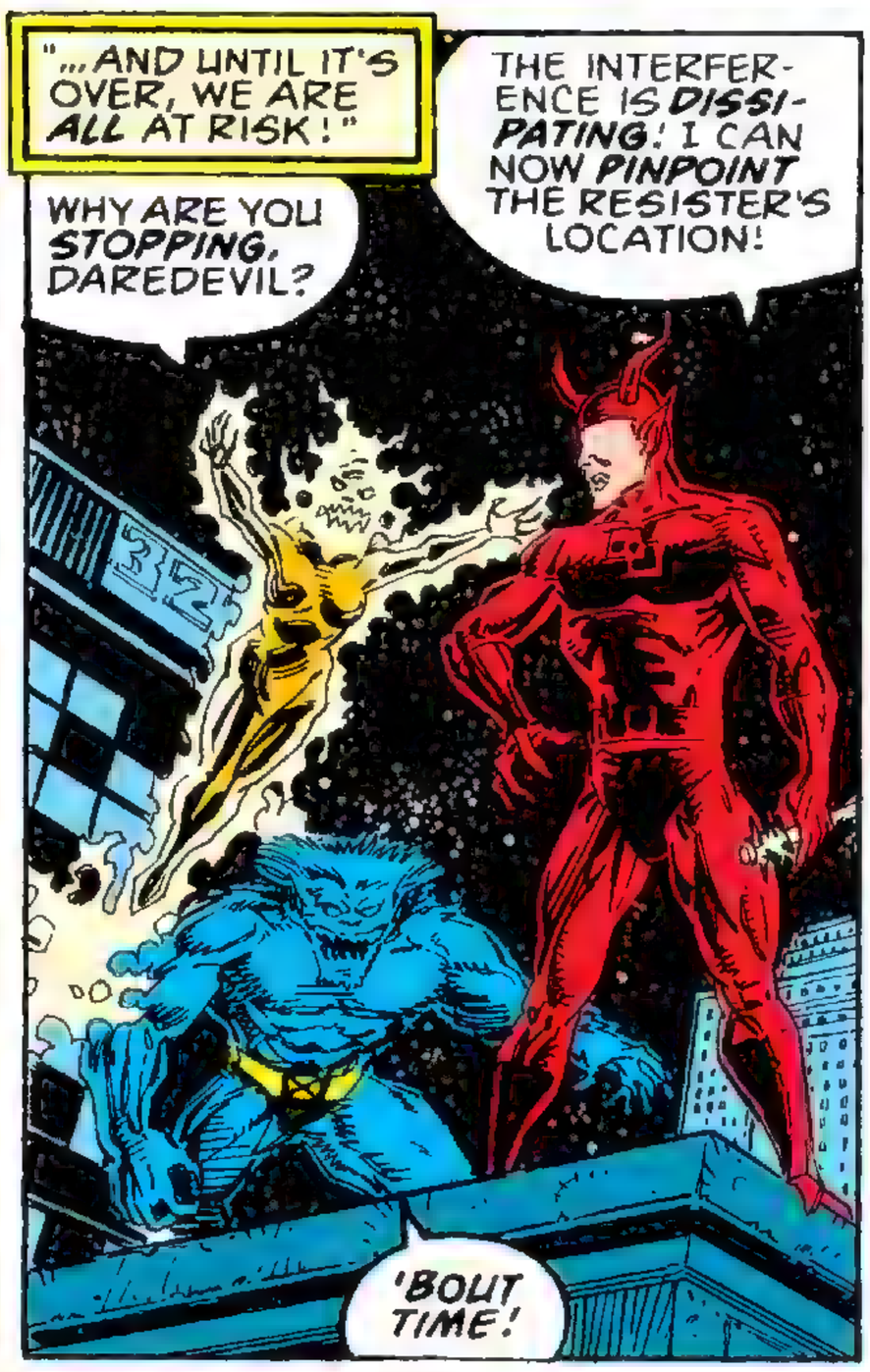
--EVIL DOUBLES OF EARTH'S HEROES DO SEEM TO BE ROAMING THE WORLD. DESPITE THEIR SAVAGE APPEARANCE, I RECOGNIZED THOSE DOPPELGANGERS FROM NEWS REPORTS I HAVE SEEN OF THEIR HUMAN EQUIVALENTS.
STILL, THE TELEPATHS COULD BE SETTING ME UP FOR A TRAP. I HAVE TO FIND OUT MORE.
AND THESE PORK RIB BONES...

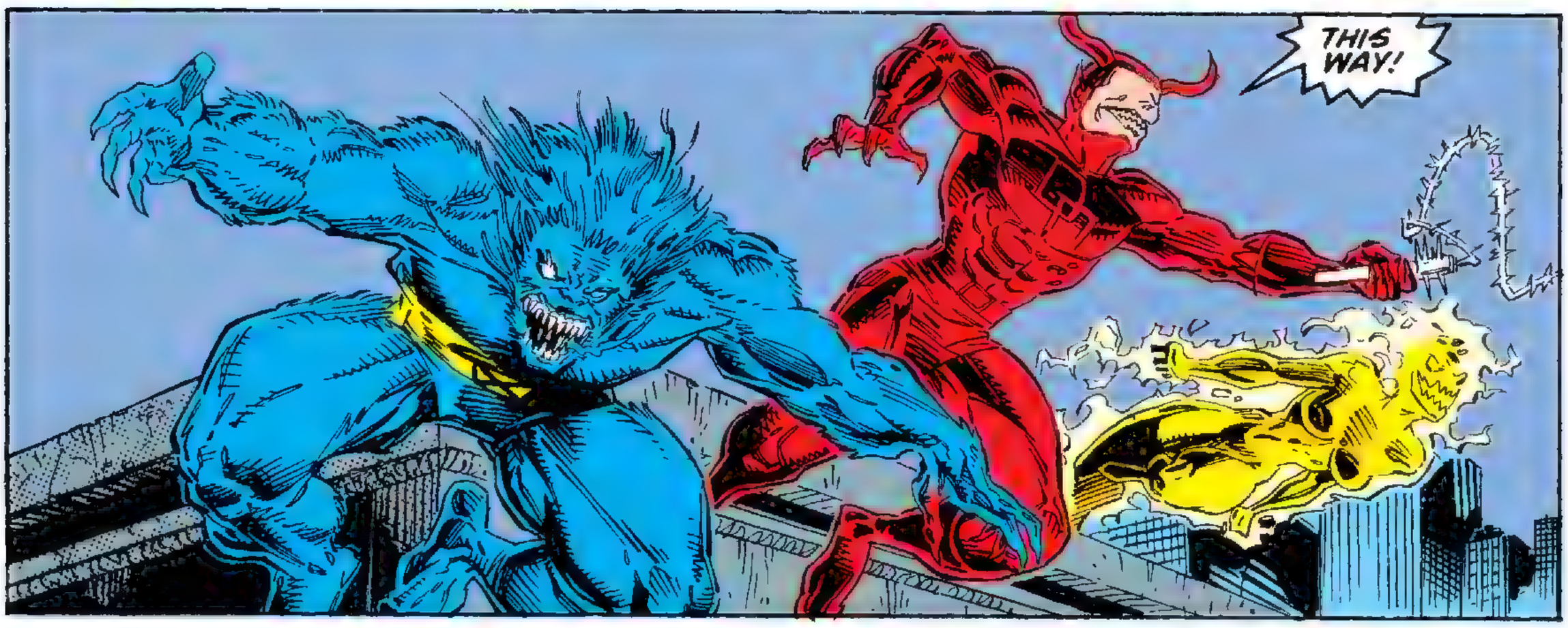

...MAY ALLOW ME THE MEANS TO DO SO.

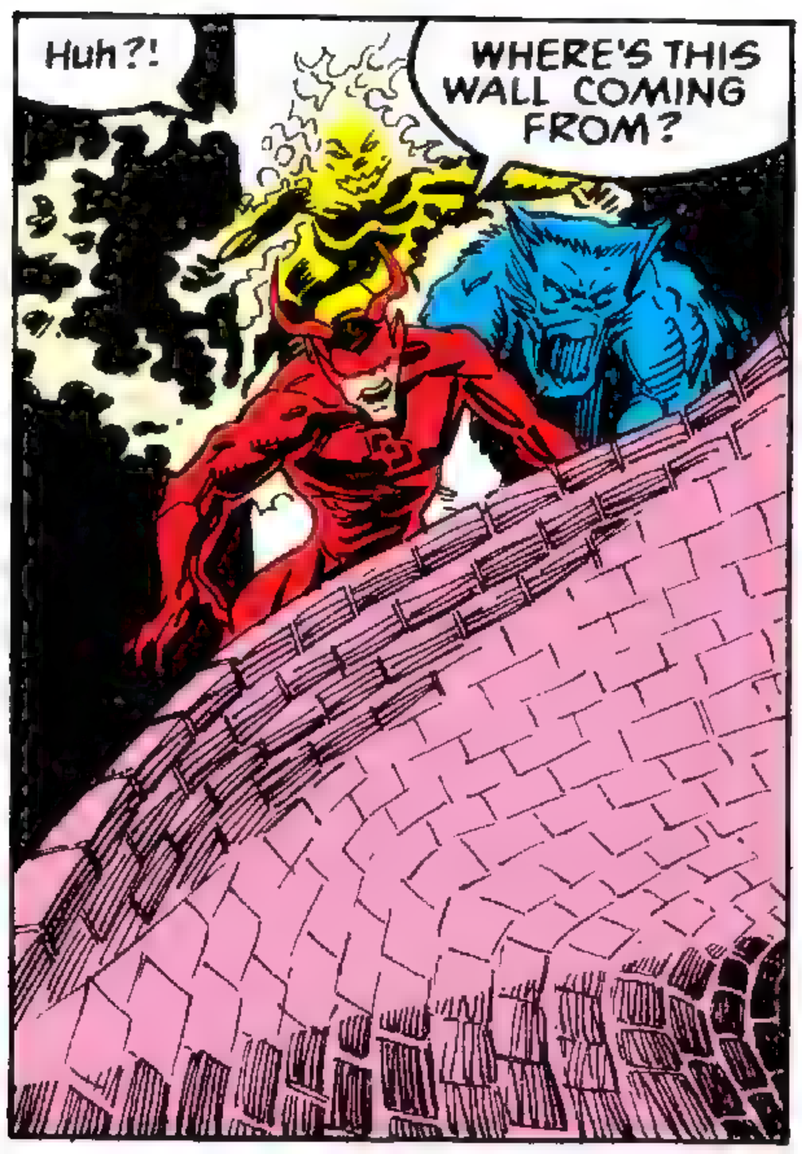
MEANWHILE...
...JANINE STANDS PARALYZED -- AS DEBATE RAGES WITHIN HER MIND!


WE MUST FIND A WAY OF CONVINCING THAT ARROGANT ALIEN TO HELP US!
MOONDRAGON IS RIGHT. EVERY MOMENT WE INHABIT THIS WOMAN'S MIND FURTHER ENDANGERS HER.
THE FORCES OF THE MAGUS ARE BOUND TO DETECT HER!
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, PSYLOCKE.
"PERHAPS?!" WE CAN'T SHIELD HER MUCH LONGER! THE PSYCHIC STRAIN IS TOO MUCH!

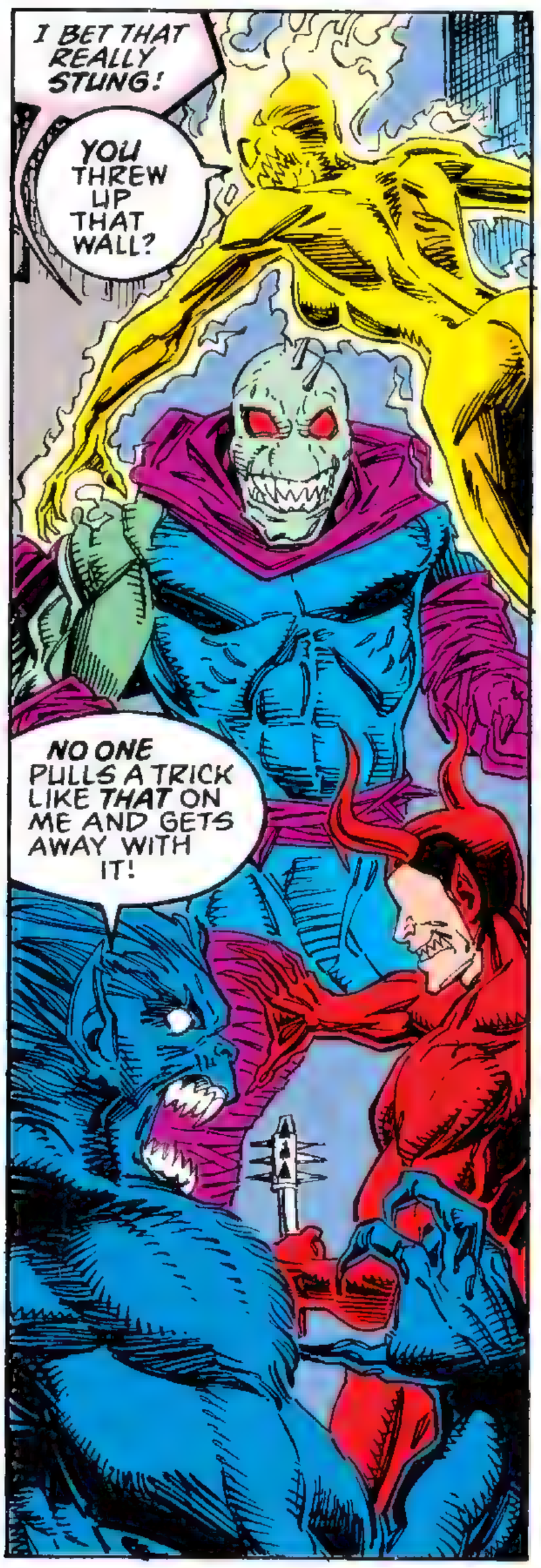

WE ARE AT WAR, CHARLES XAVIER. WE MUST USE OUR COMBINED MENTAL POWER TO FORCE SLEEPWALKER TO COOPERATE!
THE SITUATION REQUIRES PATIENCE, NOT FORCE.
AT THE MOMENT, WE ARE UNABLE TO AFFECT SLEEPWALKER. WE MUST TRUST OTHERS TO CONVINCE HIM ON OUR BEHALF.
BUT WE MUST FIRST DROP OUR MENTAL SHIELDS.
WHAT?! THEN THE FORCES OF THE MAGUS WILL FIND THE GIRL! WE WOULD BE EXPOSING HER TO INCREDIBLE RISK!
AS MOONDRAGON NOTED, JEAN, WE ARE AT WAR...


"...AND UNTIL IT'S OVER, WE ARE ALL AT RISK!"
THE INTERFERENCE IS DISSIPATING! I CAN NOW PINPOINT THE RESISTER'S LOCATION!
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING, DAREDEVIL?
'BOUT TIME!


THIS WAY!

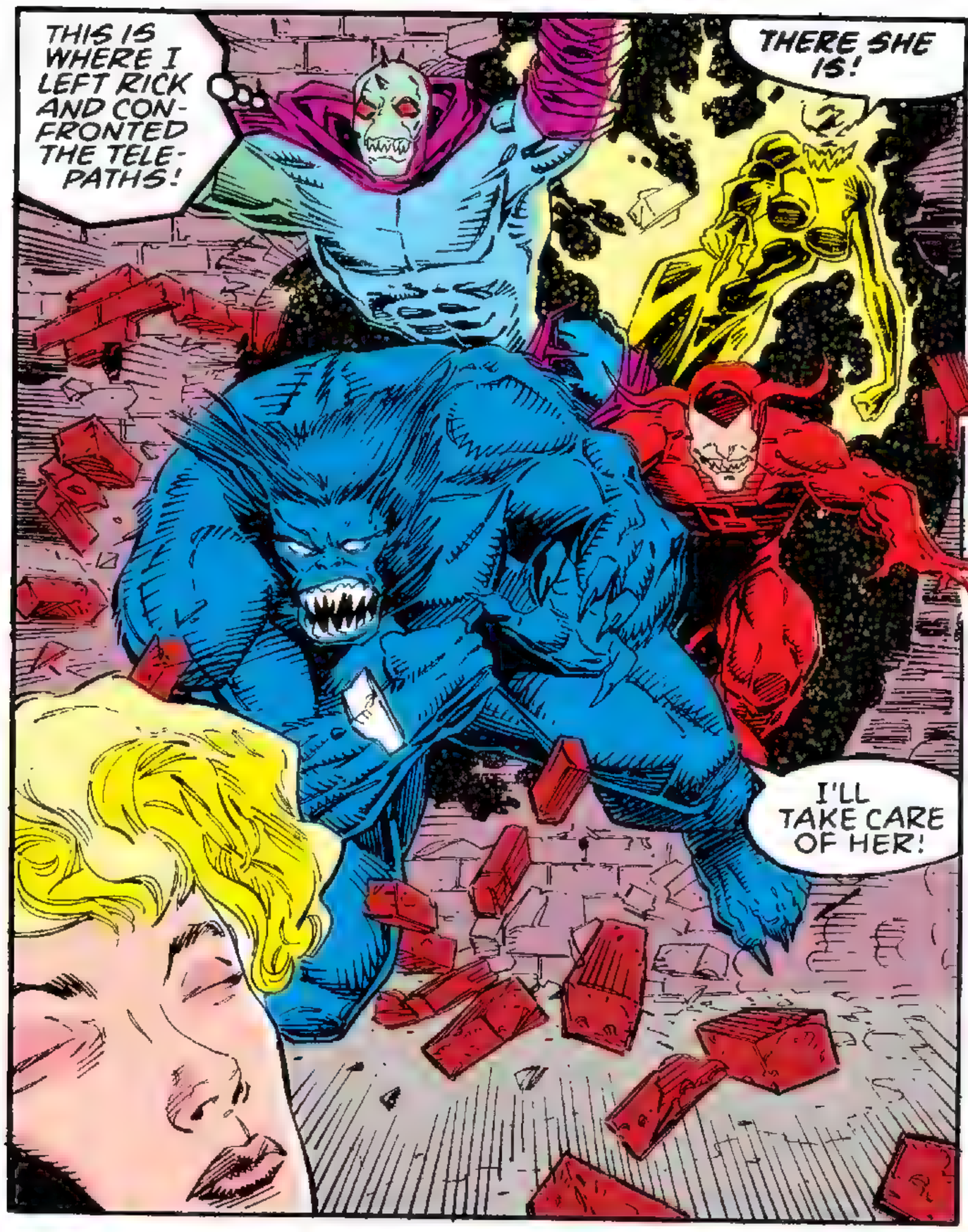

Huh?!
WHERE'S THIS WALL COMING FROM?

SMAK
OOFF!

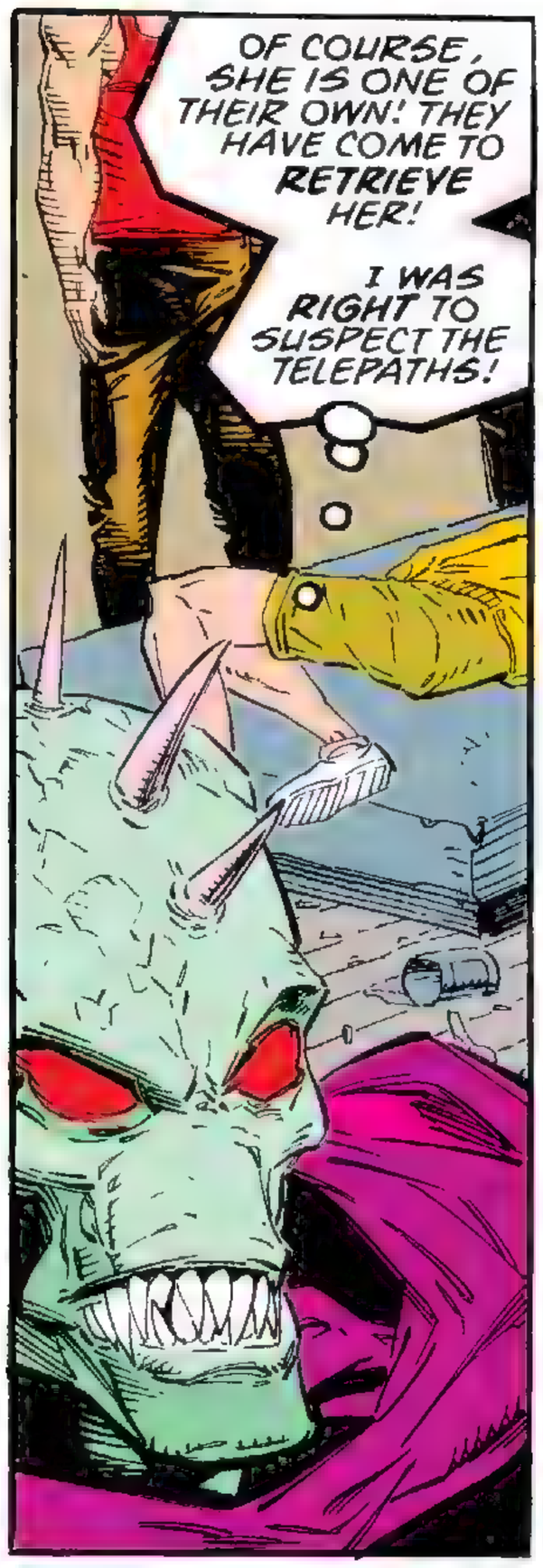

I BET THAT REALLY STUNG!
YOU THREW UP THAT WALL?
NO ONE PULLS A TRICK LIKE THAT ON ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

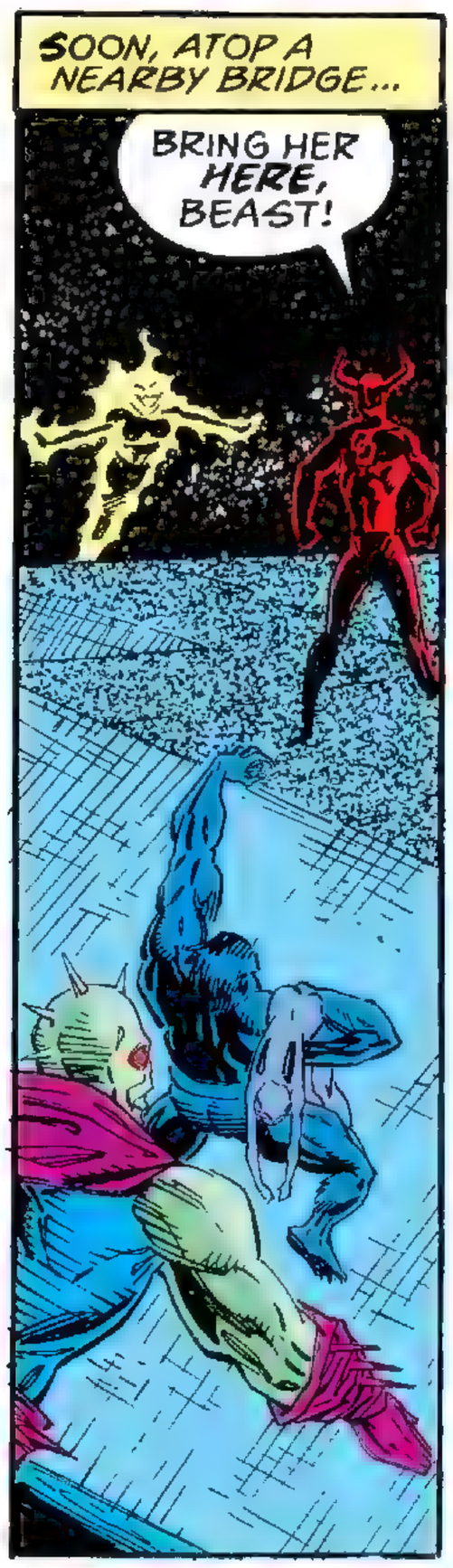
SO WHADDAYA GONNA DO ABOUT IT, BEASTIE-BOY?!
KILL ME...
...OR INVITE ME TO JOIN?!
HA! HE'S ONE OF US!
HE MUST BE SLEEP-CORPSE'S DOUBLE!
IN THAT CASE, COME ALONG--

--WE HAVE A MISSION TO CARRY OUT!
SO FAR MY DISGUISE IS WORKING--THEY DO NOT SUSPECT A THING!


THIS IS WHERE I LEFT RICK AND CONFRONTED THE TELEPATHS!
THERE SHE IS!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!

NOT HERE, BEAST!
WE MUST TAKE HER TO THE APPROPRIATE PLACE!


OF COURSE, SHE IS ONE OF THEIR OWN! THEY HAVE COME TO RETRIEVE HER!
I WAS RIGHT TO SUSPECT THE TELEPATHS!


SOON, ATOP A NEARBY BRIDGE...
BRING HER HERE, BEAST!

--WHERE, BENEATH A STAR-SPLASHED SKY, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CAN BEAR WITNESS TO THE FATE OF THOSE WHO DARE DEFY THE MAGUS!
DESTROY HER!
THE TELEPATHS WERE TELLING THE TRUTH!

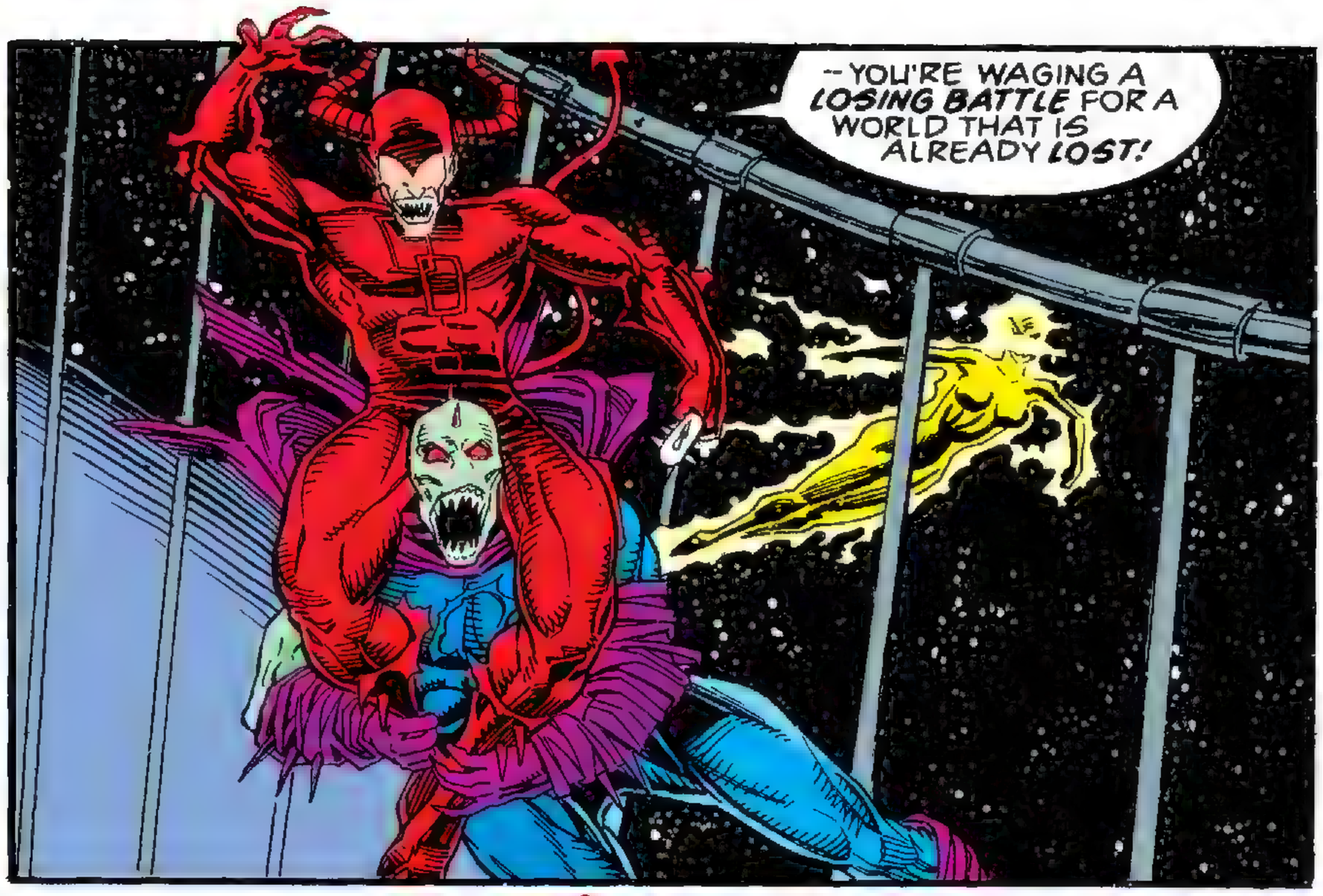
Ohhh...
SHE COLLAPSED!
I SENSE THAT SHE IS NOW ENTRANCED, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS ON THIS WORLD!
THE TELEPATHS MUST HAVE PULLED OUT OF HER MIND!
LET'S KILL HER ANYWAY!
HARDLY SEEMS WORTH THE EFFORT!
BUT I'M STILL HUNGRY!
I BET THERE'S SOME GOOD MEAT ON THOSE BONES, NO MATTER HOW SKINNY SHE LOOKS!
AN APPETIZING THOUGHT, BEAST!
DINNER IS SERVED!
NO HARM SHALL BEFALL THE FEMALE!
WAA

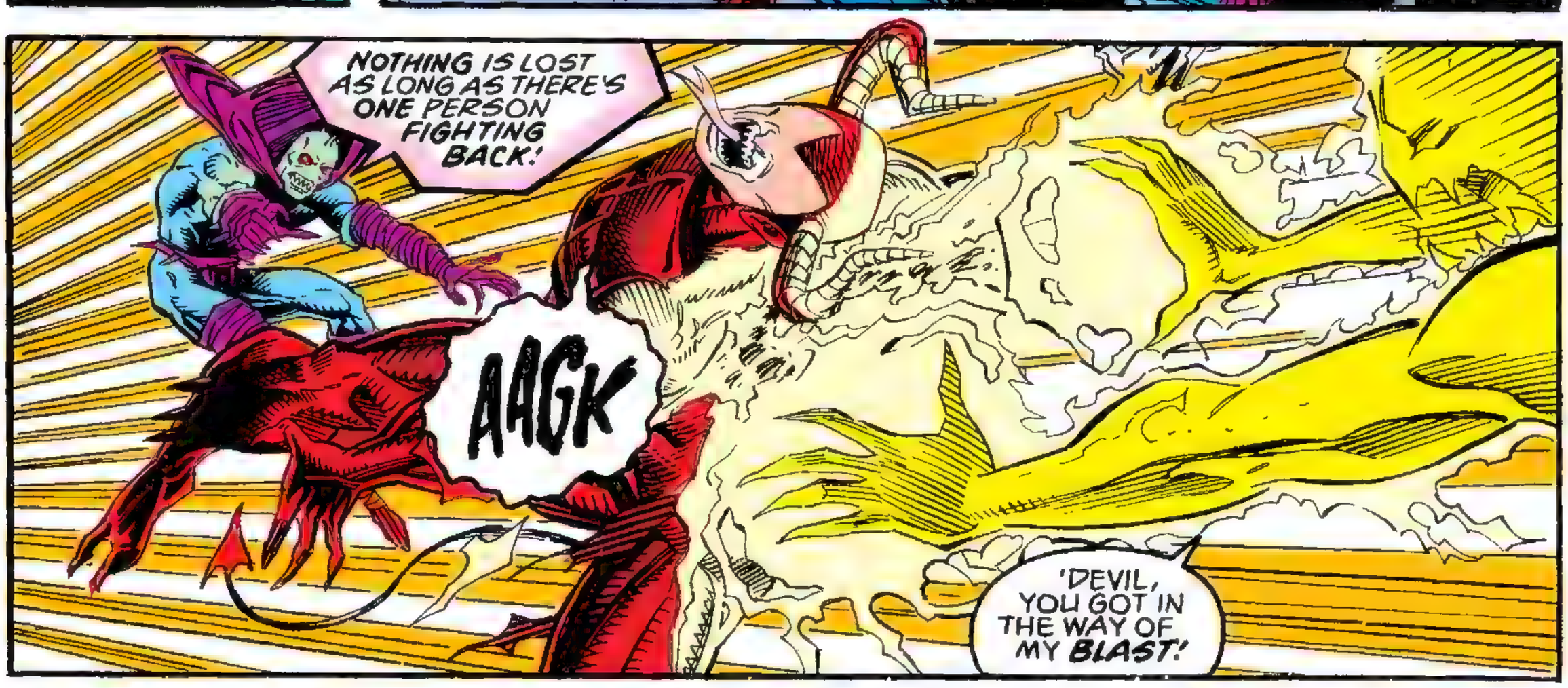
HE'S REALLY SLEEPWALKER! HE WAS HUSTLING US!
YOU'LL DIE FOR THAT--
FSSS

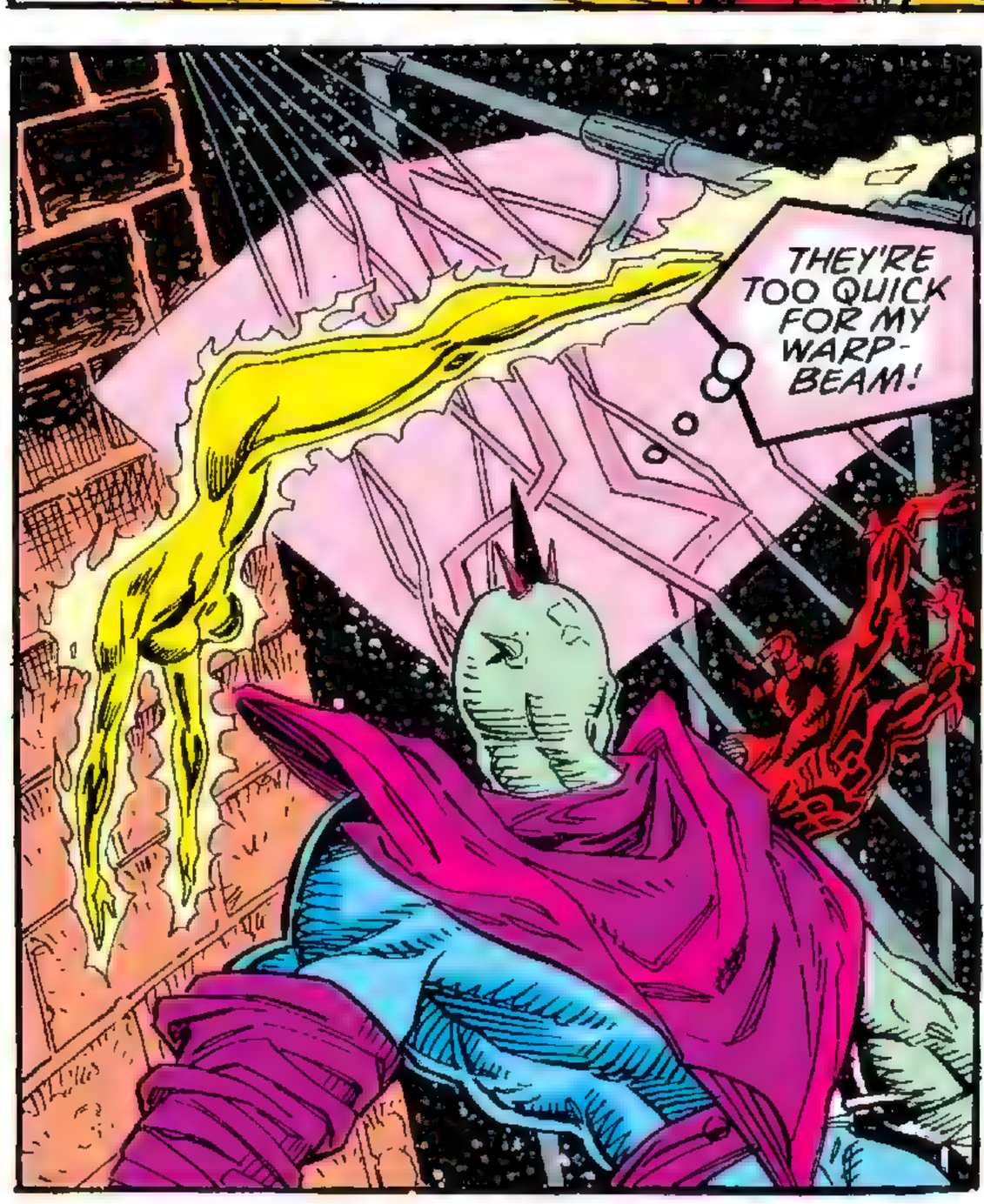
--AND YOU'LL DIE MOST PAINFULLY!
THOK
URIK!

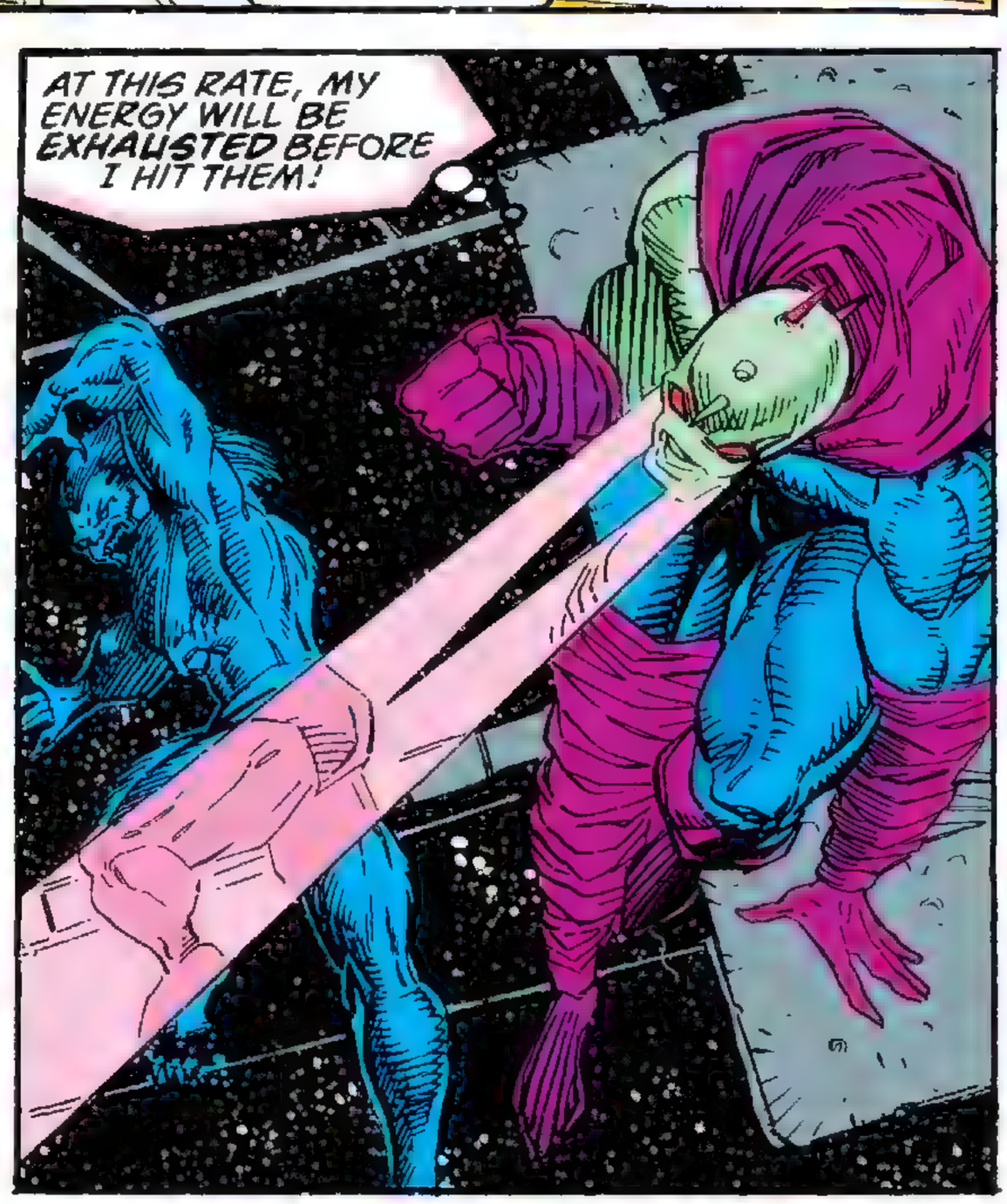
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD -- I'VE NEVER TASTED GREEN BLOOD BEFORE!
OOF!
PROFESSOR X SAID THESE DOPPELGANGERS WERE CREATED BY SCIENCE AND MAGIC...
...WHICH MEANS THEY WERE NEVER TRULY ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH...
...WHICH MEANS I DO NOT HAVE TO HOLD BACK ON MY ATTACK!
UNNH!
KRAK

FACE IT, SLEEP-WALKER --

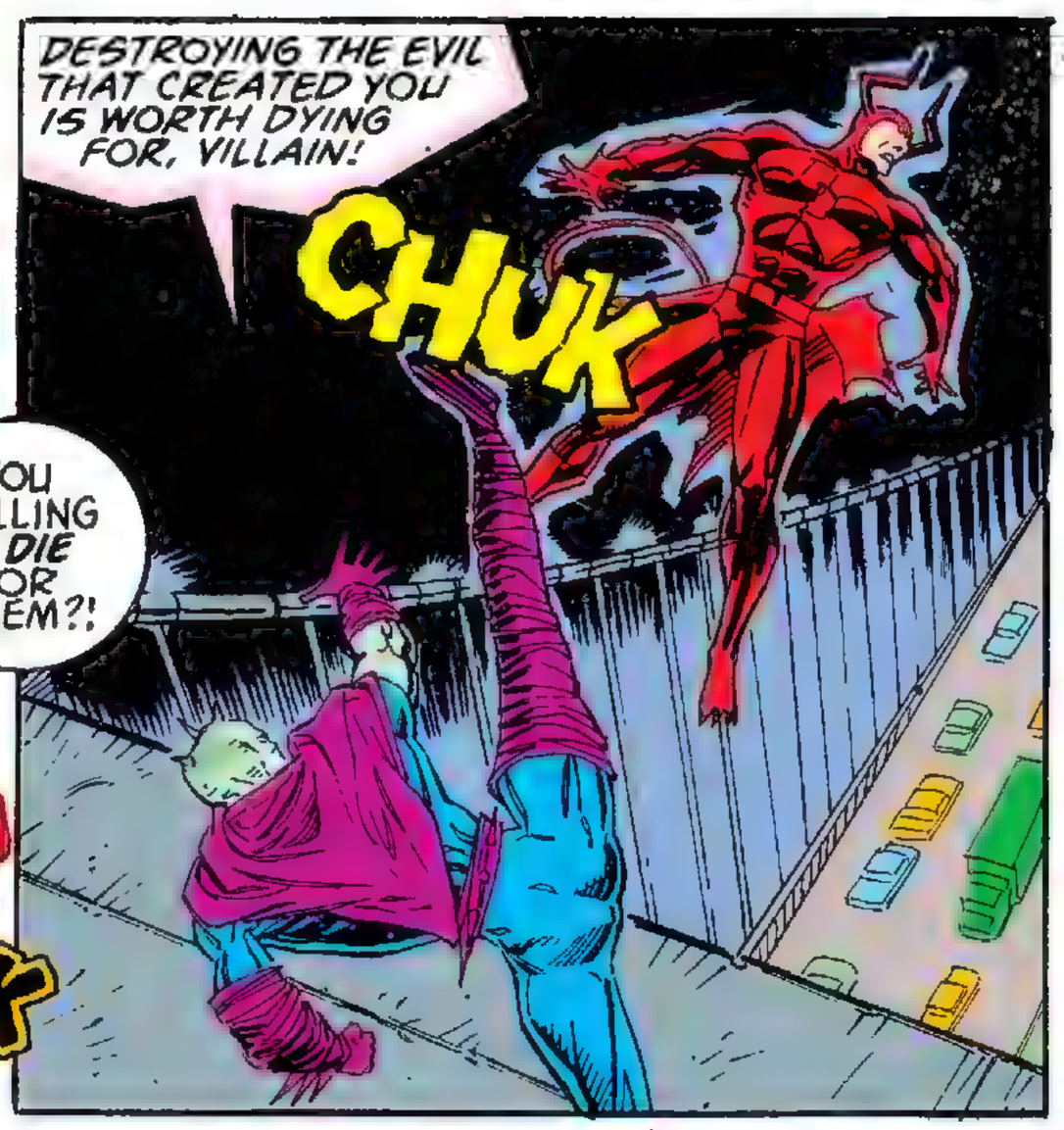

-- YOU'RE WAGING A LOSING BATTLE FOR A WORLD THAT IS ALREADY LOST!

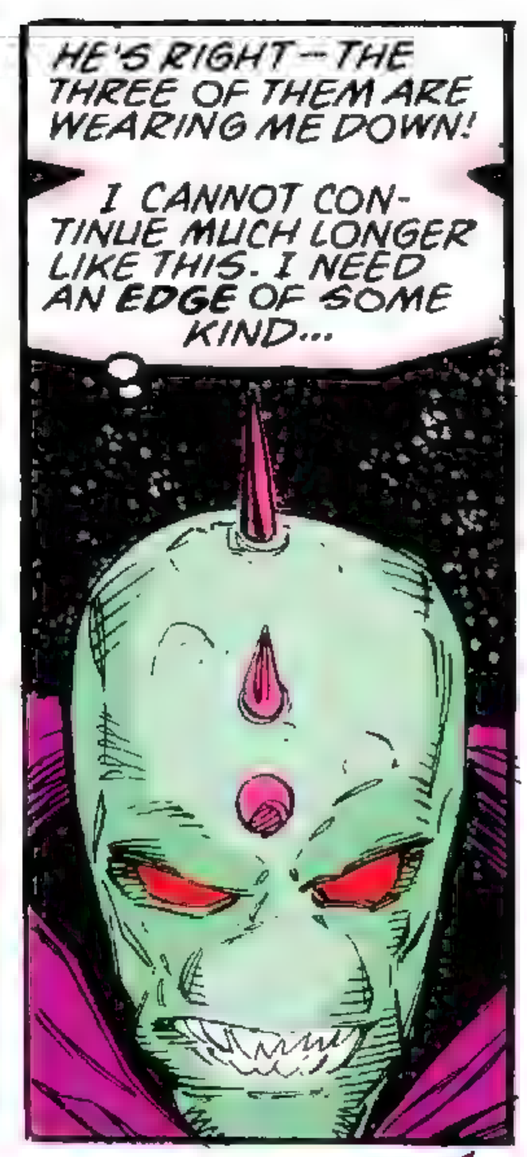

NOTHING IS LOST AS LONG AS THERE'S ONE PERSON FIGHTING BACK!
AAGK
'DEVIL, YOU GOT IN THE WAY OF MY BLAST!

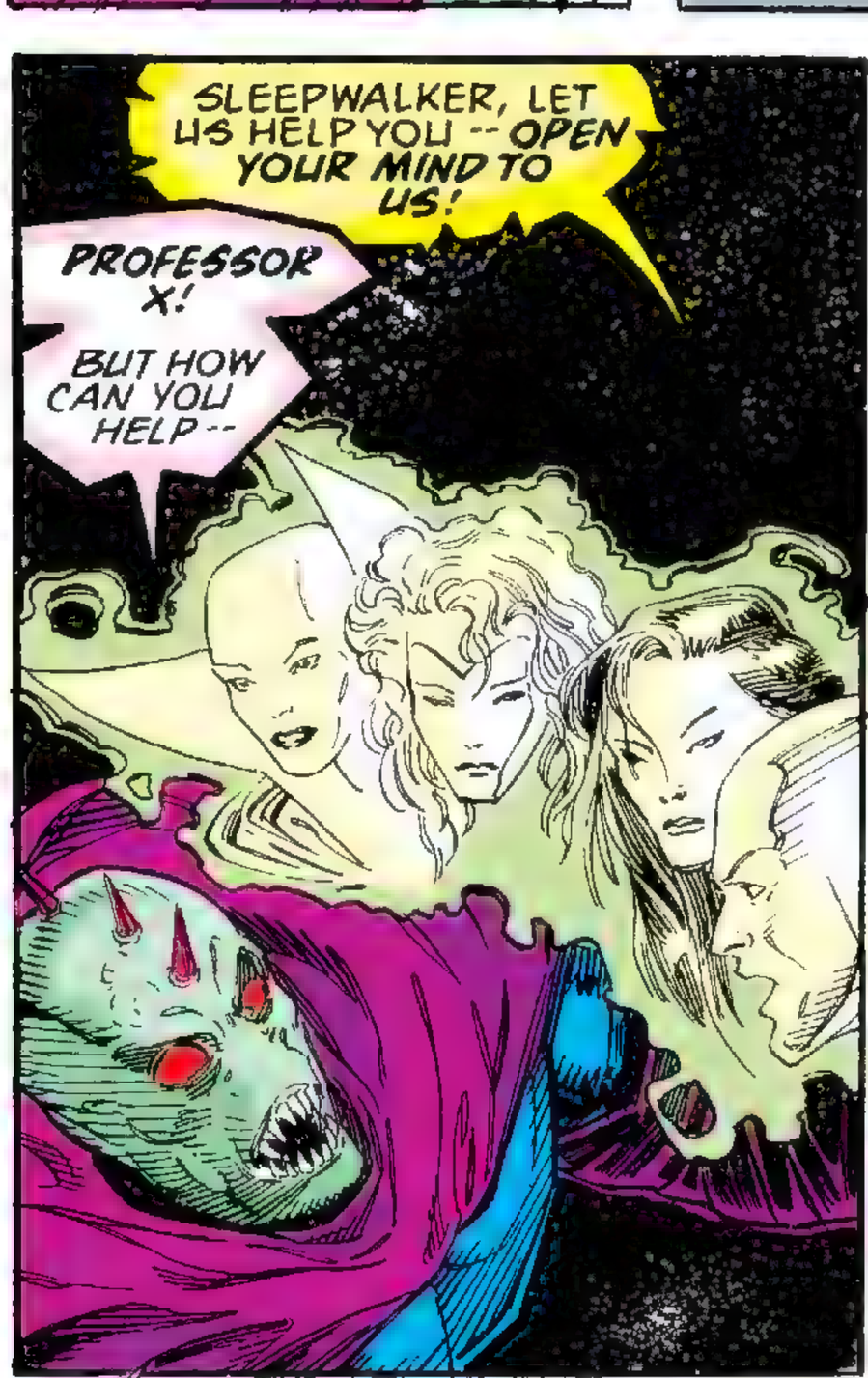

THEY'RE TOO QUICK FOR MY WARP-BEAM!

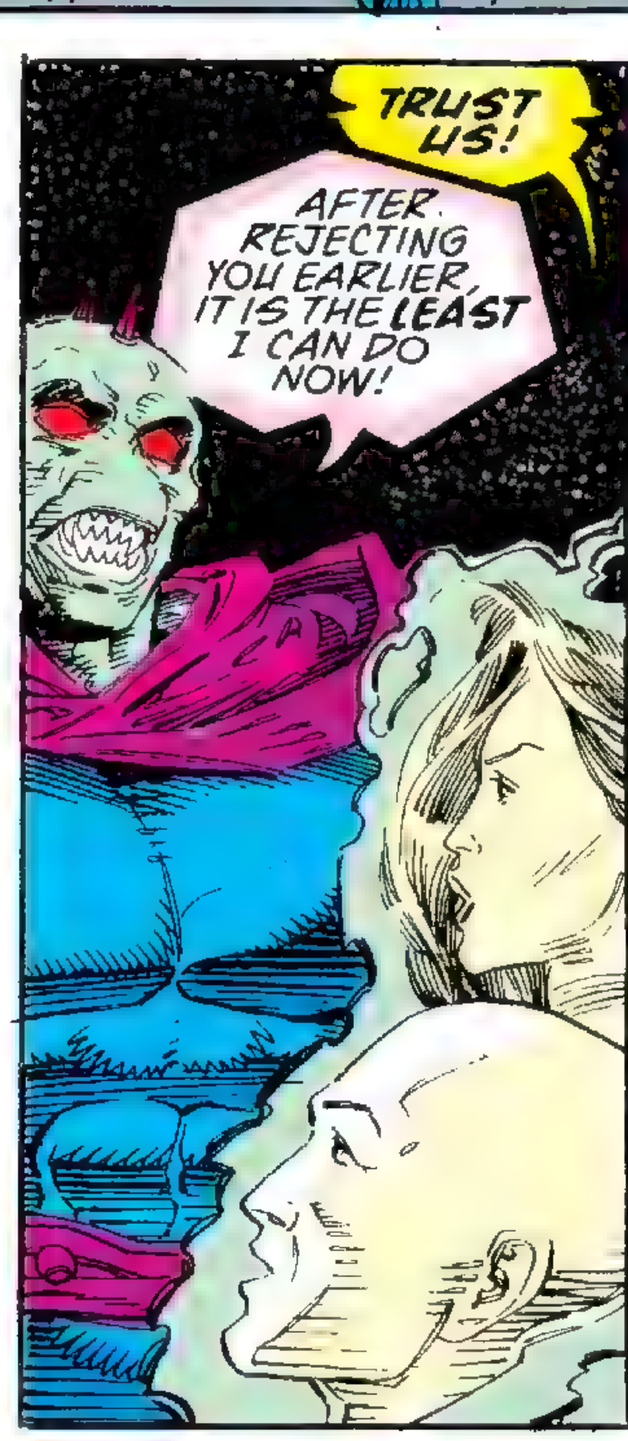

AT THIS RATE, MY ENERGY WILL BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE I HIT THEM!

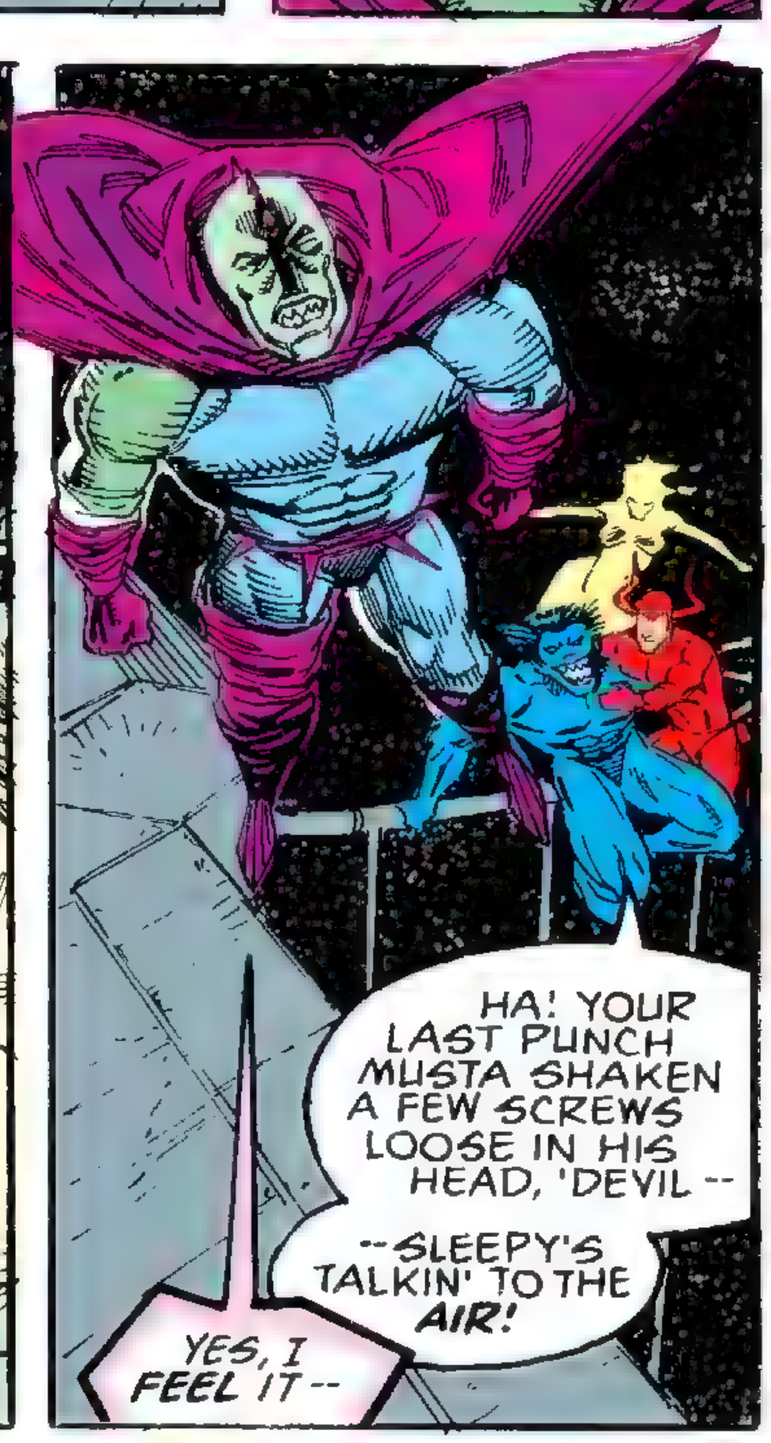
THREE OF US, ONE OF YOU.
I'M WILLING TO LIVE WITH THOSE ODDS!
YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR THEM?!
THOK

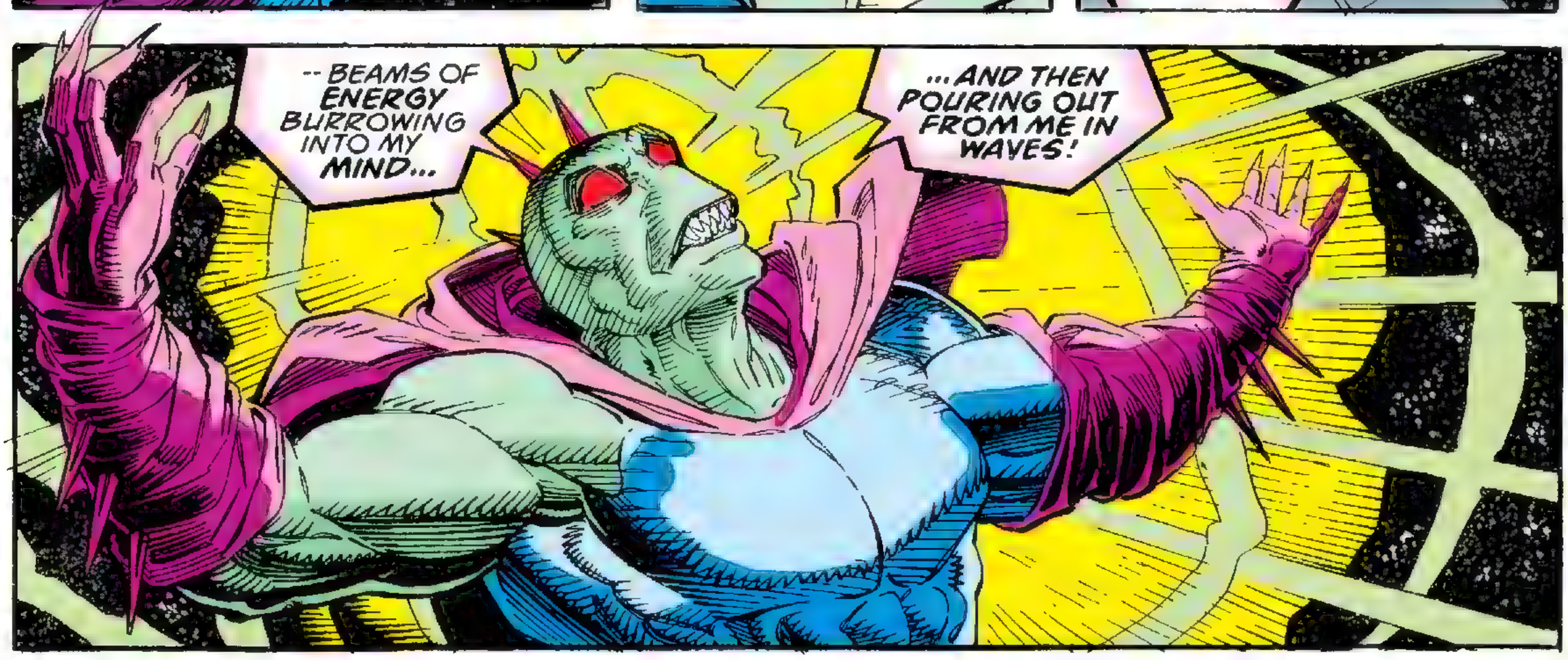

DESTROYING THE EVIL THAT CREATED YOU IS WORTH DYING FOR, VILLAIN!
CHUK

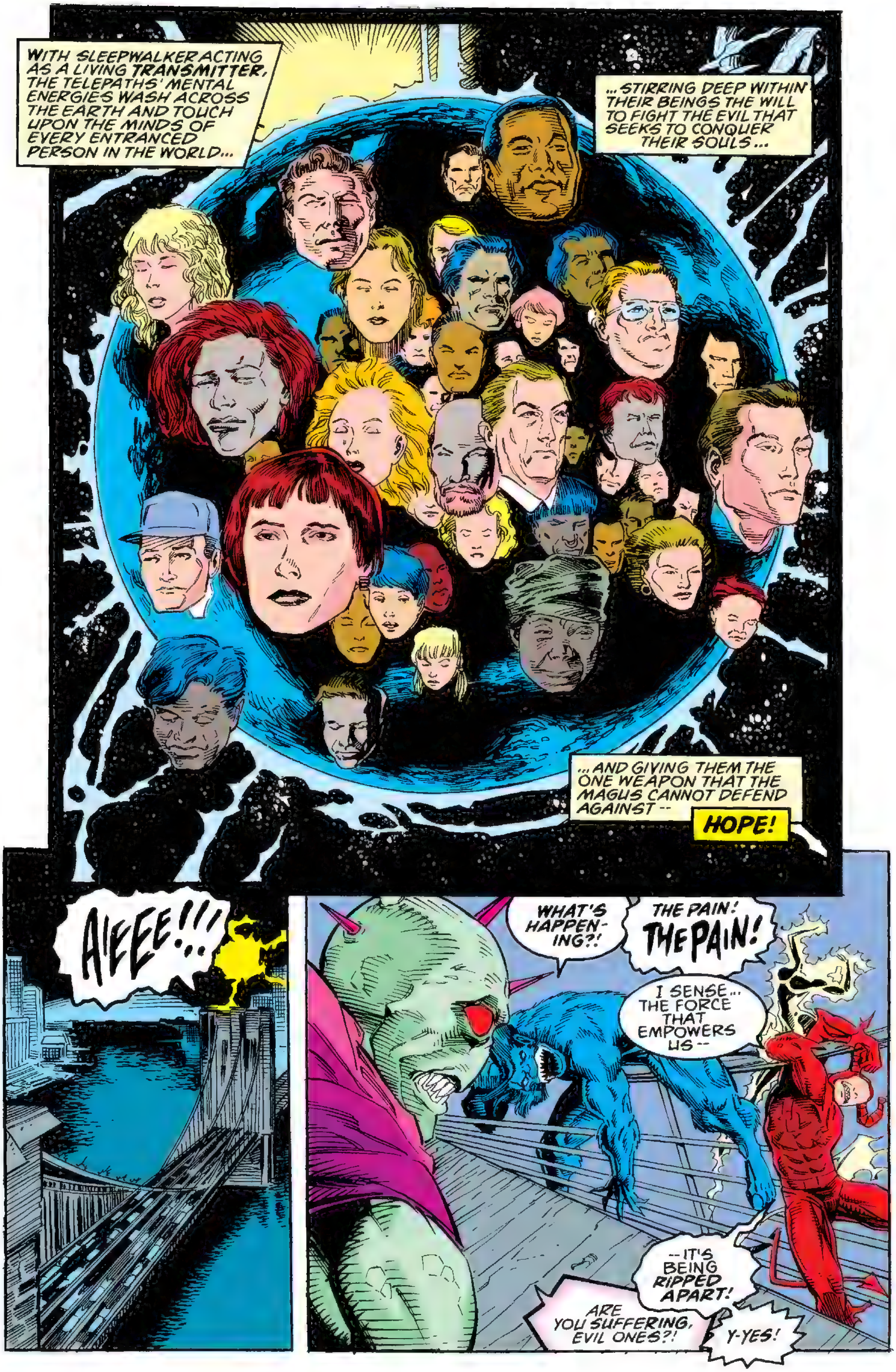

HE'S RIGHT -- THE THREE OF THEM ARE WEARING ME DOWN!
I CANNOT CONTINUE MUCH LONGER LIKE THIS. I NEED AN EDGE OF SOME KIND...


SLEEPWALKER, LET US HELP YOU -- OPEN YOUR MIND TO US!
PROFESSOR X!
BUT HOW CAN YOU HELP --


TRUST US!
AFTER REJECTING YOU EARLIER, IT IS THE LEAST I CAN DO NOW!


HA! YOUR LAST PUNCH MUSTA SHAKEN A FEW SCREWS LOOSE IN HIS HEAD, 'DEVIL --
-- SLEEPY'S TALKIN' TO THE AIR!
YES, I FEEL IT --


-- BEAMS OF ENERGY BURROWING INTO MY MIND...
...AND THEN POURING OUT FROM ME IN WAVES!

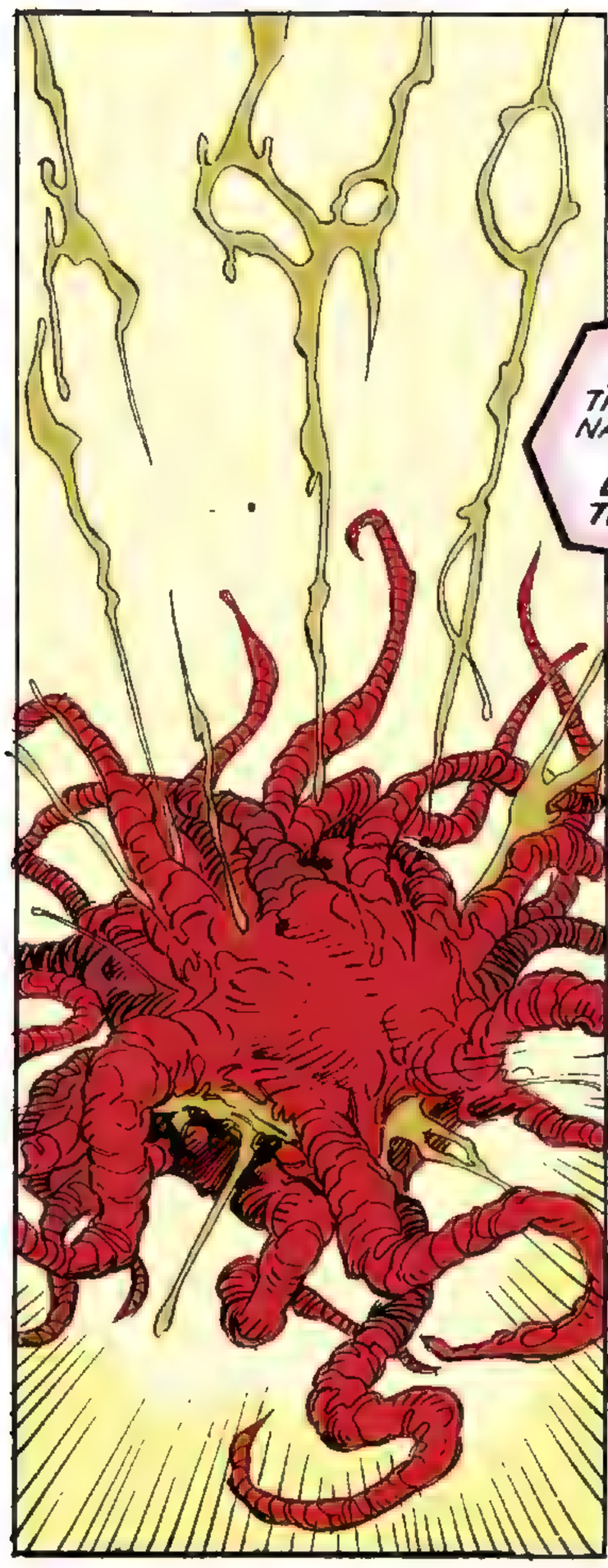

WITH SLEEPWALKER ACTING AS A LIVING TRANSMITTER, THE TELEPATHS' MENTAL ENERGIES WASH ACROSS THE EARTH AND TOUCH UPON THE MINDS OF EVERY ENTRANCED PERSON IN THE WORLD...
...STIRRING DEEP WITHIN THEIR BEINGS THE WILL TO FIGHT THE EVIL THAT SEEKS TO CONQUER THEIR SOULS...
...AND GIVING THEM THE ONE WEAPON THAT THE MAGUS CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST --
HOPE!
AIEEE!!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE PAIN! THE PAIN!
I SENSE... THE FORCE THAT EMPOWERS US --
-- IT'S BEING RIPPED APART!
ARE YOU SUFFERING, EVIL ONES?!
Y-YES!

THAT SUFFERING WILL SEEM LIKE A FOND MEMORY BEFORE I AM FINISHED WITH YOU!

AGGK! WHAT ARE DOING TO US?!

MERELY FREEING YOUR FORMS...

... TO MATCH YOUR TRUE NATURE!

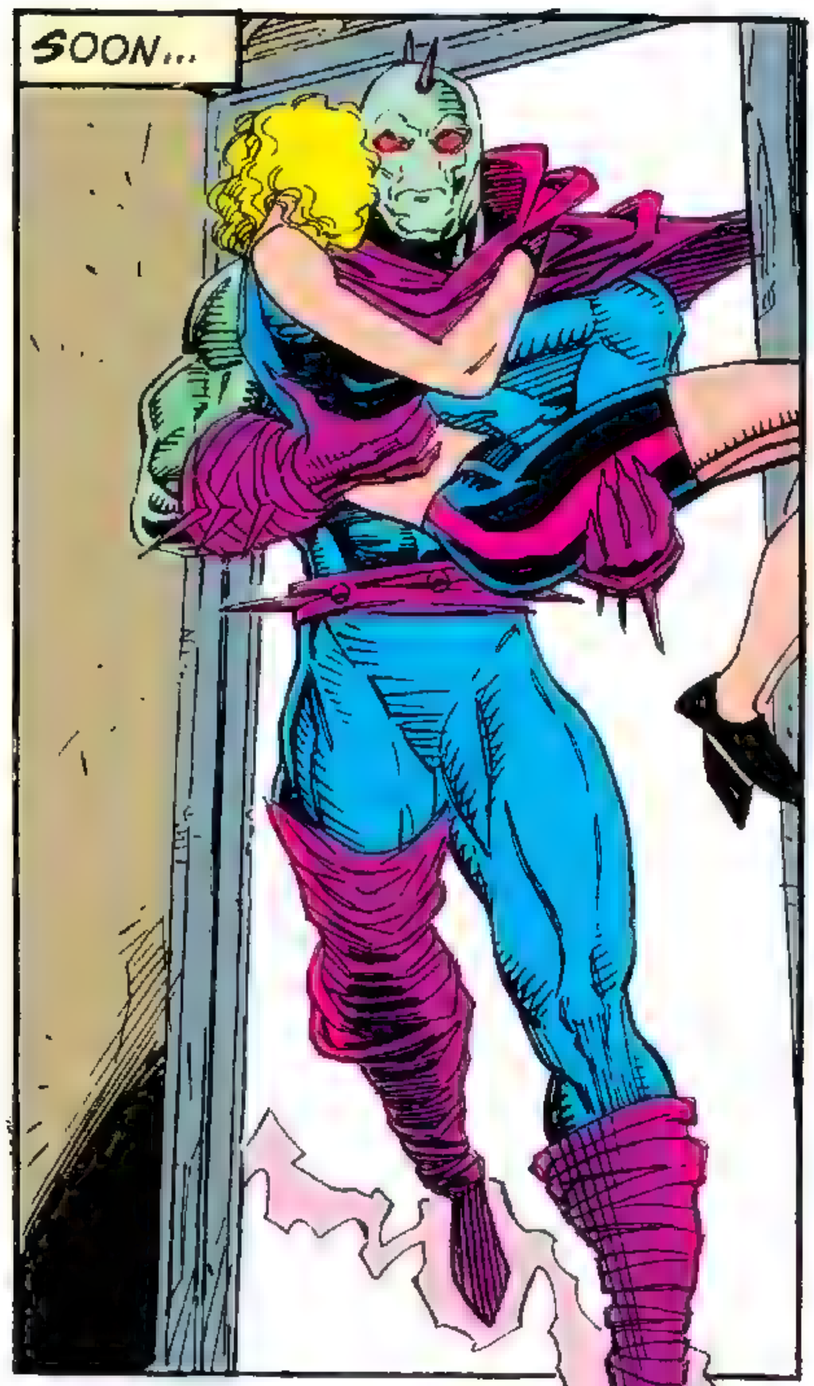


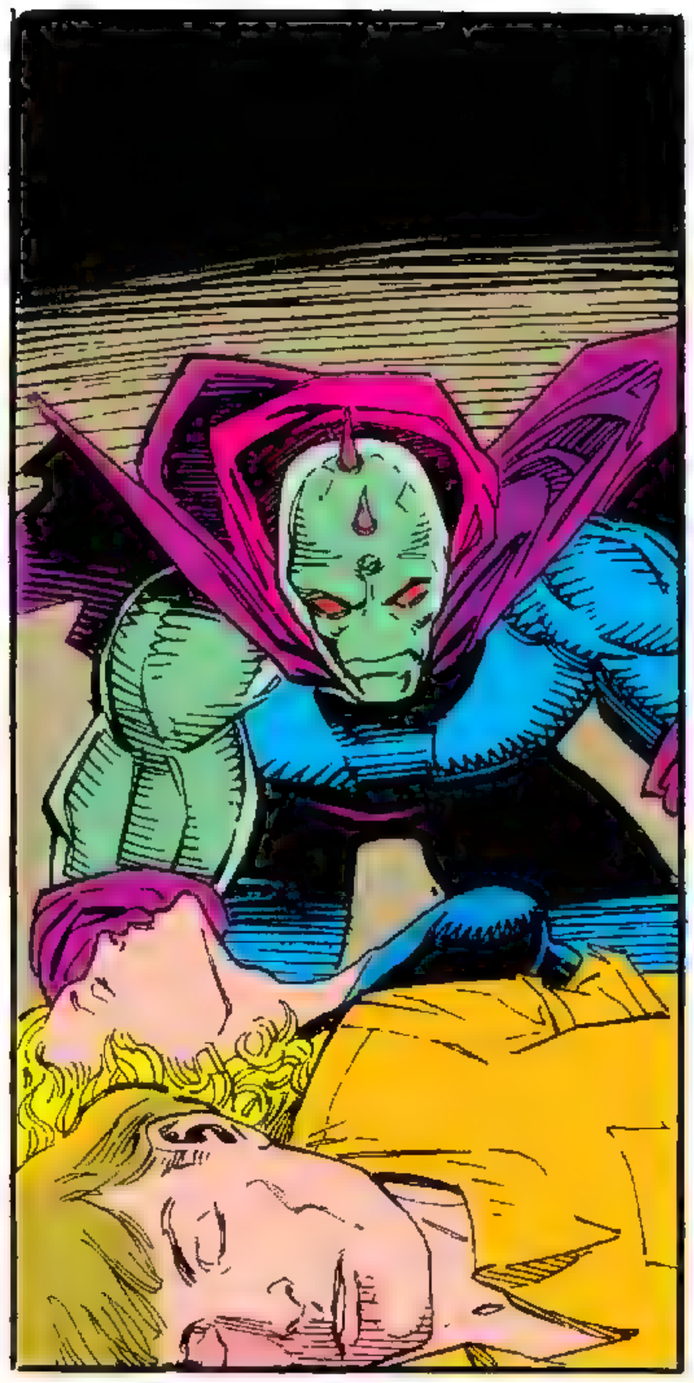
Hmm... APPARENTLY THEIR TRUEST NATURE IS A PILE OF LIFELESS TENTACLES!

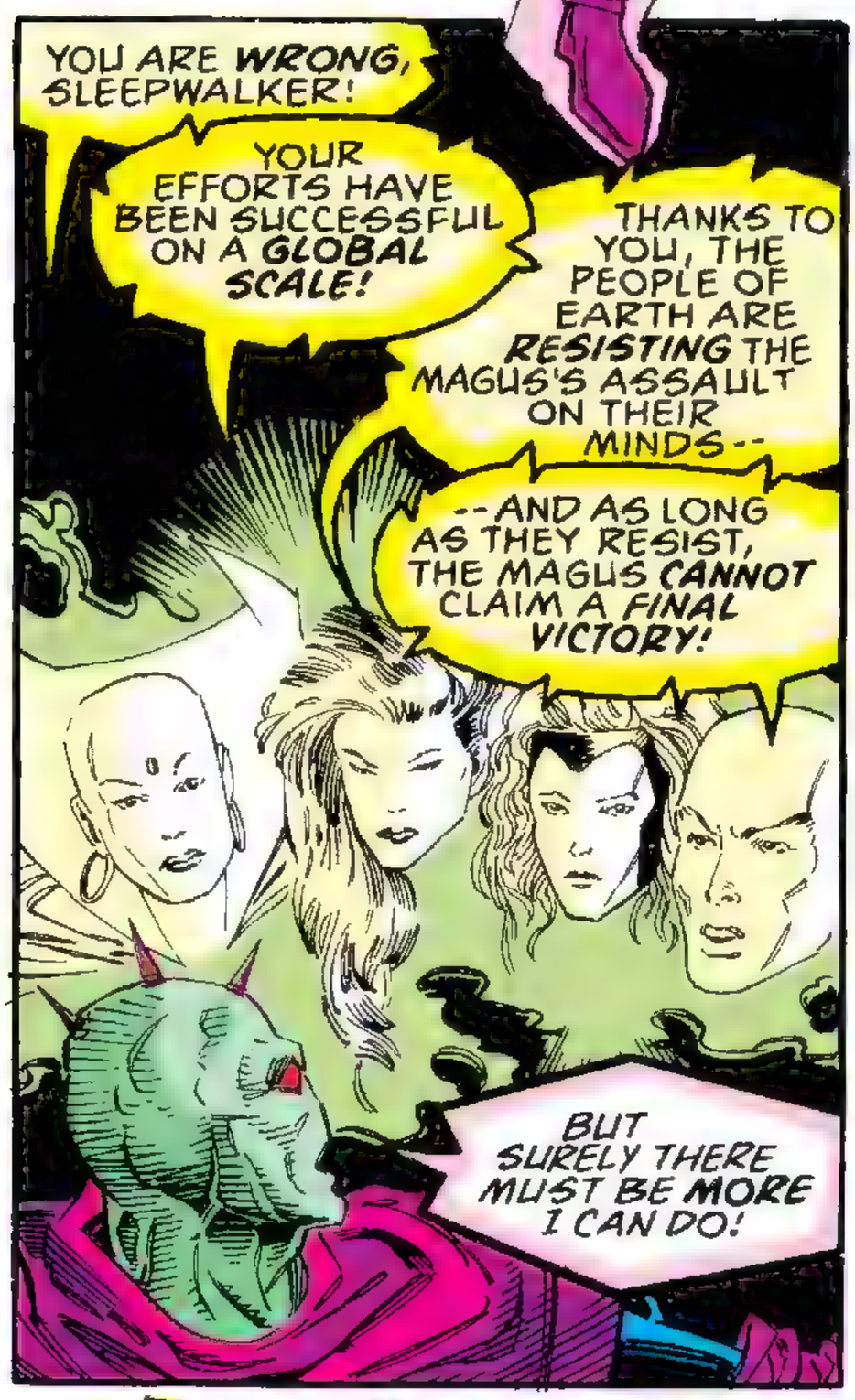
NOW I MAY REVERT TO MY TRUE NATURE...

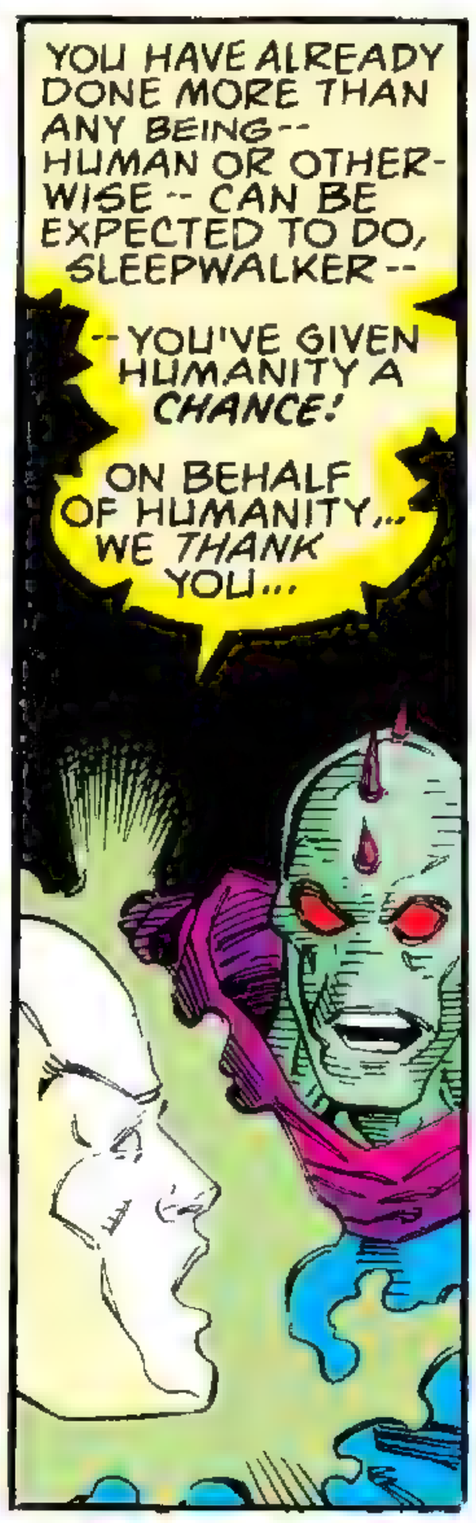
...AND BE RID OF THESE FANGS!

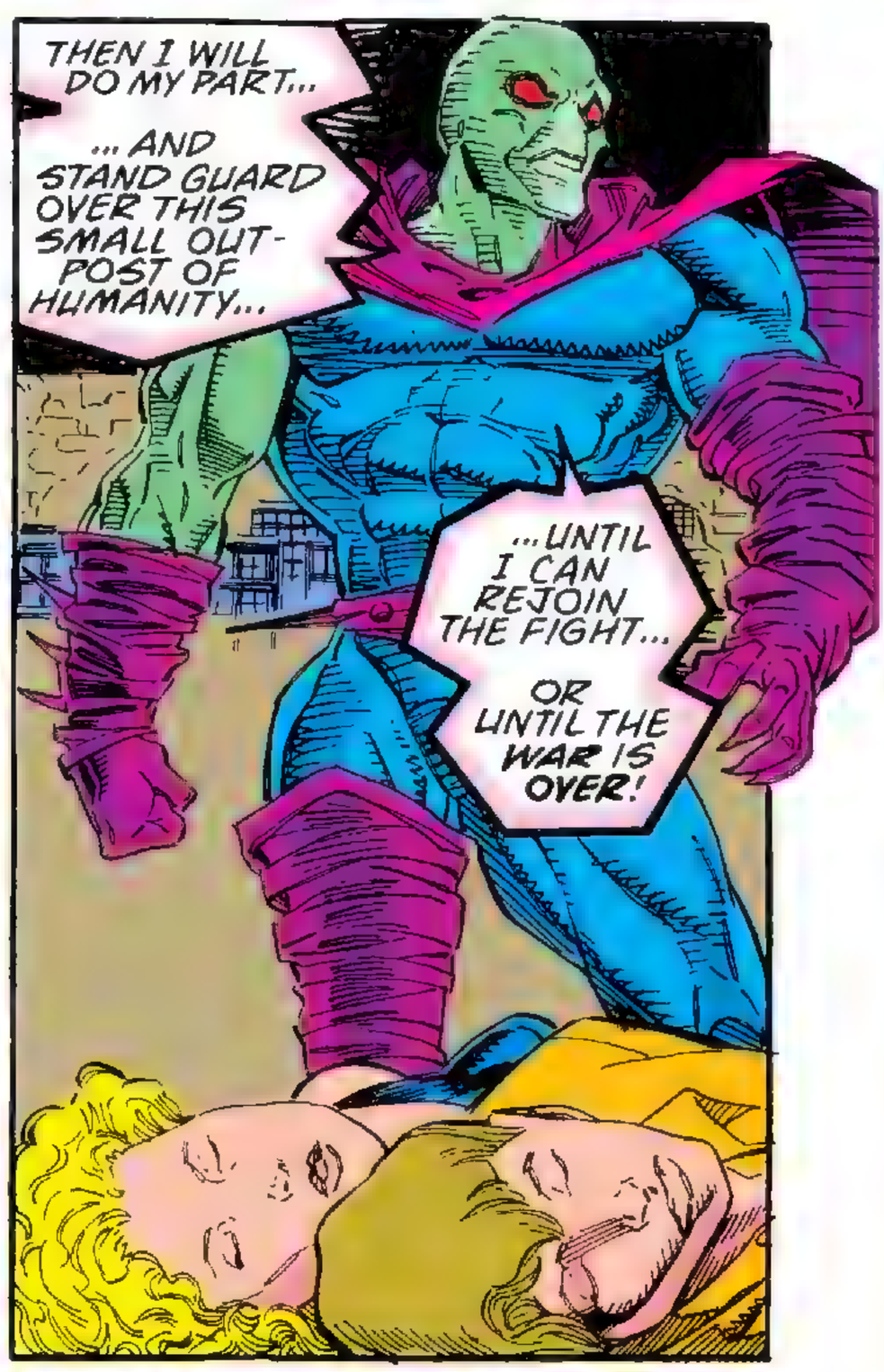
PLOP











NEXT

MINDFIELD!

THE BEGINNING OF A MULTI-PART EPIC THAT PITS SLEEPWALKER AGAINST HIS GREATEST FOES -- 8-BALL! THE CHAIN GANG! COBWEB!

(PLUS – SOME SURPRISES TOO SURPRISING TO MENTION -- DON'T MISS IT!)

***INFINITY WAR #4*, PAGE 38 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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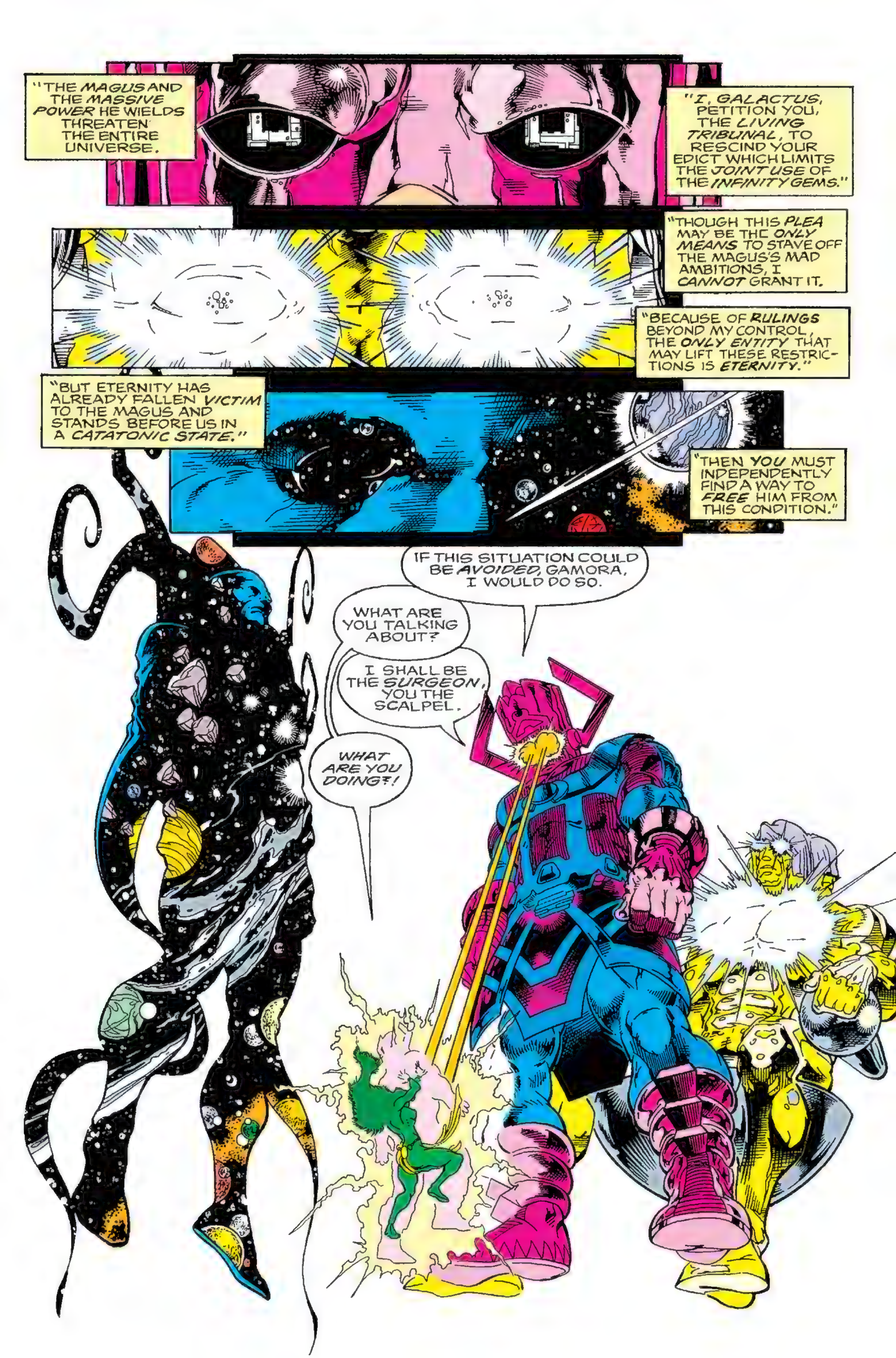
9
OCT

WARLOCK and the INFINITY WATCH™

AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

THANOS™ AND GALACTUS™ TAKE GAMORA™

...FROM HERE TO ETERNITY™!


"THE MAGUS AND THE MASSIVE POWER HE WIELDS THREATEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
"I, GALACTUS, PETITION YOU, THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, TO RESCIND YOUR EDICT WHICH LIMITS THE JOINT USE OF THE INFINITY GEMS."
"THOUGH THIS PLEA MAY BE THE ONLY MEANS TO STAVE OFF THE MAGUS'S MAD AMBITIONS, I CANNOT GRANT IT.
"BECAUSE OF RULINGS BEYOND MY CONTROL, THE ONLY ENTITY THAT MAY LIFT THESE RESTRICTIONS IS ETERNITY."
"BUT ETERNITY HAS ALREADY FALLEN VICTIM TO THE MAGUS AND STANDS BEFORE US IN A CATATONIC STATE."
"THEN YOU MUST INDEPENDENTLY FIND A WAY TO FREE HIM FROM THIS CONDITION."
IF THIS SITUATION COULD BE AVOIDED, GAMORA, I WOULD DO SO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SHALL BE THE SURGEON, YOU THE SCALPEL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THE PAIN OF THE MIND IS WORSE THAN THE PAIN OF THE BODY.
PUBLILIUS SYRUS

OLD WOUNDS

AGAINST MY OWN VOLITION I FLING MYSELF INTO THE COSMOS THAT IS ETERNITY.

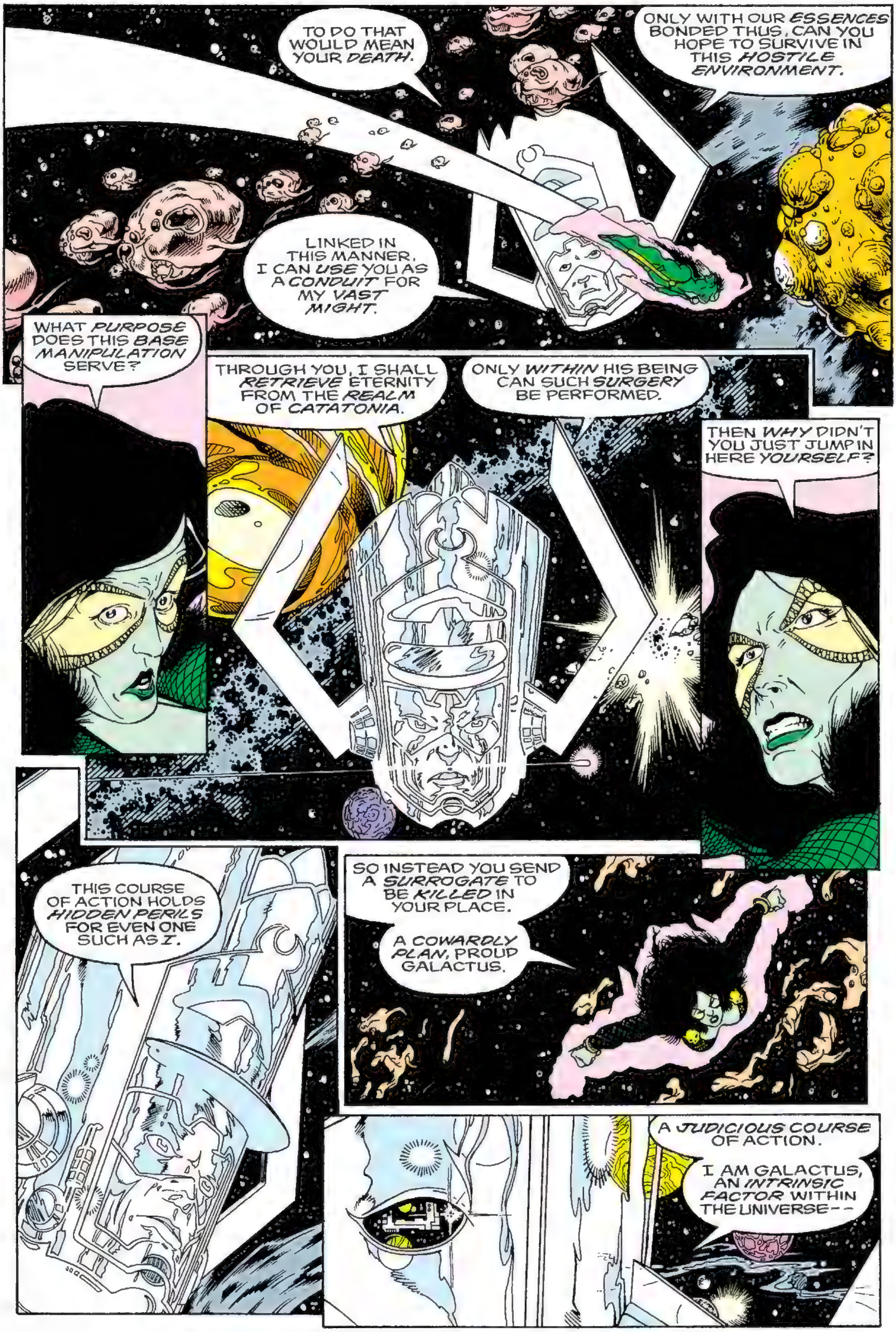
A PUPPET ON A STRING IS ALL I AM.

MY SPIRIT REBELS AGAINST THIS INDIGNITY.

GALACTUS, CURSE YOU; **SET ME FREE!!**

THIS STORY, WHICH TAKES PLACE BETWEEN ISSUES #4&5 OF **THE INFINITY WAR**, IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

JIM STARLIN CREATOR/WRITER • ANGEL MEDINA PENCILER • ROBERT ALMOND INKER • IAN LAUGHLIN COLORIST • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


TO DO THAT WOULD MEAN YOUR DEATH.
ONLY WITH OUR ESSENCES BONDED THUS, CAN YOU HOPE TO SURVIVE IN THIS HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT.
LINKED IN THIS MANNER, I CAN USE YOU AS A CONDUIT FOR MY VAST MIGHT.
WHAT PURPOSE DOES THIS BASE MANIPULATION SERVE?
THROUGH YOU, I SHALL RETRIEVE ETERNITY FROM THE REALM OF CATATONIA.
ONLY WITHIN HIS BEING CAN SUCH SURGERY BE PERFORMED.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST JUMP IN HERE YOURSELF?
THIS COURSE OF ACTION HOLDS HIDDEN PERILS FOR EVEN ONE SUCH AS I.
SO INSTEAD YOU SEND A SURROGATE TO BE KILLED IN YOUR PLACE.
A COWARDLY PLAN, PROUD GALACTUS.
A JUDICIOUS COURSE OF ACTION.
I AM GALACTUS, AN INTRINSIC FACTOR WITHIN THE UNIVERSE--

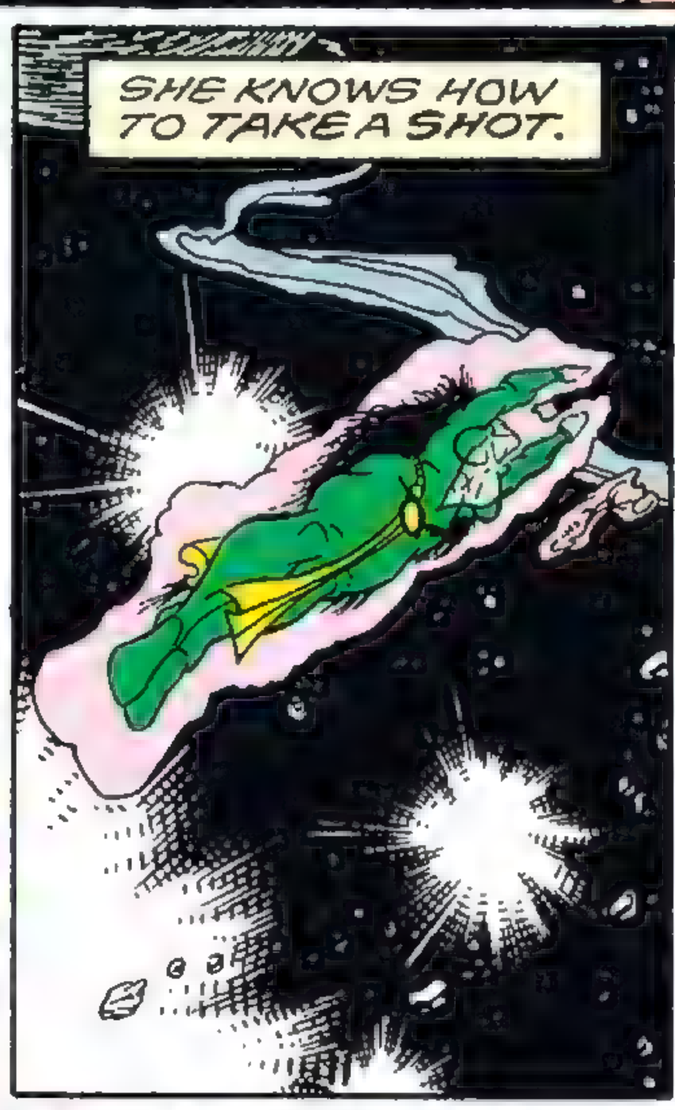
--WHILE YOU ARE A *MERE MORTAL*, WHO WOULD NOT BE *GREATLY MISSED* IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO AWRY.

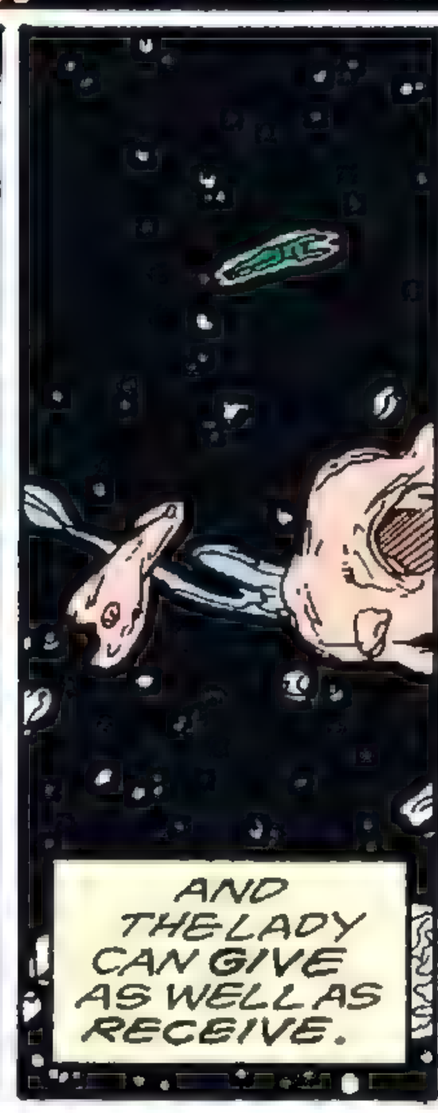
ASTRAL *CANNON FODDER* IN A WAR BETWEEN GOD-LIKE BEINGS, IS THAT IT?

PRECISELY.

OKAY, I GOT THE PICTURE. I'M A REDUNDANT COMPONENT, A PAWN TO BE SACRIFICED.

I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, I CAN HANDLE IT.





THANOS USED ME LONG BEFORE I EVER HEARD OF THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS.

'COURSE THEN IT WAS DIFFERENT. I WAS YOUNG AND DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.

PLUS GALACTUS DOESN'T GIVE A RAT'S BUTT ABOUT ME. WHILE THANOS...

...PROBABLY DID NOT CARE A WHIT EITHER, DESPITE THE FACT HE SAVED MY LIFE AND RAISED ME.

HE HAD HIS REASONS, I'M SURE, ALL OF THEM SELFISH.

PRETTY OBVIOUS FROM THE START HE WAS PREPARING ME TO BE HIS OWN PERSONAL ASTRAL SAMURAI.

BY THE TIME I WAS 15 I COULD TAKE OUT A COMBAT DROID WITHOUT WORKING UP A SWEAT.

STILL THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I FELT THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN JUST THAT.

I KNOW, PROBABLY ONLY FOOLING MYSELF.

STILL REMEMBER THE TIME WE CAME INTO THAT SPACEPORT AT TARTOONLA #7

NO WAY I'LL EVER FORGET THAT DAY.

THANOS HAD PRIVATE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO THERE, SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CUBE HE WAS HUNTING FOR.

HE ORDERED ME TO STAY WITH THE SHIP BECAUSE TARTOONLA #7 WAS NO PLACE FOR A YOUNG LADY TO WANDER AROUND ALONE.

I MEANT TO OBEY THANOS'S ORDER.

I REALLY DID!

BUT THE THING WAS THAT THE SHIP WAS WELL-GUARDED EVEN WITHOUT ME BEING THERE.

I WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH EMERGING INTO WOMANHOOD, AND IT'D BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE I'D BEEN PLANETSIDE.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER CROSSED THANOS.

A GRIEVOUS ERROR.

I FIGURED THE BIG GUY HAD TRAINED ME TO FIGHT LIKE A DOG WARRIOR.

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO TEST THOSE SKILLS THAN IN A HOLE LIKE THIS.

BUT KICKING TAIL WAS THE FURTHEST THING FROM MY MIND ONCE I HIT THOSE STREETS.

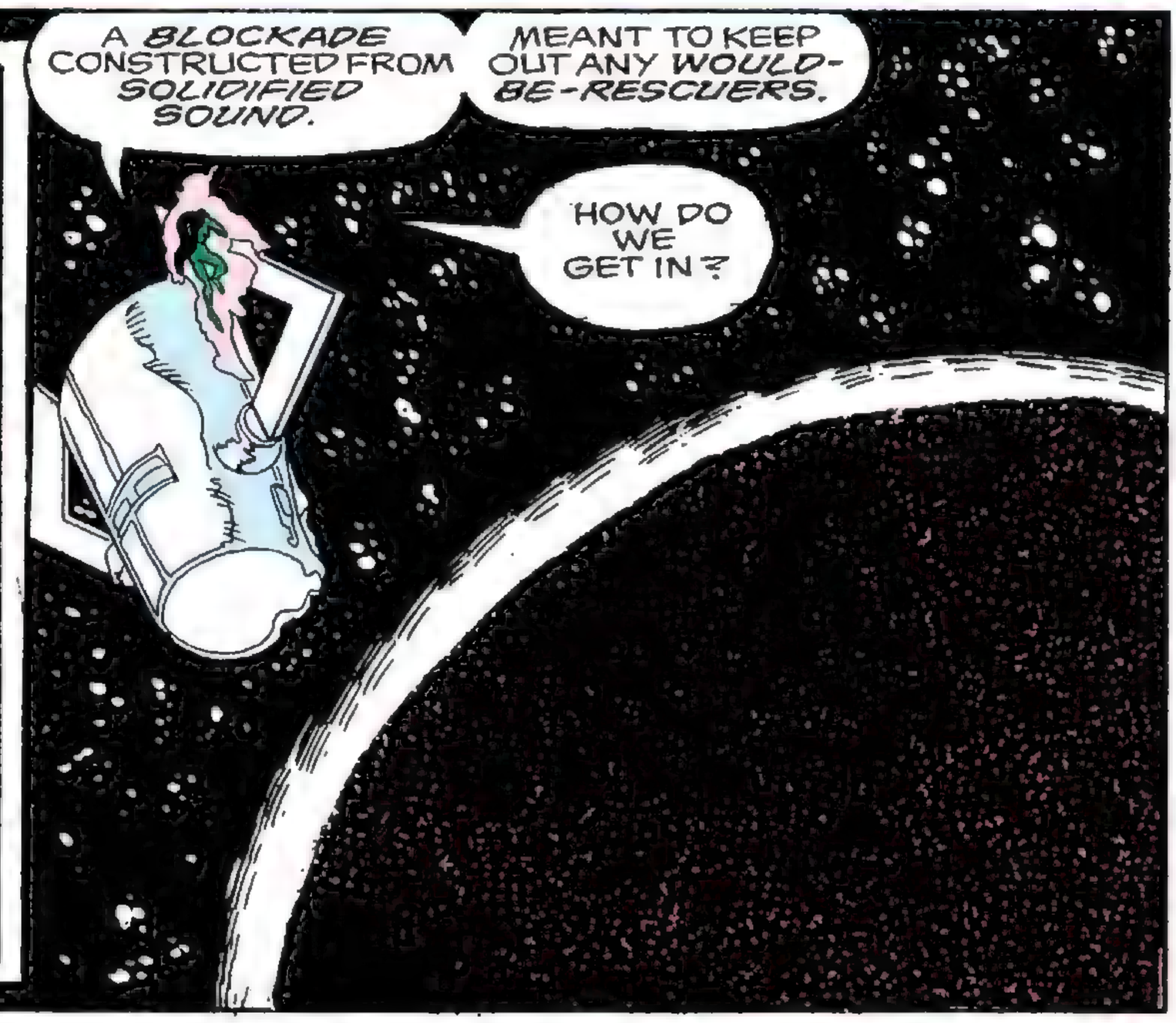
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE AN INTER-GALACTIC PORT.

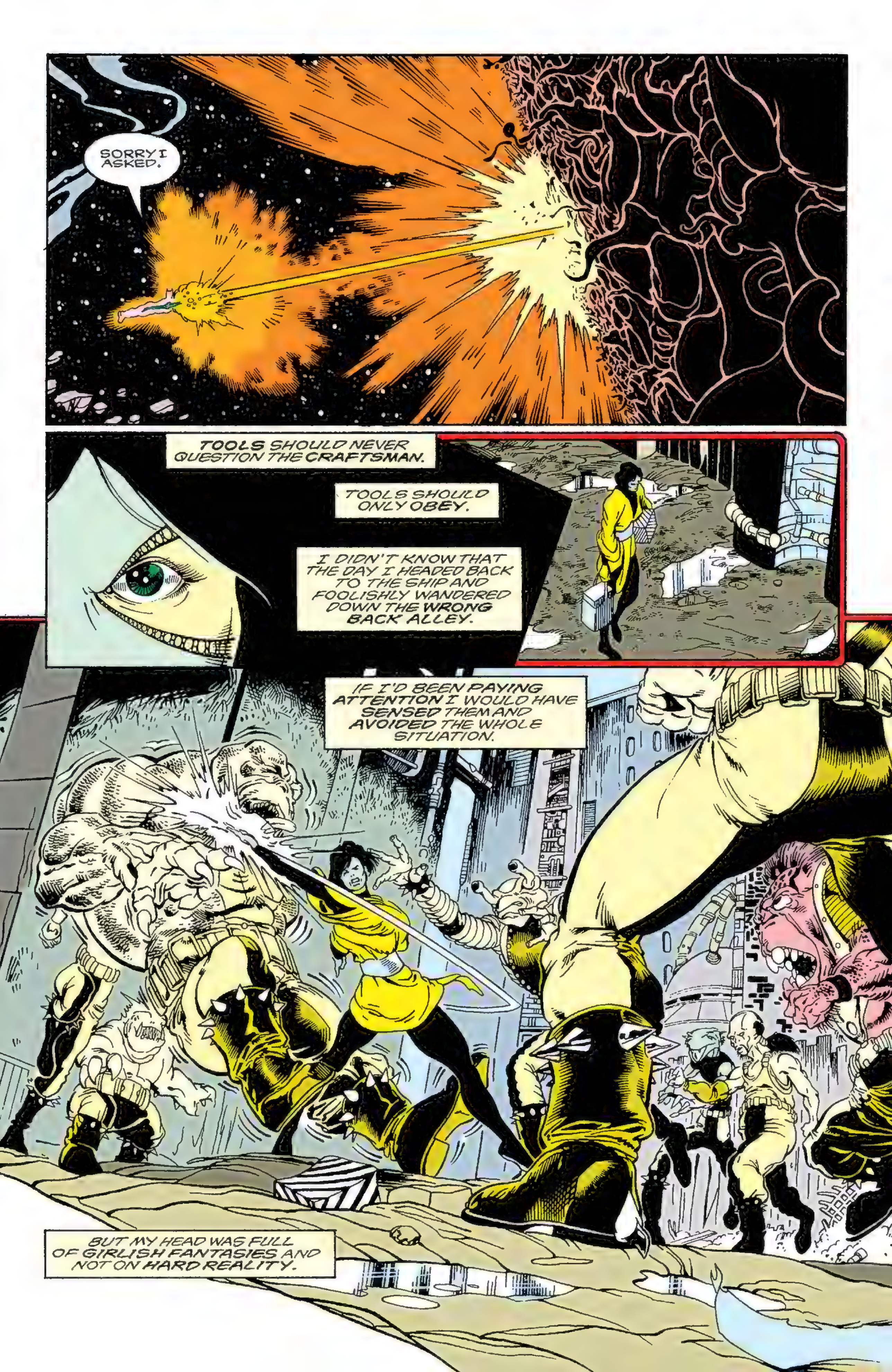
I WAS SPELLBOUND BY THE EXOTIC MIX OF PEOPLE AND TONGUES.

AND BACK THEN I WAS STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE DAZZLED BY FINE SILKS AND BAUBLES.

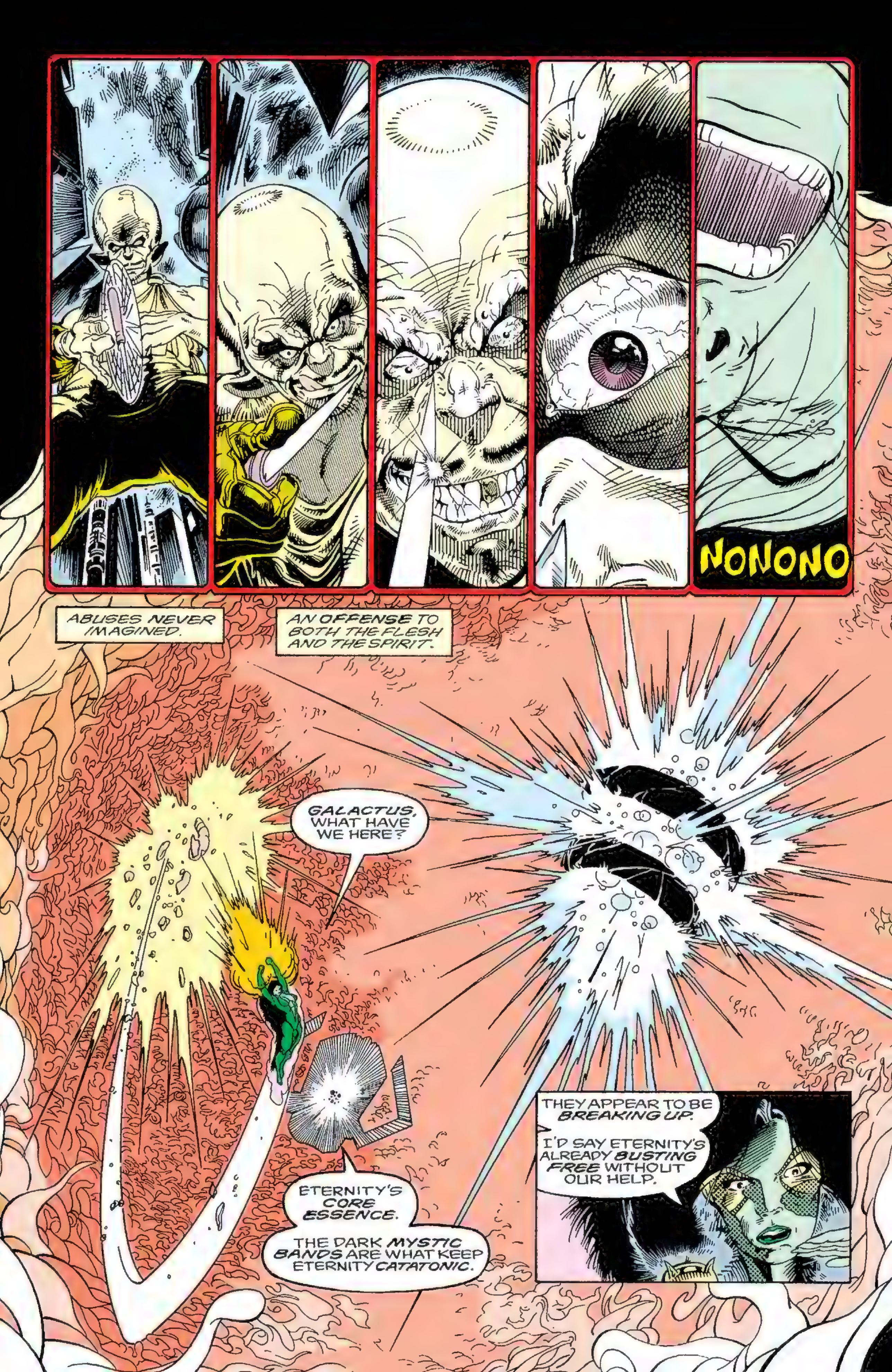
THE GIRL DIVED INTO THE IRRESISTIBLE PLEASURES THE AFTERNOON AFFORDED...

...AND NEVER SENSED THE WOLVES LURKING IN THE SHADOWS.




SORRY I ASKED.
TOOLS SHOULD NEVER QUESTION THE CRAFTSMAN.
TOOLS SHOULD ONLY OBEY.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE DAY I HEADED BACK TO THE SHIP AND FOOLISHLY WANDERED DOWN THE WRONG BACK ALLEY.
IF I'D BEEN PAYING ATTENTION I WOULD HAVE SENSED THEM AND AVOIDED THE WHOLE SITUATION.
BUT MY HEAD WAS FULL OF GIRLISH FANTASIES AND NOT ON HARD REALITY.

LONG HOURS OF TRAINING KICKED IN AND I WAS ABLE TO AT LEAST TAKE A FEW OF THEM DOWN, BEFORE...
...THE WEIGHT OF SHEER NUMBERS OVERWHELMED ME.
BUT EVEN THEN I HAD NO IDEA HOW BAD MY CIRCUMSTANCES WERE.
I HOPED BRAVADO WOULD WIN OUT WHERE SKILL FAILED.
YOU LUGHEADS HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH, DO YOU?!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US, GIRL!
I'M THE WARD OF THANOS OF TITAN!
WHO?
LET ME LOOSE!
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!
I'LL BE DIPPED IF YOU AIN'T SCARING ME TO DEATH, CUTEY.
I...I...I'M...
NOTHING, HEAR ME?
LESS THAN NOTHING.


NONONO
ABUSES NEVER IMAGINED.
AN OFFENSE TO BOTH THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT.
GALACTUS, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
ETERNITY'S CORE ESSENCE.
THE DARK MYSTIC BANDS ARE WHAT KEEP ETERNITY CATATONIC.
THEY APPEAR TO BE BREAKING UP.
I'D SAY ETERNITY'S ALREADY BUSTING FREE WITHOUT OUR HELP.

AS WOULD BE EXPECTED. BUT WE *DARE NOT* WAIT FOR HIS *INEVITABLE TRIUMPH.*

I SENSE *EVERY MOMENT* IS *PRECIOUS* IN THIS ENDEAVOR WE ARE ABOUT.

WE MUST FREE ETERNITY NOW!

IT CAME BACK TO ME SLOWLY.

AND QUITE PAINFULLY.

THERE WAS NO WAY TO AVOID IT.

EXCEPT PERHAPS THROUGH DEATH.

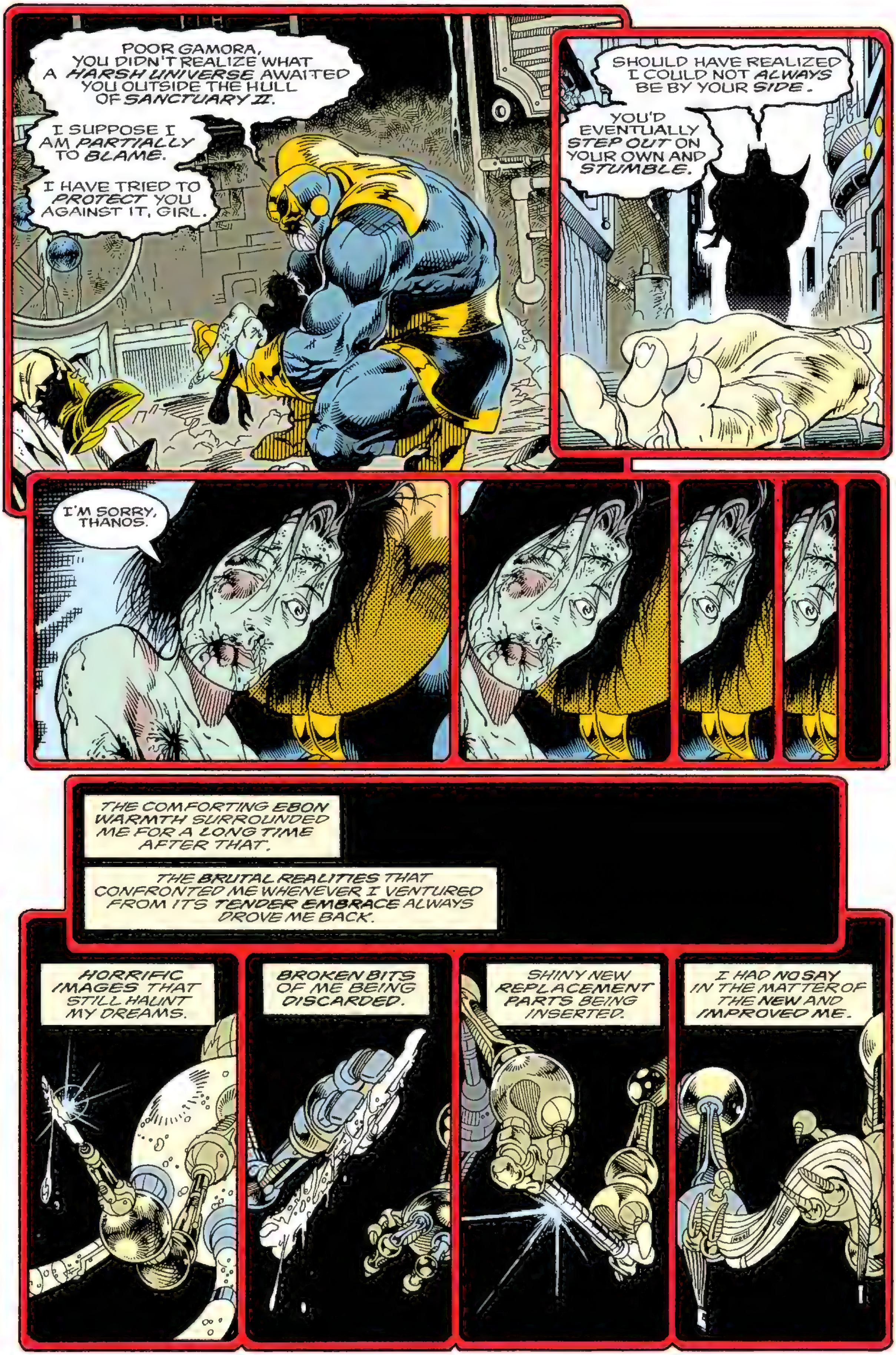
BUT I WASN'T QUITE READY FOR THAT.

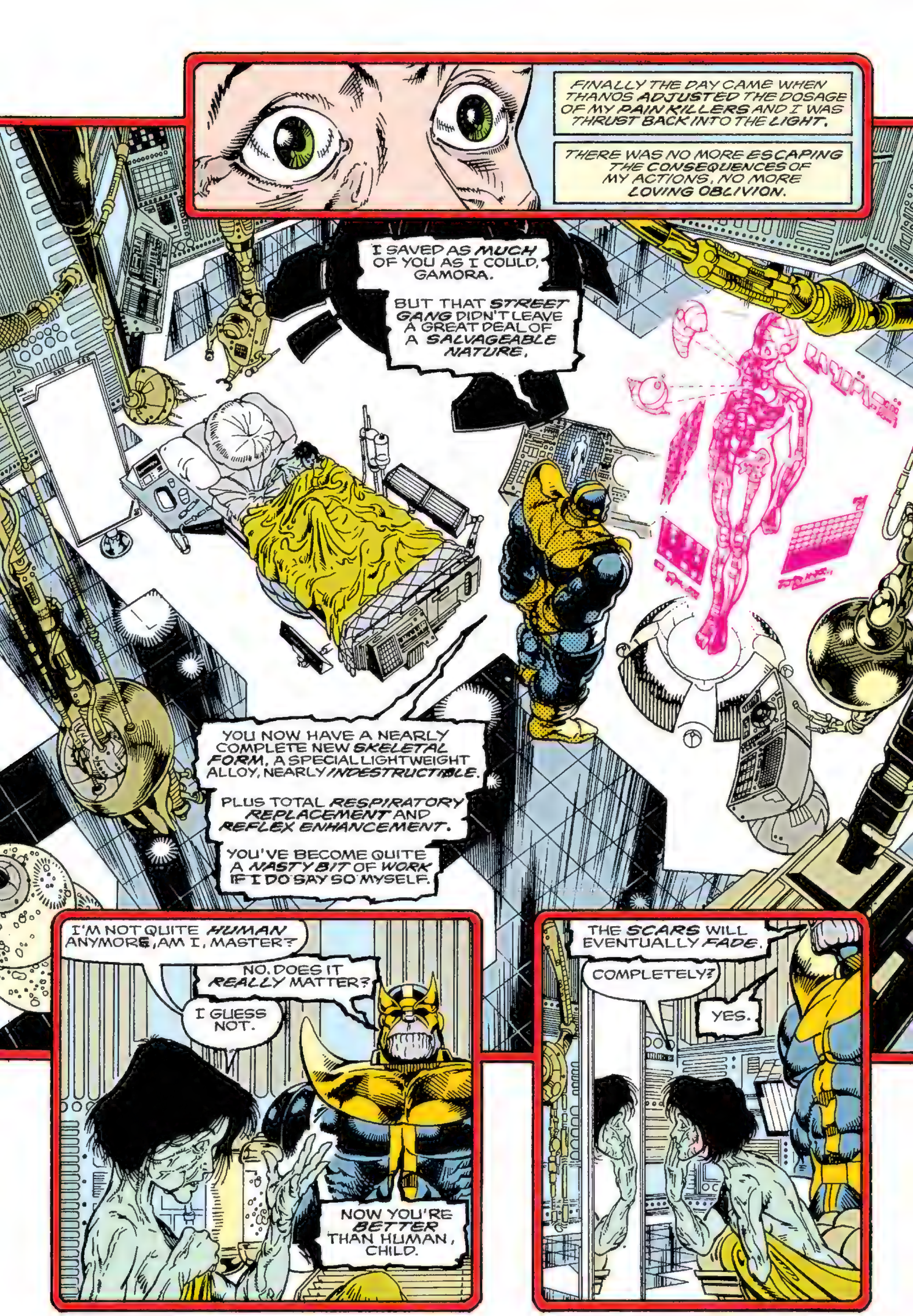
DIDN'T NEED THE OUT. MY PRINCE FINALLY ARRIVED TO SAVE THE DAY.

LASS, *WHY* DIDN'T YOU HEED MY *WARNING?*

NOW *LOOK* AT YOU.

SUCH A *FOOLISH CHILD.*


POOR GAMORA, YOU DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT A HARSH UNIVERSE AWAITED YOU OUTSIDE THE HULL OF SANCTUARY II.
I SUPPOSE I AM PARTIALLY TO BLAME.
I HAVE TRIED TO PROTECT YOU AGAINST IT, GIRL.
SHOULD HAVE REALIZED I COULD NOT ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
YOU'D EVENTUALLY STEP OUT ON YOUR OWN AND STUMBLE.
I'M SORRY, THANOS.
THE COMFORTING EBON WARMTH SURROUNDED ME FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT.
THE BRUTAL REALITIES THAT CONFRONTED ME WHENEVER I VENTURED FROM ITS TENDER EMBRACE ALWAYS DROVE ME BACK.
HORRIFIC IMAGES THAT STILL HAUNT MY DREAMS.
BROKEN BITS OF ME BEING DISCARDED.
SHINY NEW REPLACEMENT PARTS BEING INSERTED.
I HAD NO SAY IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW AND IMPROVED ME.


FINALLY THE DAY CAME WHEN THANOS ADJUSTED THE DOSAGE OF MY PAIN KILLERS AND I WAS THRUST BACK INTO THE LIGHT.
THERE WAS NO MORE ESCAPING THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS, NO MORE LOVING OBLIVION.
I SAVED AS MUCH OF YOU AS I COULD, GAMORA.
BUT THAT STREET GANG DIDN'T LEAVE A GREAT DEAL OF A SALVAGEABLE NATURE.
YOU NOW HAVE A NEARLY COMPLETE NEW SKELETAL FORM, A SPECIAL LIGHTWEIGHT ALLOY, NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE.
PLUS TOTAL RESPIRATORY REPLACEMENT AND REFLEX ENHANCEMENT.
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE A NASTY BIT OF WORK IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
I'M NOT QUITE HUMAN ANYMORE, AM I, MASTER?
NO. DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
I GUESS NOT.
NOW YOU'RE BETTER THAN HUMAN, CHILD.
THE SCARS WILL EVENTUALLY FADE.
COMPLETELY?
YES.

NOT THAT IT REALLY MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE.
NONE OF THE PAST OR ANYTHING ELSE REALLY MATTERS DOES IT?
I MEAN, WHAT DID BEING HUMAN EVER ACTUALLY GET ME?
IT ONLY GAVE ME THE PAIN OF WATCHING MY FAMILY AND ALL MY KIND DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE BADOONS.
MERELY GAVE ME LONG HOURS OF LONELINESS AND TEARS.
NO MORE TEARS.
I REROUTED THOSE DUCTS.
I'M BETTER OFF LIKE THIS.
YOU'VE LEARNT A VALUABLE LESSON THIS DAY, LASS.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.
NOW REST.
GROW STRONG.

I WOULD, ONLY AFTER A LONG, SLEEPLESS NIGHT OF UNREALIZED TEARS.

AS THE SHIP'S ARTIFICIAL DAWN GREETED ME, I MADE A VOW.

I SWORE I WOULD NEVER AGAIN ALLOW ANYONE TO USE OR ABUSE ME.

A PROMISE I KEPT UNTIL NOW, UNTIL I BECAME GALACTUS'S PUPPET SAVIOR.

HIS GOOD INTENTIONS MATTER NOT TO ME.

THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IS STILL A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW.

I FIND NO SOLACE IN EVEN RESCUING ETERNITY.

BUT THEN TO MY UTTER SHOCK I DISCOVER THAT IT IS NOT A SOLE ENTITY GALACTUS AND I REVIVE.
WITH ETERNITY, THAT'S INFINITY!!
OF COURSE, WOMAN. ARE THEY NOT BUT DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN?
THAT'S WHY QUASAR COULDN'T LOCATE HER.

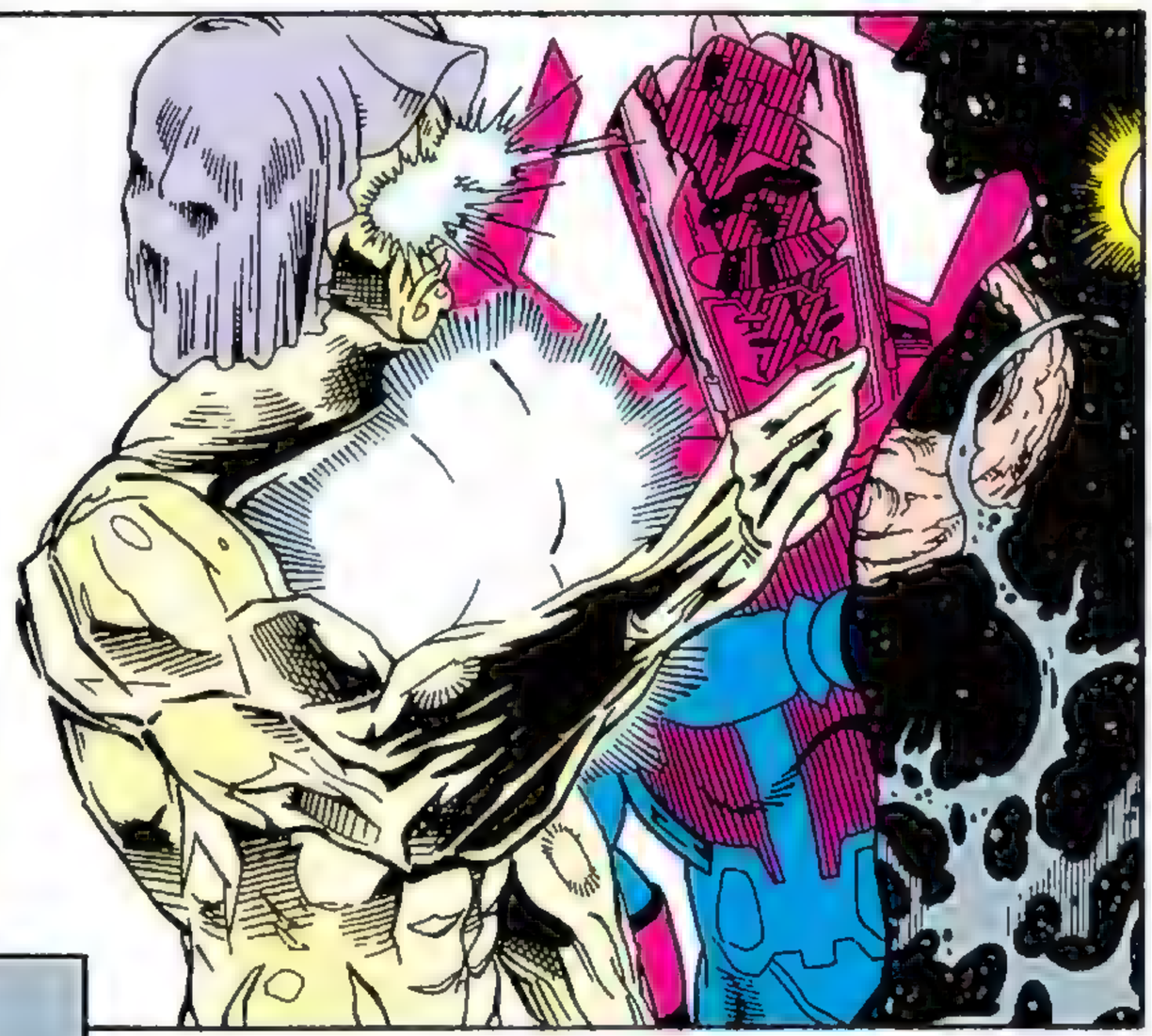
BUT NONE OF THAT MEANS *ANYTHING* RIGHT NOW!
GALACTUS, YOU'VE HAD YOUR *WAY* WITH ME. NOW I *DEMAND* THAT--
TOGETHER, SO BEAUTIFUL.
SO MUCH IN THE COSMOS I'LL NEVER GRASP. SO MUCH...
I NEVER REALIZED.
AN UNDERSTANDABLE CONDITION. AFTER ALL, YOU ARE BUT A MORTAL.
WHAT?!

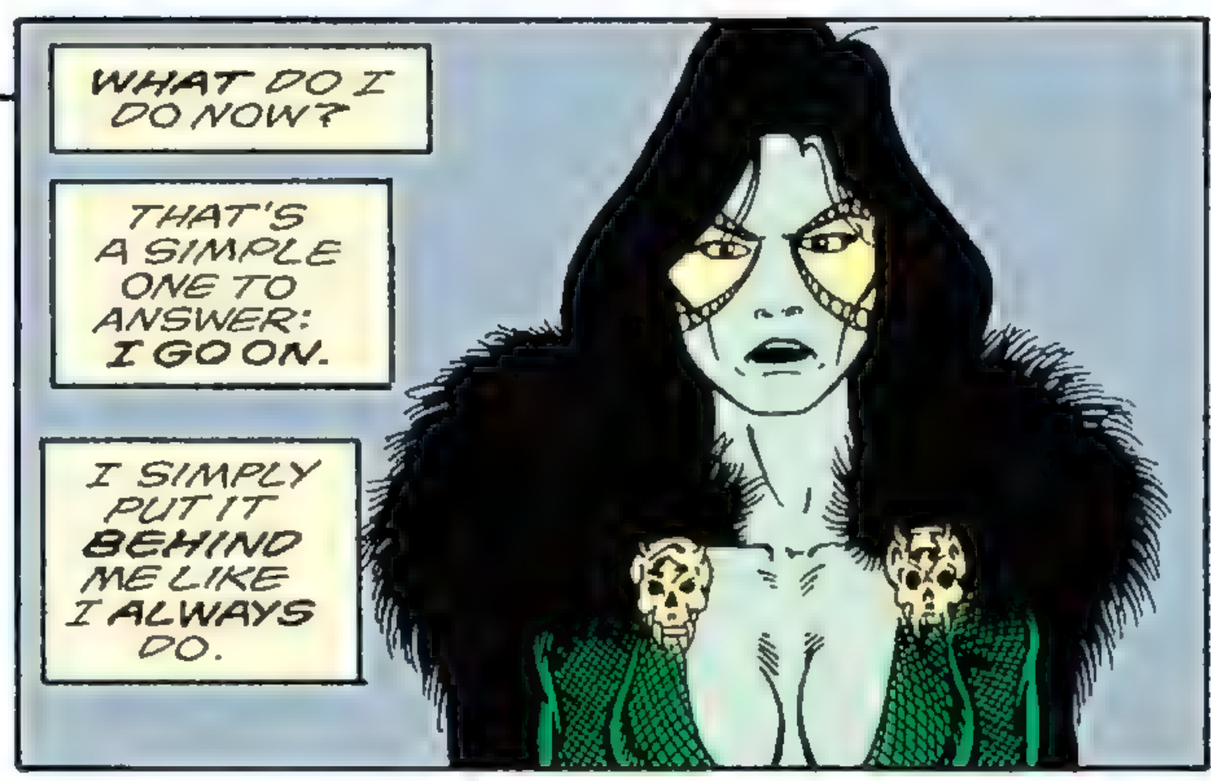
THE WOMAN WARRIOR HAS SUCCEEDED IN HER QUEST.
BLAST YOU, GALACTUS!
YOU USED ME!
AS I WOULD ANYONE IN ORDER TO SAVE MY REALITY.
SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS HUMILIATION.
I SWEAR I WILL.
YOUR BRUISED EGO IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT.
ETERNITY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
DISMISSED. NO LONGER A CONCERN TO THE GODS.

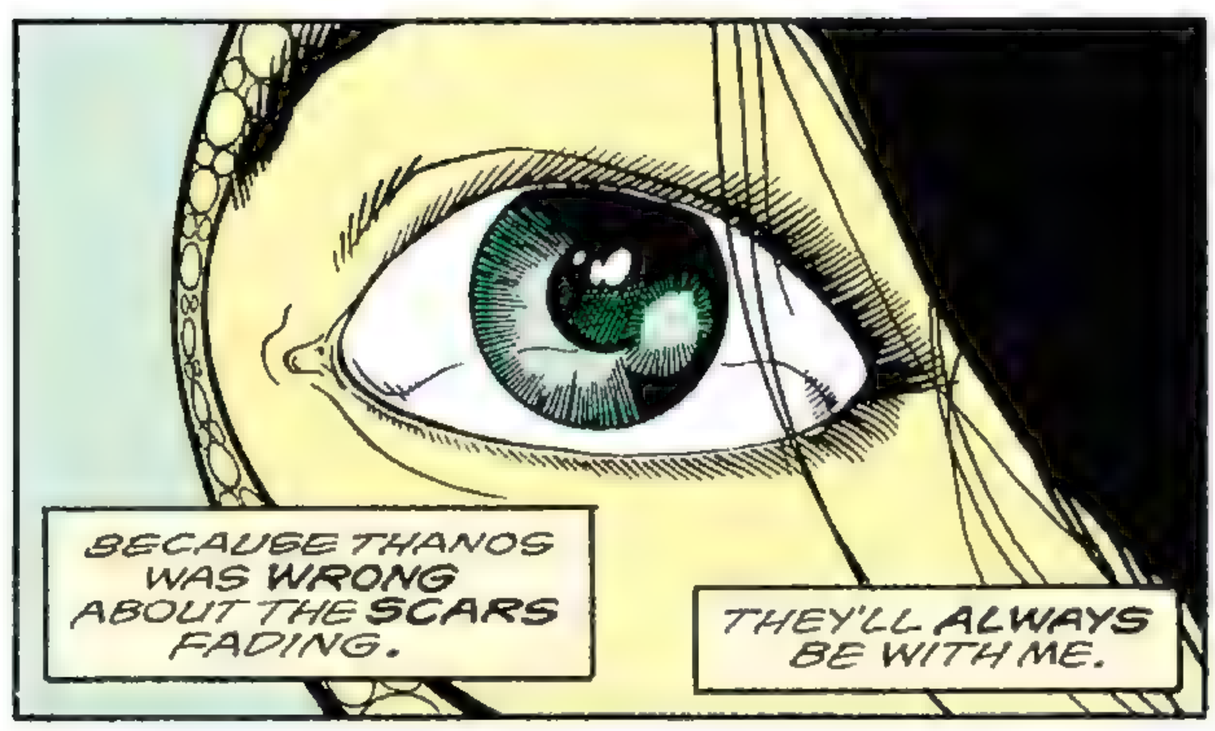
TIME MARCHES ON AND ONE MUST GARNER WHATEVER **SOLACE** POSSIBLE.

MY SACRIFICE MAY WELL HELP **SAVE** THE UNIVERSE FROM THE MAGUS'S VILE INSANITY.

SO SOMEONE PLEASE **EXPLAIN** TO ME WHY I FEEL SO **DIRTY** AND **RUMPLED.**

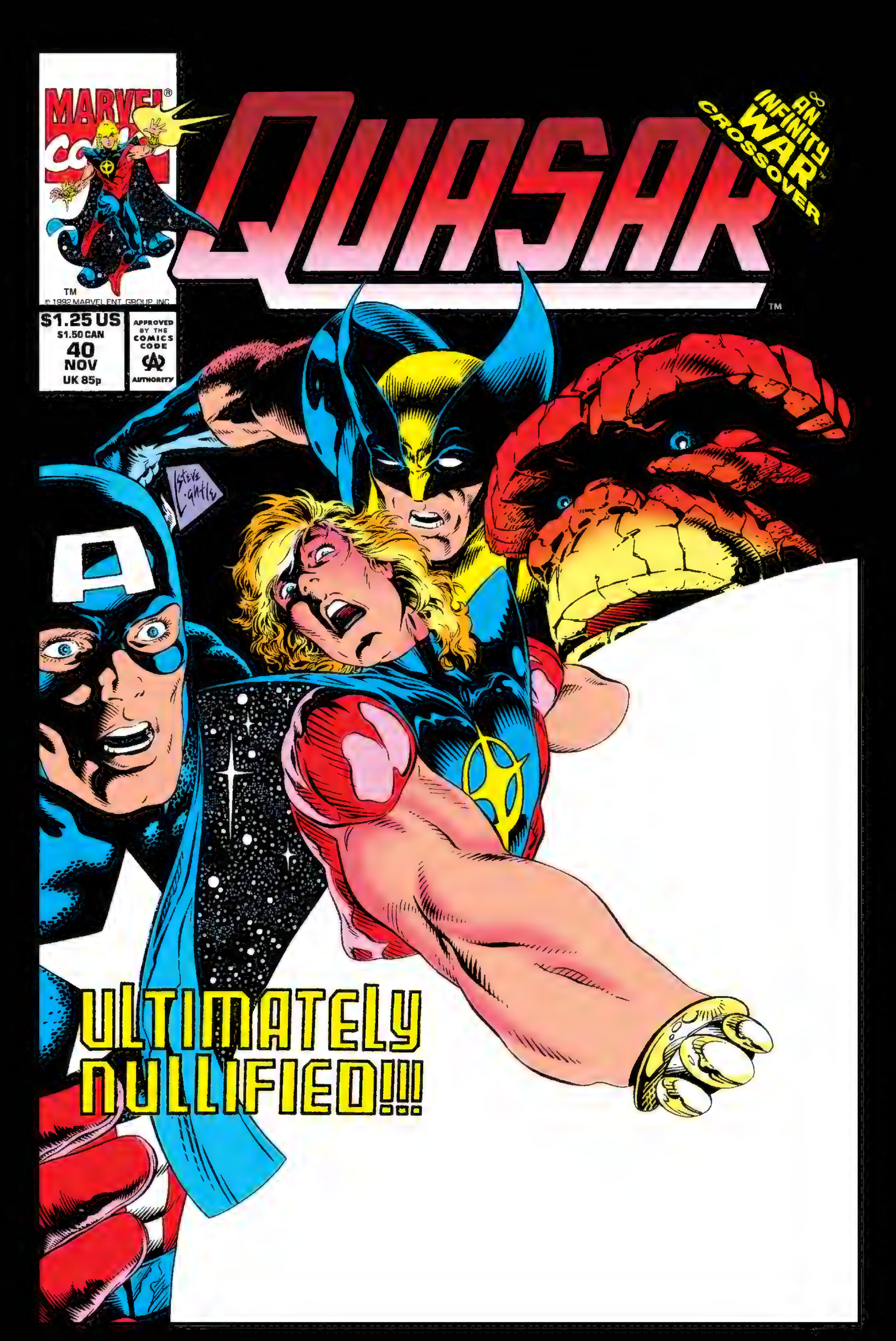






SOME OLD WOUNDS **NEVER** QUITE HEAL

NEXT WEEK: ***INFINITY WAR #5!*** NEXT MONTH: ***THANOS*** VERSUS ***THANOS!***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AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
Steve Lightle
ULTIMATELY NULLIFIED!!!

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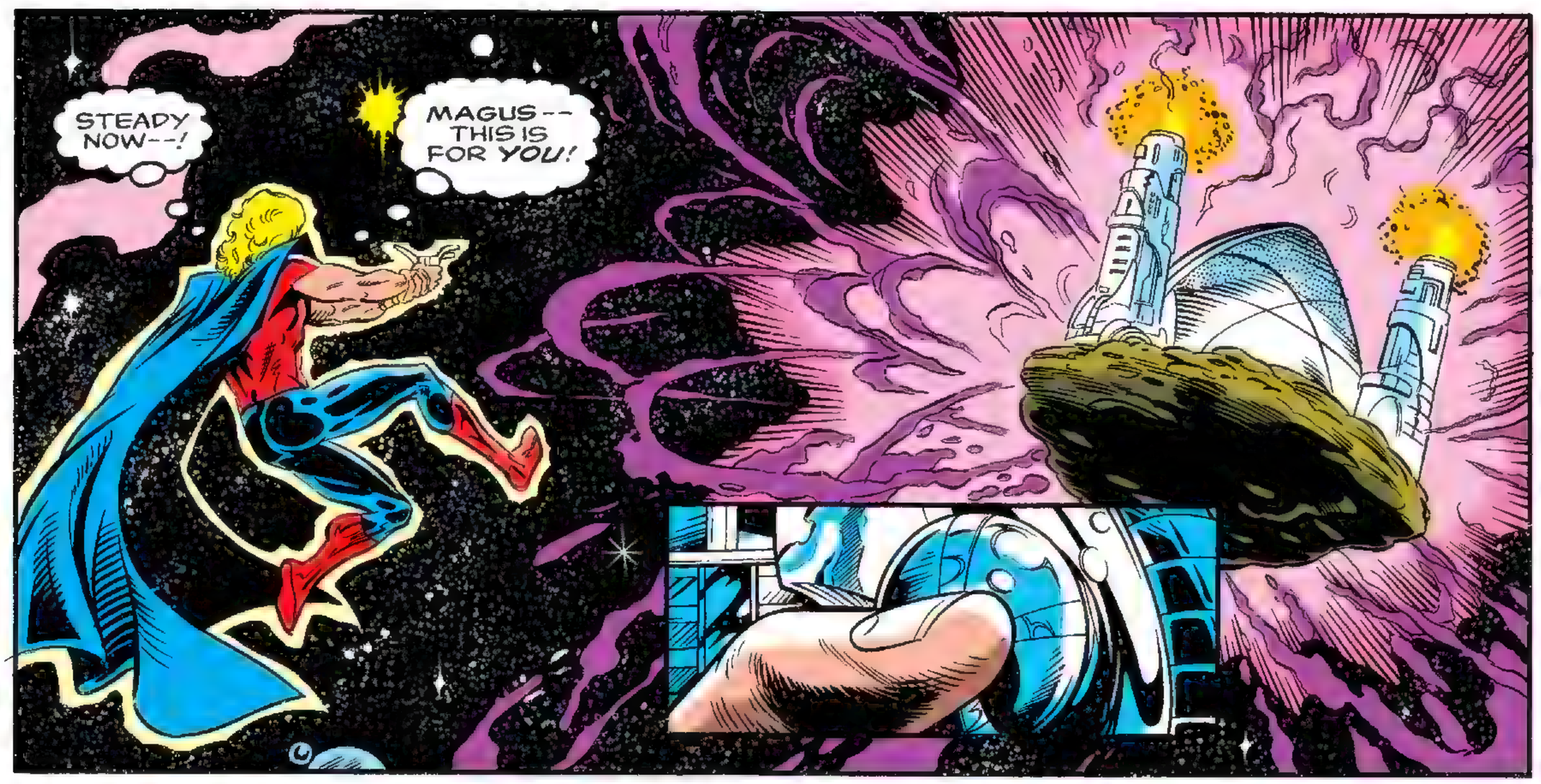
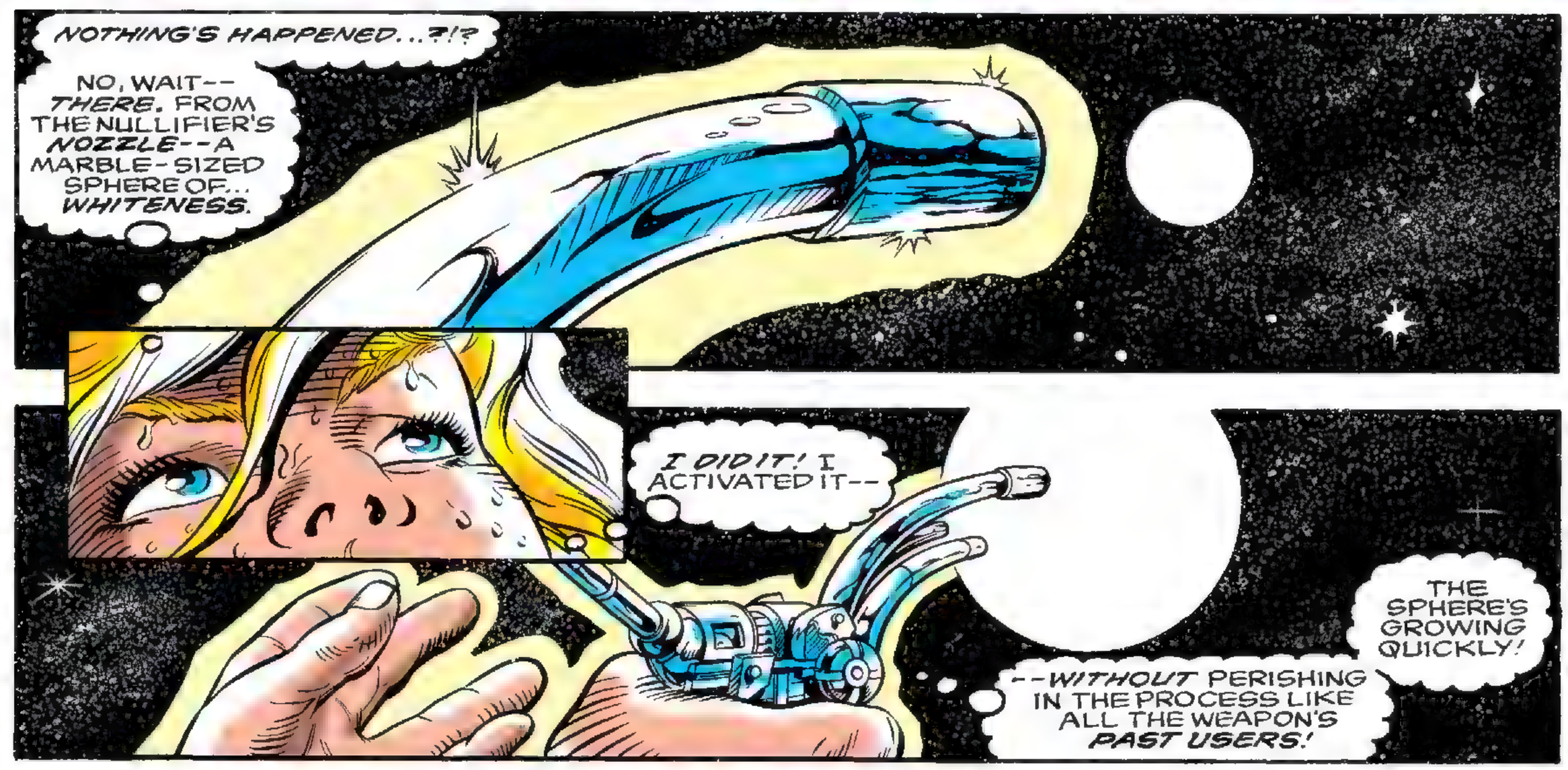
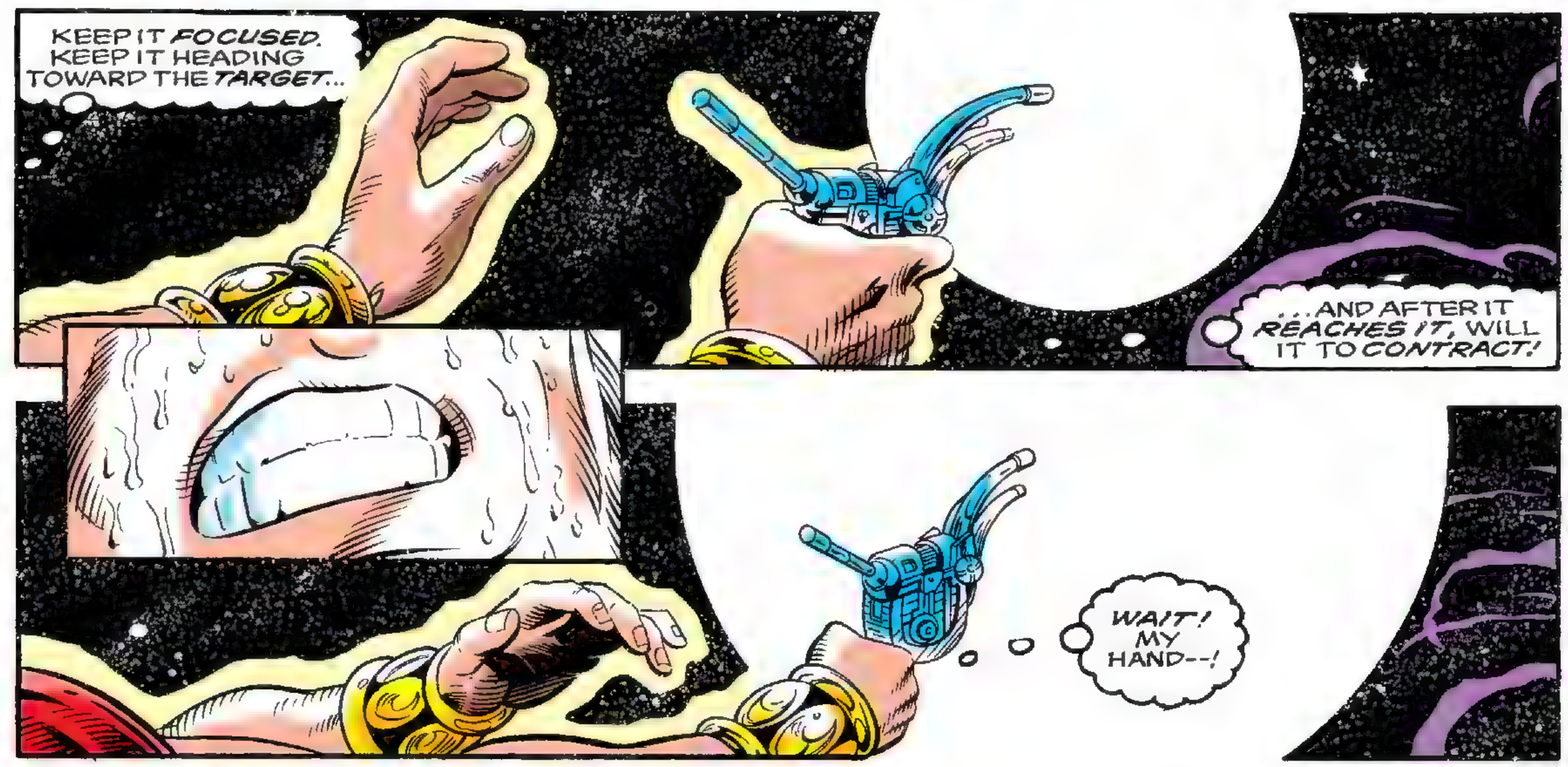
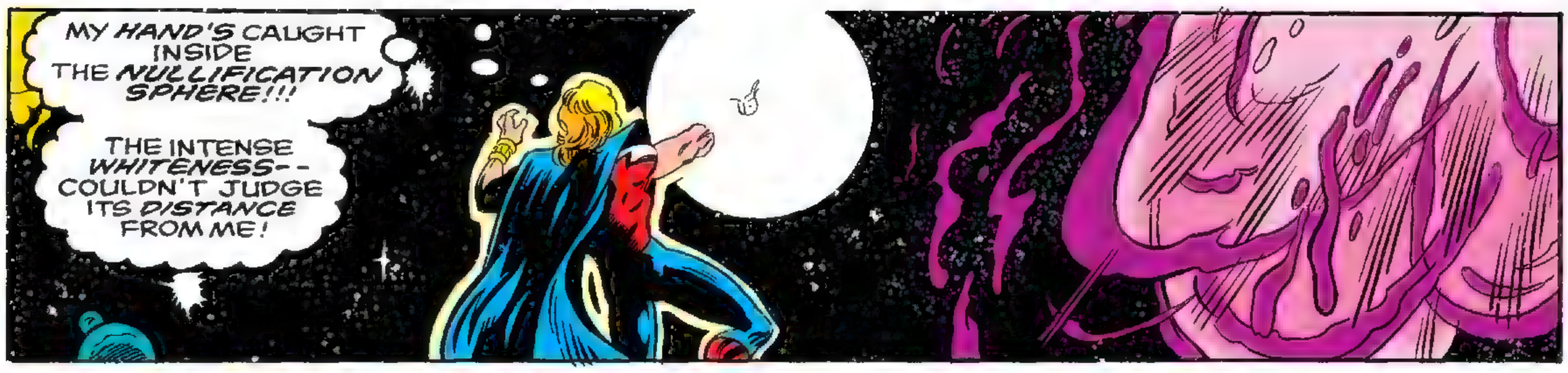
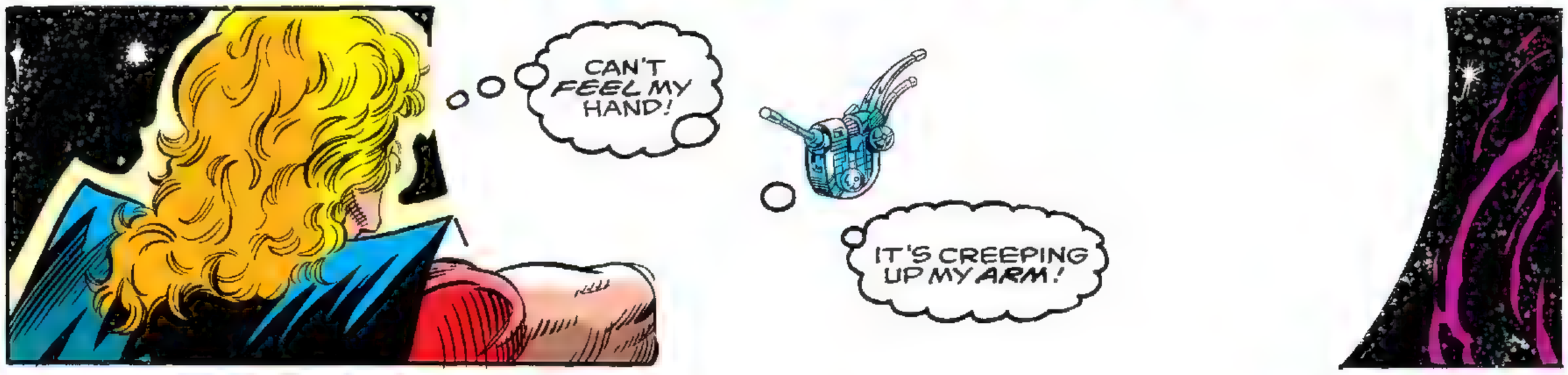
STEVE LIGHTLE & ANDY SMITH PENCILERS
MARK McKENNA & RALPH CABRERA INKERS
JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
PAUL BECTON COLORIST
KELLY CORVESE EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

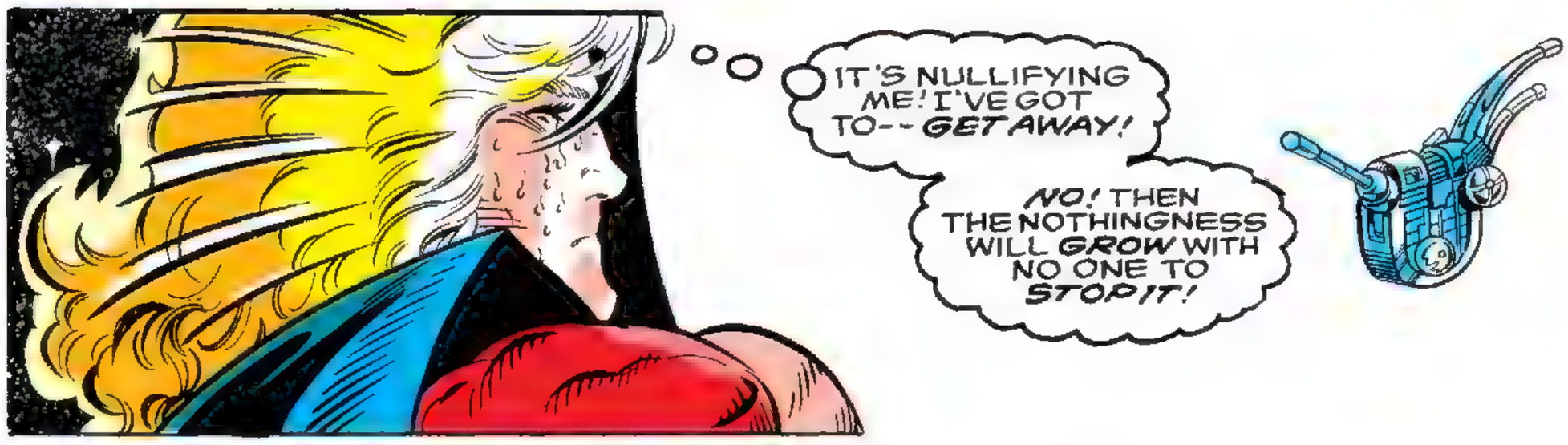

STEADY NOW--!
MAGUS-- THIS IS FOR YOU!


NOTHING'S HAPPENED...?!?
NO, WAIT-- THERE. FROM THE NULLIFIER'S NOZZLE--A MARBLE-SIZED SPHERE OF... WHITENESS.
I DID IT! I ACTIVATED IT--
--WITHOUT PERISHING IN THE PROCESS LIKE ALL THE WEAPON'S PAST USERS!
THE SPHERE'S GROWING QUICKLY!


KEEP IT FOCUSED. KEEP IT HEADING TOWARD THE TARGET...
...AND AFTER IT REACHES IT, WILL IT TO CONTRACT!
WAIT! MY HAND--!

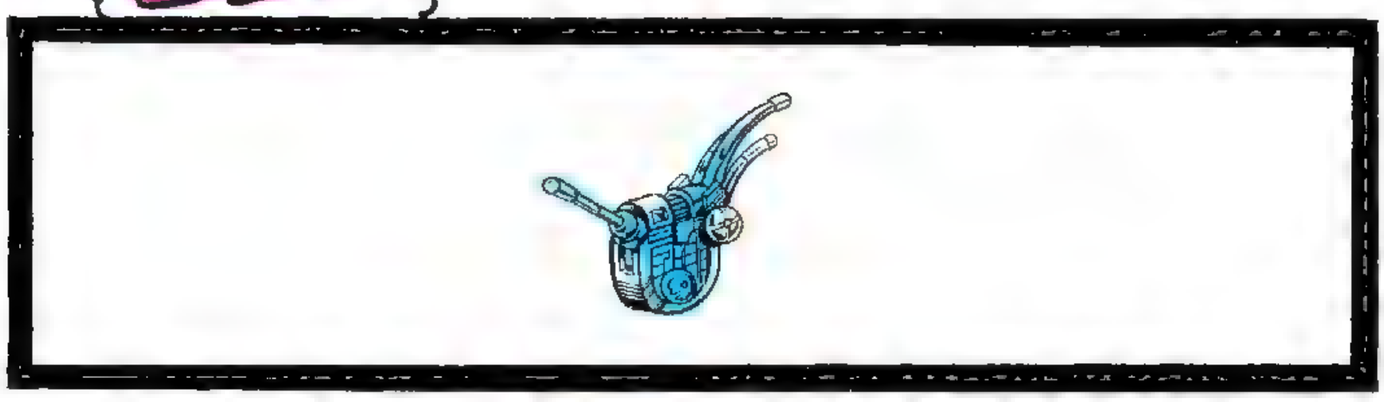

MY HAND'S CAUGHT INSIDE THE NULLIFICATION SPHERE!!!
THE INTENSE WHITENESS-- COULDN'T JUDGE ITS DISTANCE FROM ME!

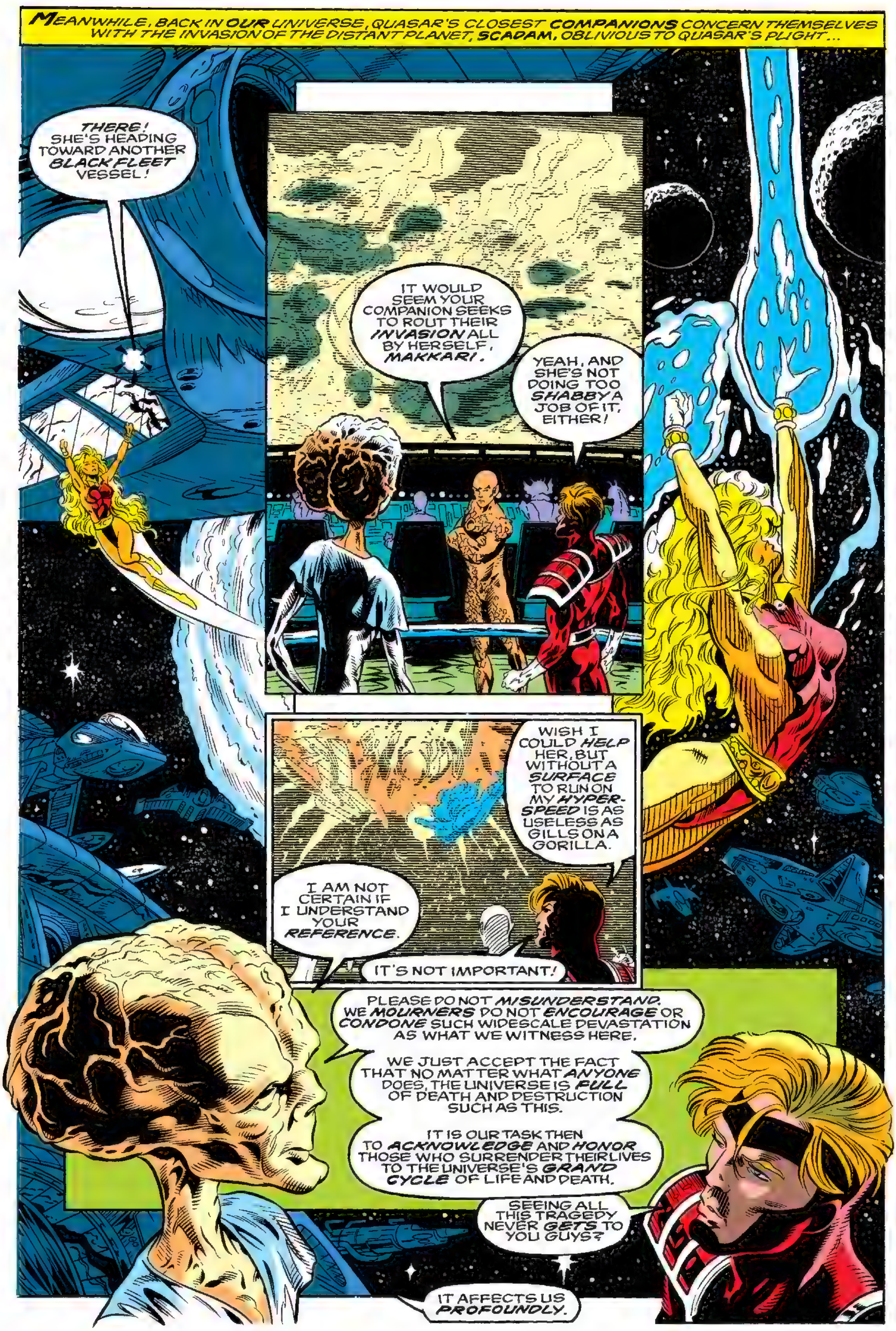

CAN'T FEEL MY HAND!
IT'S CREEPING UP MY ARM!

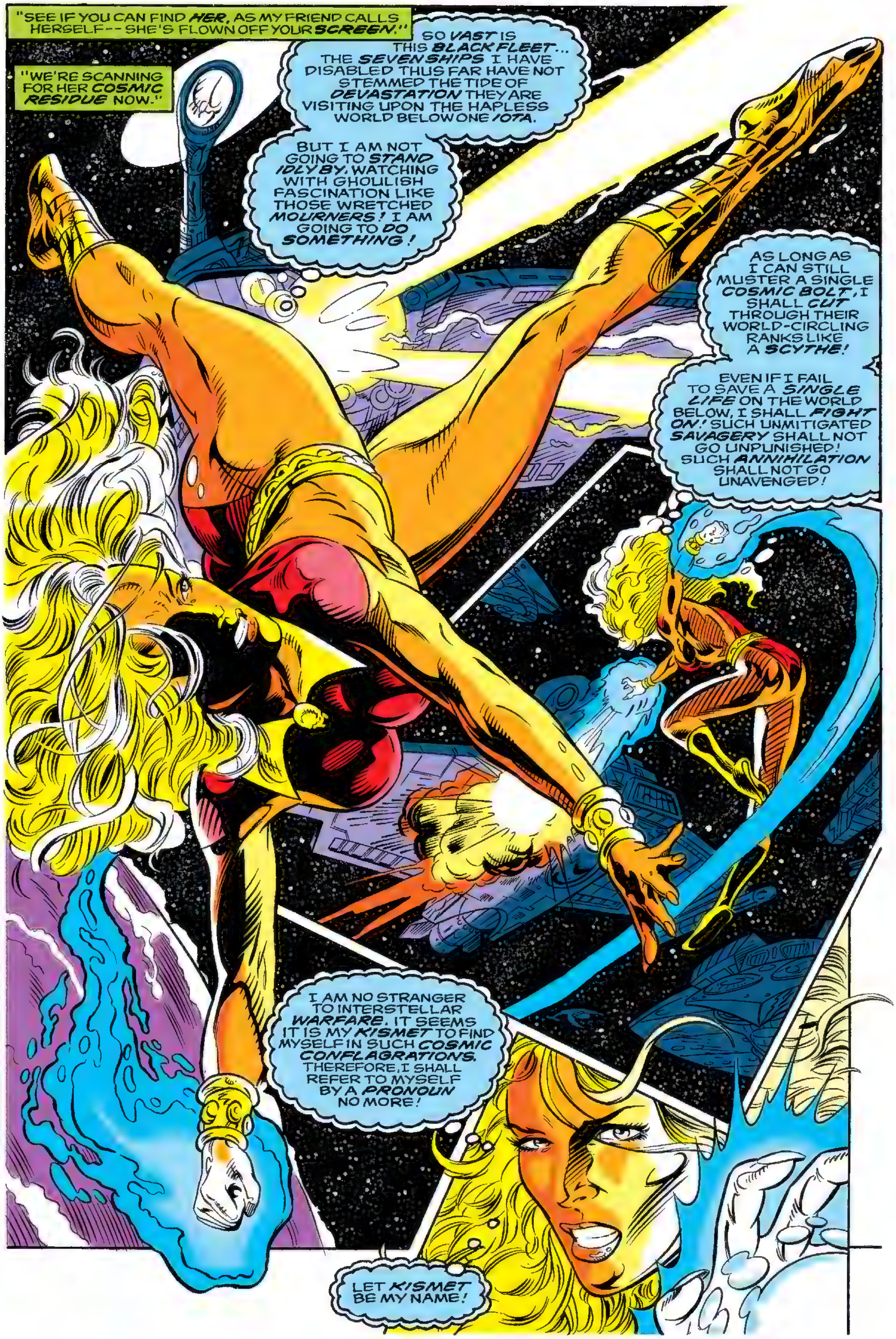

IT'S NULLIFYING ME! I'VE GOT TO-- GET AWAY!
NO! THEN THE NOTHINGNESS WILL GROW WITH NO ONE TO STOP IT!

GOT TO STAY-- GOT TO STOP THE NULL-SPHERE FROM GROWING!
IT'S ENGULFED THE MAGUS'S STRONGHOLD ALREADY-- I THINK--

I CAN STOP IT NOW! I MUST!
STOP!
STOP!
ST--




MEANWHILE, BACK IN OUR UNIVERSE, QUASAR'S CLOSEST COMPANIONS CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH THE INVASION OF THE DISTANT PLANET, SCADAM, OBLIVIOUS TO QUASAR'S PLIGHT...
THERE! SHE'S HEADING TOWARD ANOTHER BLACK FLEET VESSEL!
IT WOULD SEEM YOUR COMPANION SEEKS TO ROUT THEIR INVASION ALL BY HERSELF, MAKKARI.
YEAH, AND SHE'S NOT DOING TOO SHABBY A JOB OF IT, EITHER!
WISH I COULD HELP HER, BUT WITHOUT A SURFACE TO RUN ON MY HYPER-SPEED IS AS USELESS AS GILLS ON A GORILLA.
I AM NOT CERTAIN IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR REFERENCE.
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
PLEASE DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND. WE MOURNERS DO NOT ENCOURAGE OR CONDONE SUCH WIDESCALE DEVASTATION AS WHAT WE WITNESS HERE.
WE JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE DOES, THE UNIVERSE IS FULL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION SUCH AS THIS.
IT IS OUR TASK THEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR THOSE WHO SURRENDER THEIR LIVES TO THE UNIVERSE'S GRAND CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH.
SEEING ALL THIS TRAGEDY NEVER GETS TO YOU GUYS?
IT AFFECTS US PROFOUNDLY.


"SEE IF YOU CAN FIND HER, AS MY FRIEND CALLS HERSELF-- SHE'S FLOWN OFF YOUR SCREEN."
"WE'RE SCANNING FOR HER COSMIC RESIDUE NOW."
SO VAST IS THIS BLACK FLEET... THE SEVEN SHIPS I HAVE DISABLED THUS FAR HAVE NOT STEMMED THE TIDE OF DEVASTATION THEY ARE VISITING UPON THE HAPLESS WORLD BELOW ONE IOTA.
BUT I AM NOT GOING TO STAND IDLY BY, WATCHING WITH GHOULISH FASCINATION LIKE THOSE WRETCHED MOURNERS! I AM GOING TO DO SOMETHING!
AS LONG AS I CAN STILL MUSTER A SINGLE COSMIC BOLT, I SHALL CUT THROUGH THEIR WORLD-CIRCLING RANKS LIKE A SCYTHE!
EVEN IF I FAIL TO SAVE A SINGLE LIFE ON THE WORLD BELOW, I SHALL FIGHT ON! SUCH UNMITIGATED SAVAGERY SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED! SUCH ANNIHILATION SHALL NOT GO UNAVENGED!
I AM NO STRANGER TO INTERSTELLAR WARFARE. IT SEEMS IT IS MY KISMET TO FIND MYSELF IN SUCH COSMIC CONFLAGRATIONS. THEREFORE, I SHALL REFER TO MYSELF BY A PRONOUN NO MORE!
LET KISMET BE MY NAME!

KISMET'S COSMIC BOLTS CRIPPLE ANOTHER EBONY WARSHIP--

--CAUSING IT TO PLUMMET INTO SCADAM'S ATMOSPHERE WHERE IT BURSTS ON FIRE--

--ONLY TO RAIN MORE DESTRUCTION ON THE BELEAGURED PLANET BELOW.

KATHOOF

OH!

UNKNOWN TO KISMET, ANOTHER NATIVE OF EARTH HAPPENS TO BE ON THE RAVAGED WORLD SHE FIGHTS TO PROTECT...

THE BOMBARDMENTS SEEM TO BE GETTING CLOSER--

...A FELLOW ACQUAINTANCE OF QUASAR'S WHO GOES BY THE NAME HOLLY STECKLEY.

--BUT I CAN'T MOVE... NOT WITHOUT ABANDONING THIS... THING THAT'S GROWING FROM THE REMAINS OF MY COMPANION, KAYLA BALLANTINE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, KAYLA?

THE POWER THAT THE BEING WHO KIDNAPPED US TO THIS HORRID PLACE SAID YOU HAD... IS IT SO POTENT THAT IT CAN RESURRECT YOU FROM YOUR OWN ASHES?

OR... HAVE YOU BECOME SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER?

HOL...LY... WHAT... HAP... PENED...?

YOU WERE DEAD... BUT YOU GOT BETTER!

EXCUSE ME, SIR. I JUST GOT HERE.
MIND TELLING ME WHERE I AM?
SIR...?
LOOK AT ME. I'M TALKING TO YOU.
ALL THESE BEINGS-- WHOEVER THEY ARE--
--SEEM TO BE IN SHOCK.
WHERE AM I? THE QUANTUM ZONE? NEVER SAW BEINGS LIKE THESE THERE BEFORE?
LET ME TRY AN ENERGY SCAN.
HMMH...NOT THE Q-ZONE, BUT I DO DETECT SOME POWERFUL ENERGY SOURCE NEARBY.
I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
EXCUSE ME... COMING THROUGH!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? OH, YEAH... THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER HAPPENED TO ME.
IS THIS WHERE YOU GO WHEN YOU'RE NULLIFIED--
--OR DID SOME COSMIC MUCKAMUCK PULL MY FAT OUT OF THE FIRE AGAIN?
YOU KNOW, EXCEPT FOR THE WEIRD LACK OF COLOR, THIS MIGHT EVEN BE THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS...*
*AS SEEN IN ISSUE #37!

OH, NO! NOT HIM!
OBLIVION! ONE OF THE FOUR MOST POWERFUL ABSTRACT ENTITIES IN THE WHOLE DARN UNIVERSE--
--AND ONE WITH NO PARTICULAR USE FOR ME, EITHER!*
I SHOULD'VE ANTICIPATED THIS--WHAT WITH MY RUN-IN WITH HIS HERALD, DEATHURGE!
UH, HI. REMEMBER ME?
ALL TOO WELL!
*SEE ISSUE #25.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY TO CONVINCE ME?

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO CONVINCE YOU?

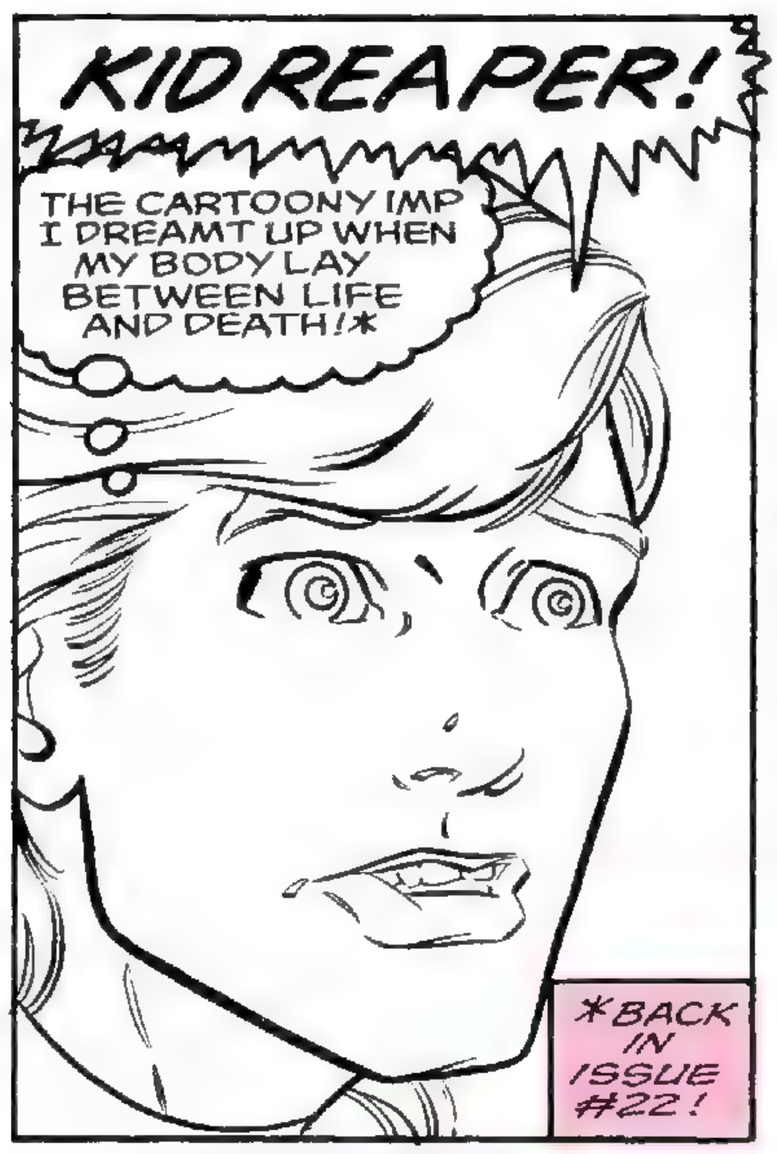
A FIGHT? YOU AGAINST ME--WINNER TAKES ALL?

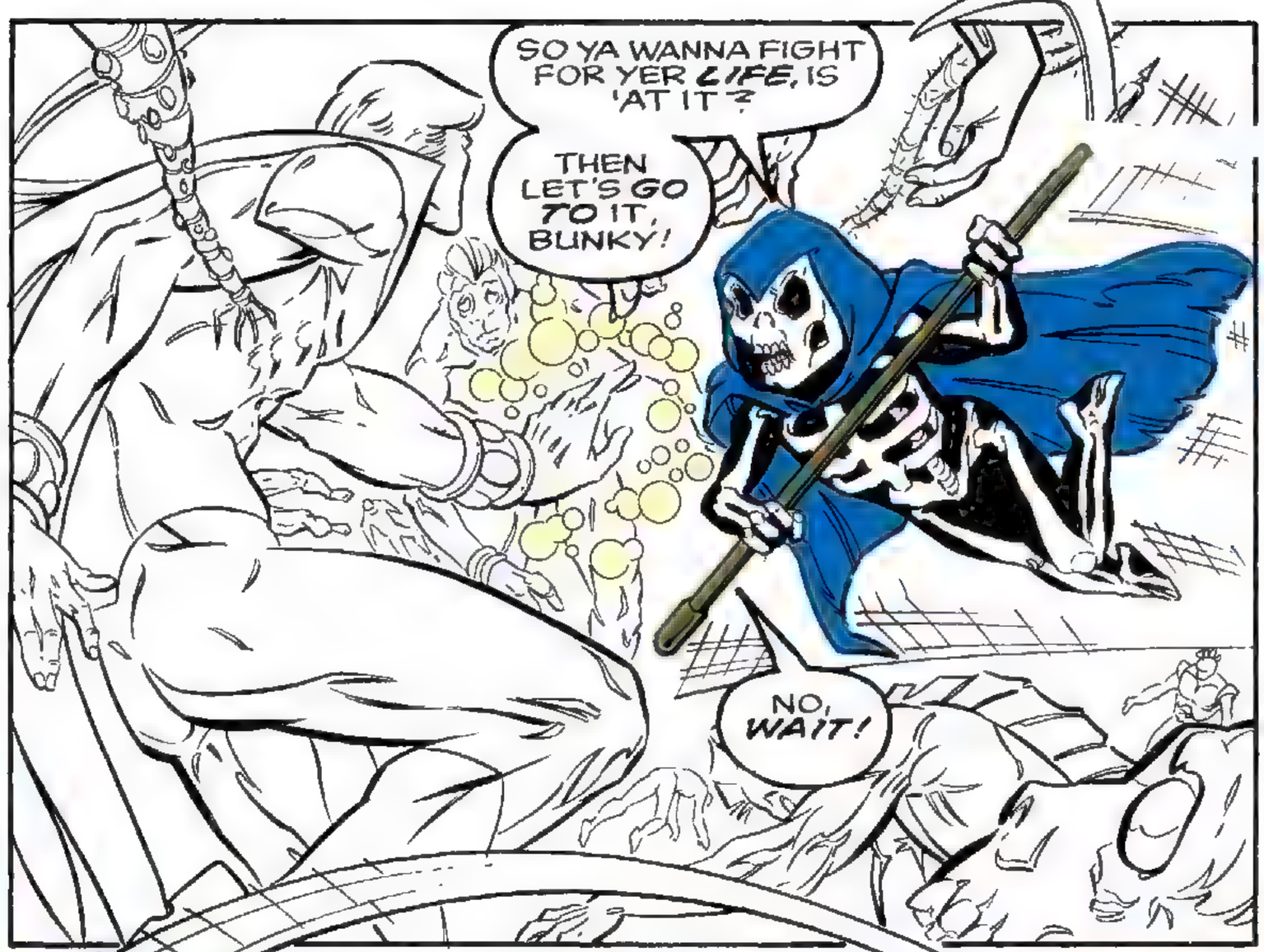
I DO NOT FIGHT AS YOU UNDERSTAND THE TERM.

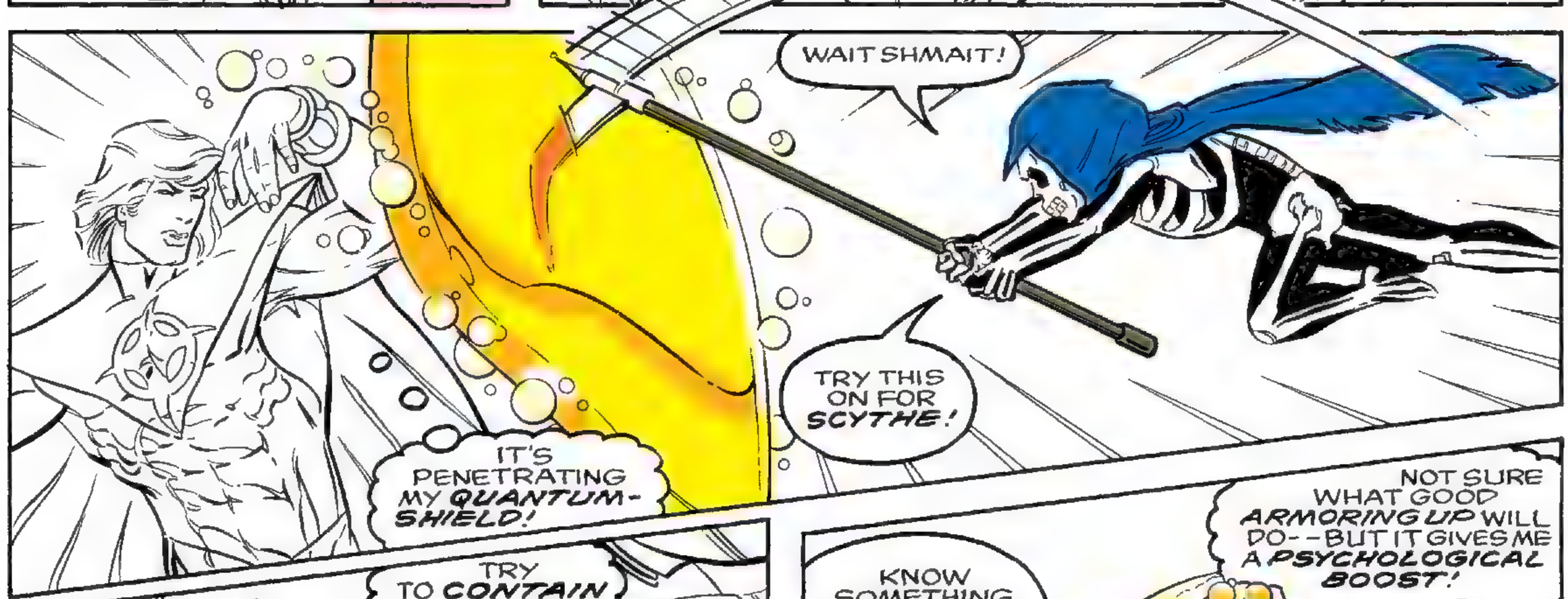
BUT BECAUSE YOU AMUSE ME, I WILL CONJURE FORTH YOUR OWN DEATH-AVATAR IN ORDER TO APPEASE YOUR FINAL REQUEST.

HIYA, QUAZE!

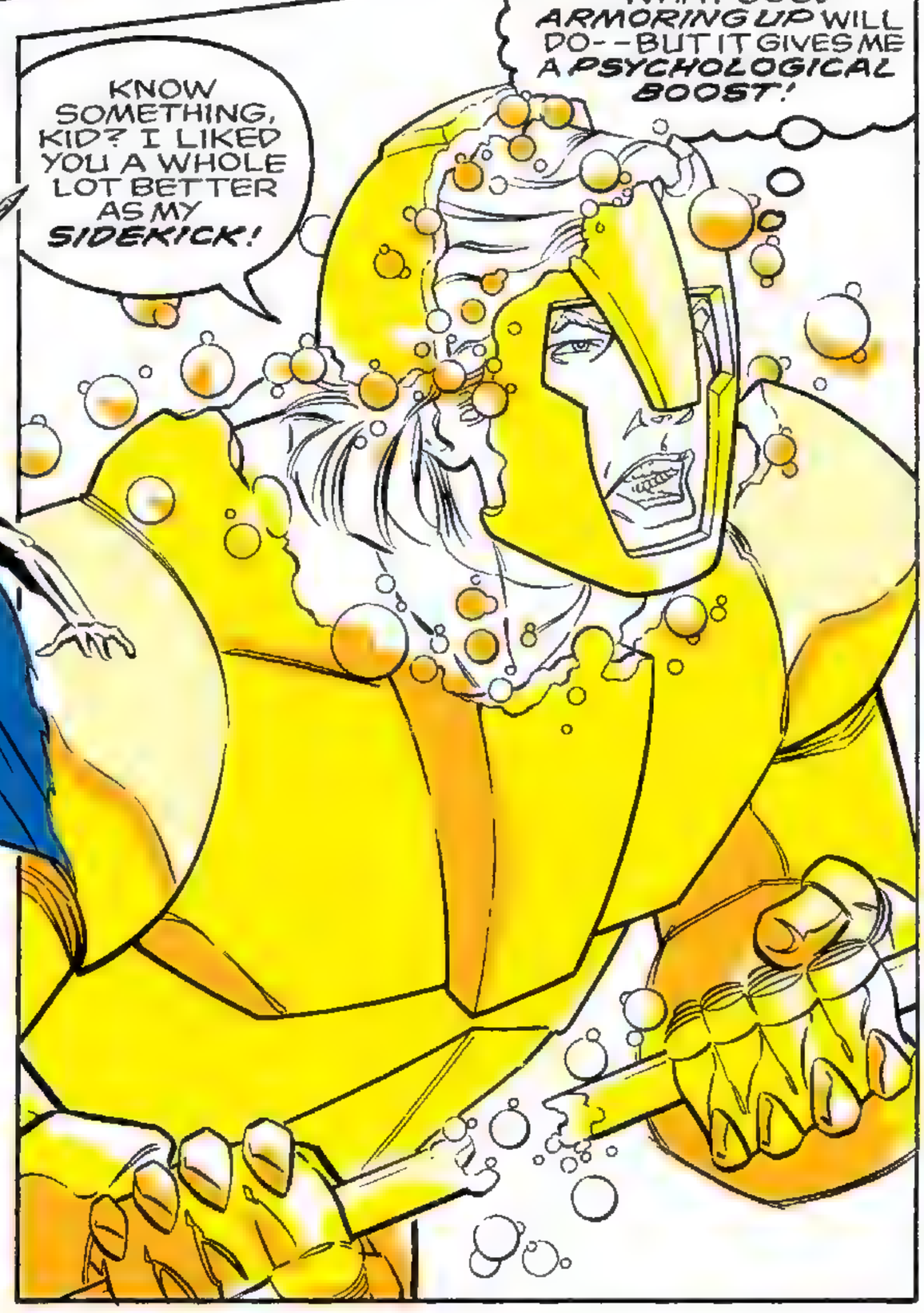
HOWZIT HANGIN'?


KID REAPER!
THE CARTOONY IMP I DREAMT UP WHEN MY BODY LAY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!*
*BACK IN ISSUE #22!


SO YA WANNA FIGHT FOR YER LIFE, IS 'AT IT?
THEN LET'S GO TO IT, BUNKY!
NO, WAIT!


WAIT SHMAIT!
TRY THIS ON FOR SCYTHE!
IT'S PENETRATING MY QUANTUM-SHIELD!

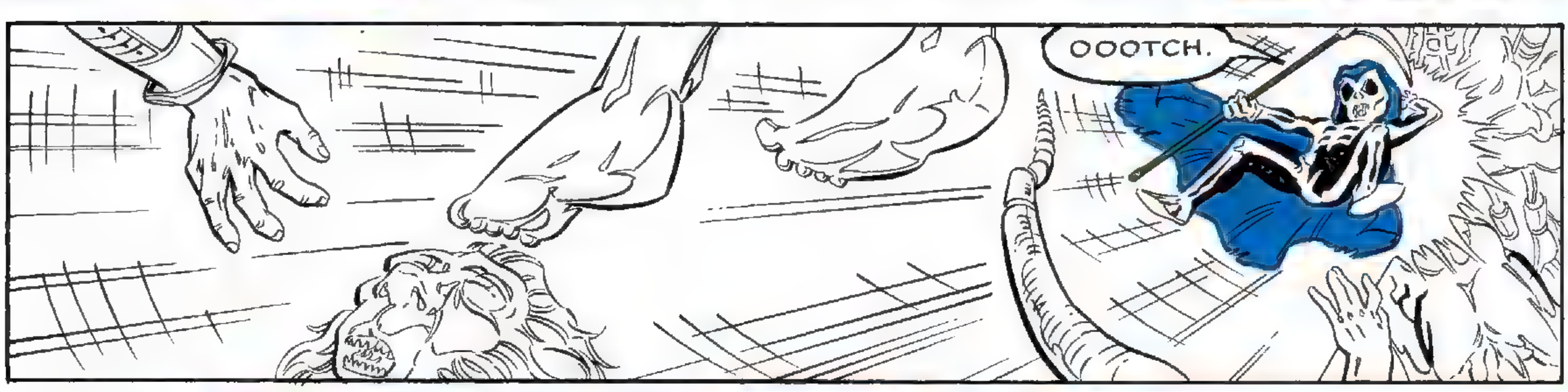
TRY TO CONTAIN HIM!
MISSED ME--MMMMFTH!

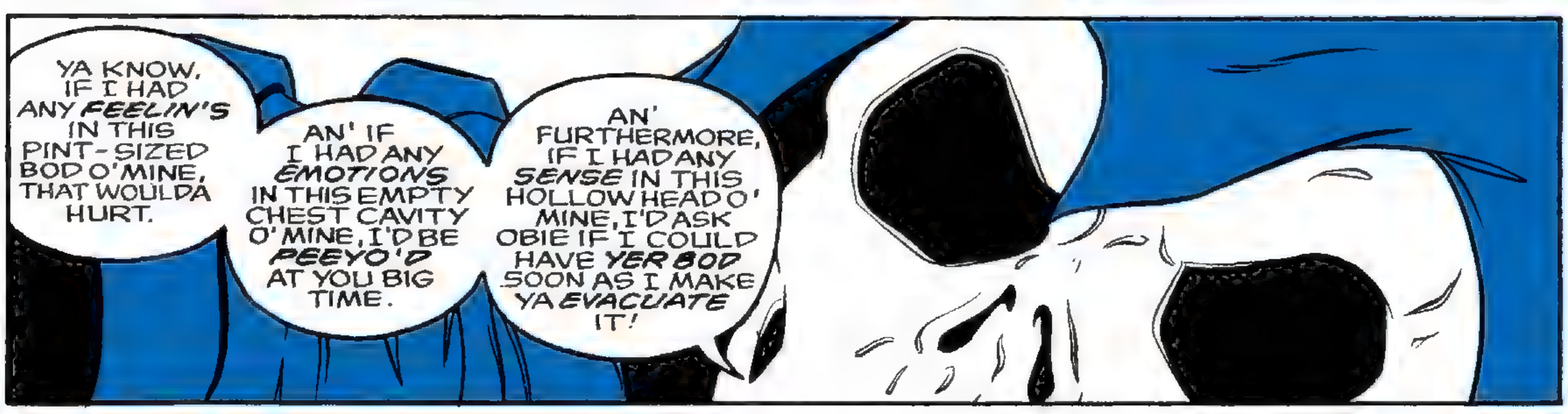

KNOW SOMETHING, KID? I LIKED YOU A WHOLE LOT BETTER AS MY SIDEKICK!
NOT SURE WHAT GOOD ARMORING UP WILL DO--BUT IT GIVES ME A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST!

BLOCKED HIM!
NICE MOVE, BUNKY!
'TWEEN YOU 'N' ME... LET'S DRAW THIS LITTLE TUSSLE OUT A BIT, OKAY?
I GOT ME A FEELIN' BIG OBIE'S GONNA BOP ME BACK TO NOWHERENESS SOON AS I ACE YA--
--AN' I'M IN NO PARTICULAR HURRY TA GO, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YOU GOT IT!
JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR--
WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME WHEN I BEAT THE TAR OUT OF YOU!

OOOH, STRONG WORDS FROM A--WHOOOOAAAAH!
WASN'T EXPECTING ME TO TWIST--REDIRECT HIS STRENGTH AGAINST HIM!

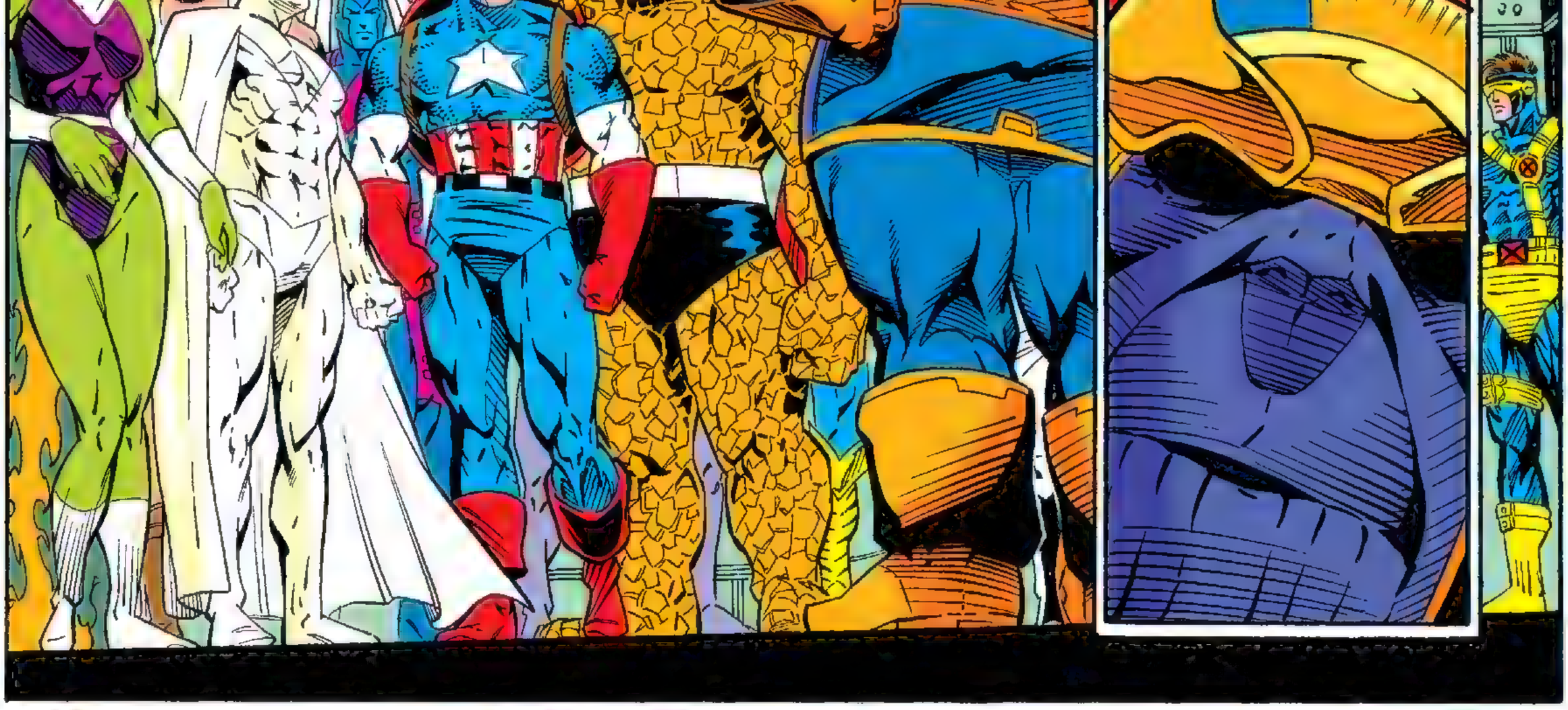

OOOTCH.

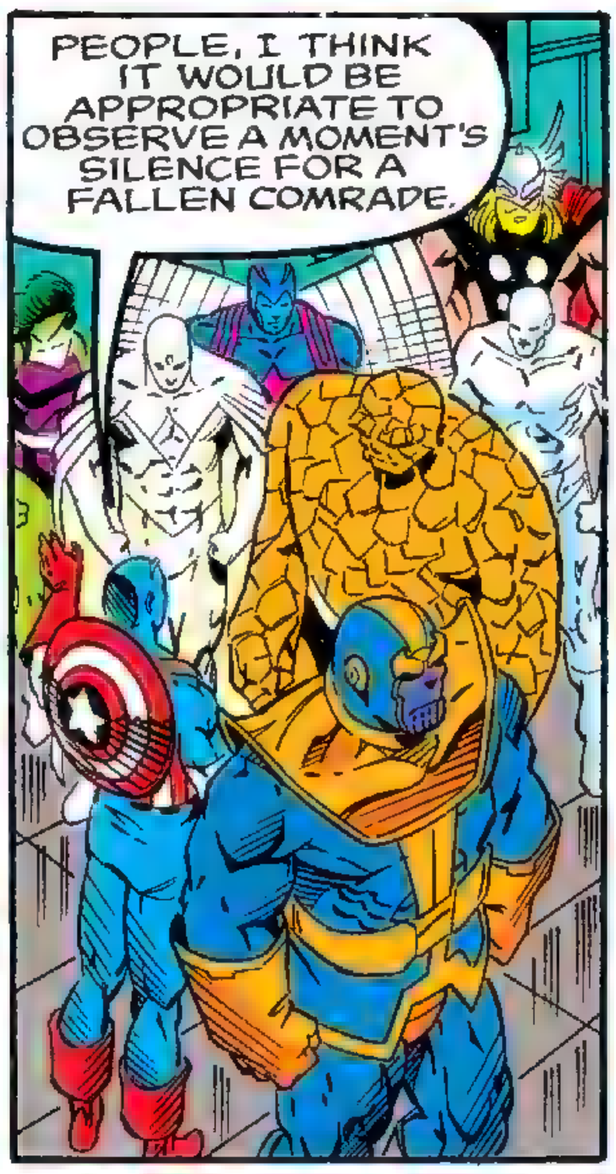

YA KNOW, IF I HAD ANY FEELIN'S IN THIS PINT-SIZED BOD O' MINE, THAT WOULDA HURT.
AN' IF I HAD ANY EMOTIONS IN THIS EMPTY CHEST CAVITY O' MINE, I'D BE PEEYO'D AT YOU BIG TIME.
AN' FURTHERMORE, IF I HAD ANY SENSE IN THIS HOLLOW HEAD O' MINE, I'D ASK OBIE IF I COULD HAVE YER BOD SOON AS I MAKE YA EVACUATE IT!

THE STARSHIP OF THE WORLD-DEVOURER GALACTUS, WHERE A BATTALION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH THANOS AGAINST A STILL GREATER THREAT...

WELL, THANOS? WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID *QUASAR* FARE? HAS THE *MAGUS* BEEN NEUTRALIZED?

NO, *CAPTAIN AMERICA*. QUASAR HAS FAILED. HE'S APPARENTLY BEEN *NULLIFIED* WHILE USING THE NULLIFIER. HIS TARGET REMAINS INTACT.

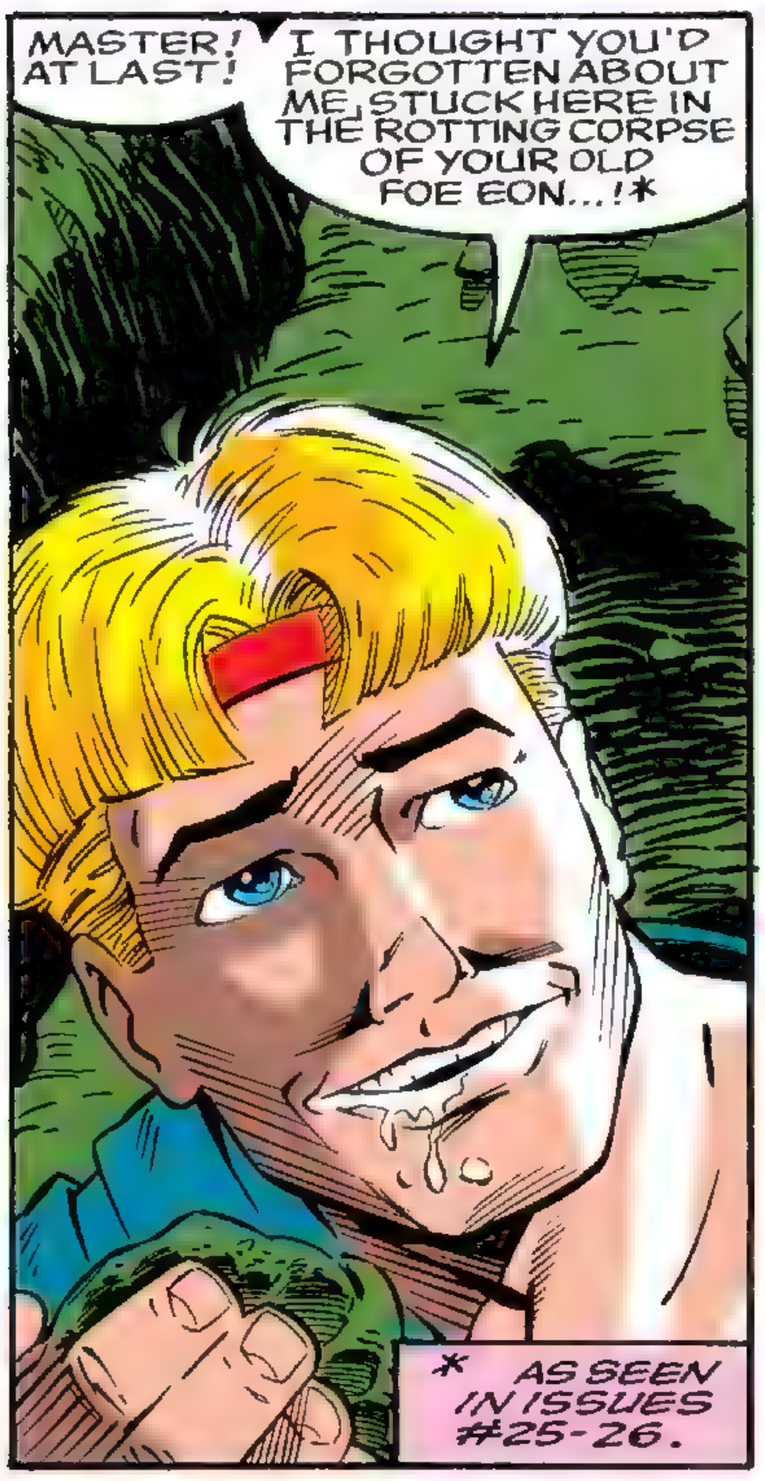


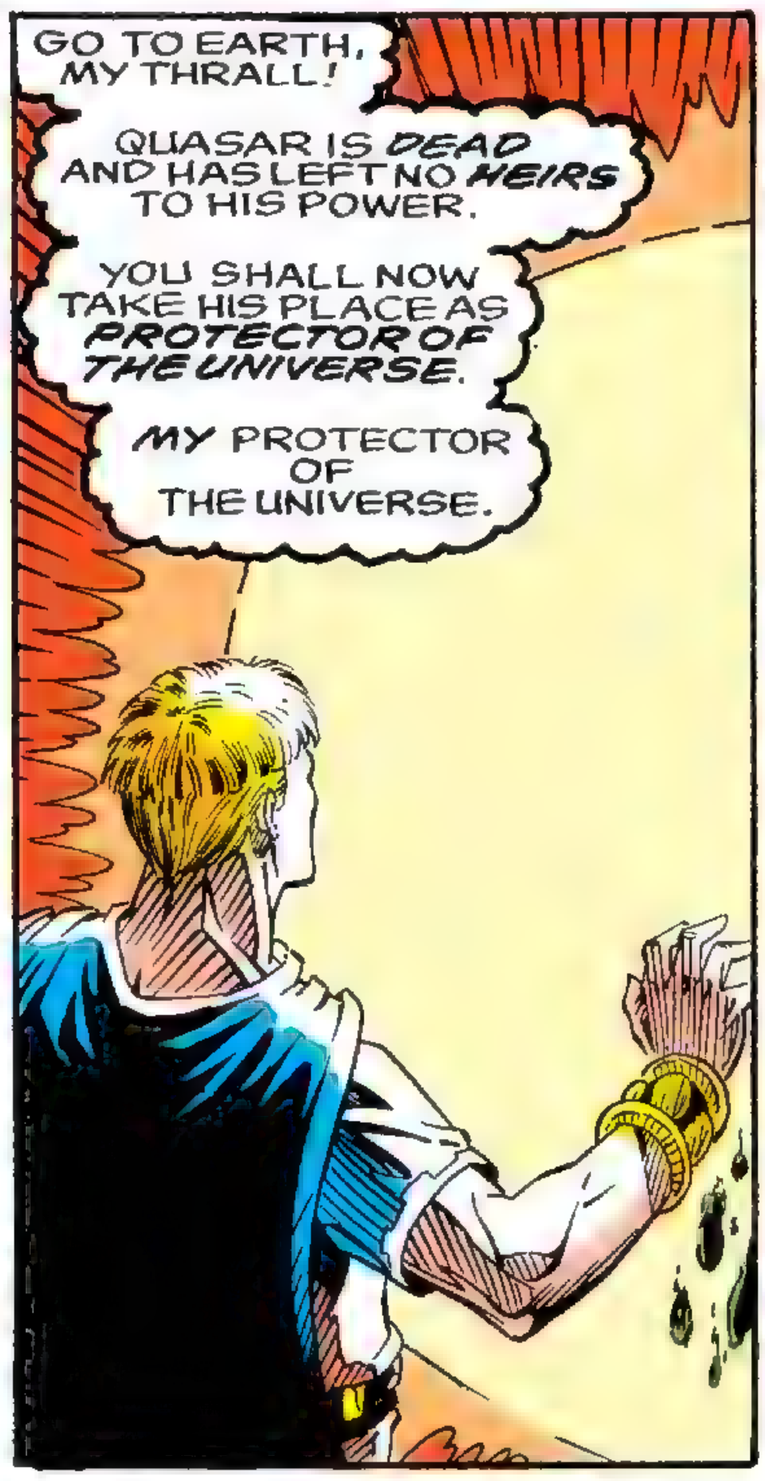


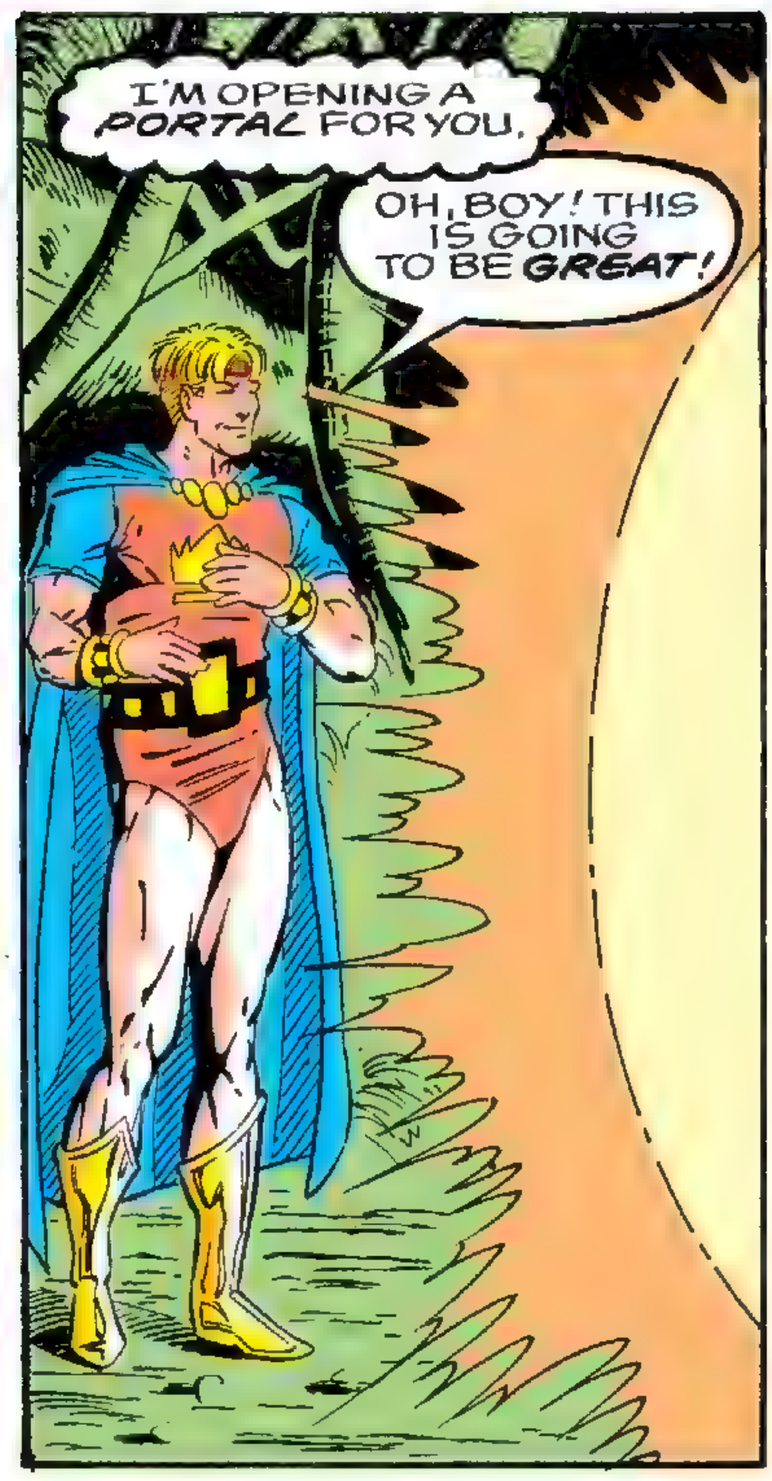
IN ANOTHER CHAMBER OF THE VAST SHIP...

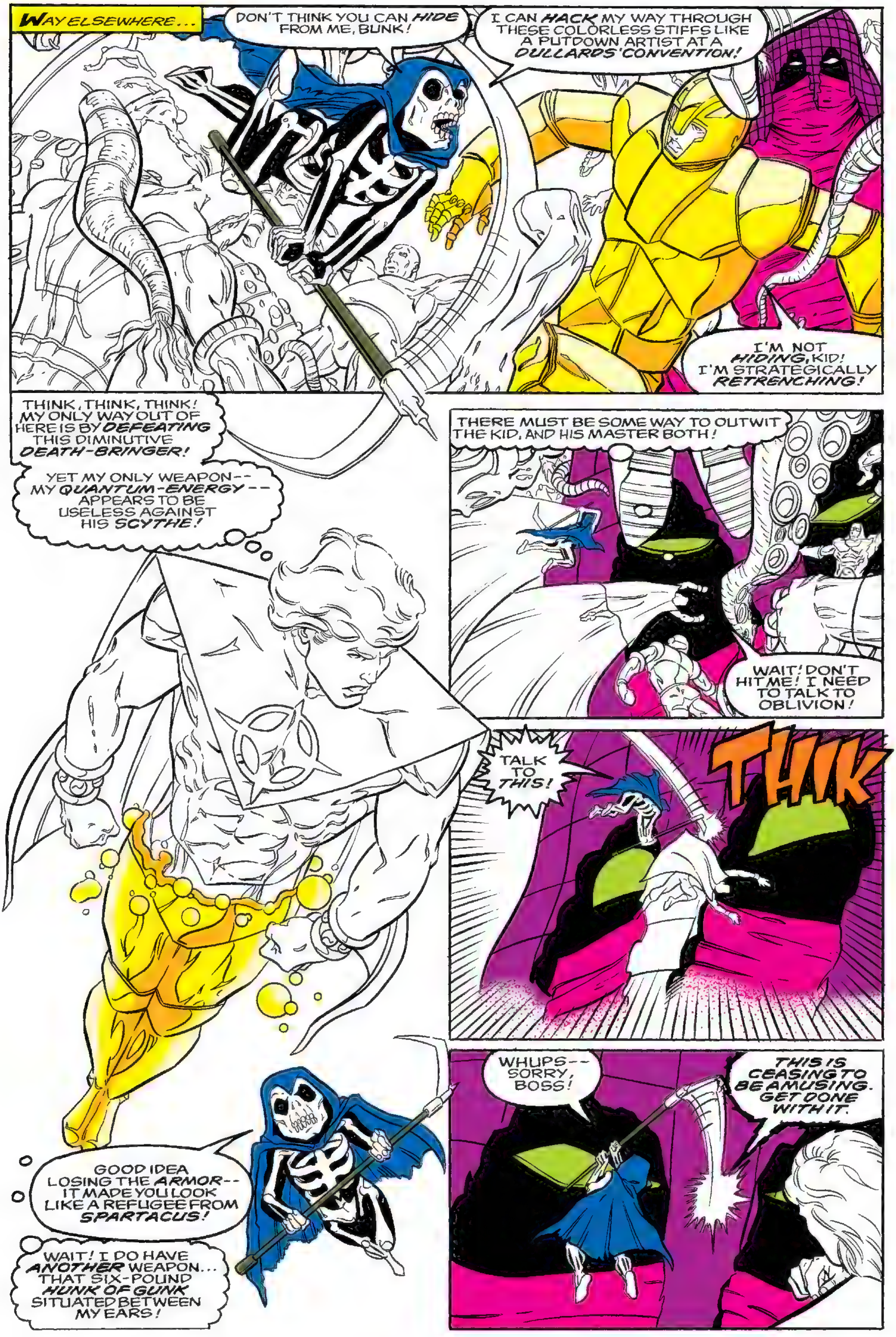
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE VANQUISH THE MAGUS. BEST TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THAT EVENTUALITY...

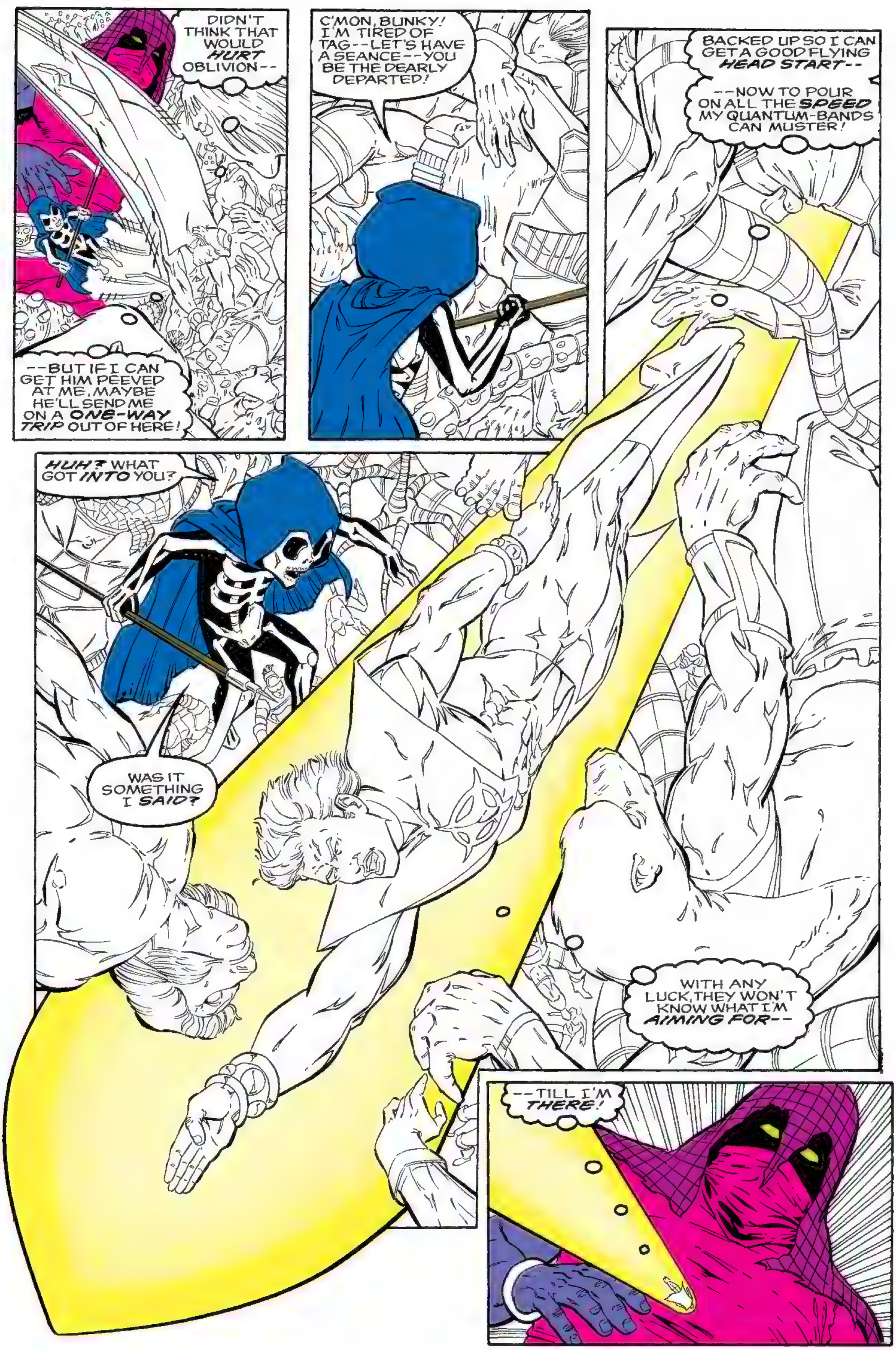
MARVEL BOY?



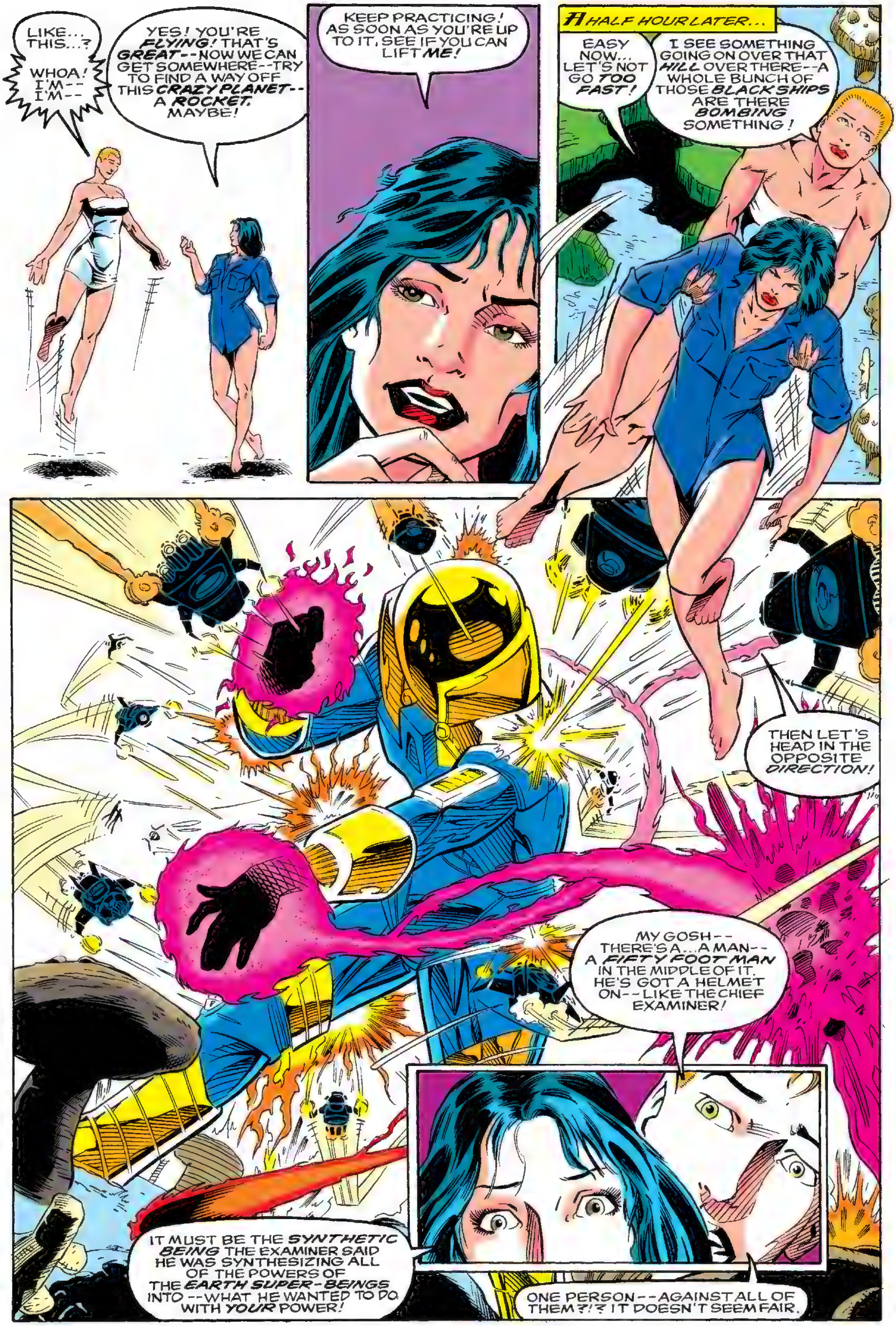


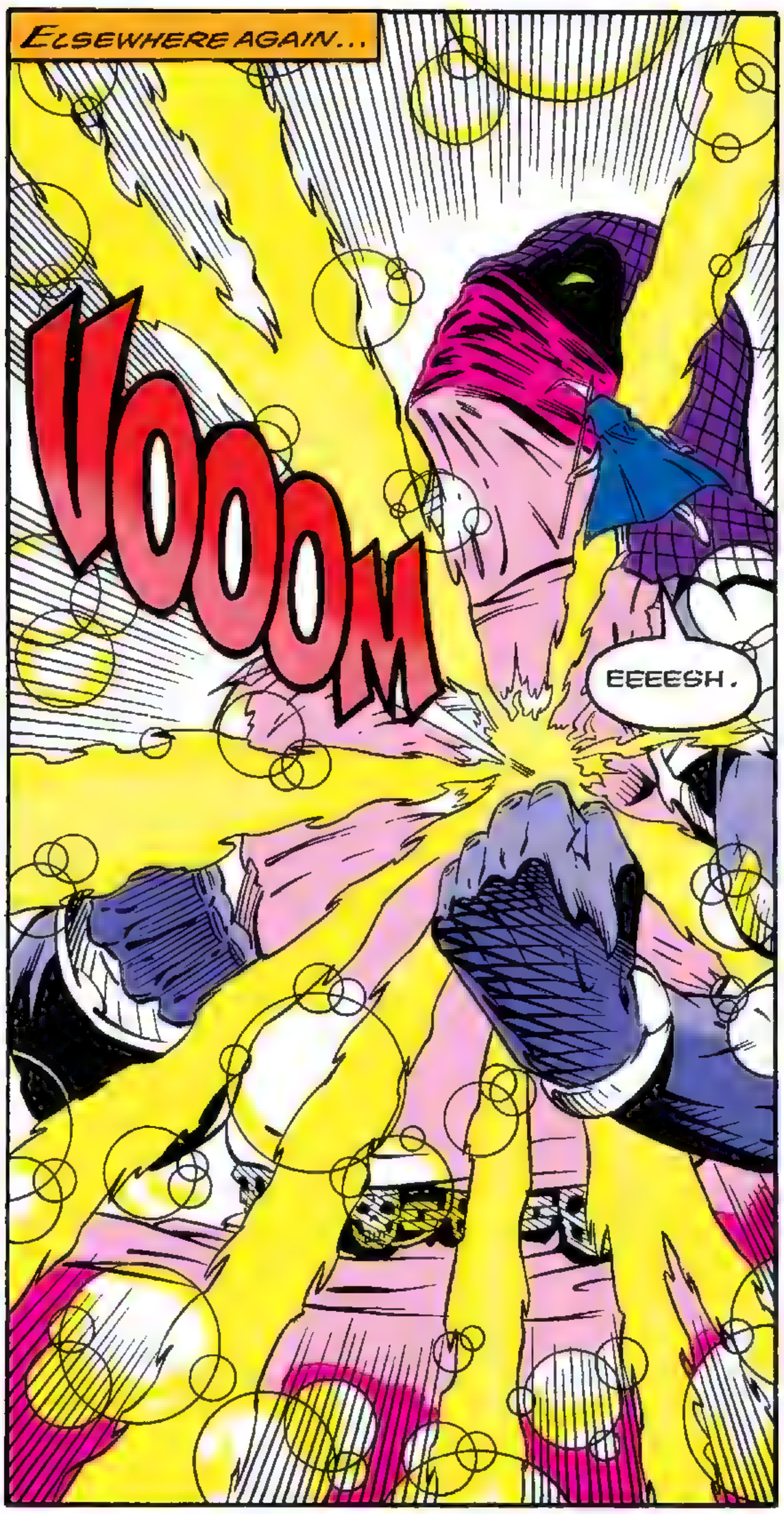



WAY ELSEWHERE...
DON'T THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME, BUNK!
I CAN HACK MY WAY THROUGH THESE COLORLESS STIFFS LIKE A PUTDOWN ARTIST AT A DULLARDS' CONVENTION!
I'M NOT HIDING, KID! I'M STRATEGICALLY RETRENCHING!
THINK, THINK, THINK! MY ONLY WAY OUT OF HERE IS BY DEFEATING THIS DIMINUTIVE DEATH-BRINGER!
YET MY ONLY WEAPON-- MY QUANTUM-ENERGY-- APPEARS TO BE USELESS AGAINST HIS SCYTHE!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO OUTWIT THE KID, AND HIS MASTER BOTH!
WAIT! DON'T HIT ME! I NEED TO TALK TO OBLIVION!
TALK TO THIS!
THIK
GOOD IDEA LOSING THE ARMOR-- IT MADE YOU LOOK LIKE A REFUGEE FROM SPARTACUS!
WAIT! I DO HAVE ANOTHER WEAPON... THAT SIX-POUND HUNK OF GUNK SITUATED BETWEEN MY EARS!
WHUPS-- SORRY, BOSS!
THIS IS CEASING TO BE AMUSING. GET DONE WITH IT.

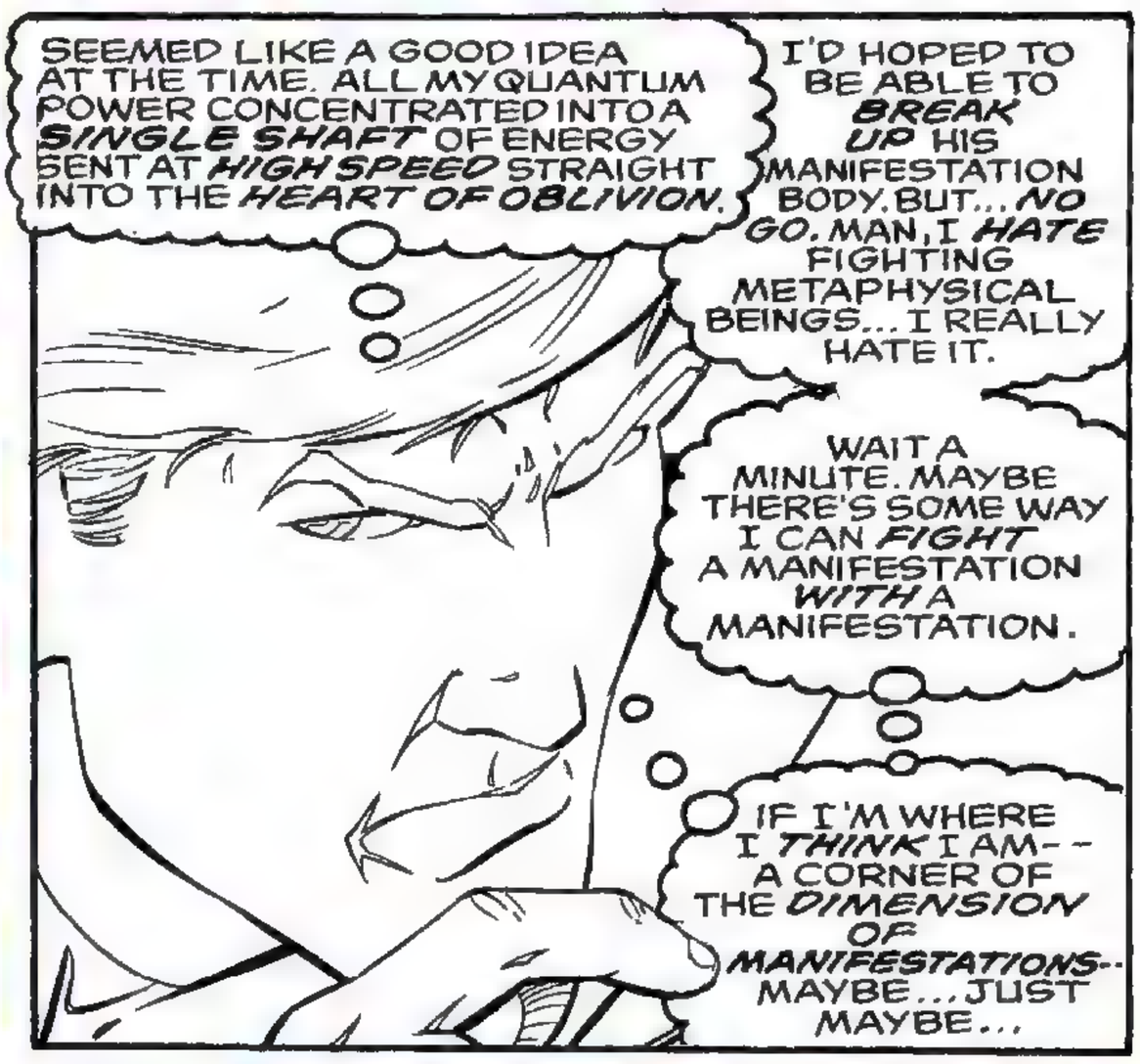

DIDN'T THINK THAT WOULD HURT OBLIVION--
--BUT IF I CAN GET HIM PEEVED AT ME, MAYBE HE'LL SEND ME ON A ONE-WAY TRIP OUT OF HERE!
C'MON, BUNKY! I'M TIRED OF TAG--LET'S HAVE A SEANCE--YOU BE THE DEARLY DEPARTED!
BACKED UP SO I CAN GET A GOOD FLYING HEAD START--
--NOW TO POUR ON ALL THE SPEED MY QUANTUM-BANDS CAN MUSTER!
HUH? WHAT GOT INTO YOU?
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
WITH ANY LUCK, THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT I'M AIMING FOR--
--TILL I'M THERE!

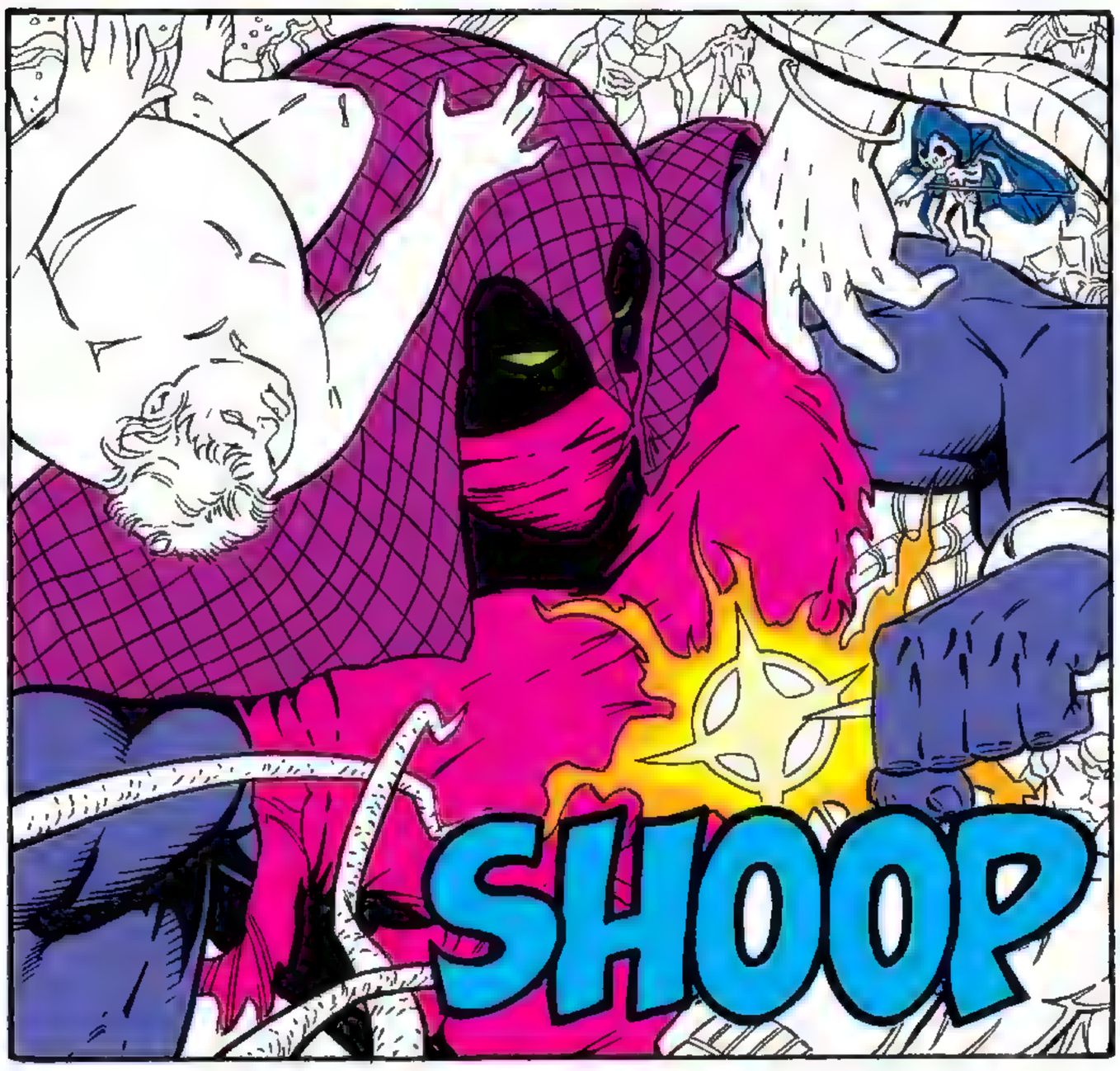
THE PLANET SCADAM...
THE DEAD DO NOT COME BACK TO LIFE, HOLLY! EXCEPT IN HORROR MOVIES! IT'S AGAINST MY FAITH! THERE MUST BE A BETTER EXPLANATION!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE I WAS DEAD. I... I JUST FEEL A LITTLE--GROGGY.
I SAW WHAT I SAW. YOU WERE DUST, ASHES... THEN YOU BEGAN TO GROW BACK A BODY--RIGHT FROM THE ASHES! IT WAS ASTOUNDING.
MY HAIR... MY HAIR'S ALL ICKY!
IF YOU CAN GROW YOUR BODY BACK IN THE SPACE OF SIX HOURS, YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM GROWING YOUR HAIR BACK.
FACE IT, KAYLA--YOU'VE GOT THE POWER THE CHIEF EXAMINER SAID YOU HAVE.
ON YOUR NECK--THERE'S A TATTOO IN THE SHAPE OF A STAR!
THERE IS?
THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN ITCHING UNDER MY SCALP THE PAST MONTH? WHAT IS IT?
I THINK IT'S THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER. THAT ANGLER CHARACTER THAT WAS BLOWN ACROSS YOUR BEDROOM*--YOU DID THAT TO HIM!
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF! KAYLA, JUST TRY SOMETHING... ANYTHING!
*BACK IN ISSUE #33.
LIKE WHAT?
TRY LIFTING YOURSELF OFF THE GROUND.


LIKE... THIS...?
WHOA! I'M-- I'M--
YES! YOU'RE FLYING! THAT'S GREAT--NOW WE CAN GET SOMEWHERE--TRY TO FIND A WAY OFF THIS CRAZY PLANET--A ROCKET, MAYBE!
KEEP PRACTICING! AS SOON AS YOU'RE UP TO IT, SEE IF YOU CAN LIFT ME!
A HALF HOUR LATER...
EASY NOW... LET'S NOT GO TOO FAST!
I SEE SOMETHING GOING ON OVER THAT HILL OVER THERE--A WHOLE BUNCH OF THOSE BLACK SHIPS ARE THERE BOMBING SOMETHING!
THEN LET'S HEAD IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!
MY GOSH-- THERE'S A...A MAN-- A FIFTY FOOT MAN IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. HE'S GOT A HELMET ON--LIKE THE CHIEF EXAMINER!
IT MUST BE THE SYNTHETIC BEING THE EXAMINER SAID HE WAS SYNTHESIZING ALL OF THE POWERS OF THE EARTH SUPER-BEINGS INTO--WHAT HE WANTED TO DO WITH YOUR POWER!
ONE PERSON--AGAINST ALL OF THEM?!? IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR.


ELSEWHERE AGAIN...
VOOOM
EEEESH.

PATHETIC.
YA WANT I SHOULD BOIL THAT LANCE, BOSS?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING?


SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME. ALL MY QUANTUM POWER CONCENTRATED INTO A SINGLE SHAFT OF ENERGY SENT AT HIGH SPEED STRAIGHT INTO THE HEART OF OBLIVION.
I'D HOPED TO BE ABLE TO BREAK UP HIS MANIFESTATION BODY. BUT... NO GO. MAN, I HATE FIGHTING METAPHYSICAL BEINGS... I REALLY HATE IT.
WAIT A MINUTE. MAYBE THERE'S SOME WAY I CAN FIGHT A MANIFESTATION WITH A MANIFESTATION.
IF I'M WHERE I THINK I AM-- A CORNER OF THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS-- MAYBE... JUST MAYBE...


SHOOP

BOSS, QUASAR JUST DISAPPEARED! HE USED HIS QUANTUM JUMPING POWER!
I COULD FOLLOW HIM! SHOULD I FOLLOW HIM, BOSS? SHOULD I, HUH? PLEASE?

TRIED HOMING IN ON THAT *QUANTUM-MARBLE* I GAVE HIM* -- I *THINK* I SENSED IT -- I'LL KNOW AS SOON AS THE FLASH OF THE QUANTUM JUMP EFFECT FADES.

CONTEMPLATOR--?

CONTEMPLATOR, YOU'VE GOT TO *HELP ME.*

I NEED A MANIFESTATION-BODY! *OBLIVION'S* AFTER ME -- HE WANTS TO KEEP ME HERE IN THE DIMENSION OF MANIFESTATIONS *PERMANENTLY!*

YOU'VE BEEN HERE A WHILE. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING THE M-BODIES HERE TO *ASSUME YOUR FORM?*

*LAST ISSUE.

CONTEMPLATOR? *HEY!*

OH, NO -- HE MUST NOT BE ABLE TO *HEAR ME* 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN *NULLIFIED.*

I'M *HURT,* BUNKY. RUNNIN' OUT ON ME LIKE THAT.

SHOOP

OH, NO --!

LISTEN TO ME, KID. YOU'RE MY *PERSONAL DEATH AVATAR,* RIGHT?

I DREAMED YOU UP. GAVE YOU THE *FORM AND CONSCIOUSNESS* YOU HAVE.

YEAH, SO?

SO WHEN I'M DEAD, SO ARE YOU. WITHOUT *ME,* YOU'RE NOTHING. YOU GO BACK TO THE *FORMLESS VOID* YOU CAME FROM WITH NOBODY TO BRING YOU BACK *EVER* AGAIN.

THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU PARK YOUR *SCYTHE* IN ME, OKAY?

BUT OBLIVION'S GONNA BE *MAD* AT ME BIG TIME IF I--

WHAT CAN HE DO TO YOU? DISCORPORATE YOU-- *BIG DEAL. I* CAN BRING YOU BACK.

HE'S GOT NO USE FOR YOU ONCE I'M GONE. BUT I DO-- YOU'RE MY *PERSONAL* DEATH-FIGURE. I *PROMISE* YOU I'LL BRING YOU *BACK*, JUST AS YOU ARE, IF YOU *SPARE* ME.

HMMM. I *KNOW* YOU, QUAZE.

YOU'RE A MAN OF YOUR *WORD*.

OKAY, IF YOU PROMISE TO BRING ME *BACK TO LIFE*, AS IT WERE, IF ANYTHING *HAPPENS* TA ME-- AN' IT *WILL*--

--I'LL SPARE YA FROM MY REAPIN'!

GREAT! YOU'RE A TRUE PAL, THE *BEST DEATH-AVATAR* A GUY COULD HAVE.

NOW MAYBE YOU CAN *HELP ME* GET A MANIFESTATION BODY... LIKE *YOURS* AND *OBLIVION'S*.

WAY I FIGURE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO *FOOL* OBLIVION IF I GIVE HIM A *PROXY* OF MYSELF!

TCHUKK

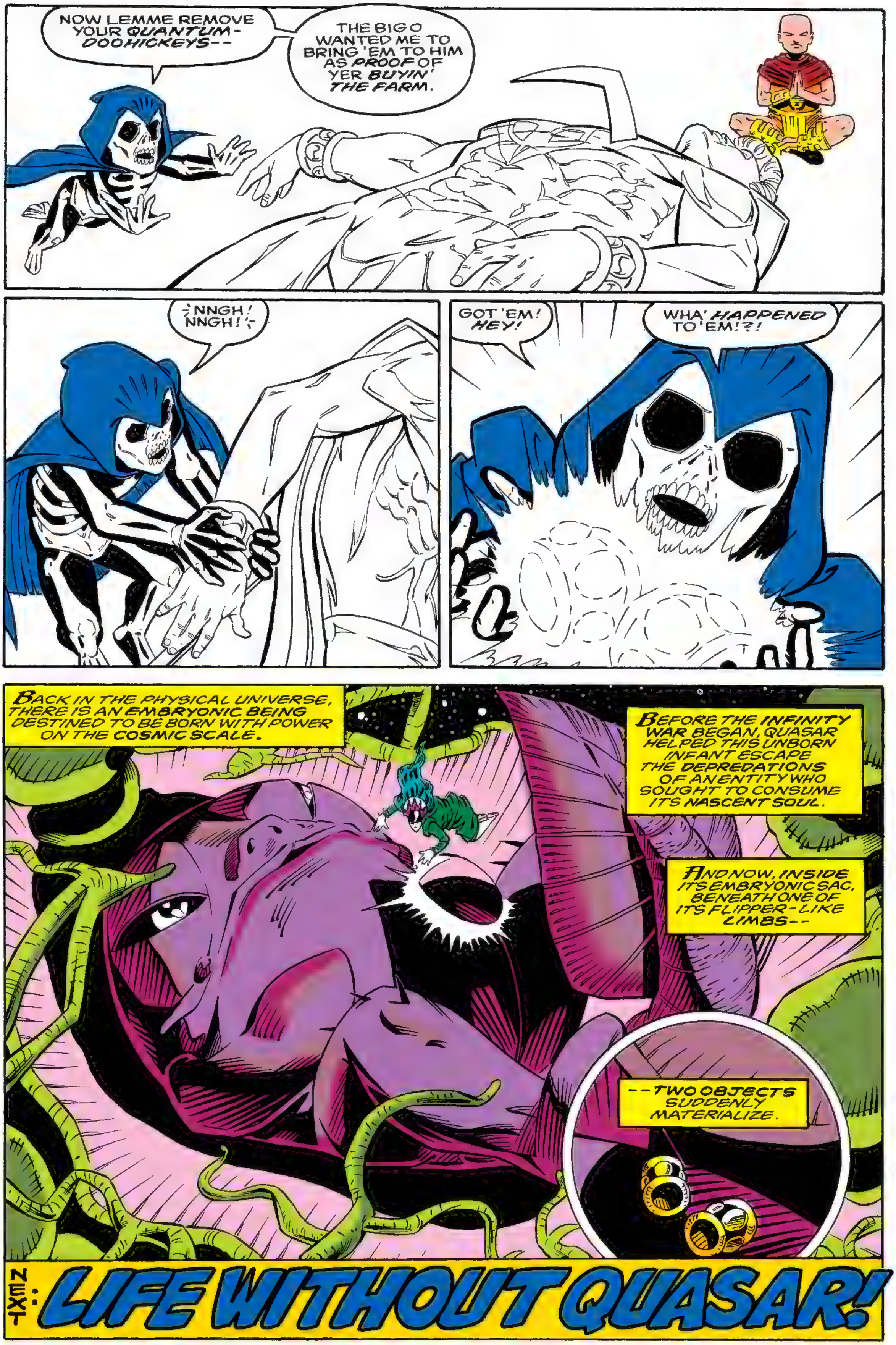
Nyhhhh!

...WHY...?

NEVER *TRUST* AN AVATAR OF *DEATH*, BUNKY--

--'SPECIALLY NOT *YOUR OWN*.

WE ANSWER TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY, YA KNOW?


NOW LEMME REMOVE YOUR QUANTUM-DOOHICKEYS--
THE BIG O WANTED ME TO BRING 'EM TO HIM AS PROOF OF YER BUYIN' THE FARM.
NNGH! NNGH!
GOT 'EM! HEY!
WHA' HAPPENED TO 'EM!?!
BACK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE, THERE IS AN EMBRYONIC BEING DESTINED TO BE BORN WITH POWER ON THE COSMIC SCALE.
BEFORE THE INFINITY WAR BEGAN, QUASAR HELPED THIS UNBORN INFANT ESCAPE THE DEPREDATIONS OF AN ENTITY WHO SOUGHT TO CONSUME ITS NASCENT SOUL.
AND NOW, INSIDE ITS EMBRYONIC SAC, BENEATH ONE OF ITS FLIPPER-LIKE LIMBS--
--TWO OBJECTS SUDDENLY MATERIALIZE.
NEXT: LIFE WITHOUT QUASAR!

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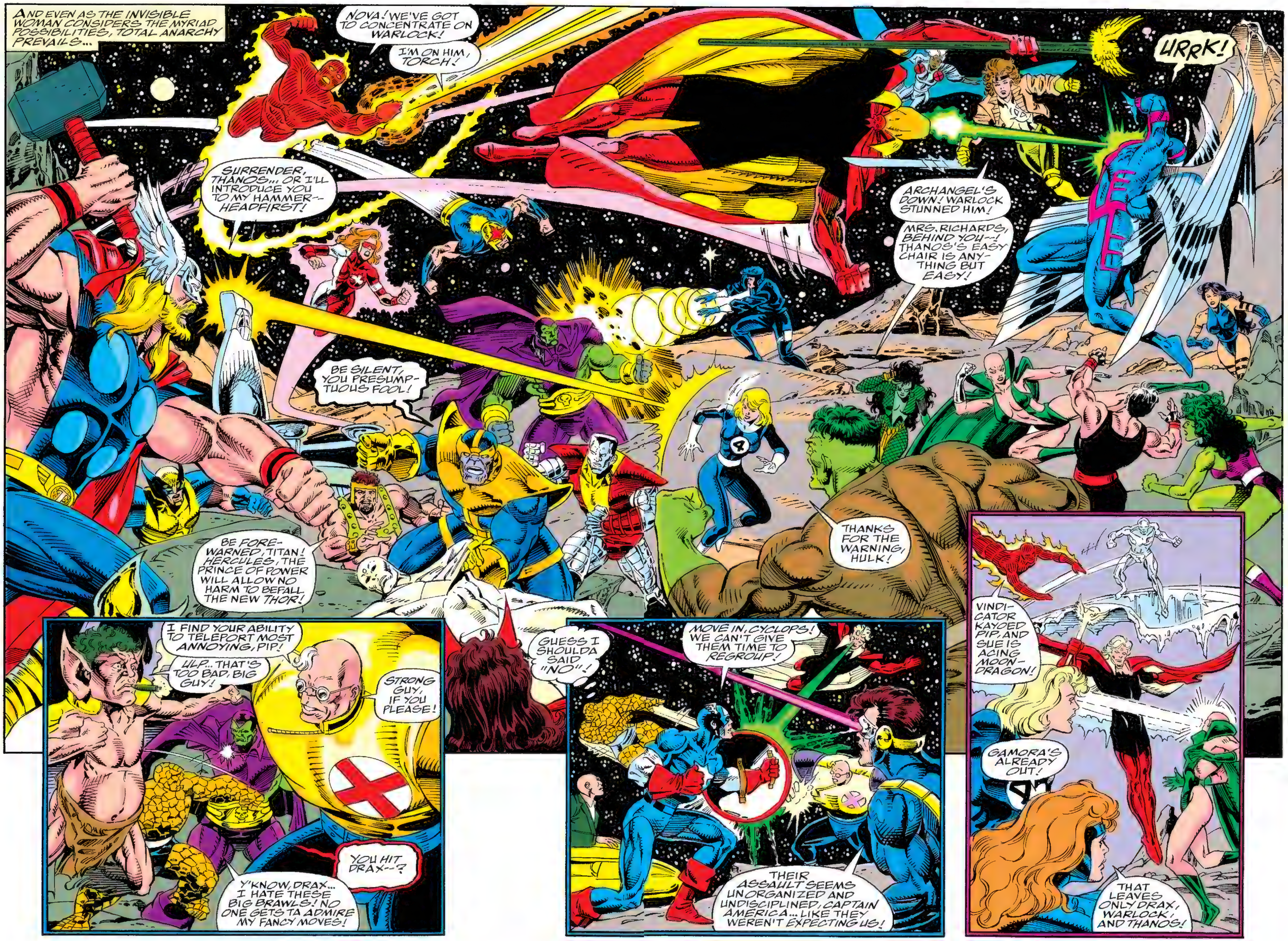
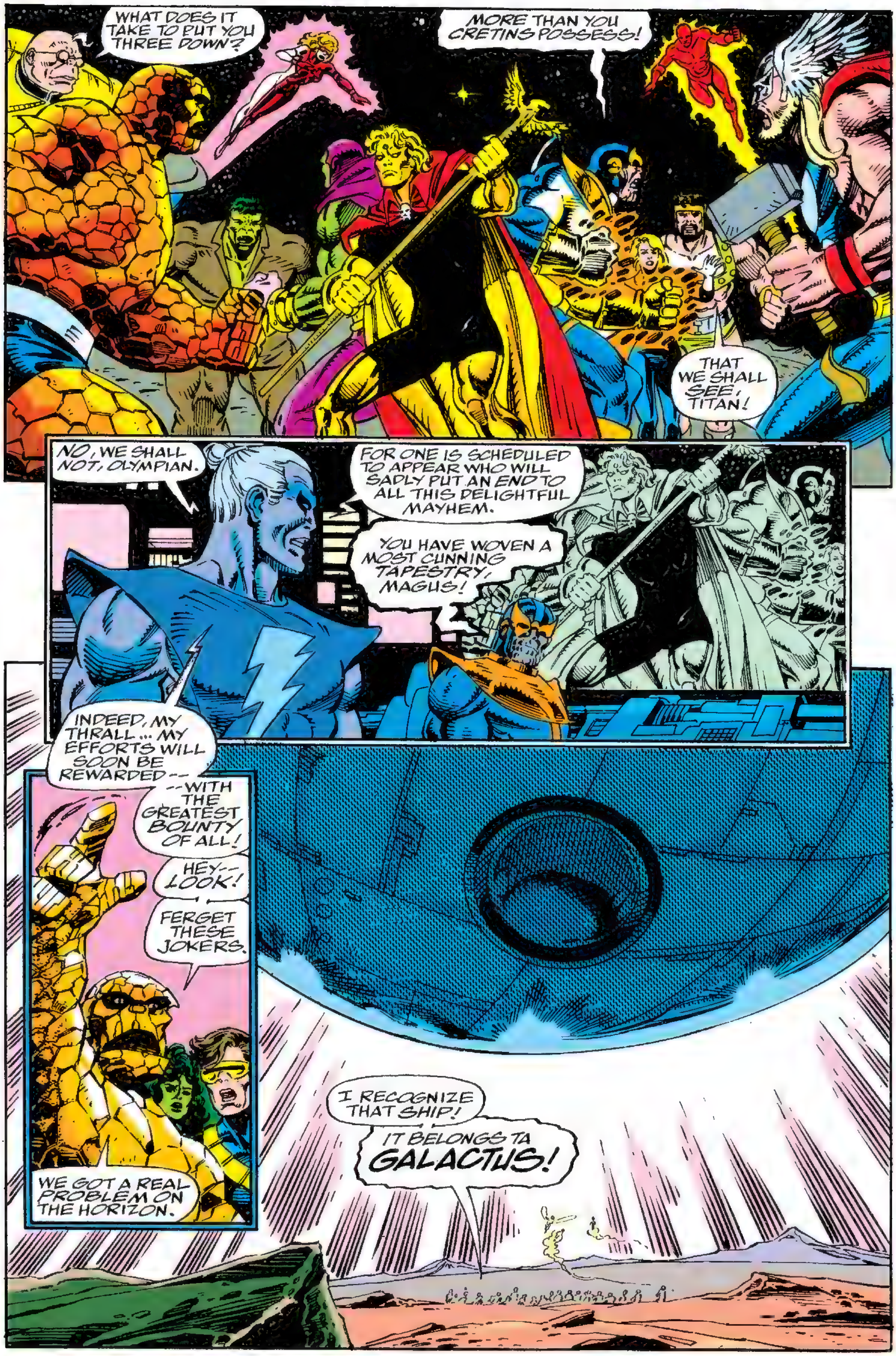
THE WORLD'S BEST COMICMAGAZINE
Fantastic Four
SUSAN RICHARDS™ IS DEAD!
LONG LIVE MALICE™!
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

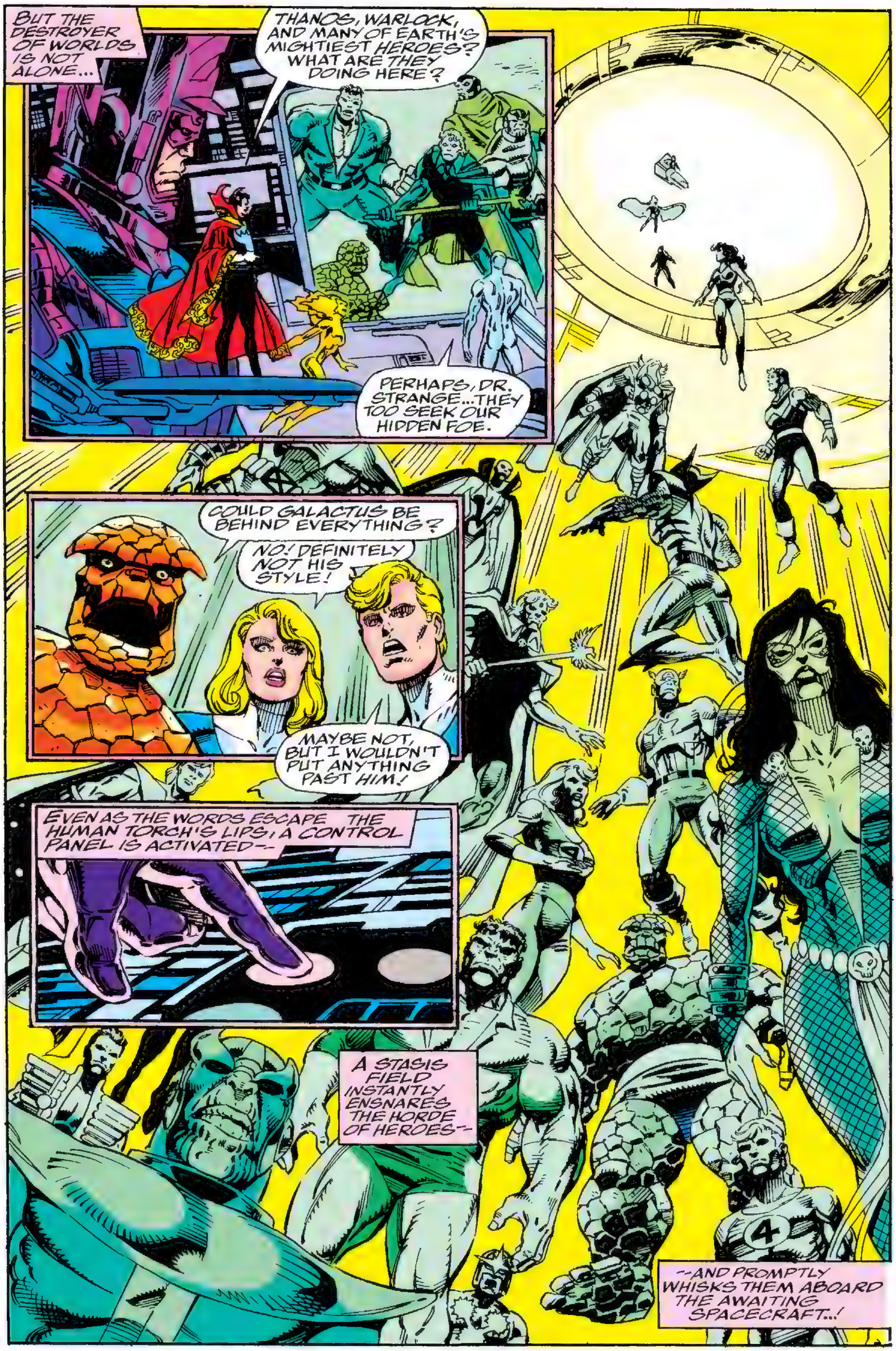
REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! **BEN GRIMM,** THE THING! **SUE RICHARDS,** INVISIBLE WOMAN! **JOHNNY STORM,** THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

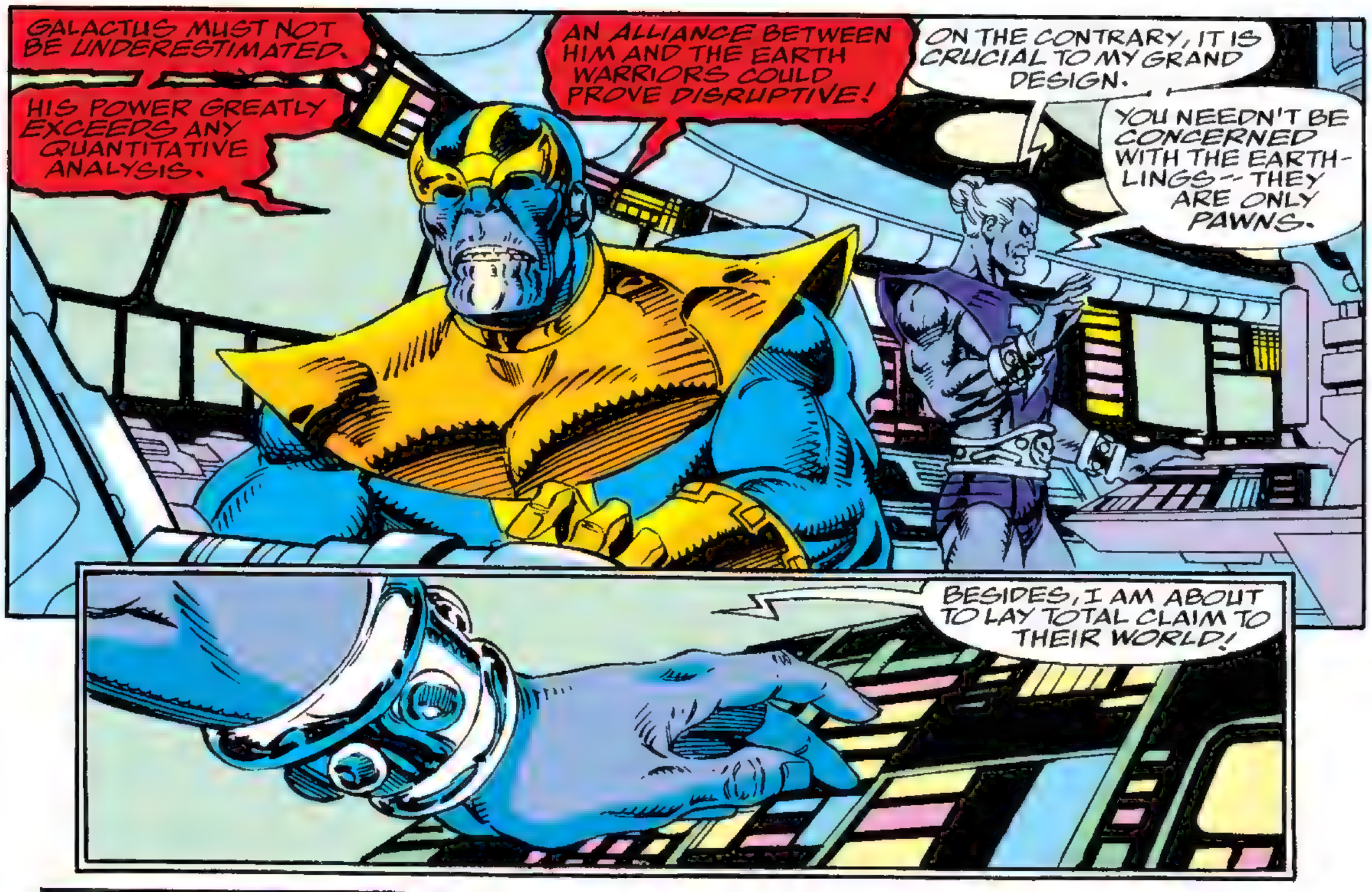
THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

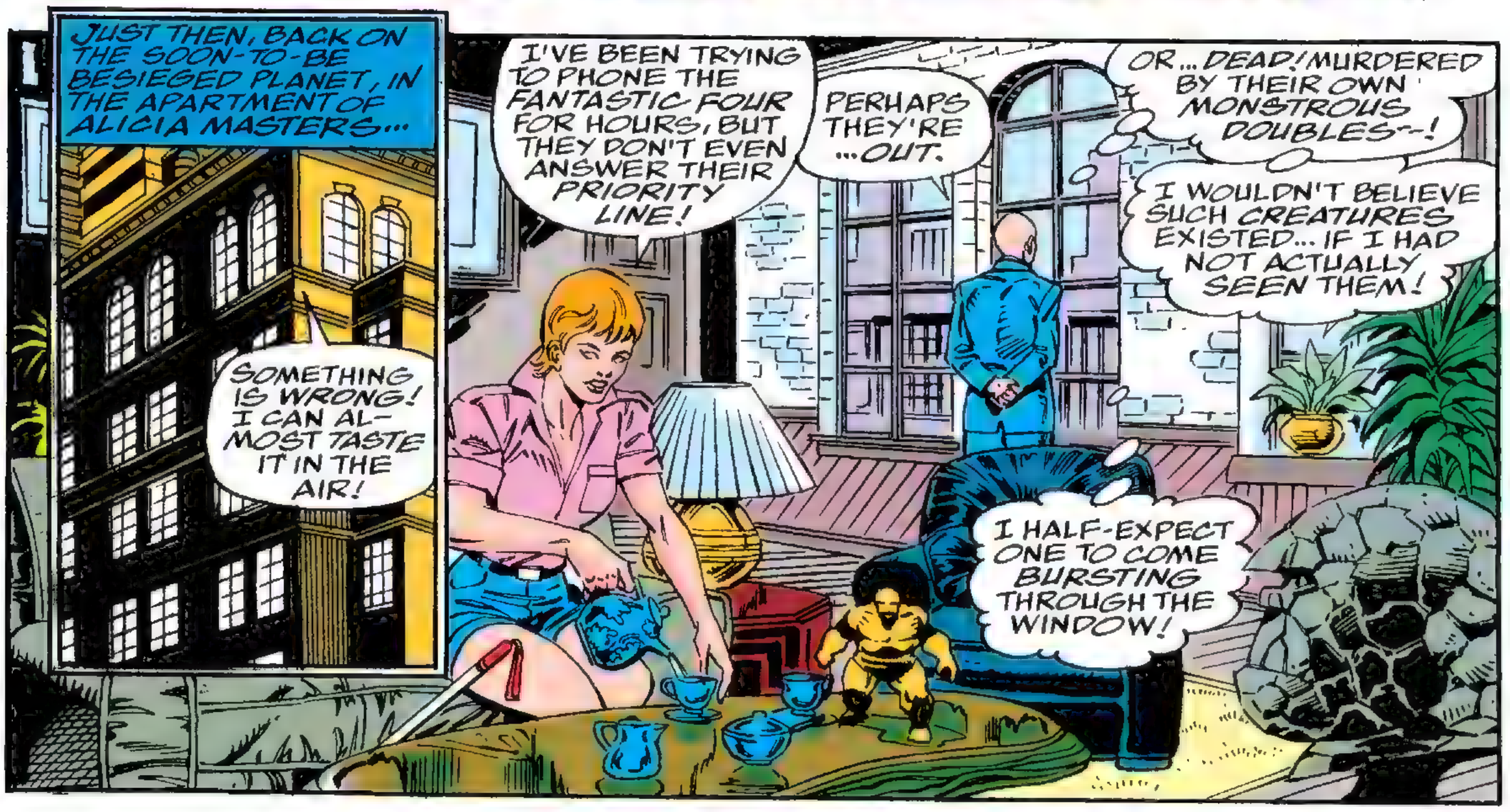
PAUL RYAN & TOM DEFALCO PLOT, PENCILS, SCRIPT | DAN BULANADI INKS | MORELLI LETTERS | GOING COLORS | RALF MACCHIO EDITOR

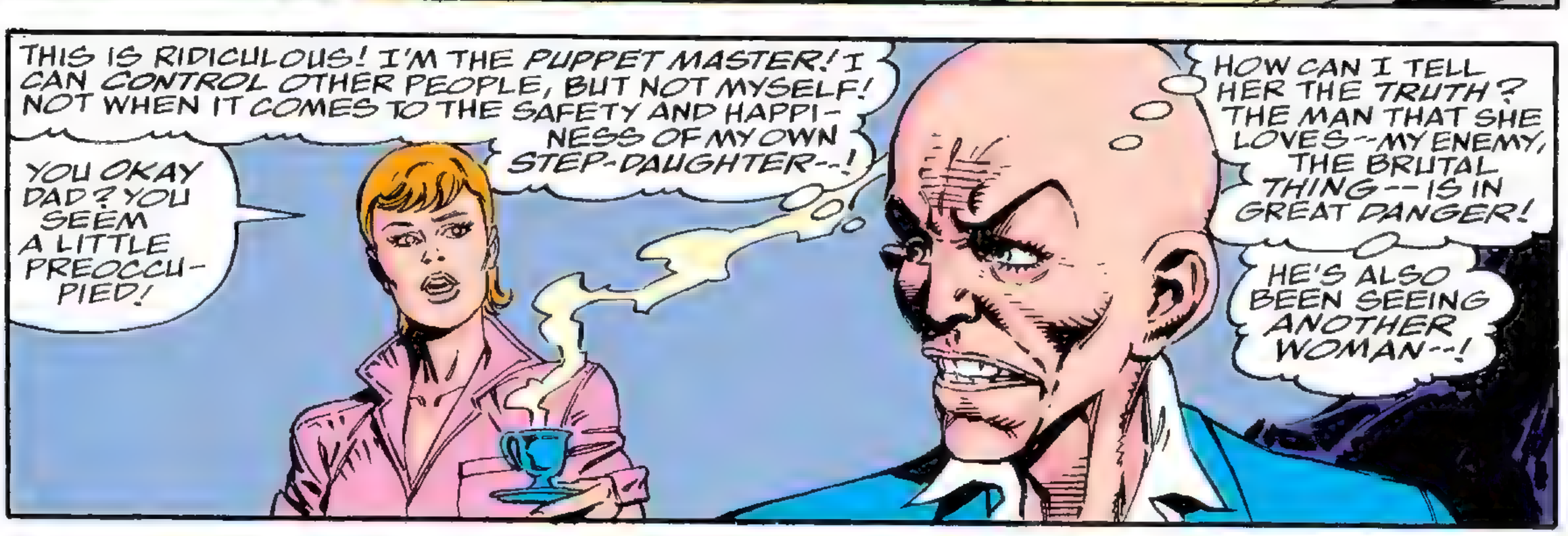

AND EVEN AS THE INVISIBLE WOMAN CONSIDERS THE MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES, TOTAL ANARCHY PREVAILS...
NOVA! WE'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON WARLOCK!
I'M ON HIM, TORCH!
URRK!
SURRENDER, THANOS... OR I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY HAMMER--HEADFIRST!
ARCHANGEL'S DOWN! WARLOCK STUNNED HIM!
MRS. RICHARDS, BEHIND YOU--! THANOS'S EASY CHAIR IS ANYTHING BUT EASY!
BE SILENT, YOU PRESUMPTUOUS FOOL!
BEFORE-WARNED, TITAN! HERCULES, THE PRINCE OF POWER WILL ALLOW NO HARM TO BEFALL THE NEW THOR!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING, HULK!
I FIND YOUR ABILITY TO TELEPORT MOST ANNOYING, PIP!
ULP... THAT'S TOO BAD, BIG GUY!
STRONG GUY, IF YOU PLEASE!
YOU HIT DRAX--?
Y'KNOW, DRAX... I HATE THESE BIG BRAWLS! NO ONE GETS TA ADMIRE MY FANCY MOVES!
GUESS I SHOULDA SAID "NO"!
MOVE IN, CYCLOPS! WE CAN'T GIVE THEM TIME TO REGROUP!
THEIR ASSAULT SEEMS UNORGANIZED AND UNDISCIPLINED, CAPTAIN AMERICA... LIKE THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING US!
VINDICATOR KAYOED PIP, AND SUE IS ACING MOON-DRAGON!
GAMORA'S ALREADY OUT!
THAT LEAVES ONLY DRAX, WARLOCK, AND THANOS!

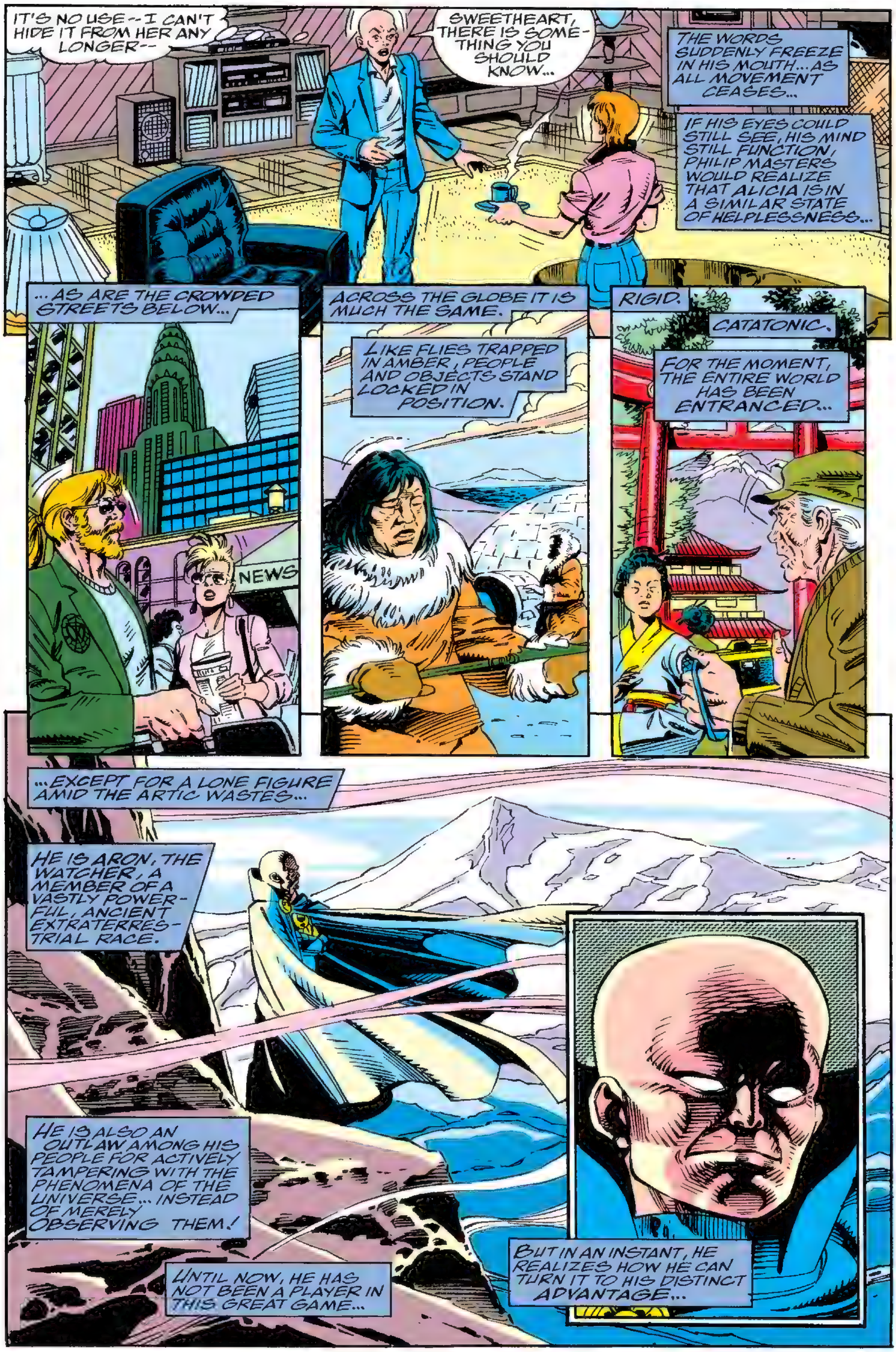

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PUT YOU THREE DOWN?
MORE THAN YOU CRETINS POSSESS!
THAT WE SHALL SEE, TITAN!
NO, WE SHALL NOT, OLYMPIAN.
FOR ONE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR WHO WILL SADLY PUT AN END TO ALL THIS DELIGHTFUL MAYHEM.
YOU HAVE WOVEN A MOST CUNNING TAPESTRY, MAGUS!
INDEED, MY THRALL... MY EFFORTS WILL SOON BE REWARDED--
--WITH THE GREATEST BOUNTY OF ALL!
HEY-- LOOK!
FERGET THESE JOKERS.
WE GOT A REAL PROBLEM ON THE HORIZON.
I RECOGNIZE THAT SHIP!
IT BELONGS TA GALACTUS!


BUT THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS IS NOT ALONE...
THANOS, WARLOCK, AND MANY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
PERHAPS, DR. STRANGE...THEY TOO SEEK OUR HIDDEN FOE.
COULD GALACTUS BE BEHIND EVERYTHING?
NO! DEFINITELY NOT HIS STYLE!
MAYBE NOT, BUT I WOULDN'T PUT ANYTHING PAST HIM!
EVEN AS THE WORDS ESCAPE THE HUMAN TORCH'S LIPS, A CONTROL PANEL IS ACTIVATED--
A STASIS FIELD INSTANTLY ENSNARES THE HORDE OF HEROES--
--AND PROMPTLY WHISKS THEM ABOARD THE AWAITING SPACECRAFT...!

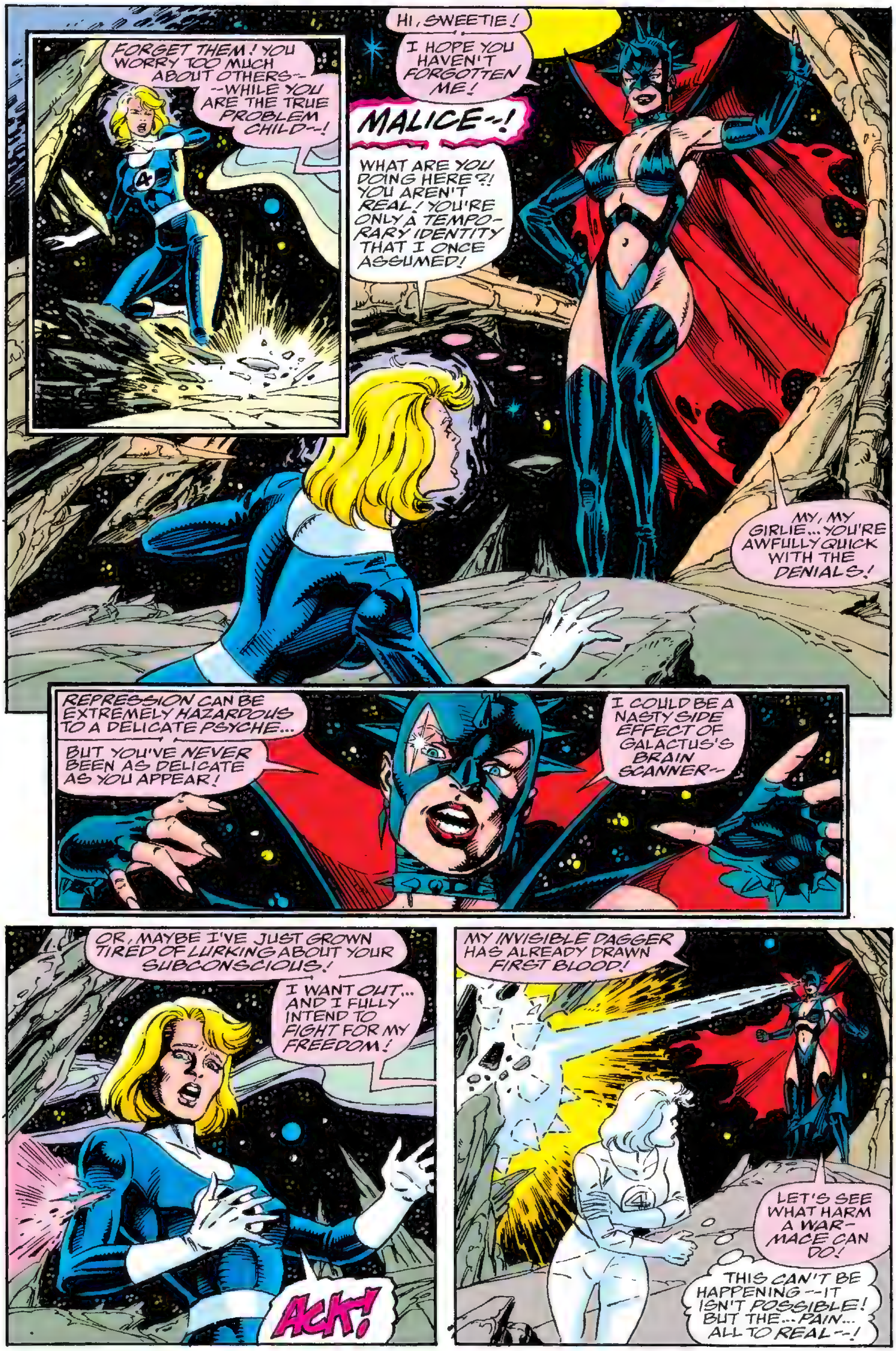

GALACTUS MUST NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.
HIS POWER GREATLY EXCEEDS ANY QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS.
AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN HIM AND THE EARTH WARRIORS COULD PROVE DISRUPTIVE!
ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS CRUCIAL TO MY GRAND DESIGN.
YOU NEEDN'T BE CONCERNED WITH THE EARTH-LINGS-- THEY ARE ONLY PAWNS.
BESIDES, I AM ABOUT TO LAY TOTAL CLAIM TO THEIR WORLD!


JUST THEN, BACK ON THE SOON-TO-BE BESIEGED PLANET, IN THE APARTMENT OF ALICIA MASTERS...
SOMETHING IS WRONG! I CAN AL-MOST TASTE IT IN THE AIR!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PHONE THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR HOURS, BUT THEY DON'T EVEN ANSWER THEIR PRIORITY LINE!
PERHAPS THEY'RE ...OUT.
OR... DEAD! MURDERED BY THEIR OWN MONSTROUS DOUBLES--!
I WOULDN'T BELIEVE SUCH CREATURES EXISTED... IF I HAD NOT ACTUALLY SEEN THEM!
I HALF-EXPECT ONE TO COME BURSTING THROUGH THE WINDOW!

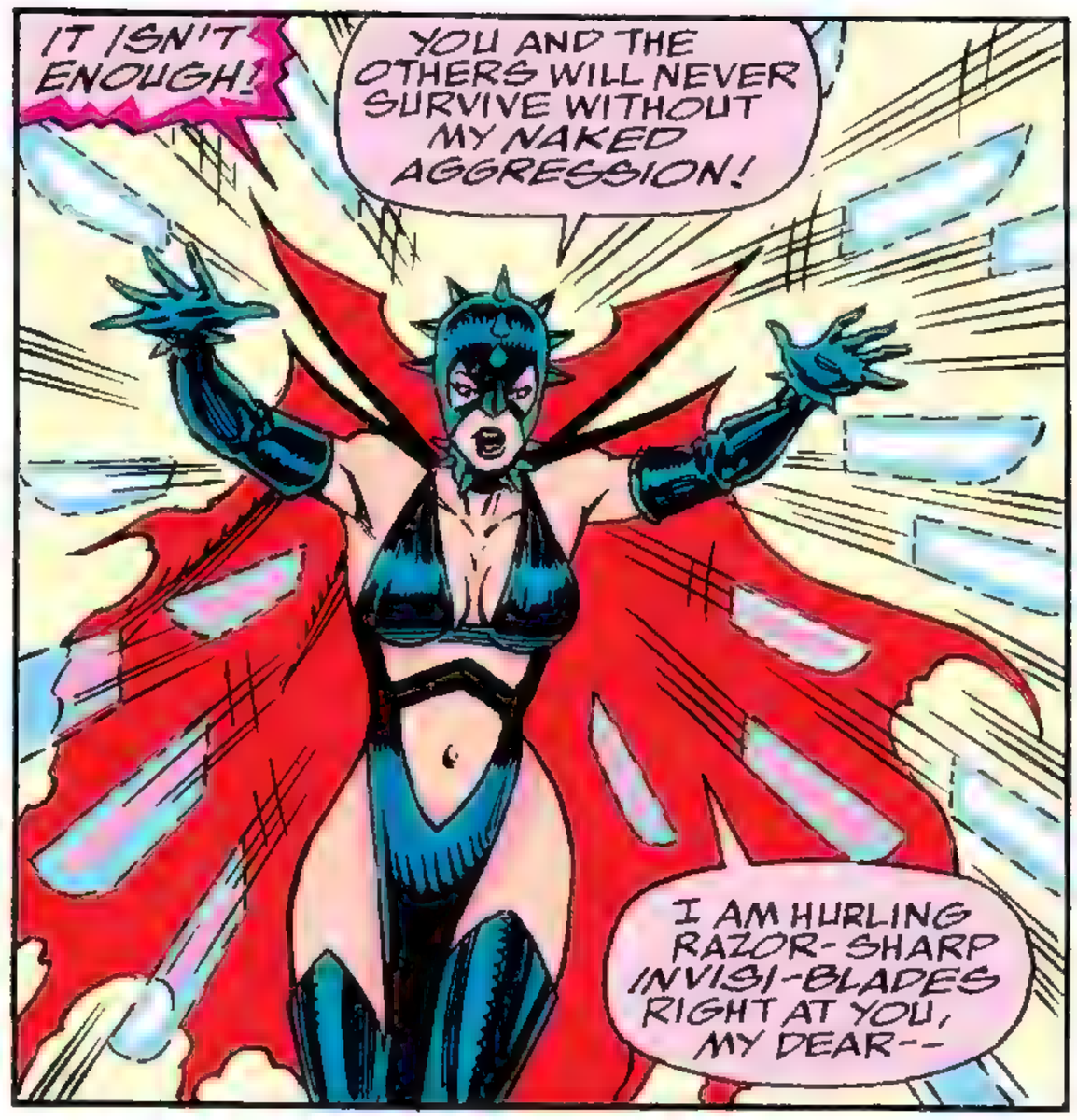

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I'M THE PUPPET MASTER! I CAN CONTROL OTHER PEOPLE, BUT NOT MYSELF! NOT WHEN IT COMES TO THE SAFETY AND HAPPI-NESS OF MY OWN STEP-DAUGHTER--!
YOU OKAY DAD? YOU SEEM A LITTLE PREOCCU-PIED!
HOW CAN I TELL HER THE TRUTH? THE MAN THAT SHE LOVES--MY ENEMY, THE BRUTAL THING--IS IN GREAT DANGER!
HE'S ALSO BEEN SEEING ANOTHER WOMAN--!

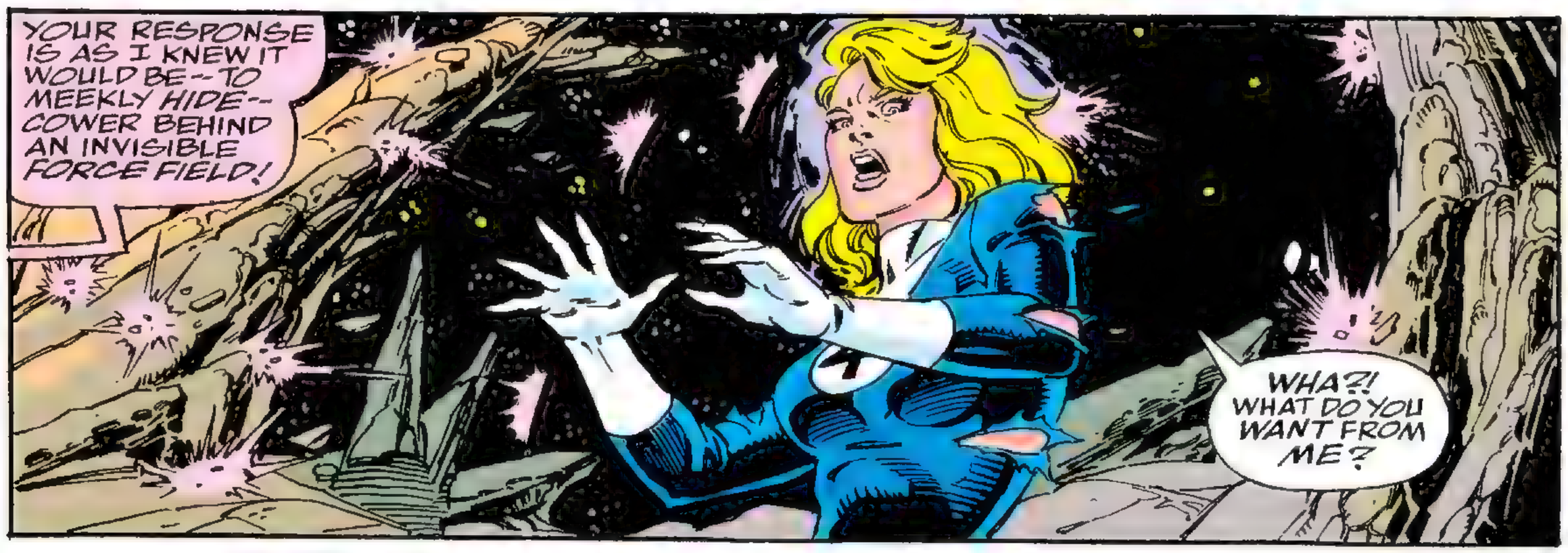

IT'S NO USE--I CAN'T HIDE IT FROM HER ANY LONGER--
SWEETHEART, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
THE WORDS SUDDENLY FREEZE IN HIS MOUTH...AS ALL MOVEMENT CEASES...
IF HIS EYES COULD STILL SEE, HIS MIND STILL FUNCTION, PHILIP MASTERS WOULD REALIZE THAT ALICIA IS IN A SIMILAR STATE OF HELPLESSNESS...
...AS ARE THE CROWDED STREETS BELOW...
NEWS
ACROSS THE GLOBE IT IS MUCH THE SAME.
LIKE FLIES TRAPPED IN AMBER, PEOPLE AND OBJECTS STAND LOCKED IN POSITION.
RIGID.
CATATONIC.
FOR THE MOMENT, THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN ENTRANCED...
...EXCEPT FOR A LONE FIGURE AMID THE ARTIC WASTES...
HE IS ARON, THE WATCHER, A MEMBER OF A VASTLY POWERFUL, ANCIENT EXTRATERRESTRIAL RACE.
HE IS ALSO AN OUTLAW AMONG HIS PEOPLE FOR ACTIVELY TAMPERING WITH THE PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE... INSTEAD OF MERELY OBSERVING THEM!
UNTIL NOW, HE HAS NOT BEEN A PLAYER IN THIS GREAT GAME...
BUT IN AN INSTANT, HE REALIZES HOW HE CAN TURN IT TO HIS DISTINCT ADVANTAGE...

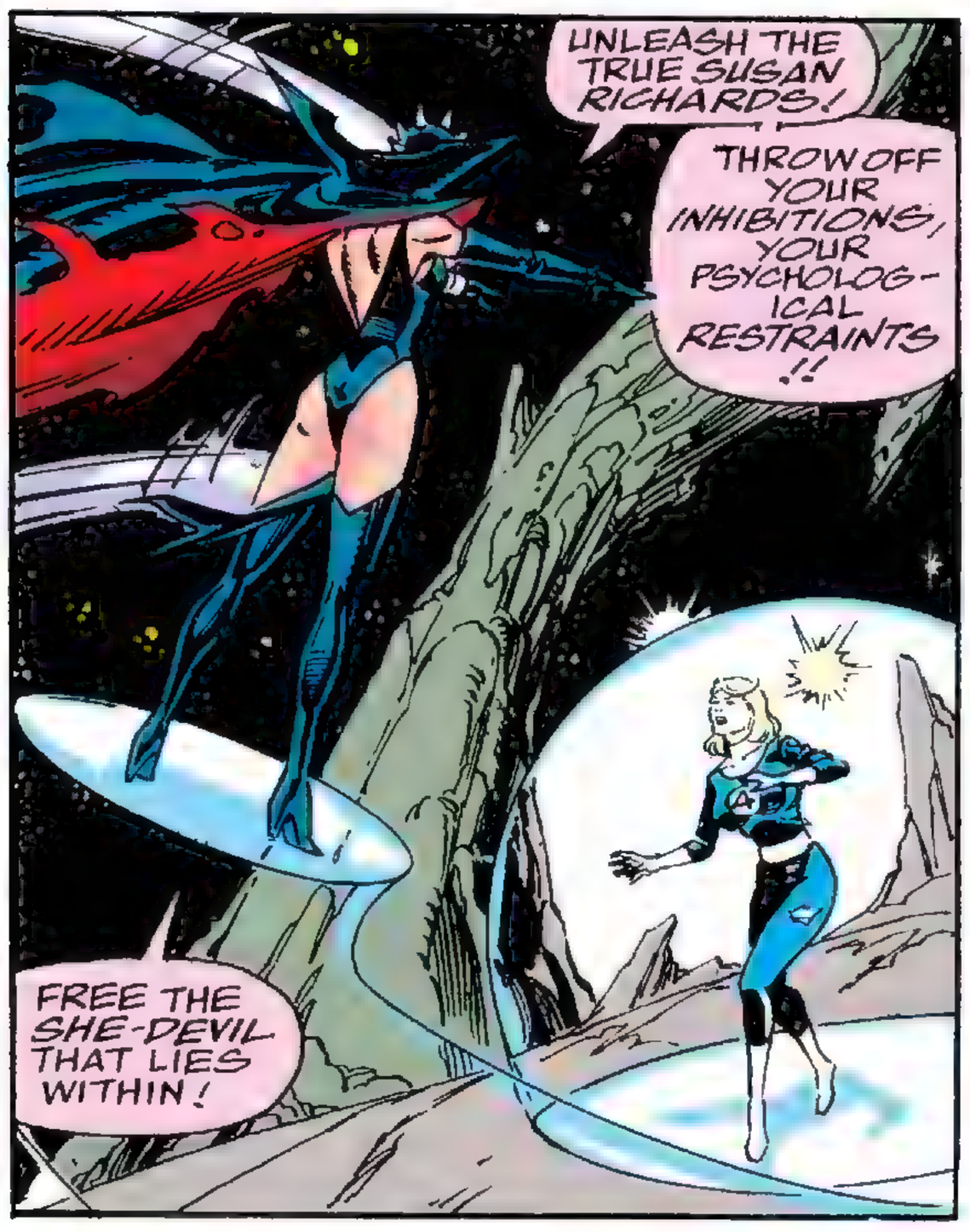
MEANWHILE...
GALACTUS! FREE THESE PEOPLE FROM YOUR STASIS RAY!
THEY MAY POSSESS KNOWLEDGE WHICH CAN AID OUR QUEST!
ALL TOO TRUE, SURFER.
THE QUICKEST WAY TO GAIN THE INTEL-LIGENCE I SEEK IS THROUGH A CEREBRAL SCAN OF ALL THEIR RECENT MEMORIES.
STEADY YOUR-SELVES, MORTALS.
"THIS UNIT IS NOT ADEQUATELY INSULATED FOR THE SENSITIVITIES OF YOUR FRAIL SYSTEMS...
"... AND COULD CAUSE UNFORESEEN COMPLI-CATIONS."
WHA--?!
WHERE AM I ??
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?

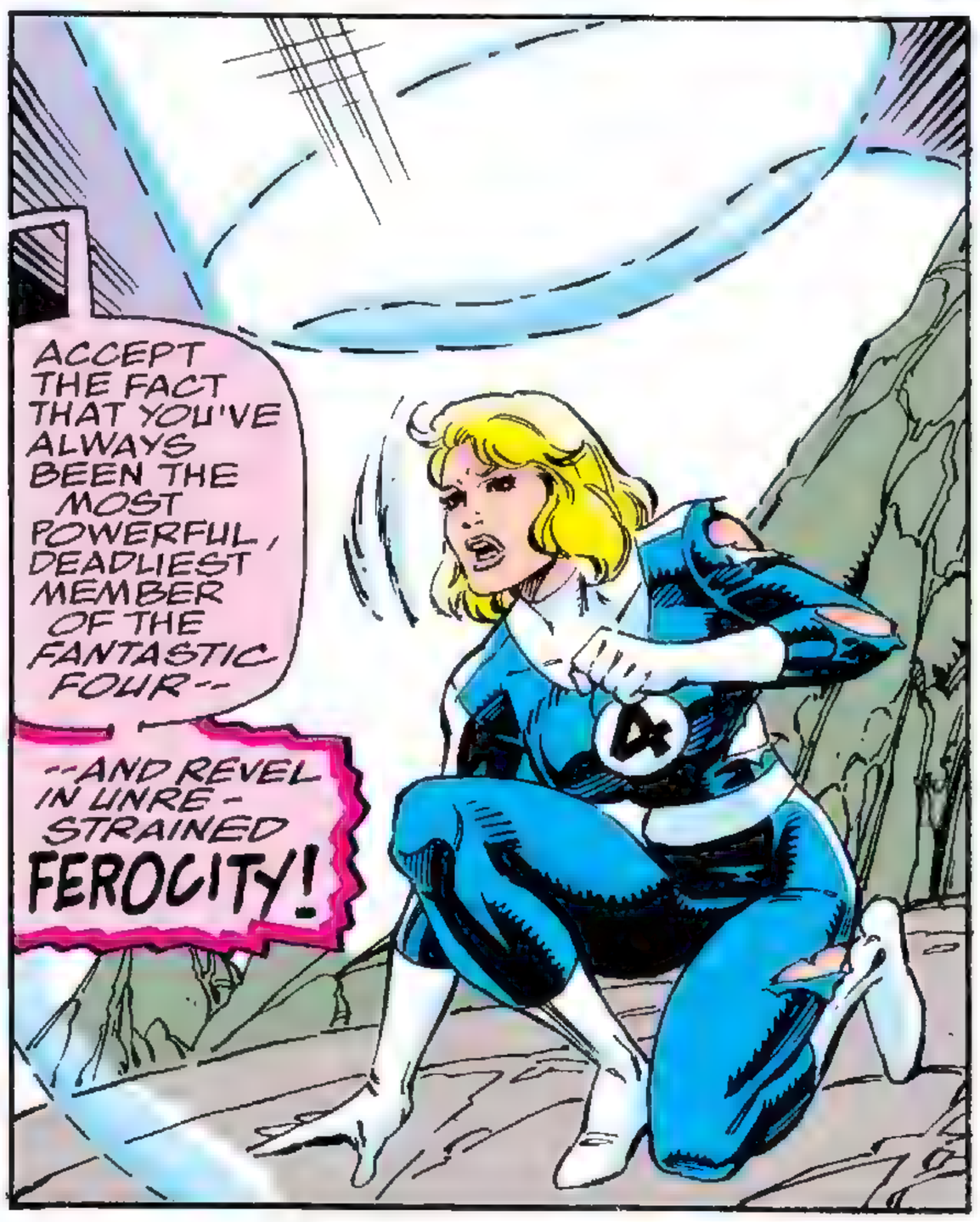

FORGET THEM! YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT OTHERS--
--WHILE YOU ARE THE TRUE PROBLEM CHILD--!
HI, SWEETIE!
I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME!
MALICE--!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! YOU AREN'T REAL! YOU'RE ONLY A TEMPORARY IDENTITY THAT I ONCE ASSUMED!
MY, MY GIRLIE... YOU'RE AWFULLY QUICK WITH THE DENIALS!
REPRESSION CAN BE EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO A DELICATE PSYCHE...
BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN AS DELICATE AS YOU APPEAR!
I COULD BE A NASTY SIDE EFFECT OF GALACTUS'S BRAIN SCANNER--
OR, MAYBE I'VE JUST GROWN TIRED OF LURKING ABOUT YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS!
I WANT OUT... AND I FULLY INTEND TO FIGHT FOR MY FREEDOM!
Ack!
MY INVISIBLE DAGGER HAS ALREADY DRAWN FIRST BLOOD!
LET'S SEE WHAT HARM A WAR-MACE CAN DO!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! BUT THE... PAIN... ALL TO REAL--!

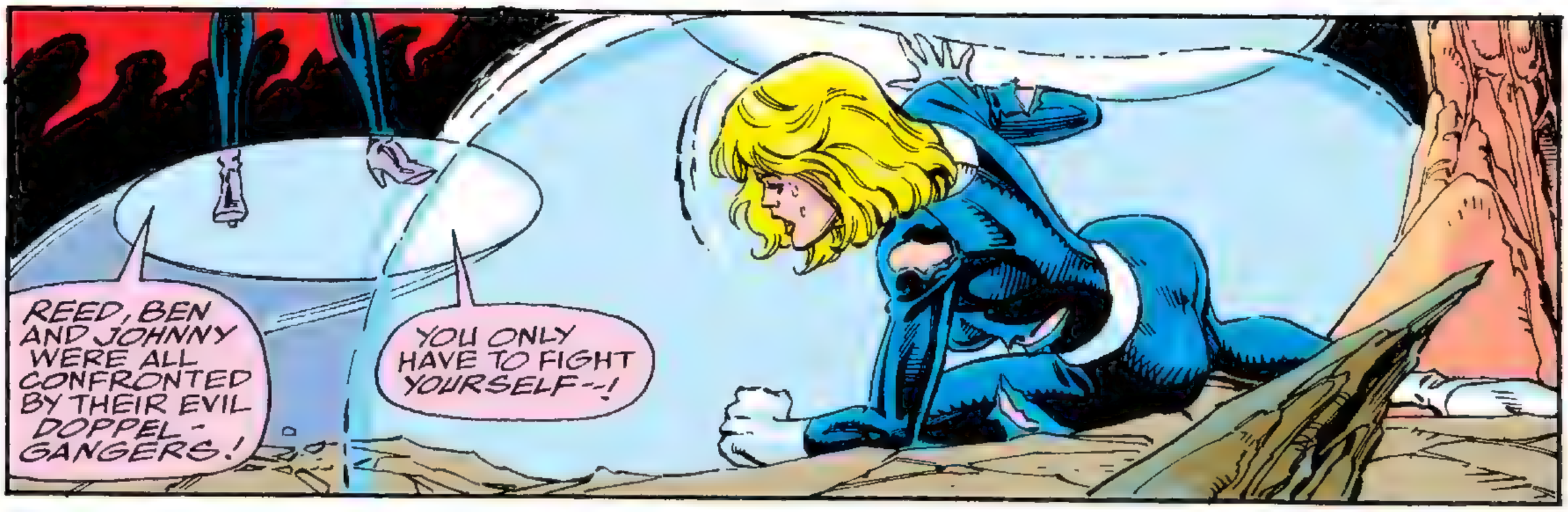
THIS IS INSANE!
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO GAIN?!
CONTROL, MY DEAR...
AND MORE! FAR MORE!
YOU'VE TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE ROLE SINCE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUR BELOVED REED!

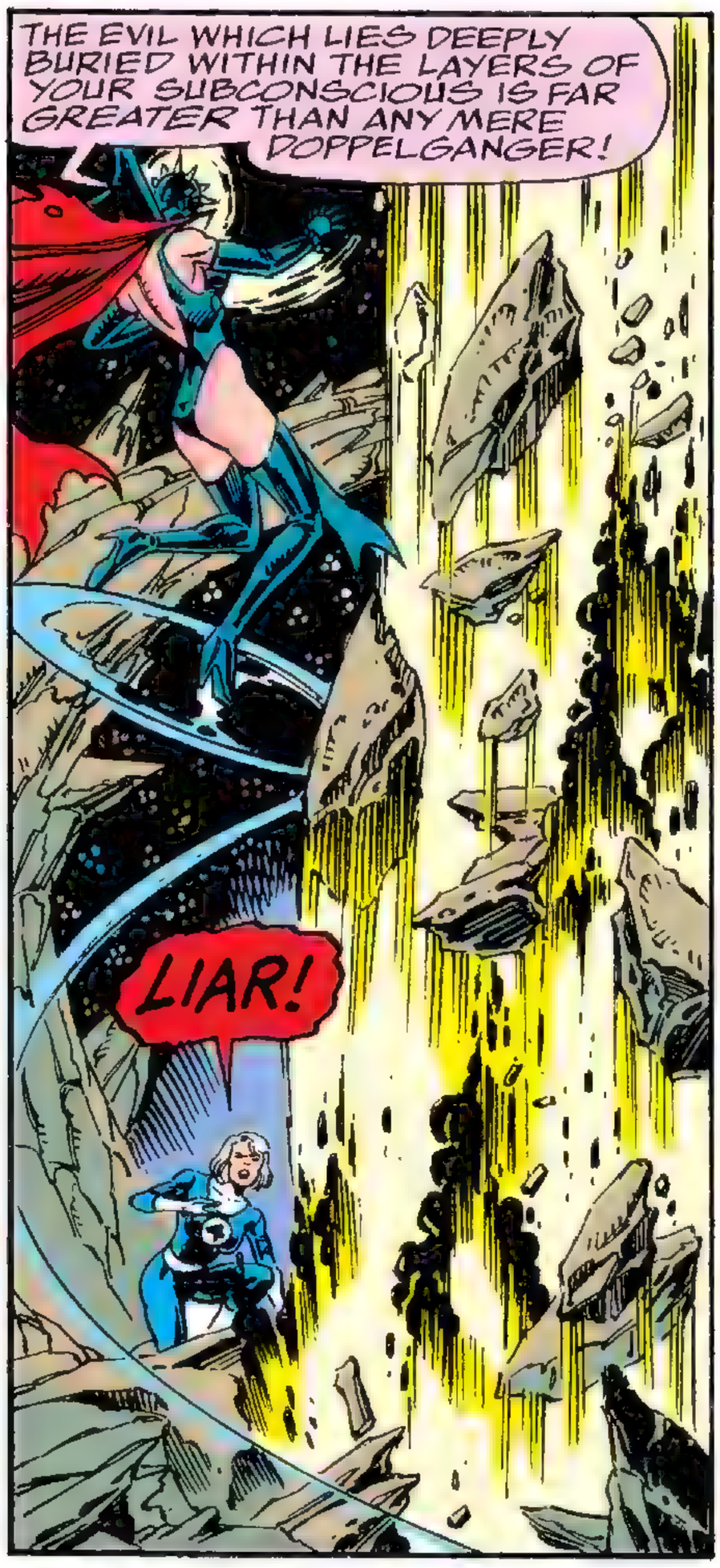

IT ISN'T ENOUGH!
YOU AND THE OTHERS WILL NEVER SURVIVE WITHOUT MY NAKED AGGRESSION!
I AM HURLING RAZOR-SHARP INVISI-BLADES RIGHT AT YOU, MY DEAR--


YOUR RESPONSE IS AS I KNEW IT WOULD BE--TO MEEKLY HIDE--COWER BEHIND AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!
WHA?! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

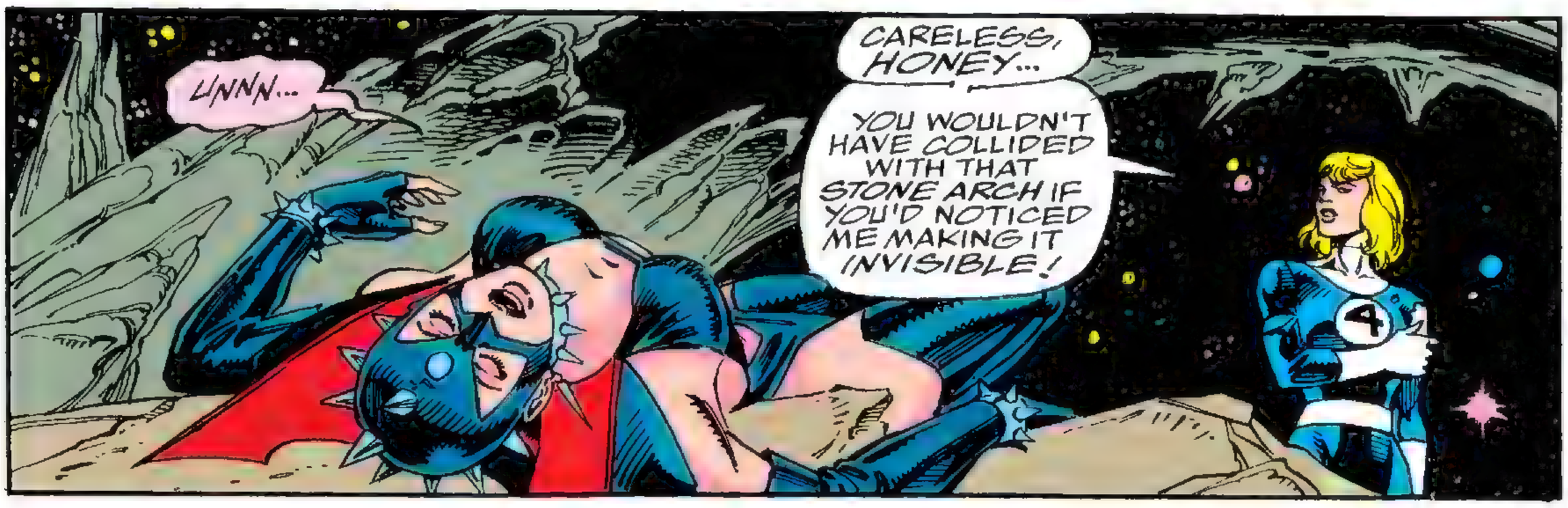

UNLEASH THE TRUE SUSAN RICHARDS!
THROW OFF YOUR INHIBITIONS, YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL RESTRAINTS!!
FREE THE SHE-DEVIL THAT LIES WITHIN!

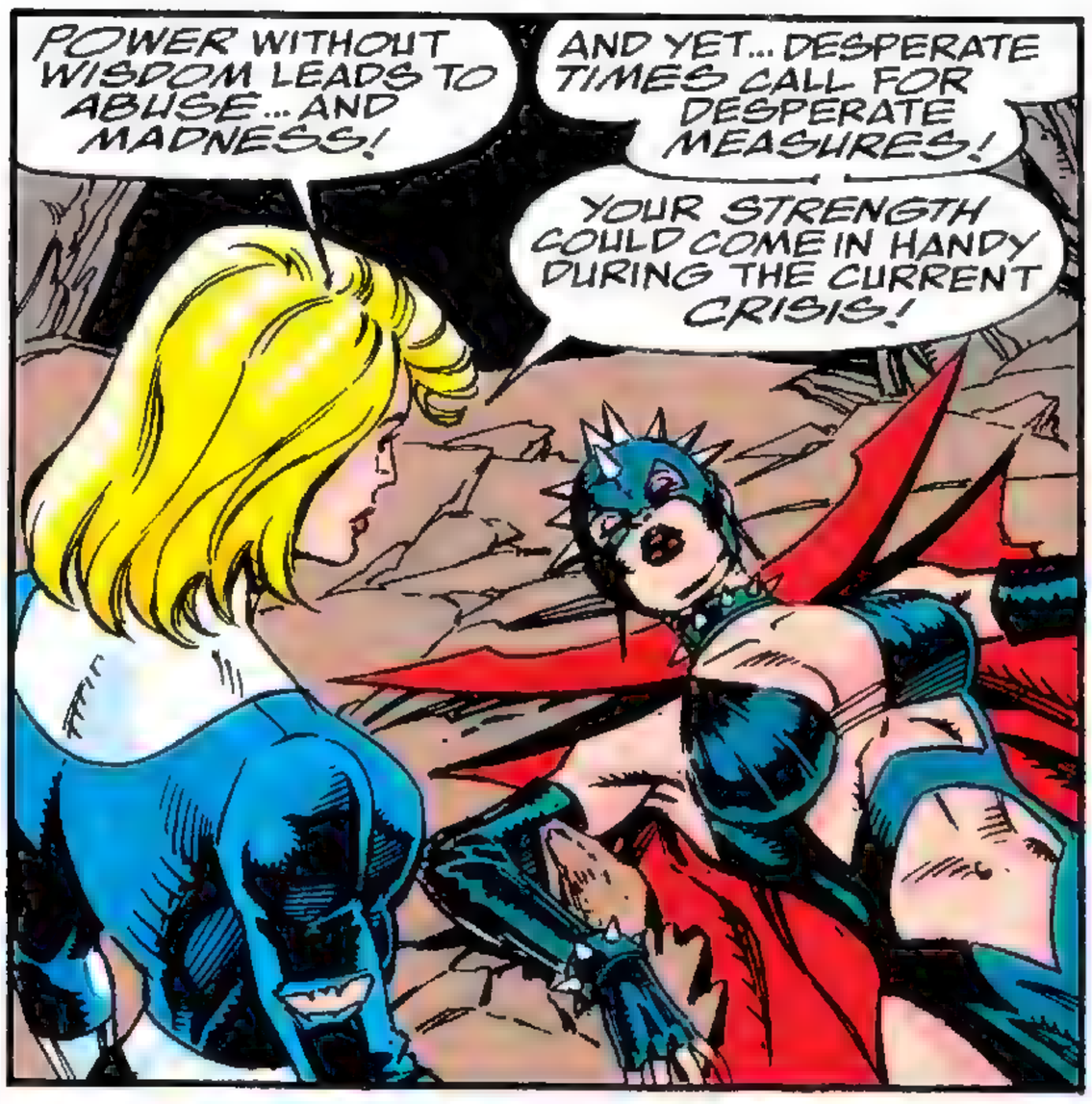

ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST POWERFUL, DEADLIEST MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR--
--AND REVEL IN UNRESTRAINED FEROCITY!

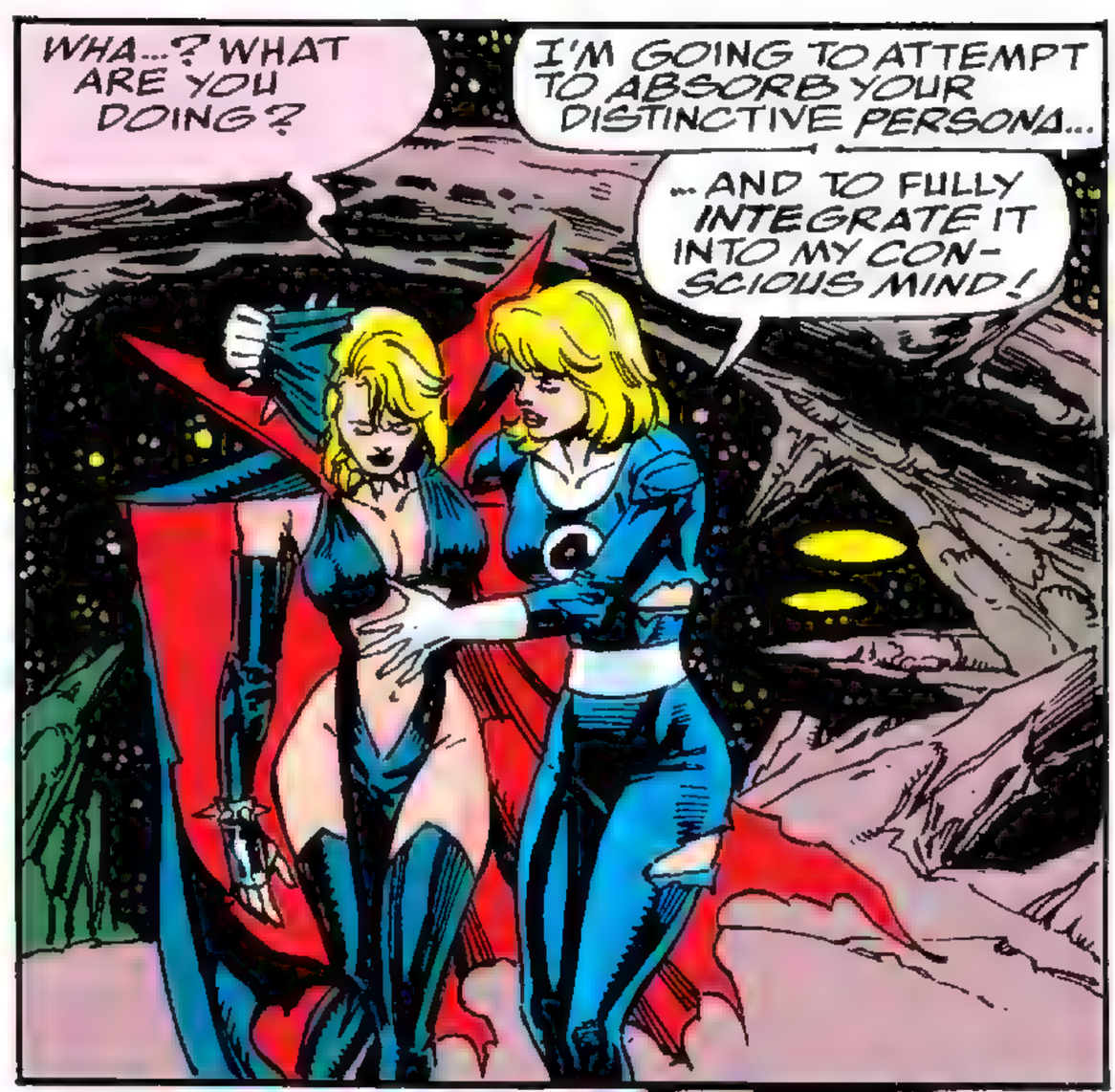

REED, BEN AND JOHNNY WERE ALL CONFRONTED BY THEIR EVIL DOPPEL-GANGERS!
YOU ONLY HAVE TO FIGHT YOURSELF--!


THE EVIL WHICH LIES DEEPLY BURIED WITHIN THE LAYERS OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY MERE DOPPELGANGER!
LIAR!

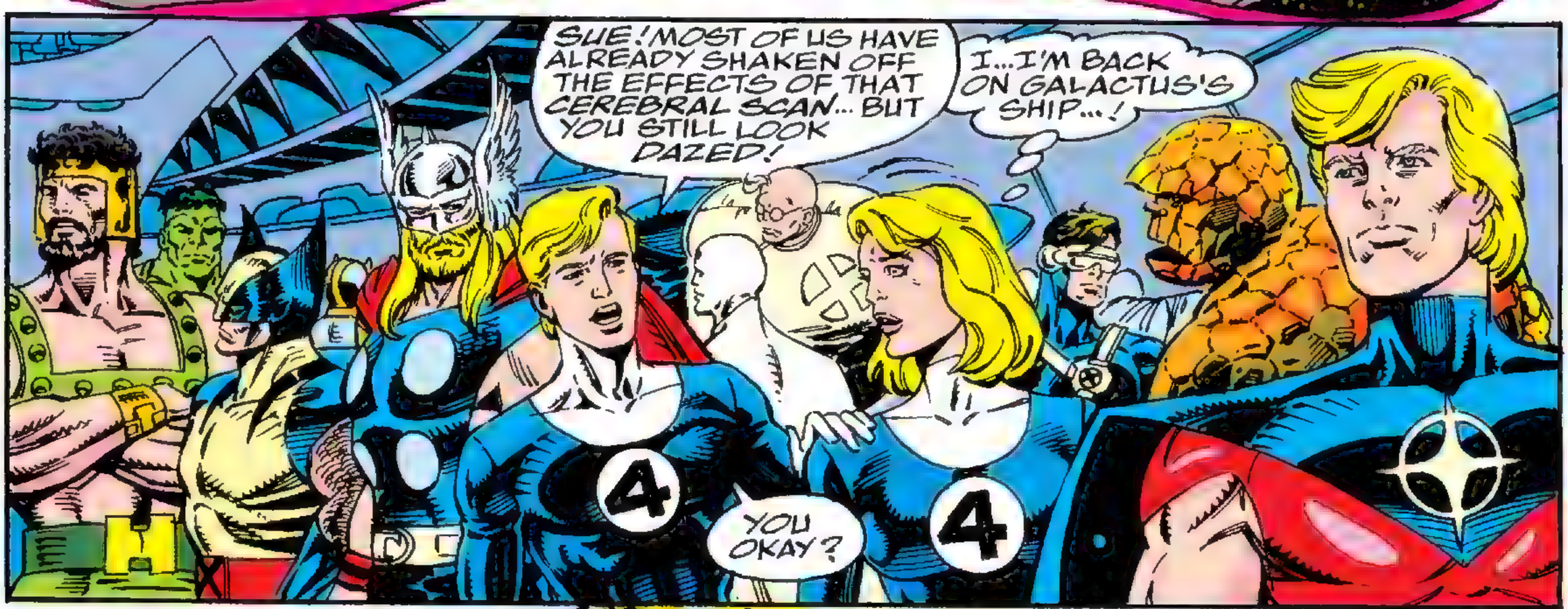
THAT'S THE SPIRIT I LIKE TO SEE!
FELT GOOD, DIDN'T IT?
DON'T BOTHER RUNNING-- YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR-SELF!
WRONG, MALICE-- I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
ON THE CONTRARY, DEARIE--YOU ARE! ACCEPT THIS TRUTH, AND--
WUNK

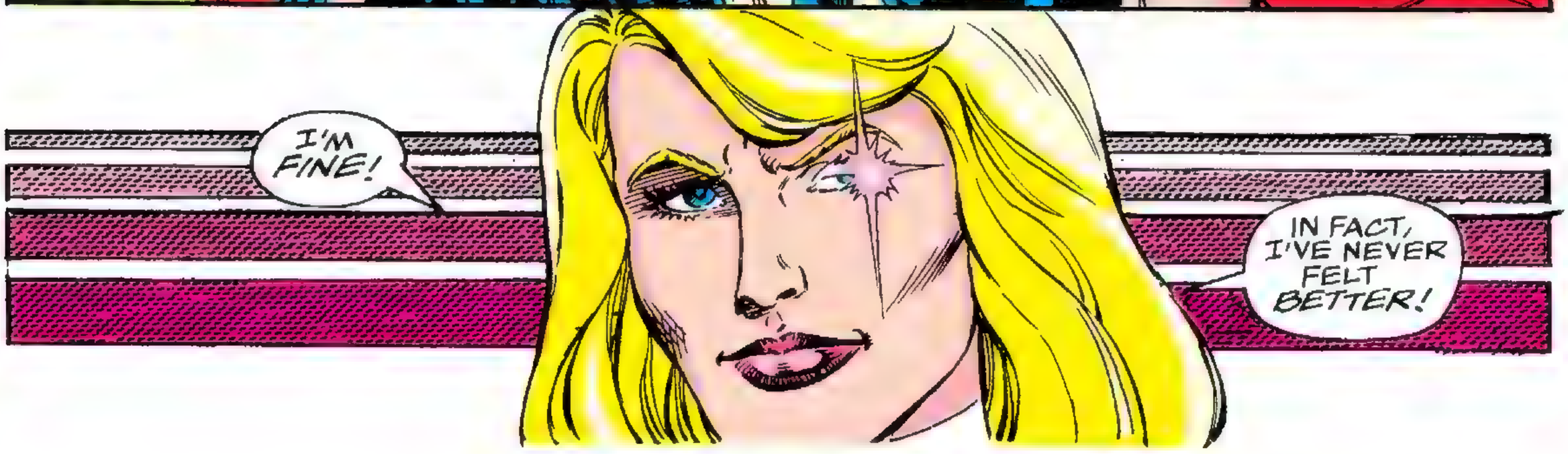

UNNN...
CARELESS, HONEY...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COLLIDED WITH THAT STONE ARCH IF YOU'D NOTICED ME MAKING IT INVISIBLE!

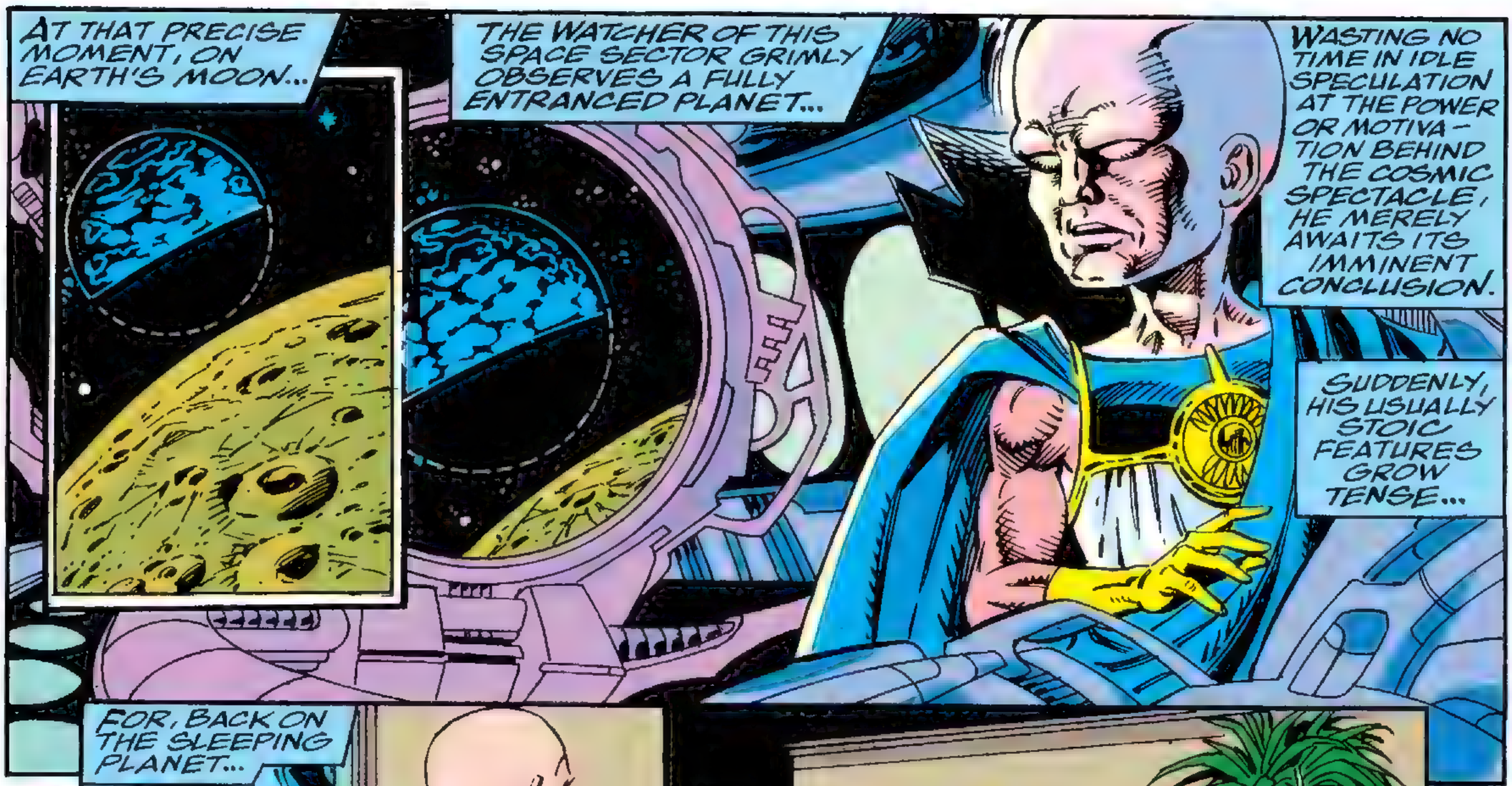

POWER WITHOUT WISDOM LEADS TO ABUSE... AND MADNESS!
AND YET... DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES!
YOUR STRENGTH COULD COME IN HANDY DURING THE CURRENT CRISIS!

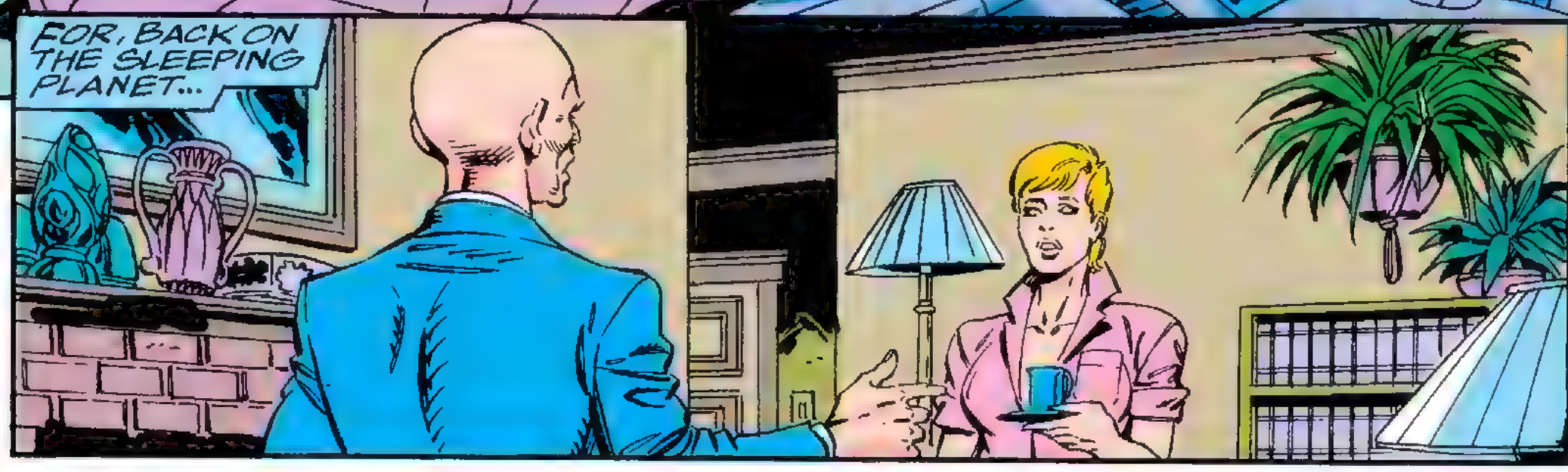

WHA...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GOING TO ATTEMPT TO ABSORB YOUR DISTINCTIVE PERSONA...
...AND TO FULLY INTEGRATE IT INTO MY CONSCIOUS MIND!

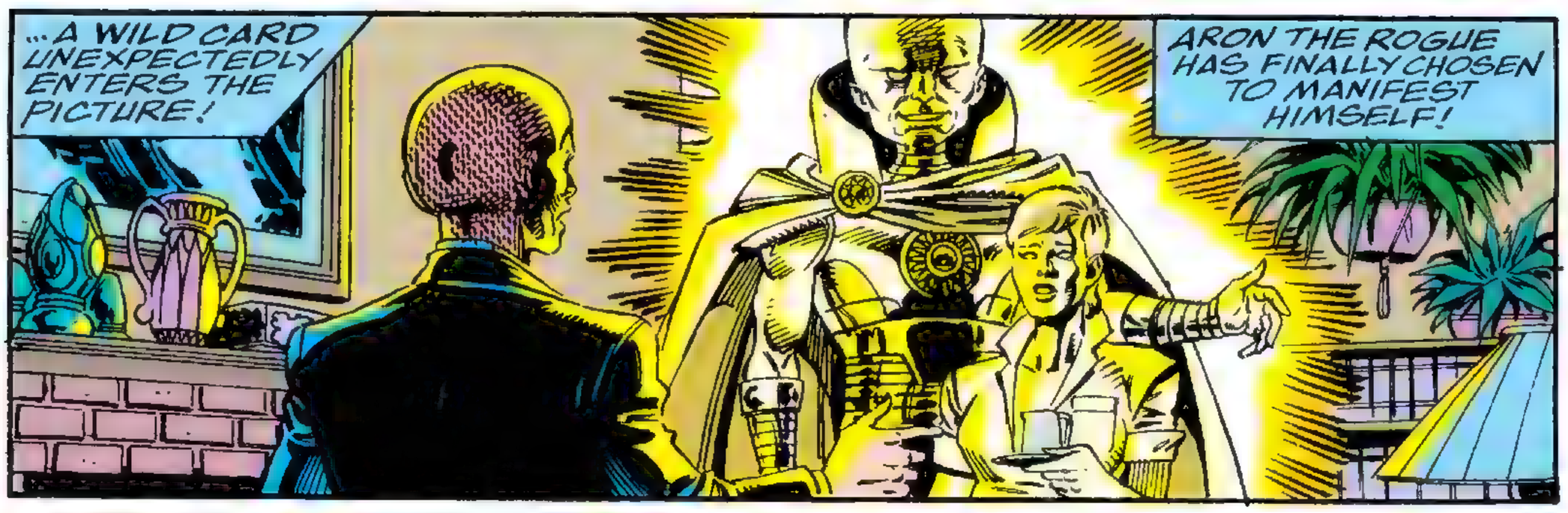
YOU'RE A FOOL SUSAN! YOU'LL NEVER CONTROL ME!
I SHALL EMERGE AS THE DOMINANT PERSONALITY--!
WE'LL SEE...
BUT I WOULDN'T GAMBLE ON IT, SWEETIE!

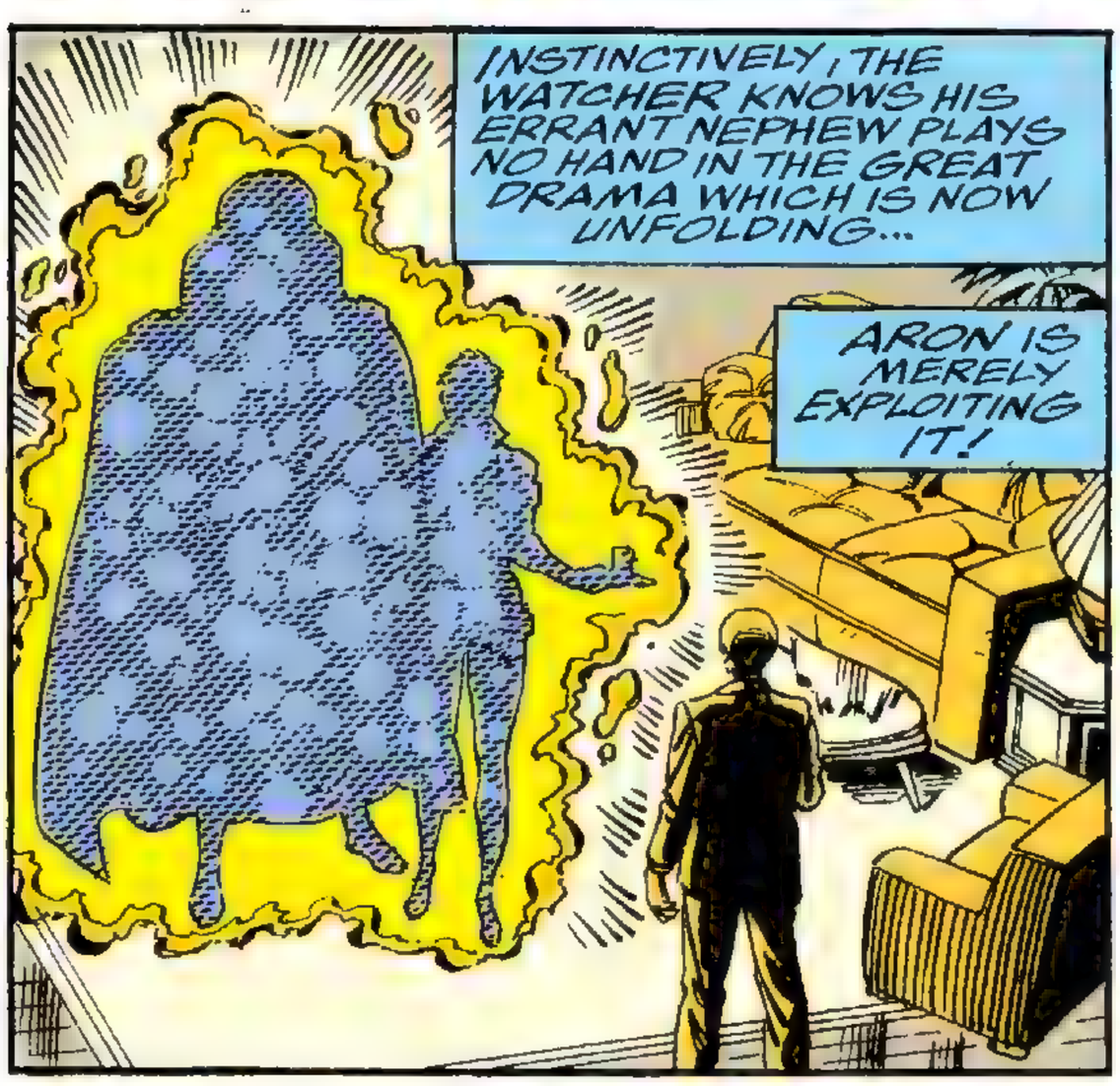

SUE! MOST OF US HAVE ALREADY SHAKEN OFF THE EFFECTS OF THAT CEREBRAL SCAN... BUT YOU STILL LOOK DAZED!
I...I'M BACK ON GALACTUS'S SHIP...!
YOU OKAY?

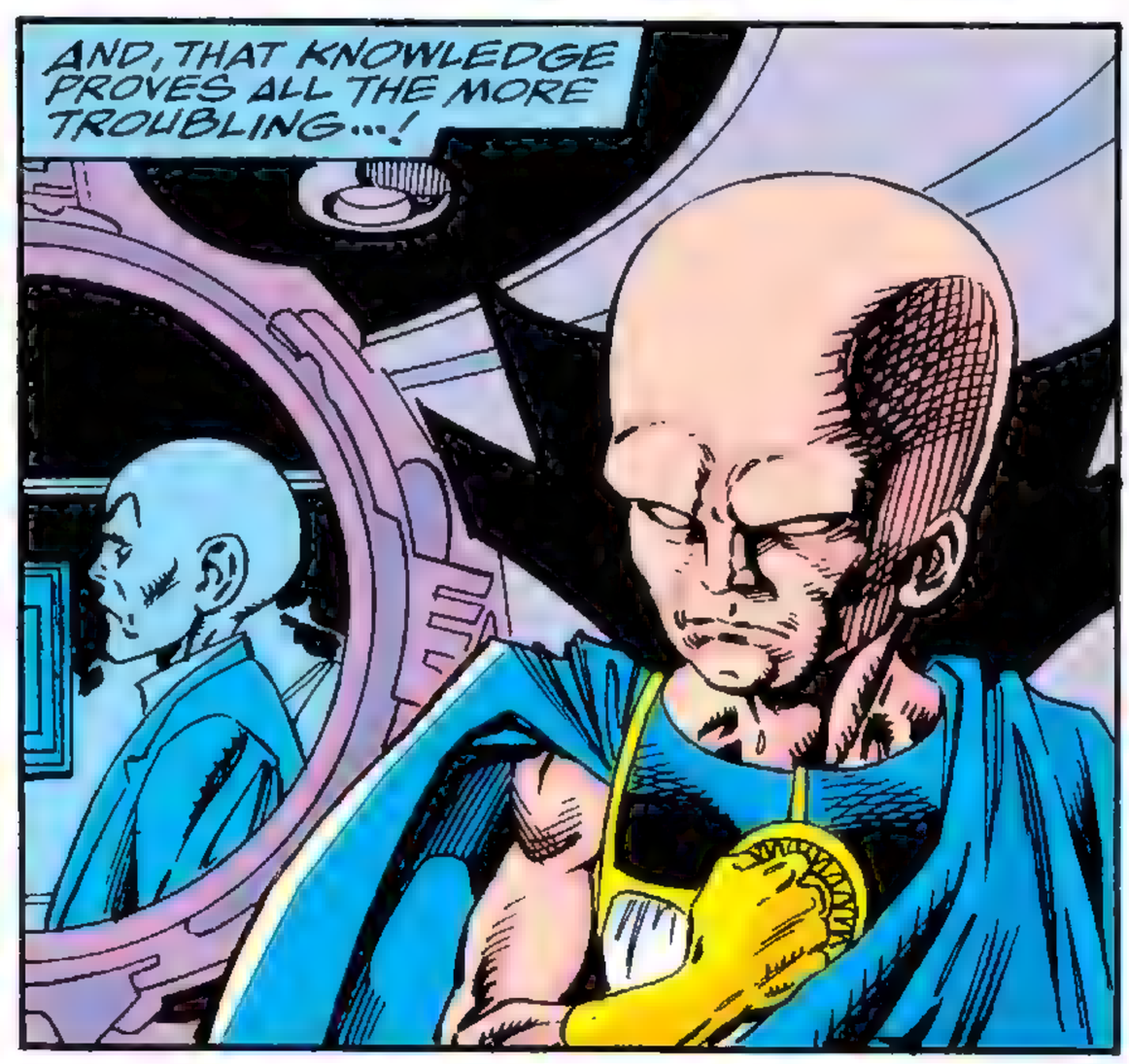

I'M FINE!
IN FACT, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER!


AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, ON EARTH'S MOON...
THE WATCHER OF THIS SPACE SECTOR GRIMLY OBSERVES A FULLY ENTRANCED PLANET...
WASTING NO TIME IN IDLE SPECULATION AT THE POWER OR MOTIVA-TION BEHIND THE COSMIC SPECTACLE, HE MERELY AWAITS ITS IMMINENT CONCLUSION.
SUDDENLY, HIS USUALLY STOIC FEATURES GROW TENSE...

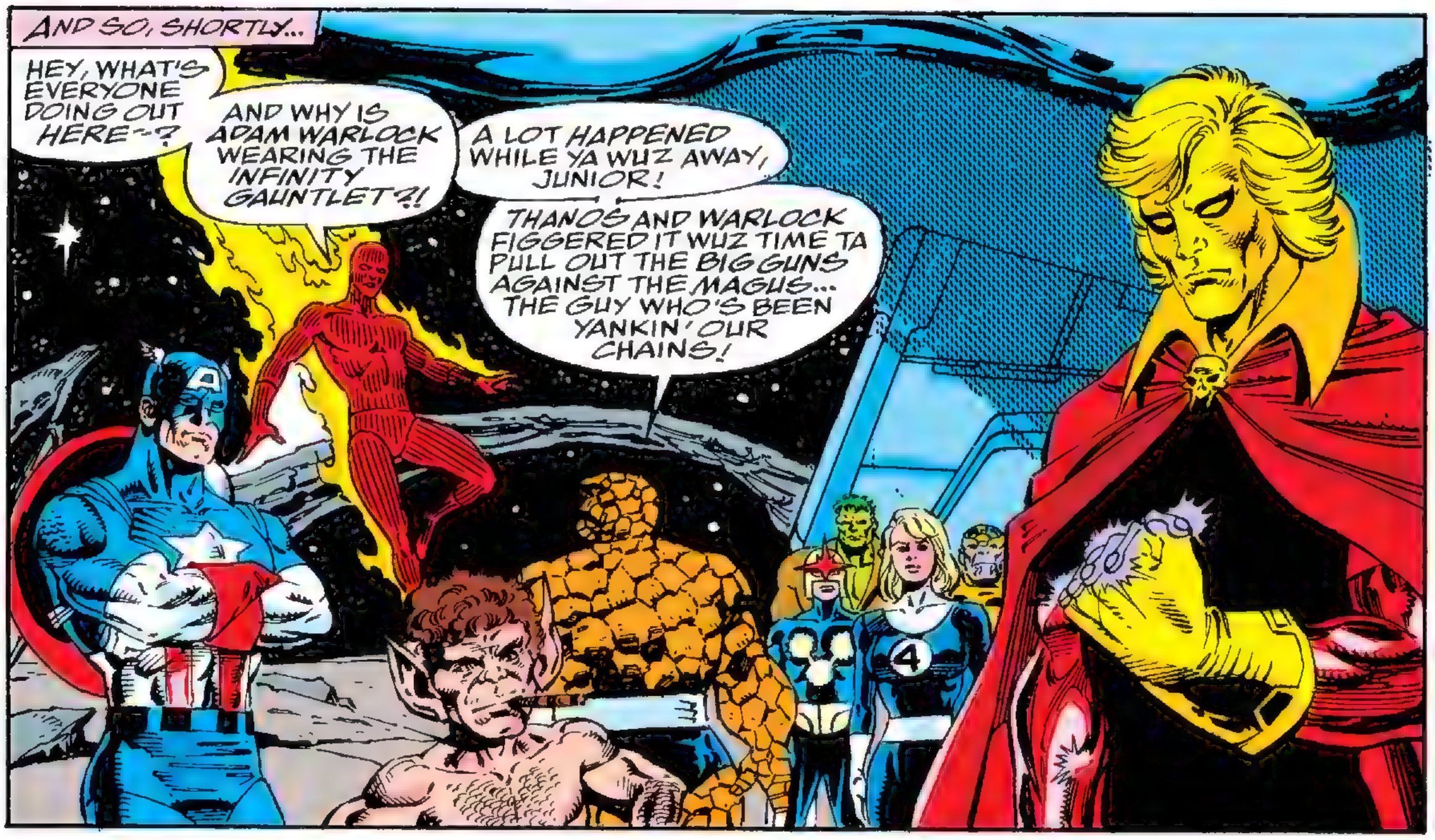

FOR, BACK ON THE SLEEPING PLANET...

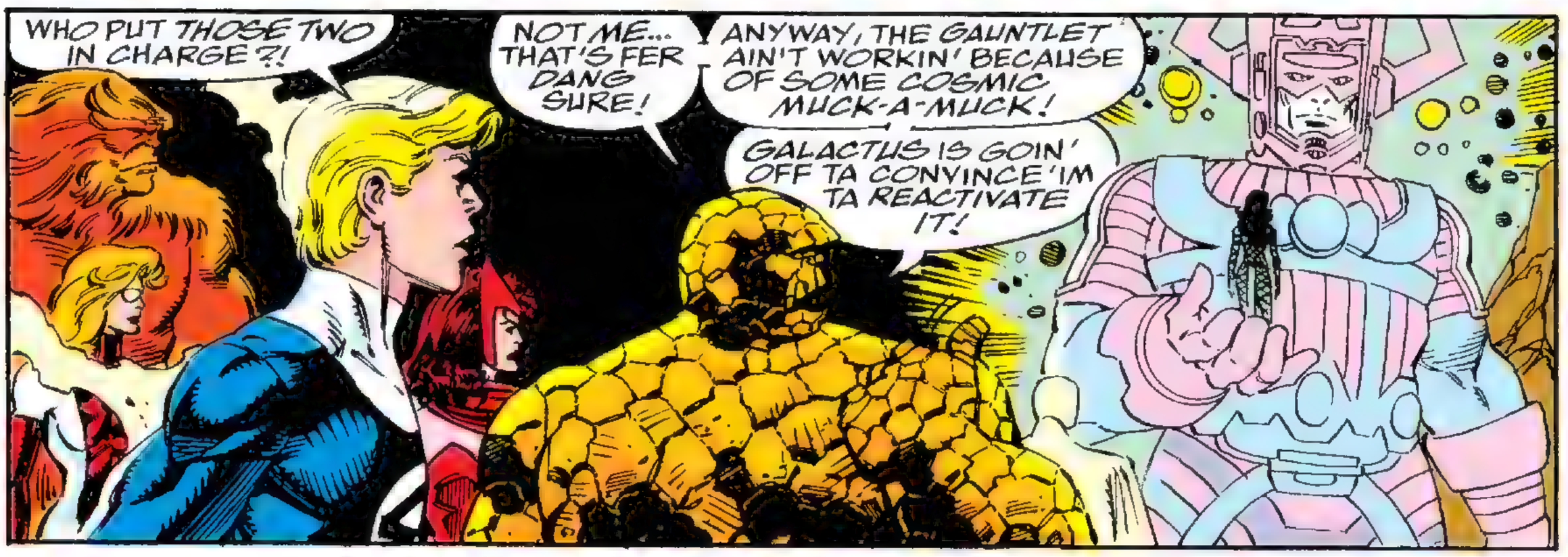

...A WILD CARD UNEXPECTEDLY ENTERS THE PICTURE!
ARON THE ROGUE HAS FINALLY CHOSEN TO MANIFEST HIMSELF!

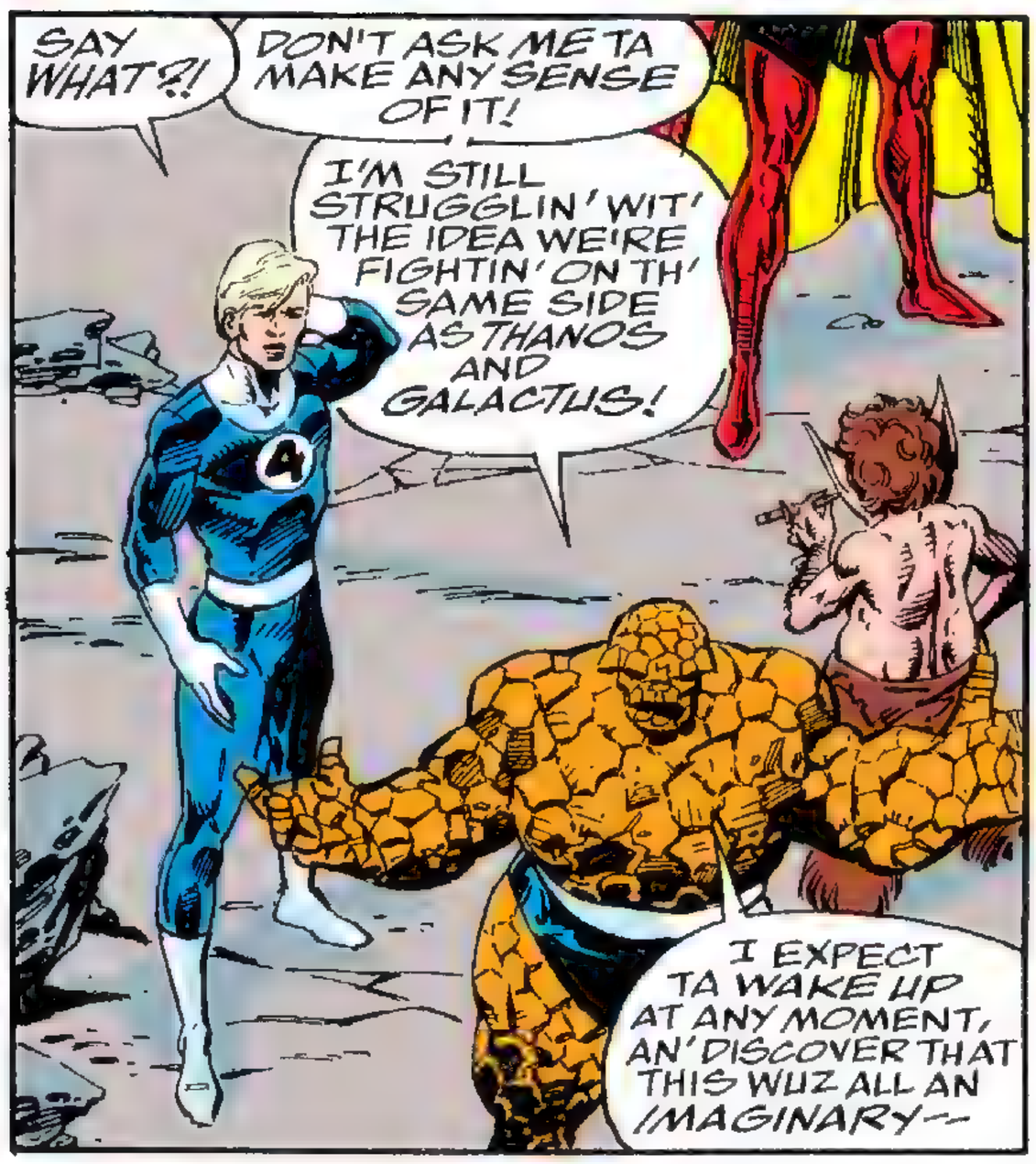

INSTINCTIVELY, THE WATCHER KNOWS HIS ERRANT NEPHEW PLAYS NO HAND IN THE GREAT DRAMA WHICH IS NOW UNFOLDING...
ARON IS MERELY EXPLOITING IT!


AND, THAT KNOWLEDGE PROVES ALL THE MORE TROUBLING...!

MEANWHILE...
WOW! I'VE BEEN IN GALACTUS'S SHIP BEFORE... BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THE LUXURY OF EXPLORING IT!
THE PLACE IS IMMENSE! FILLED WITH RELICS AND WONDERS FROM FAR BEYOND OUR GALAXY--!
NOW THERE'S A SIGHT TO BEHOLD!
PSYLOCKE OF THE X-MEN!
WHAT A LIVING DOLL! MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE HER A THRILL, AND--
NAH! BETTER NOT-- I'M NOT READY TO START ANYTHING NEW!
I STILL HAVEN'T QUITE ACCEPTED THE RECENT DEATH OF MY WIFE--
--OR MY NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH ALICIA MASTERS!
UNKNOWN TO THE HUMAN TORCH, THE BEAUTIFUL MUTANT IS ALSO A TELEPATH... AND...
YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN A SHOT, HANDSOME!
IT MIGHT HAVE PROVEN INTEREST-ING!
I'D BETTER REJOIN THE OTHERS BEFORE MY BETTER JUDGMENT DROWNS IN A SEA OF RAGING HORMONES!

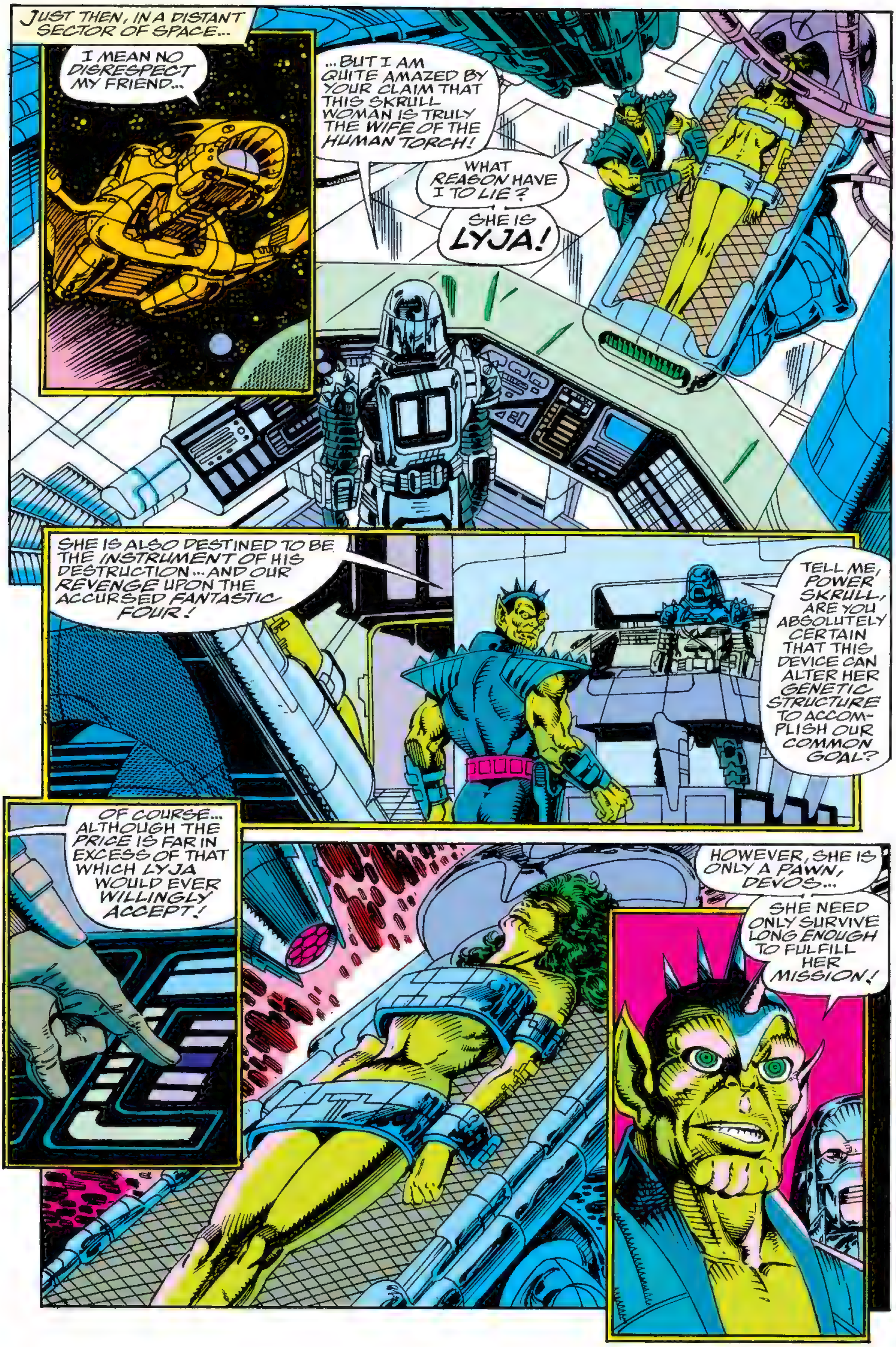

AND SO, SHORTLY...
HEY, WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING OUT HERE--?
AND WHY IS ADAM WARLOCK WEARING THE INFINITY GAUNTLET?!
A LOT HAPPENED WHILE YA WUZ AWAY, JUNIOR!
THANOS AND WARLOCK FIGGERED IT WUZ TIME TA PULL OUT THE BIG GUNS AGAINST THE MAGUS... THE GUY WHO'S BEEN YANKIN' OUR CHAINS!


WHO PUT THOSE TWO IN CHARGE?!
NOT ME... THAT'S FER DANG SURE!
ANYWAY, THE GAUNTLET AIN'T WORKIN' BECAUSE OF SOME COSMIC MUCK-A-MUCK!
GALACTUS IS GOIN' OFF TA CONVINCE 'IM TA REACTIVATE IT!


SAY WHAT?!
DON'T ASK ME TA MAKE ANY SENSE OF IT!
I'M STILL STRUGGLIN' WIT' THE IDEA WE'RE FIGHTIN' ON TH' SAME SIDE AS THANOS AND GALACTUS!
I EXPECT TA WAKE UP AT ANY MOMENT, AN' DISCOVER THAT THIS WUZ ALL AN IMAGINARY--

WHAT?!
A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL IS SUDDENLY OPENING BEHIND WARLOCK!

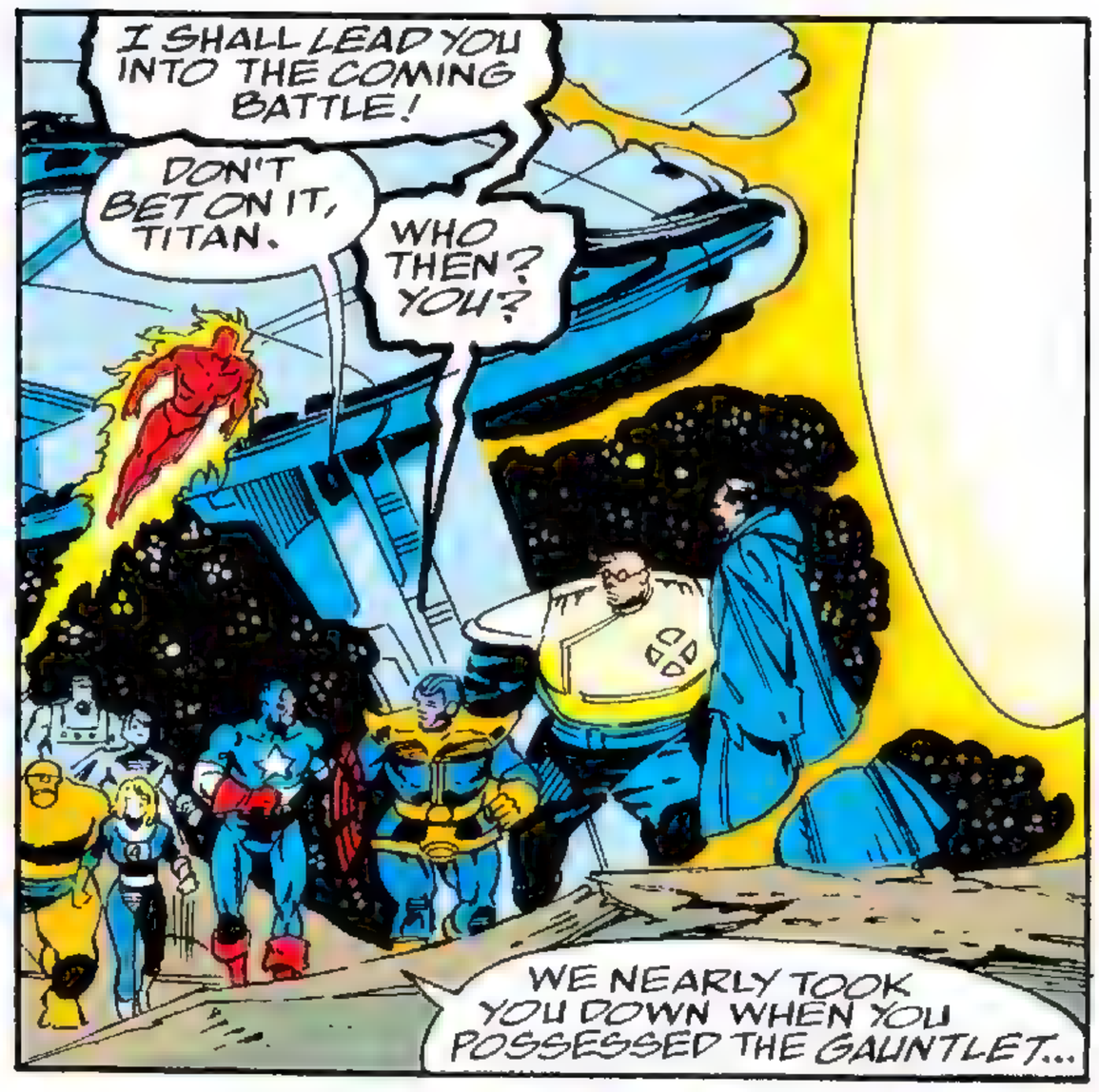
LOOK--! IT'S THE SAME TWO WHO ESCAPED WITH REED EARLIER... BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF MY MISSING HUSBAND!
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, MY SHADE!
NO!
HEY--! ALL'A THE OTHER DOUBLES WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINALS ...BUT THIS ONE'A THANOS LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME!
IS THANOS PULLIN' ANOTHER FAST ONE?
IS HE SECRETLY IN CAHOOTS WIT' THESE JOKERS ??
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WITH A SHOT AT'EM...
BUT, EVEN AS THE THING AND THE TITAN LEAP...
LOOK OUT, YA IDJIT!
THEY GOT AWAY THANKS TA YOU!
DID HE DELIBERATELY JUMP INTA MY PATH, OR--?
AIN'T NO WAY WE CAN TRUST THIS CREEP--!


JUST THEN, IN A DISTANT SECTOR OF SPACE...
I MEAN NO DISRESPECT MY FRIEND...
...BUT I AM QUITE AMAZED BY YOUR CLAIM THAT THIS SKRULL WOMAN IS TRULY THE WIFE OF THE HUMAN TORCH!
WHAT REASON HAVE I TO LIE?
SHE IS LYJA!
SHE IS ALSO DESTINED TO BE THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS DESTRUCTION... AND OUR REVENGE UPON THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR!
TELL ME, POWER SKRULL, ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THIS DEVICE CAN ALTER HER GENETIC STRUCTURE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR COMMON GOAL?
OF COURSE... ALTHOUGH THE PRICE IS FAR IN EXCESS OF THAT WHICH LYJA WOULD EVER WILLINGLY ACCEPT!
HOWEVER, SHE IS ONLY A PAWN, DEVOS...
SHE NEED ONLY SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FULFILL HER MISSION!

AND...
BAD NEWS, PEOPLE! GALACTUS HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN HIS MISSION!
OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNERS INDICATE THAT THE INFINITY GAUNTLET HAS BEEN RECHARGED!
THE MAGUS IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON EVER CONCEIVED!
HE IS VIRTUALLY OMNIPOTENT--!
NO NEED FOR ANY IMPASSIONED SPEECHES, CAPTAIN AMERICA! WE CAN ALL SEE WHERE YOU'RE HEADED!
WE HAVE TO STRIKE NOW--WHILE HE'S STILL ADJUSTING TO HIS NEW POWER!
A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT IS OUR ONLY HOPE!
SOUNDS LIKE SUICIDE TO ME... BUT HOW CAN WE LOSE WITH OL' BLOOD 'N GUTS RICHARDS TO LEAD US?!
I ALREADY WARNED YA TA WATCH YER SMART MOUTH, HULK--!
RELAX, BEN! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DEFEND ME...

I CAN HANDLE THIS JERK MYSELF!
SPWAAK
KWOOM
KNASH!
KRUNCH
FOR THE MEREST INSTANT TOTAL SILENCE PREVAILS, AND THEN... WITH A CASUAL SHRUG...
RIP
PPP
NOT BAD!
I ALWAYS DID LIKE A WOMAN WITH A LITTLE SPUNK!
I'M WILLING TO CUT YOU SOME SLACK... THIS TIME!
HOW VERY FORTU-NATE.
WHAT'S WITH SUE...? SHE'S ACTING... DIFFERENT.
SUMTHIN' STRANGE GOIN' ON.

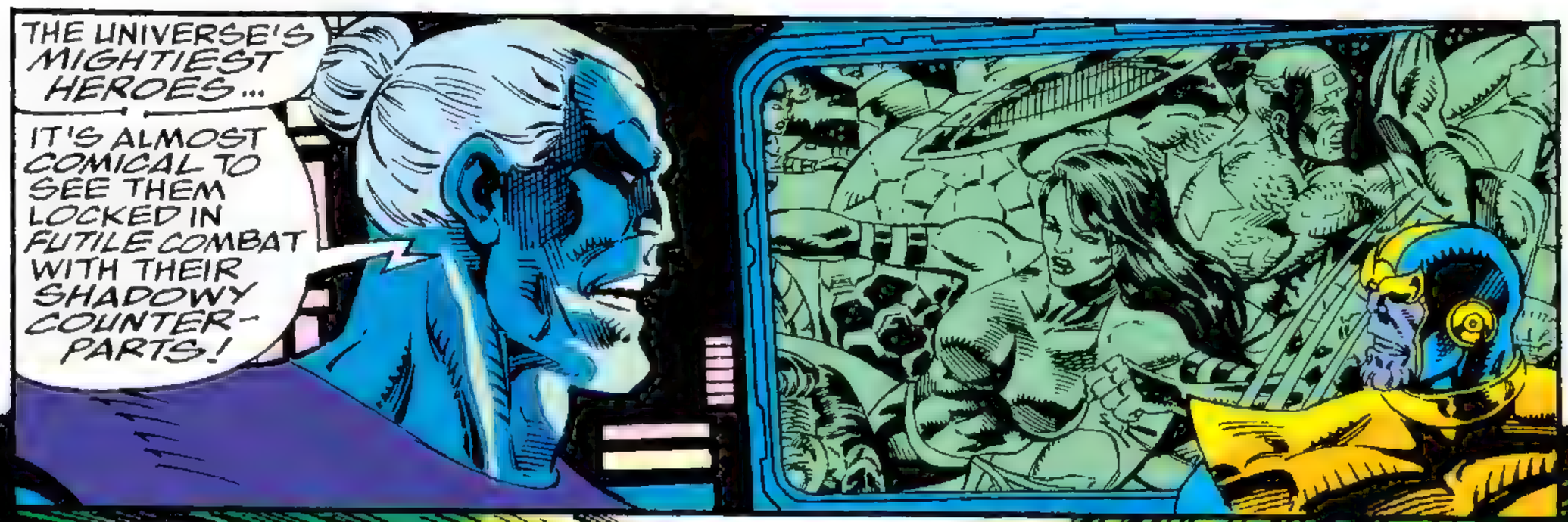
I HOPE YOU TWO HAVE SETTLED YOUR DIFFERENCES! WE'RE WASTING PRECIOUS TIME!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, CAP! WE'VE ALREADY KISSED AND MADE UP!
ONLY IN YOUR DREAMS, HULK.
ALL RIGHT... THEY'RE OPENING A DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY NOW.


I SHALL LEAD YOU INTO THE COMING BATTLE!
DON'T BET ON IT, TITAN.
WHO THEN? YOU?
WE NEARLY TOOK YOU DOWN WHEN YOU POSSESSED THE GAUNTLET...

LET'S MOVE IT, FOLKS!
STRAIGHT THROUGH, THEN SPREAD OUT WHEN YOU HIT THE OTHER SIDE!
REED! WILL I FIND YOU WAITING FOR ME, OR--?!

HEADS UP, GANG!
OUR FORCES ARE SURROUNDED BY AN ARMY OF DOPPELGANGERS!

THEY WUZ WAITIN' FOR US!
TOO BAD... FOR THEM!
WHERE'S THANOS!
THE CREEP DITCHED US! PROBABLY HELPED SET US UP!
I KNEW WE COULDN'T TRUST 'IM!
WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS COUNTING ON US!
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO WIN... AT ANY COST!



SUCH A PITY I HAVE ALREADY ACQUIRED THE ULTIMATE POWER--!

THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM!

THE GAME IS ENDED, WARLOCK--

--AND THE MAGUS IS TRIUMPHANT!!

TO BE CONCLUDED!

***INFINITY WAR #5*, PAGE 1 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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WONDER MAN
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MIRROR
JJ·JB·LO
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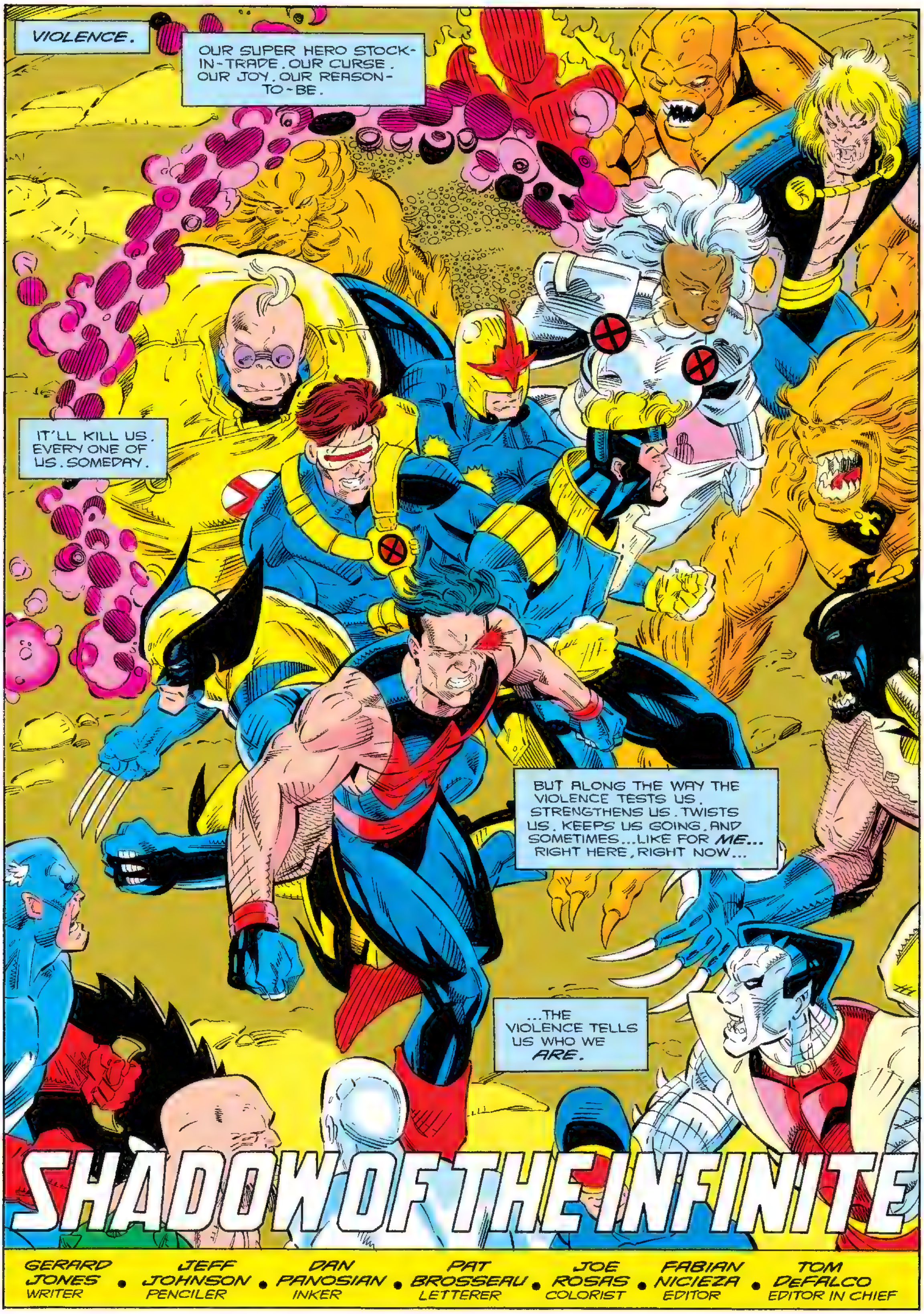
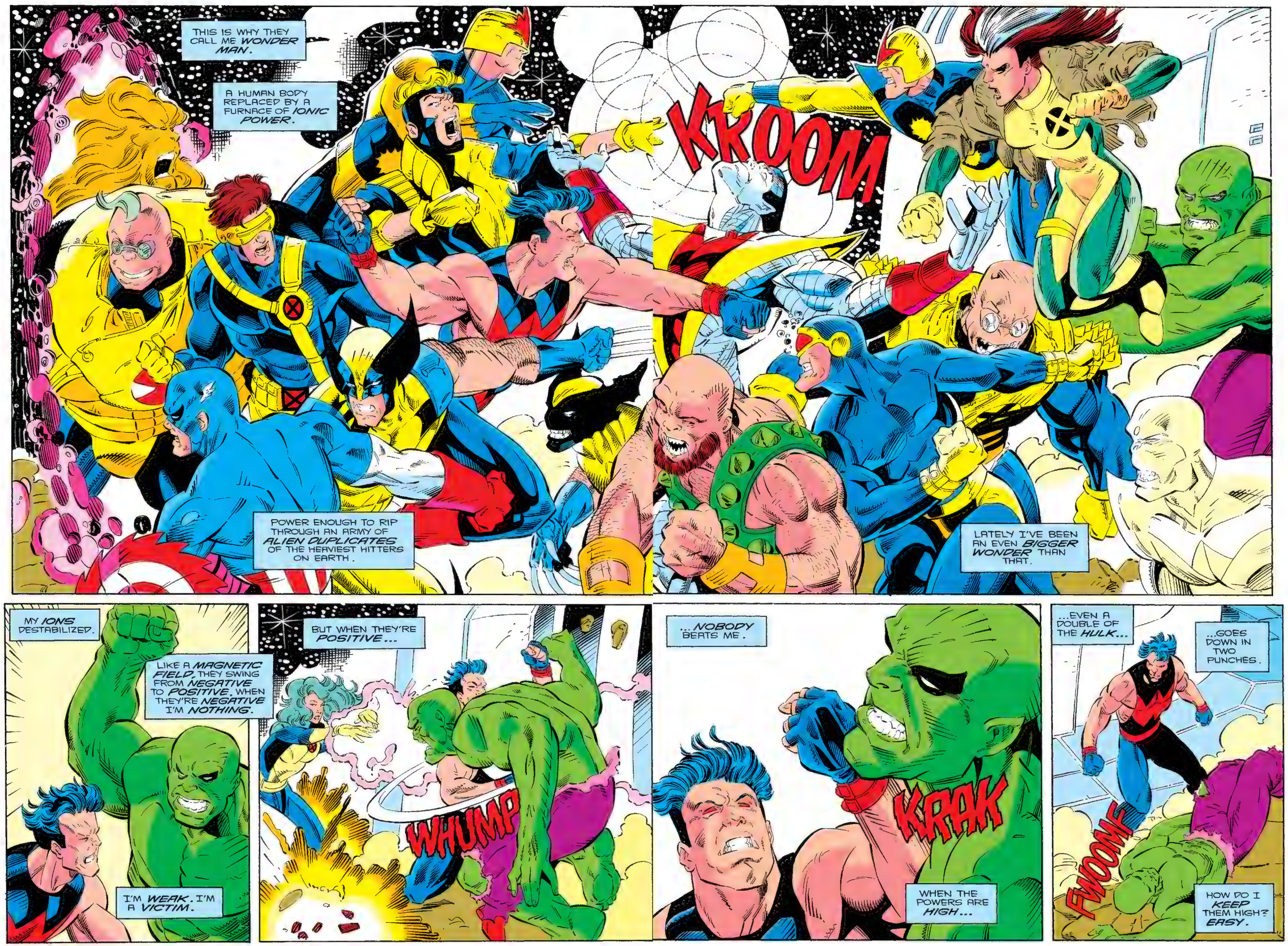
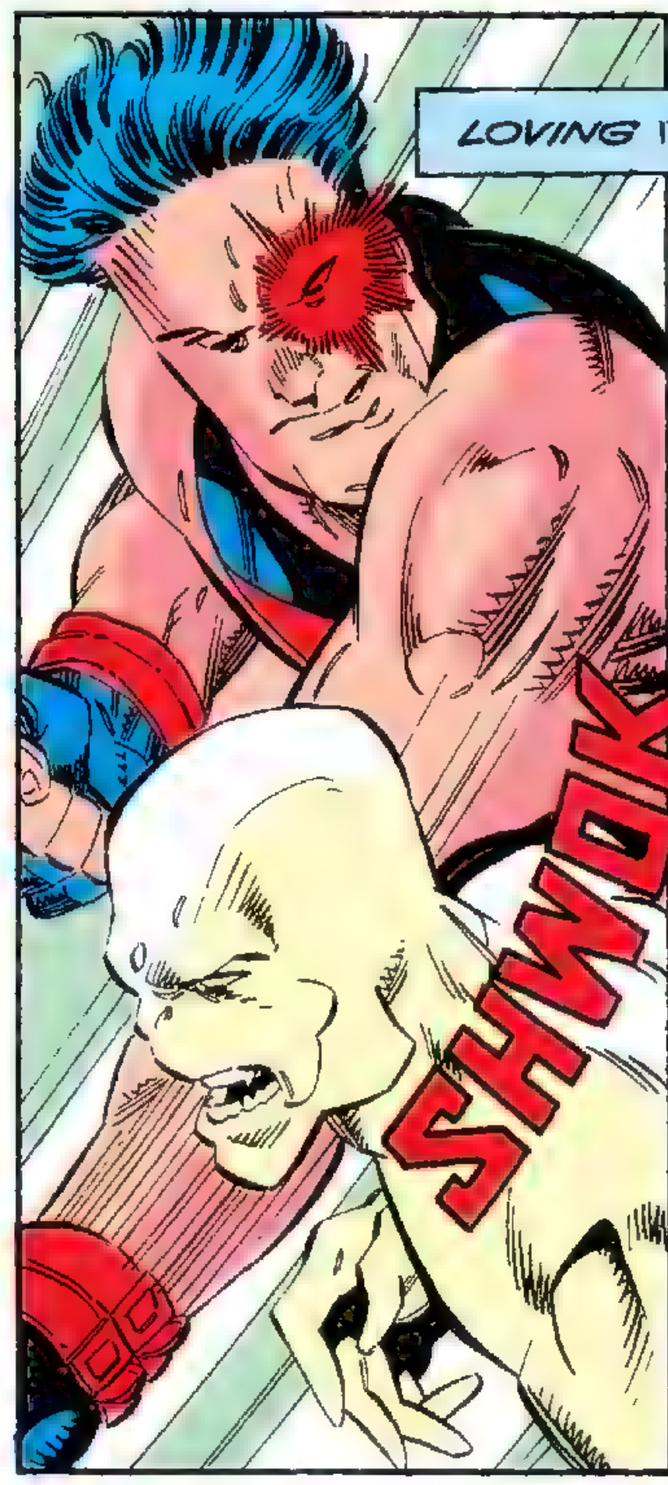
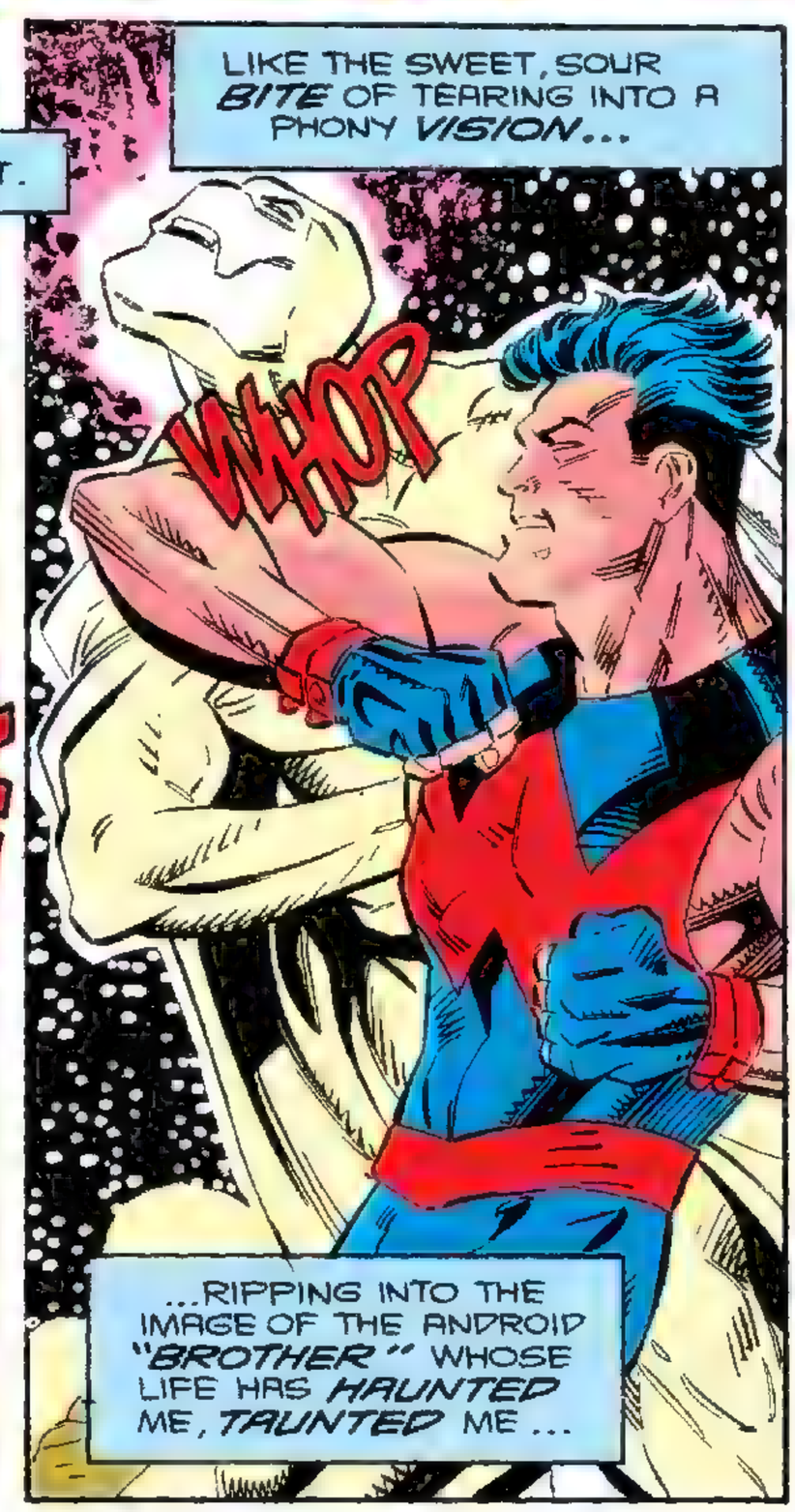

VIOLENCE.
OUR SUPER HERO STOCK-IN-TRADE. OUR CURSE. OUR JOY. OUR REASON-TO-BE.
IT'LL KILL US. EVERY ONE OF US. SOMEDAY.
BUT ALONG THE WAY THE VIOLENCE TESTS US. STRENGTHENS US. TWISTS US. KEEPS US GOING. AND SOMETIMES...LIKE FOR ME... RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW...
...THE VIOLENCE TELLS US WHO WE ARE.
SHADOW OF THE INFINITE
GERARD JONES WRITER • JEFF JOHNSON PENCILER • DAN PANOSIAN INKER • PAT BROSSEAU LETTERER • JOE ROSAS COLORIST • FABIAN NICIEZA EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


THIS IS WHY THEY CALL ME WONDER MAN.
A HUMAN BODY REPLACED BY A FURNACE OF IONIC POWER.
KKOOM
POWER ENOUGH TO RIP THROUGH AN ARMY OF ALIEN DUPLICATES OF THE HEAVIEST HITTERS ON EARTH.
LATELY I'VE BEEN AN EVEN BIGGER WONDER THAN THAT.
MY IONS DESTABILIZED.
LIKE A MAGNETIC FIELD, THEY SWING FROM NEGATIVE TO POSITIVE. WHEN THEY'RE NEGATIVE I'M NOTHING.
I'M WEAK. I'M A VICTIM.
BUT WHEN THEY'RE POSITIVE...
WHUMP
...NOBODY BEATS ME.
KRAK
WHEN THE POWERS ARE HIGH...
...EVEN A DOUBLE OF THE HULK...
...GOES DOWN IN TWO PUNCHES.
FWOOMF
HOW DO I KEEP THEM HIGH? EASY.

VIOLENCE!

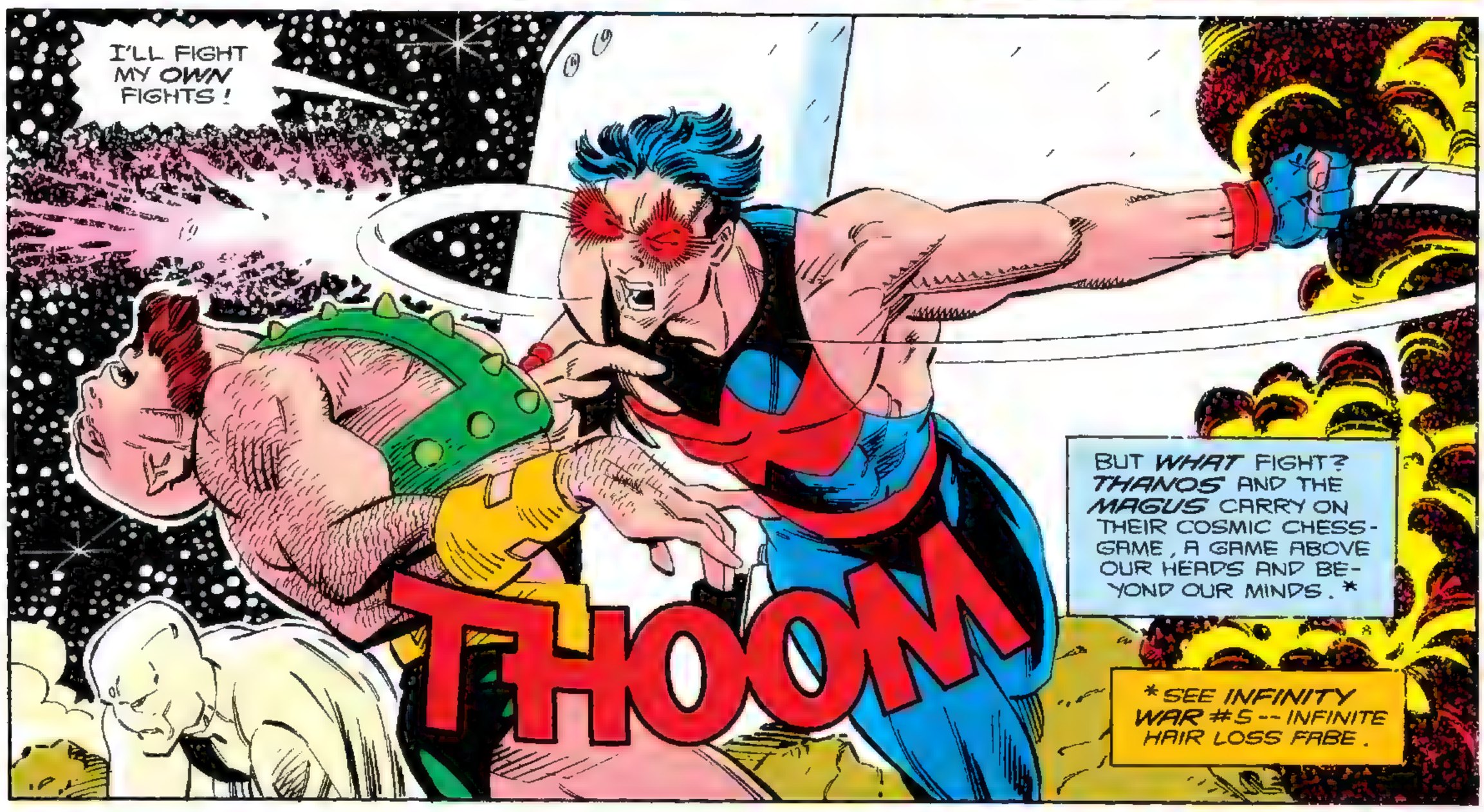
GIVING IN TO IT. TASTING IT.

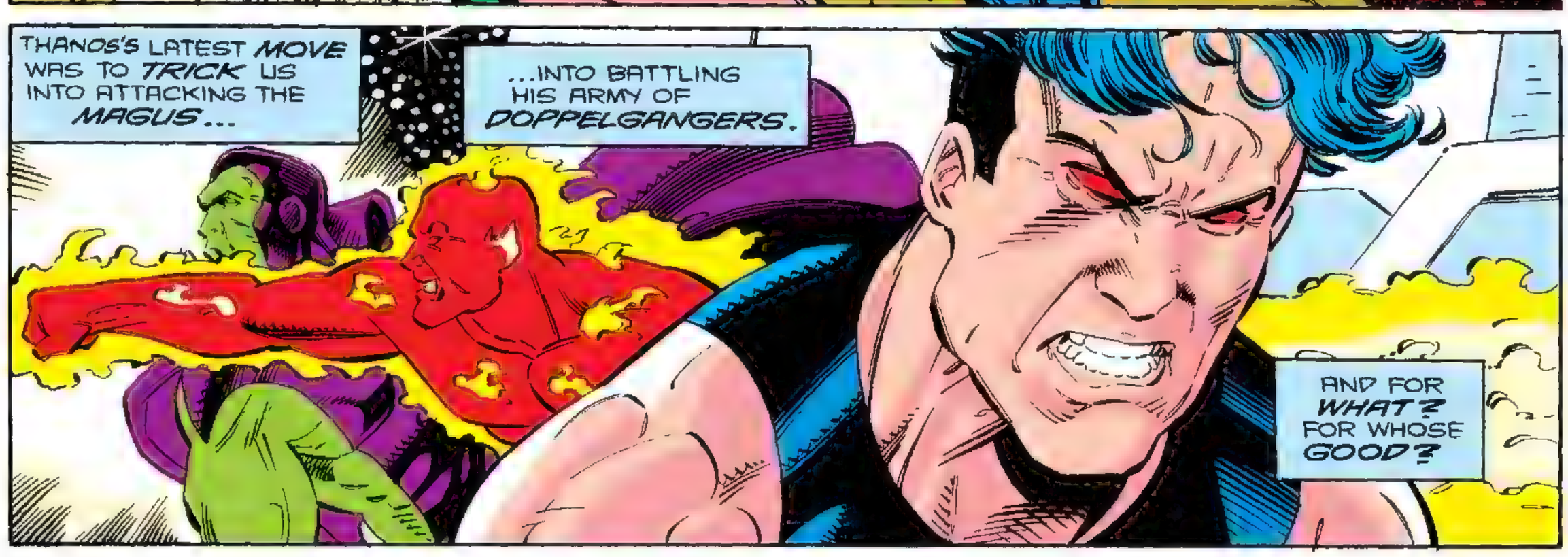

LOVING IT.
SHWOK


LIKE THE SWEET, SOUR BITE OF TEARING INTO A PHONY VISION...
WHOP
...RIPPING INTO THE IMAGE OF THE ANDROID "BROTHER" WHOSE LIFE HAS HAUNTED ME, TAUNTED ME...

THAT KEEPS ME HIGH.
SNAPPP
WATCH YOUR BACK, WILLIAMS!

WATCH YOUR OWN BACK, WOLVERINE!
GWUGHH


I'LL FIGHT MY OWN FIGHTS!
THOOM
BUT WHAT FIGHT? THANOS AND THE MAGUS CARRY ON THEIR COSMIC CHESS-GAME, A GAME ABOVE OUR HEADS AND BEYOND OUR MINDS.*
*SEE INFINITY WAR #5 -- INFINITE HAIR LOSS FABE.


THANOS'S LATEST MOVE WAS TO TRICK US INTO ATTACKING THE MAGUS...
...INTO BATTLING HIS ARMY OF DOPPELGANGERS.
AND FOR WHAT? FOR WHOSE GOOD?

WHO CARES?!

SMOOT

SURELY NO "LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION" CARES.

AND ISN'T THAT WHAT BARON ZEMO MADE ME? ISN'T THAT ALL I AM?

DESTRUCTION?

WHAK

WONDER MAN?!

THOU STRIKEST WITH A STRANGE, HATEFUL GLEE!

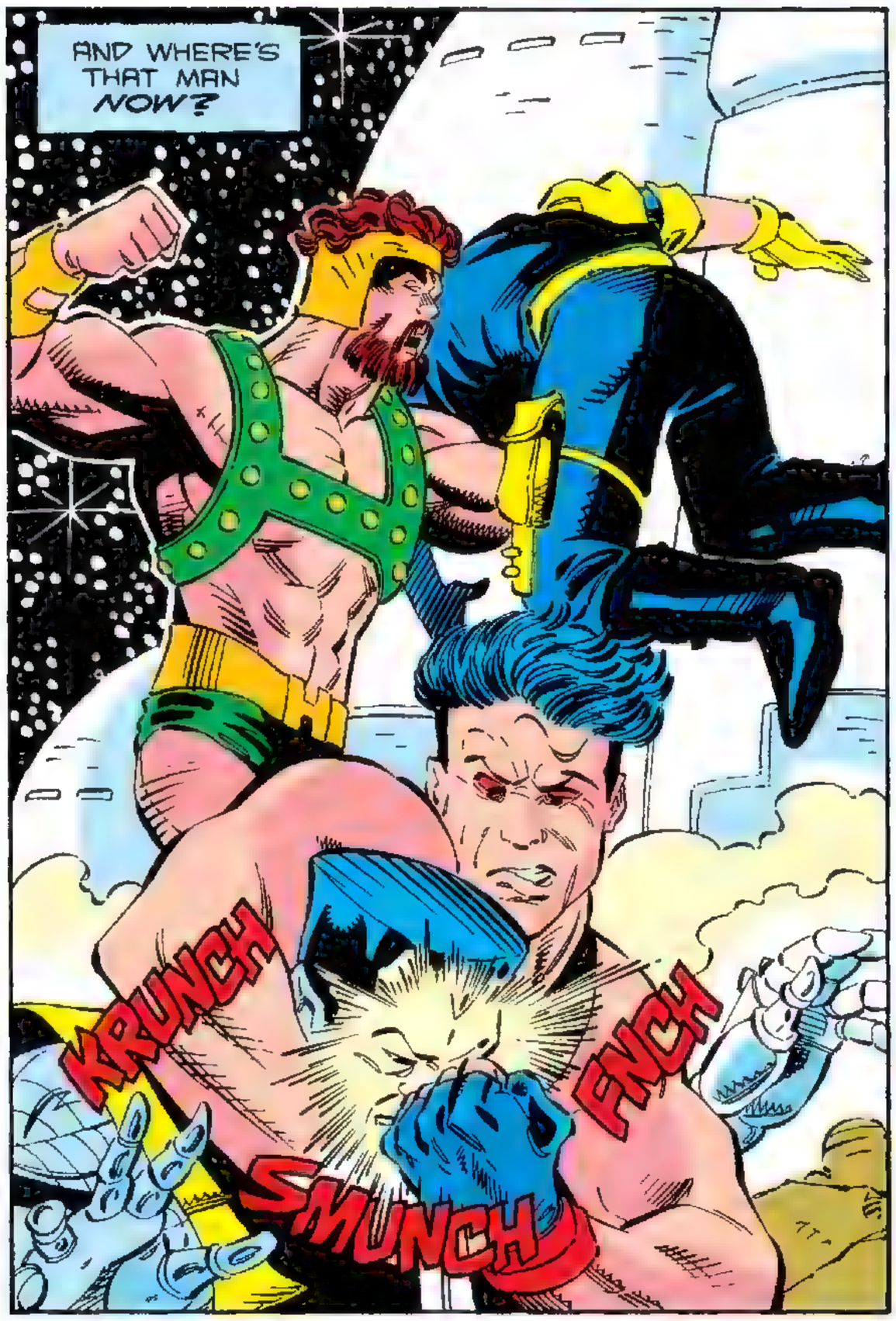
DOST THINE RAGE POSSESS THEE AGAIN?

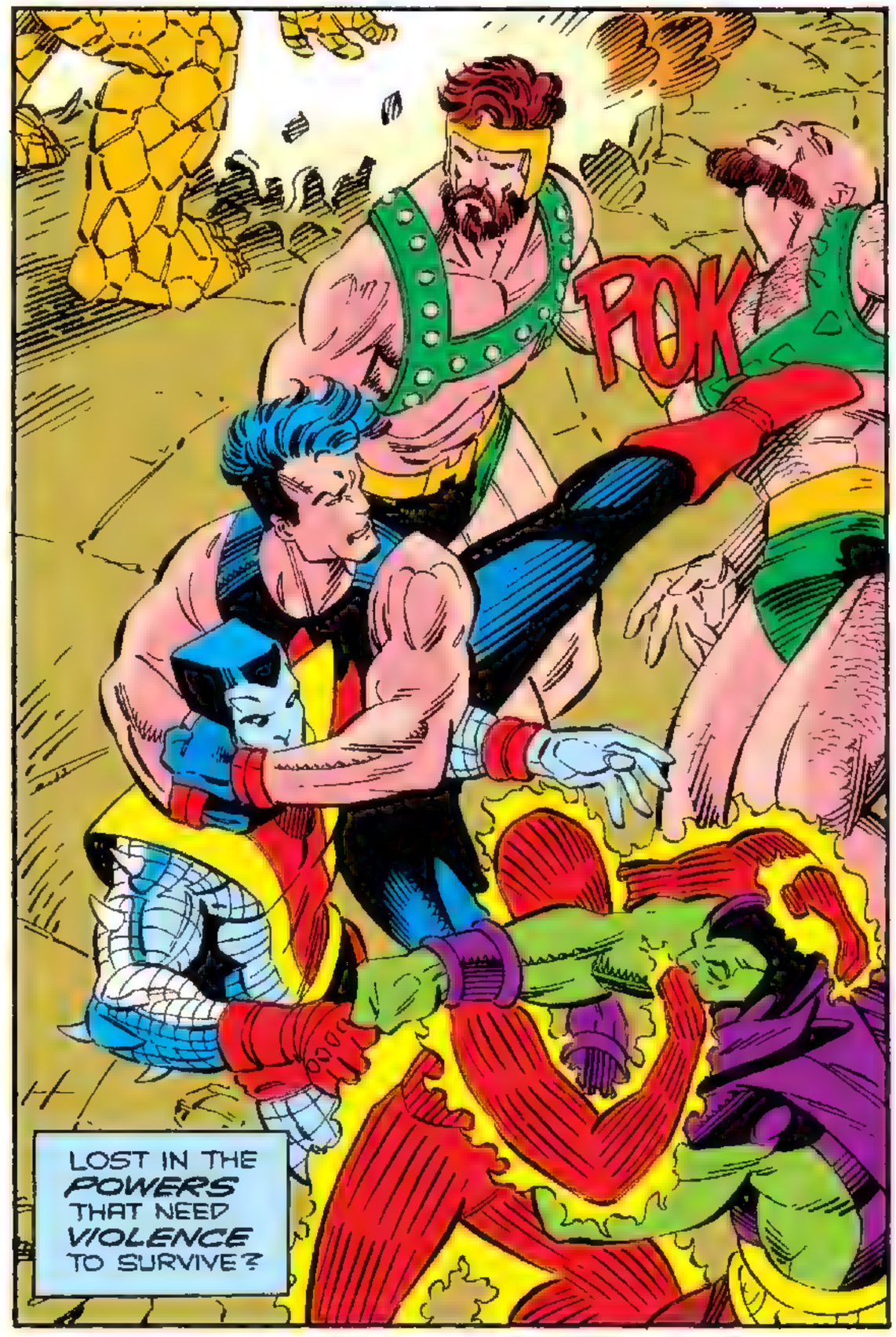
NO, HERC. I POSSESS MY RAGE.

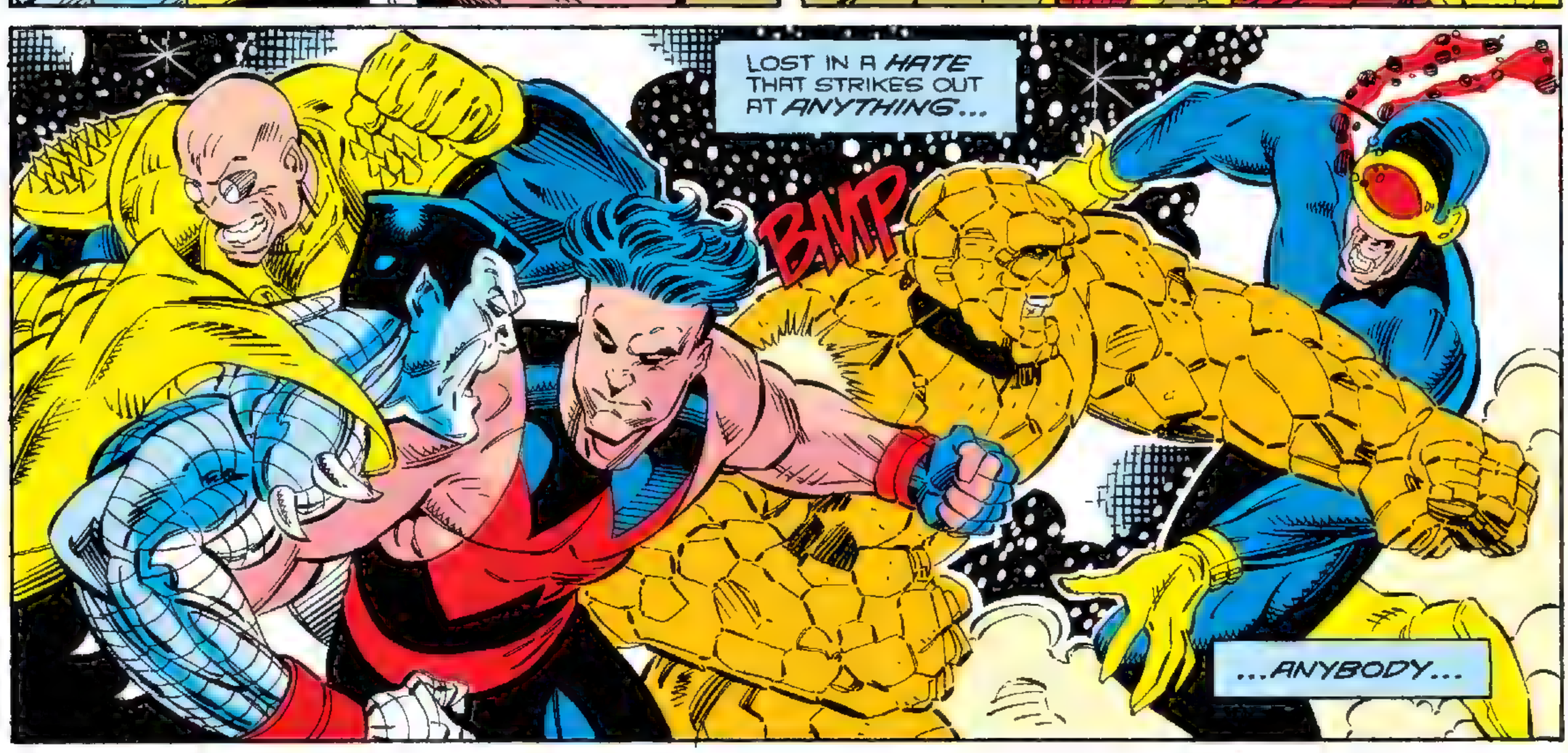
I POSSESS NOTHING...

...BUT MY RAGE!

SO CONGRATULATIONS, ZEMO.
YOU TRIED TO STEAL MY HUMANITY, MAKE ME AN IONIC WEAPON WITH NO PURPOSE BUT VIOLENCE.
FOR YEARS I FOUGHT YOU. FOUGHT TO KEEP MY POWERS STABLE. FOUGHT TO BE A HERO.
TO BE A MAN.

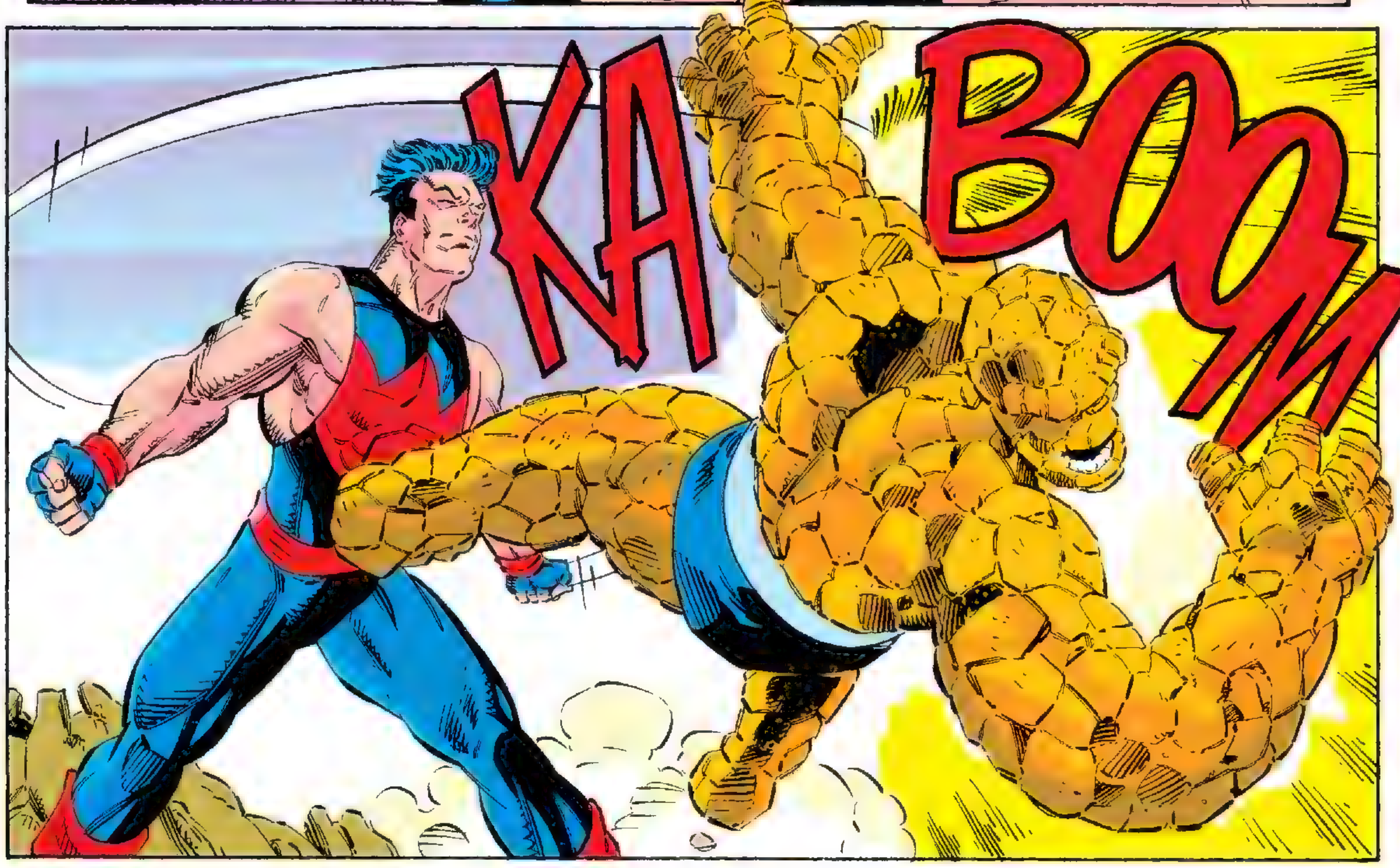

AND WHERE'S THAT MAN NOW?
KRUNCH
SMUNCH
FNCH

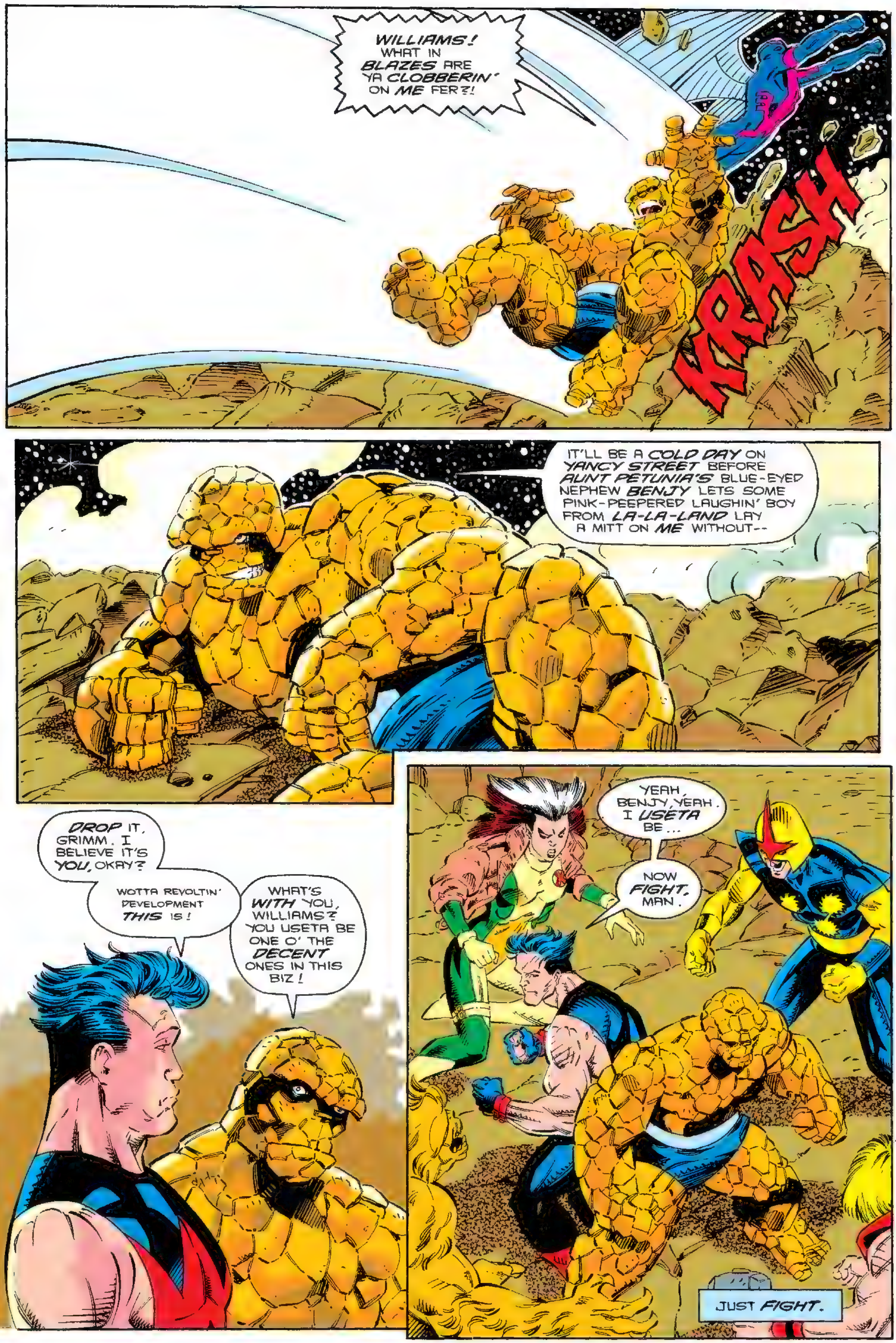

POK
LOST IN THE POWERS THAT NEED VIOLENCE TO SURVIVE?


LOST IN A HATE THAT STRIKES OUT AT ANYTHING...
BMP
...ANYBODY...

...EVEN A FRIEND?
WHA--?
ARE YOU--?

BUT NOT ALL THE DOUBLES ARE OBVIOUS. SOME MAKE YOU LOOK TWICE TO TELL FRIEND FROM ENEMY.
SIMON WILLIAMS--THE MAN--WOULD HESITATE, WOULD ASK, TO KNOW IF THIS WAS BEN.
BALANCED FOR AN INSTANT BETWEEN MAN AND WEAPON.
THIS LOOKS LIKE BEN GRIMM. NOT A DOUBLE. HIM.
BUT THIS WONDER MAN?


KA
BOOM


WILLIAMS! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YA CLOBBERIN' ON ME FER?!
KRASH
IT'LL BE A COLD DAY ON YANCY STREET BEFORE AUNT PETUNIA'S BLUE-EYED NEPHEW BENJY LETS SOME PINK-PEEPERED LAUGHIN' BOY FROM LA-LA-LAND LAY A MITT ON ME WITHOUT--
DROP IT, GRIMM. I BELIEVE IT'S YOU, OKAY?
WOTTA REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT THIS IS!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, WILLIAMS? YOU USETA BE ONE O' THE DECENT ONES IN THIS BIZ!
YEAH, BENJY, YEAH. I USETA BE...
NOW FIGHT, MAN.
JUST FIGHT.

IS THAT ALL I'VE *LEFT* MYSELF?

SPLACH

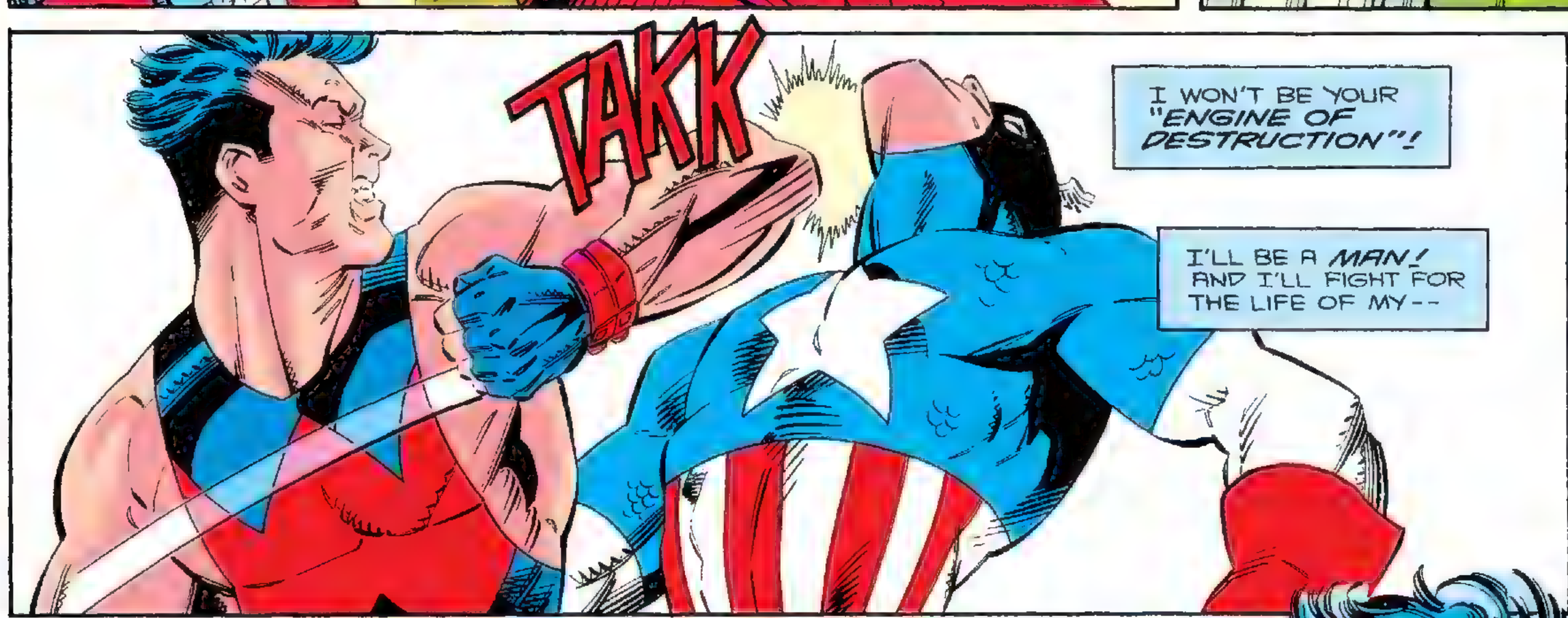
BLOOD. PAIN. THE SWEET MUSIC OF AN ENEMY'S JAW BREAKING.

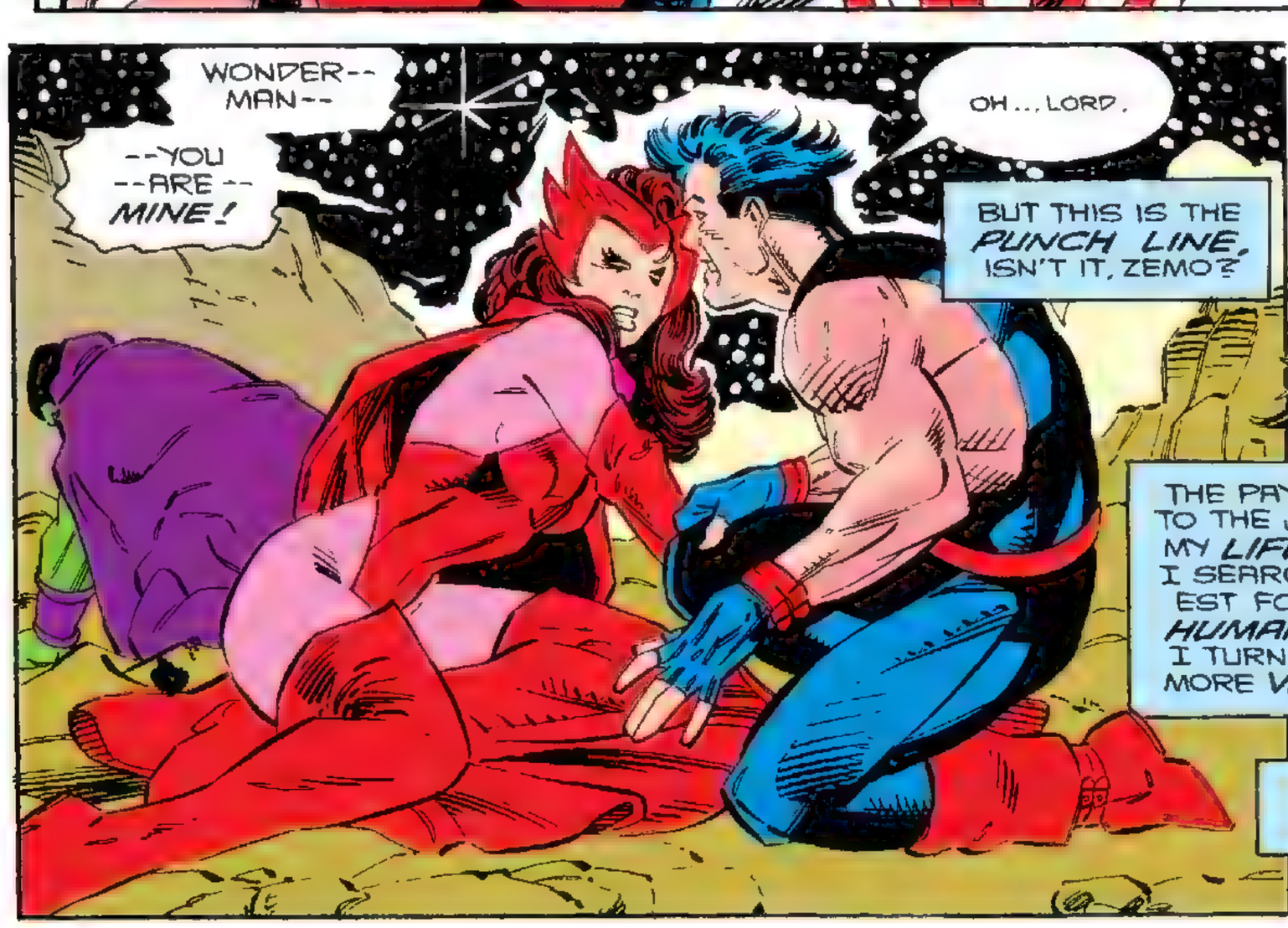
MWUFF--

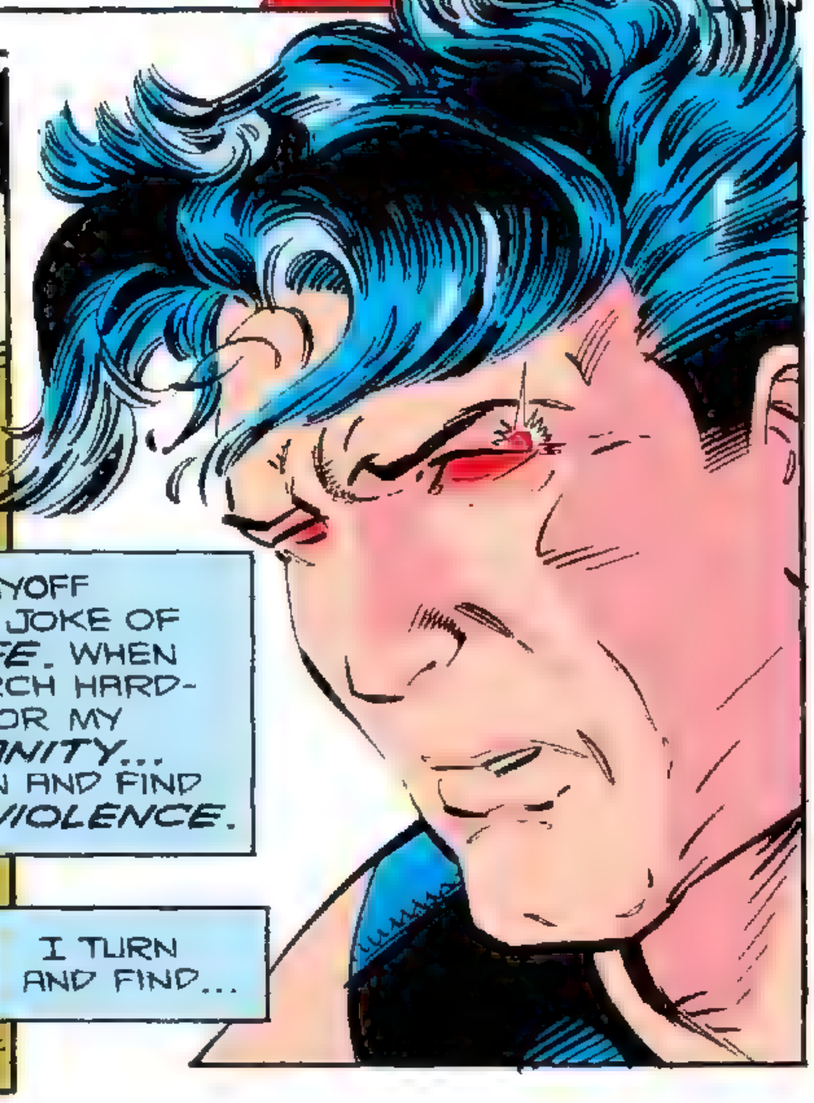
THE THRILL OF THE TAKE-DOWN. THEN THE *LET-DOWN*. THE *IONS* SPINNING *NEGATIVE*. THE HUNT FOR ANOTHER *FIGHT*, TO COME BACK TO LIFE.

WANDA!
I'LL BE A MAN!

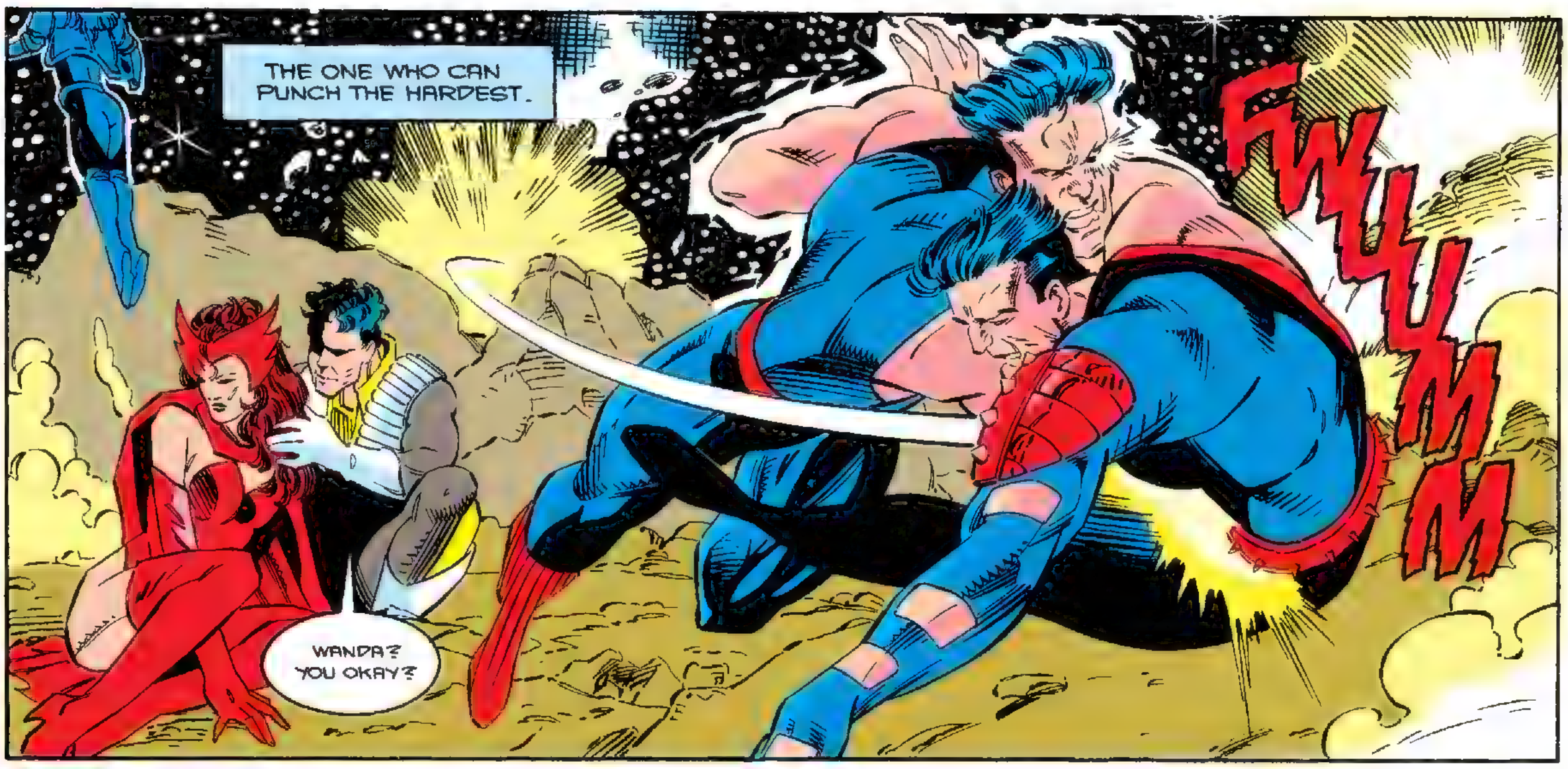
YOU WON'T BEAT ME, ZEMO!
CHOW!

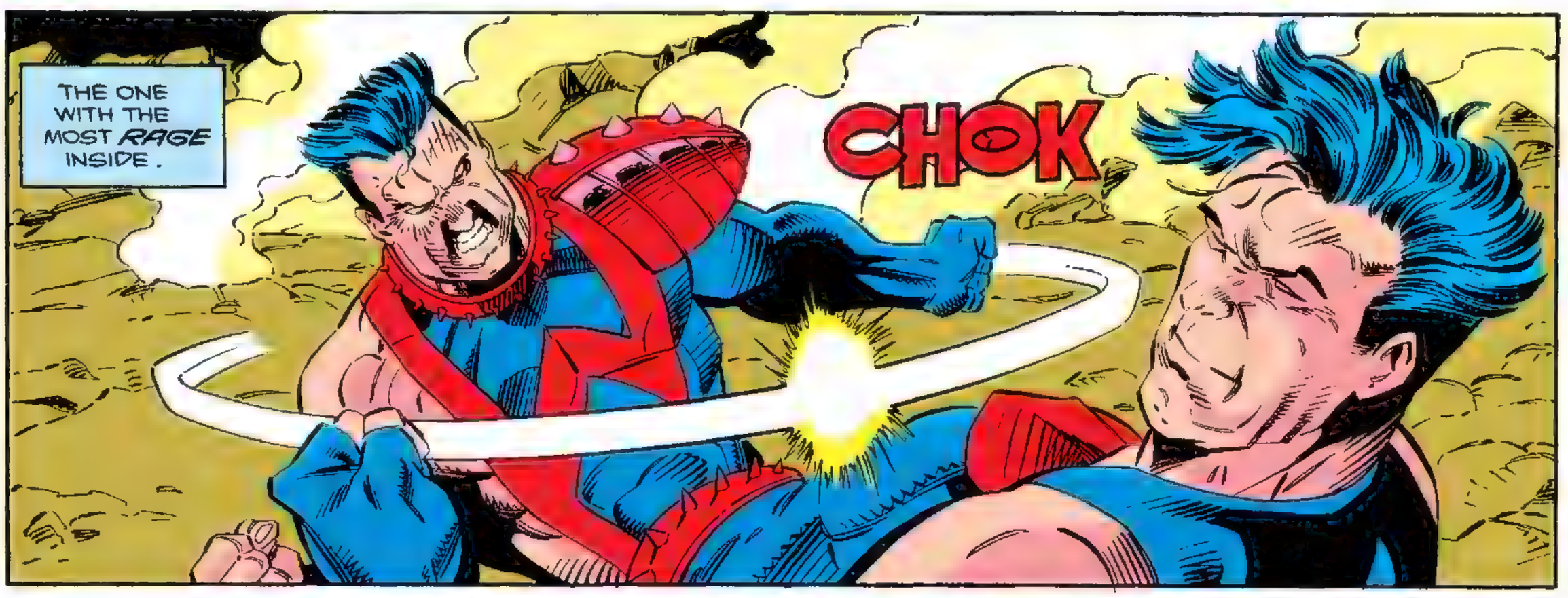

TAKK
I WON'T BE YOUR "ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION"!
I'LL BE A MAN! AND I'LL FIGHT FOR THE LIFE OF MY--


WONDER-- MAN--
--YOU --ARE -- MINE!
OH... LORD.
BUT THIS IS THE PUNCH LINE, ISN'T IT, ZEMO?

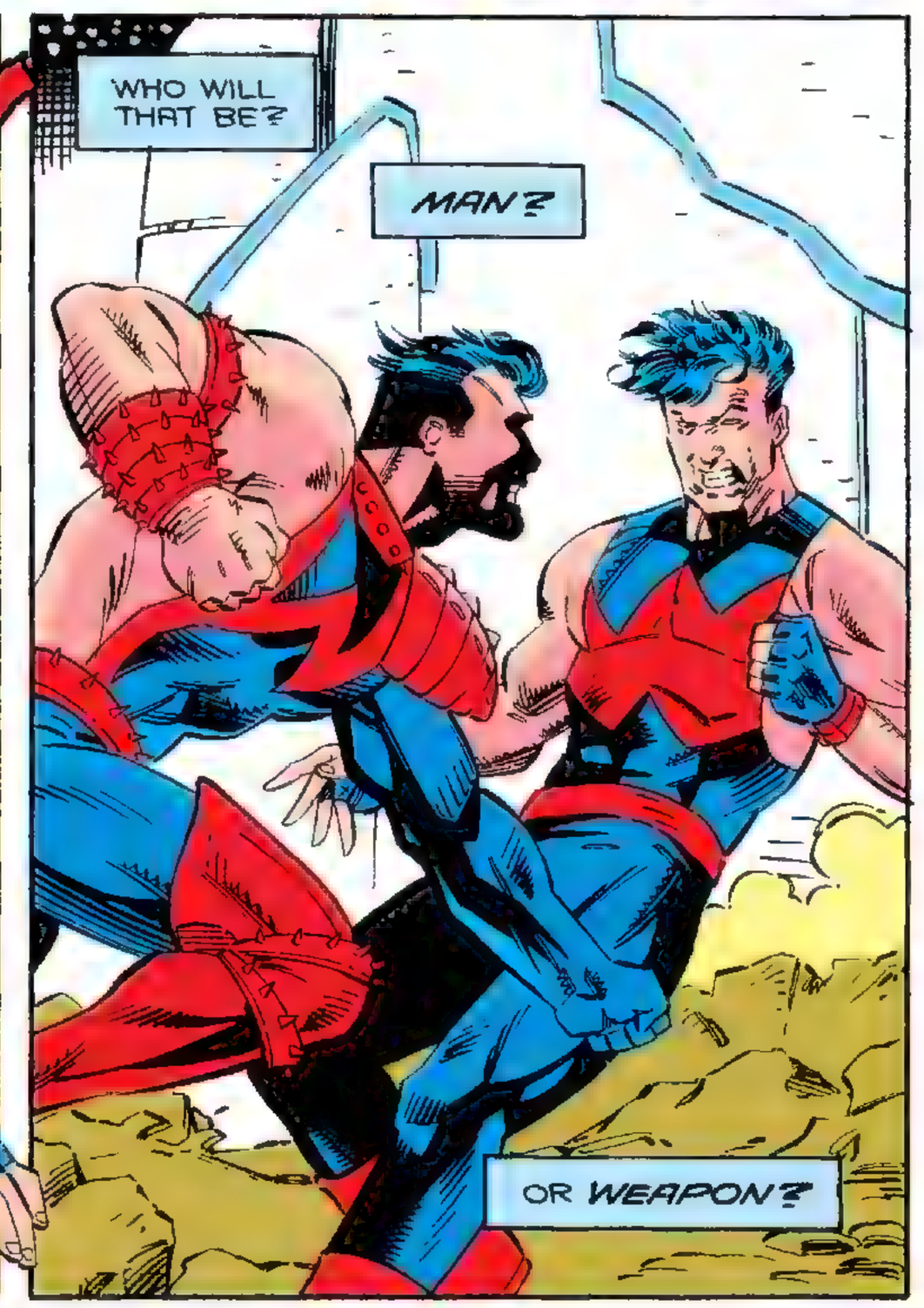

THE PAYOFF TO THE JOKE OF MY LIFE. WHEN I SEARCH HARDEST FOR MY HUMANITY... I TURN AND FIND MORE VIOLENCE.
I TURN AND FIND...

...MYSELF.
YOU-- WANTED--TO-- MEET--ME-- AGAIN--WONDER-- MAN?
NOW-- IS--YOUR-- CHANCE.
YOUR-- CHANCE-- TO--KILL-- ME--
OR--BE-- REPLACED.
YOU COULDN'T REPLACE--
NO!!
THIS ONE'S MINE.
YES-- I--AM-- YOURS.
AS--YOU-- ARE--MINE.
THIS-- MOMENT-- IS--OURS--
--JUST-- US--
--AND-- WHEN--IT-- IS--DONE--
--THERE-- WILL--BE-- ONLY--ONE.
ONLY ONE.

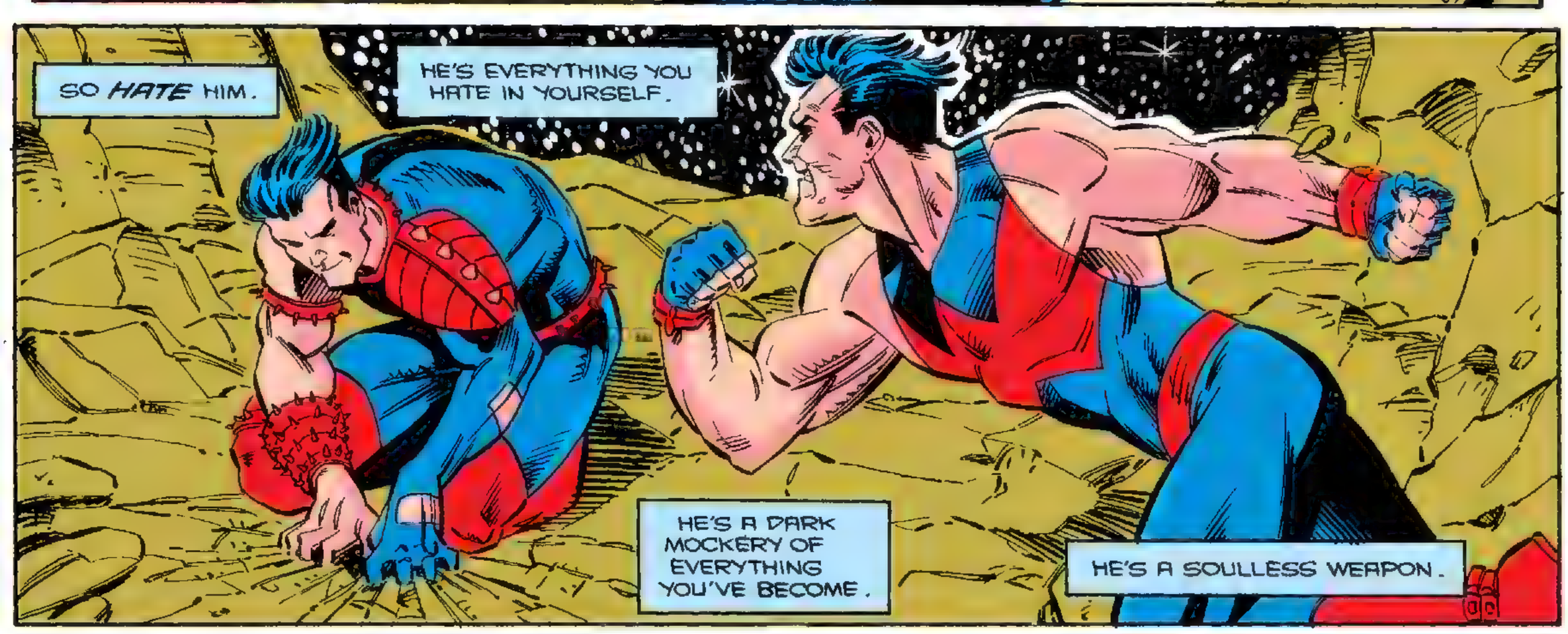

THE ONE WHO CAN PUNCH THE HARDEST.
FWUMM
WANDA? YOU OKAY?


THE ONE WITH THE MOST *RAGE* INSIDE.
CHOK

FWOK
THE ONE WHO CAN GIVE HIMSELF TO *VIOLENCE*?


WHO WILL THAT BE?
MAN?
OR *WEAPON*?

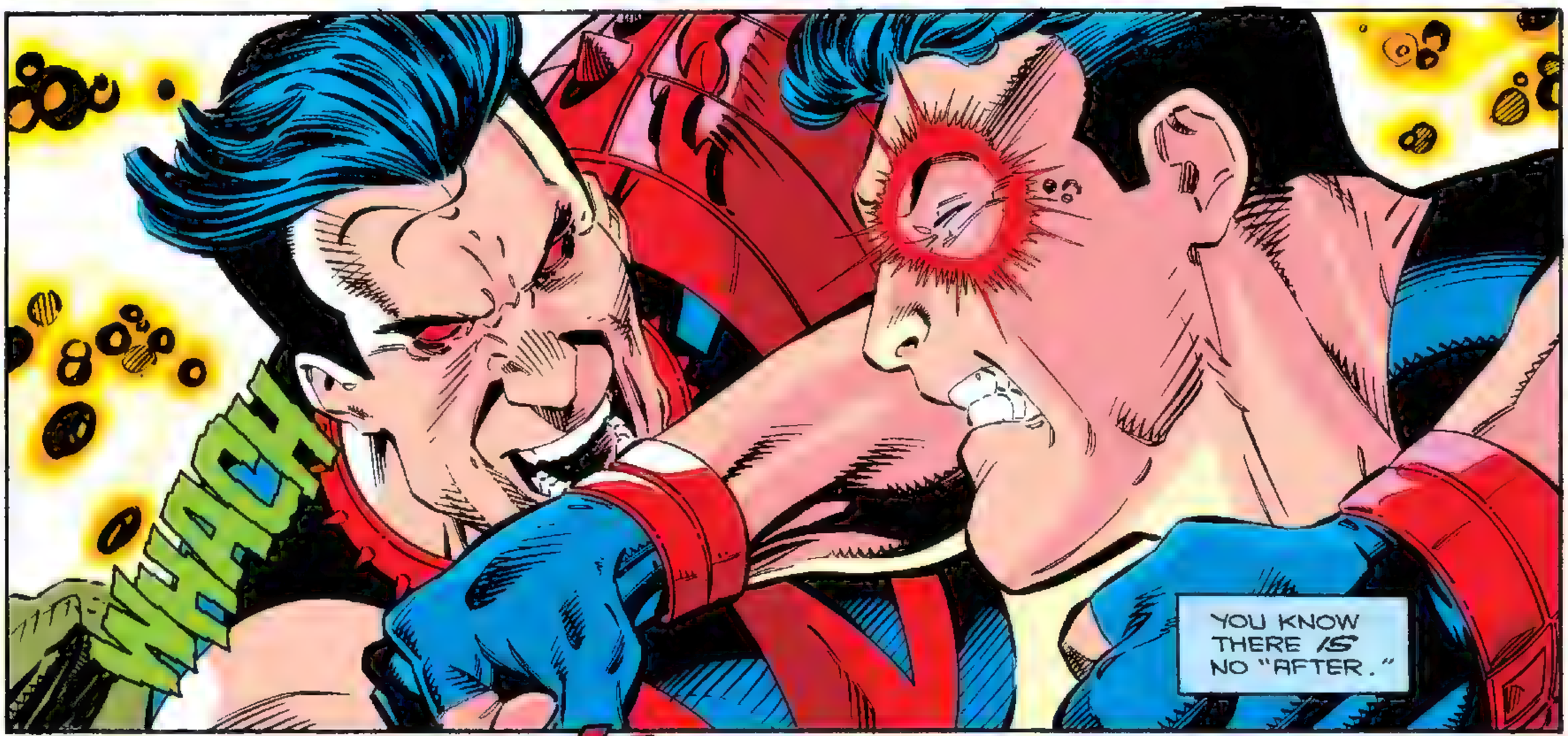
NO CONTEST.
YOU--ARE--NO--MASTER--OF--YOUR--POWERS.
BUT--Z--
KRAK
MAN DIES.
NO!
WEAPON KILLS.


SO HATE HIM.
HE'S EVERYTHING YOU HATE IN YOURSELF.
HE'S A DARK MOCKERY OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE BECOME.
HE'S A SOULLESS WEAPON.

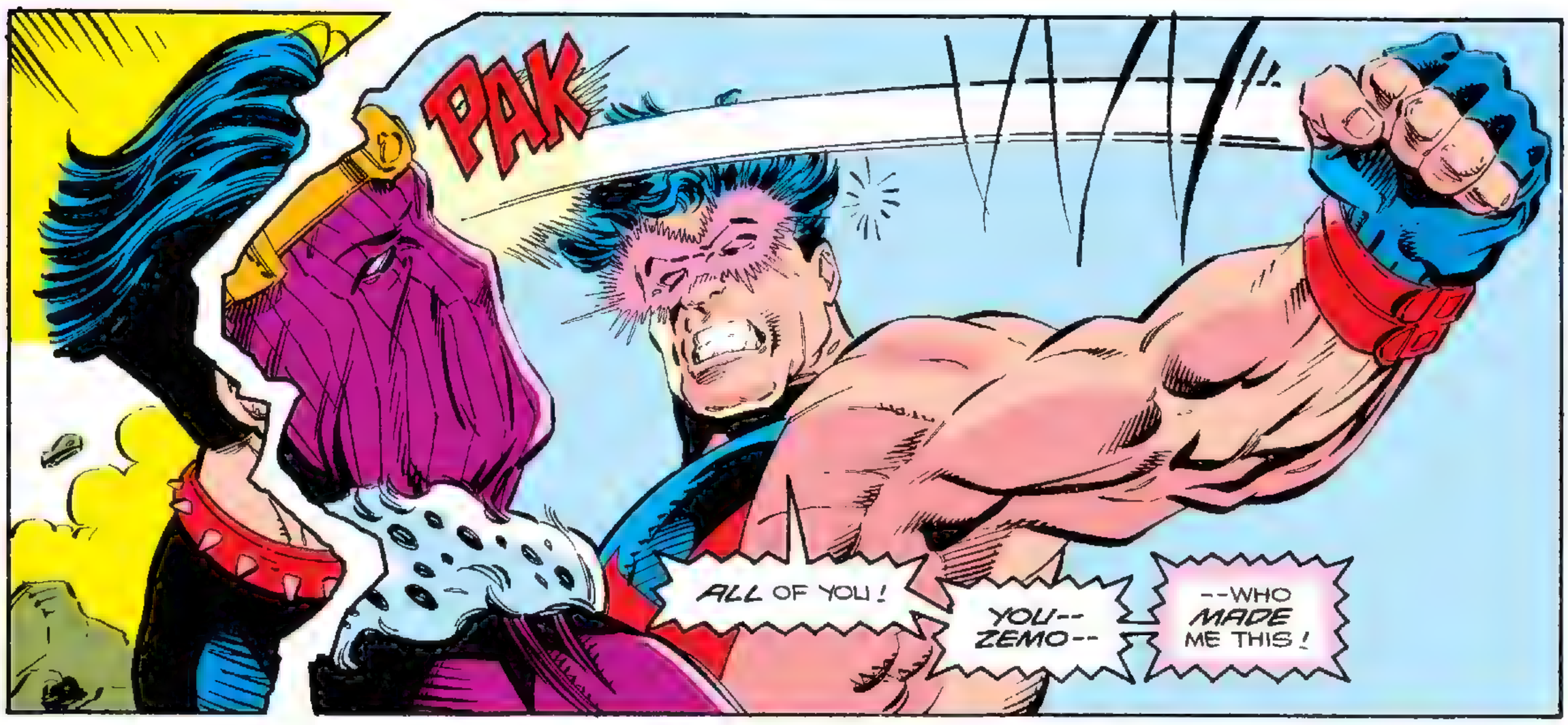
HE'S VIOLENCE!
KROOOOOOMM!
HATE HIM--
--TO STOP HATING IT IN YOURSELF.
HATE HIM--
PACH
--TO BECOME HIM.
KRAK
BECOME THAT WEAPON.

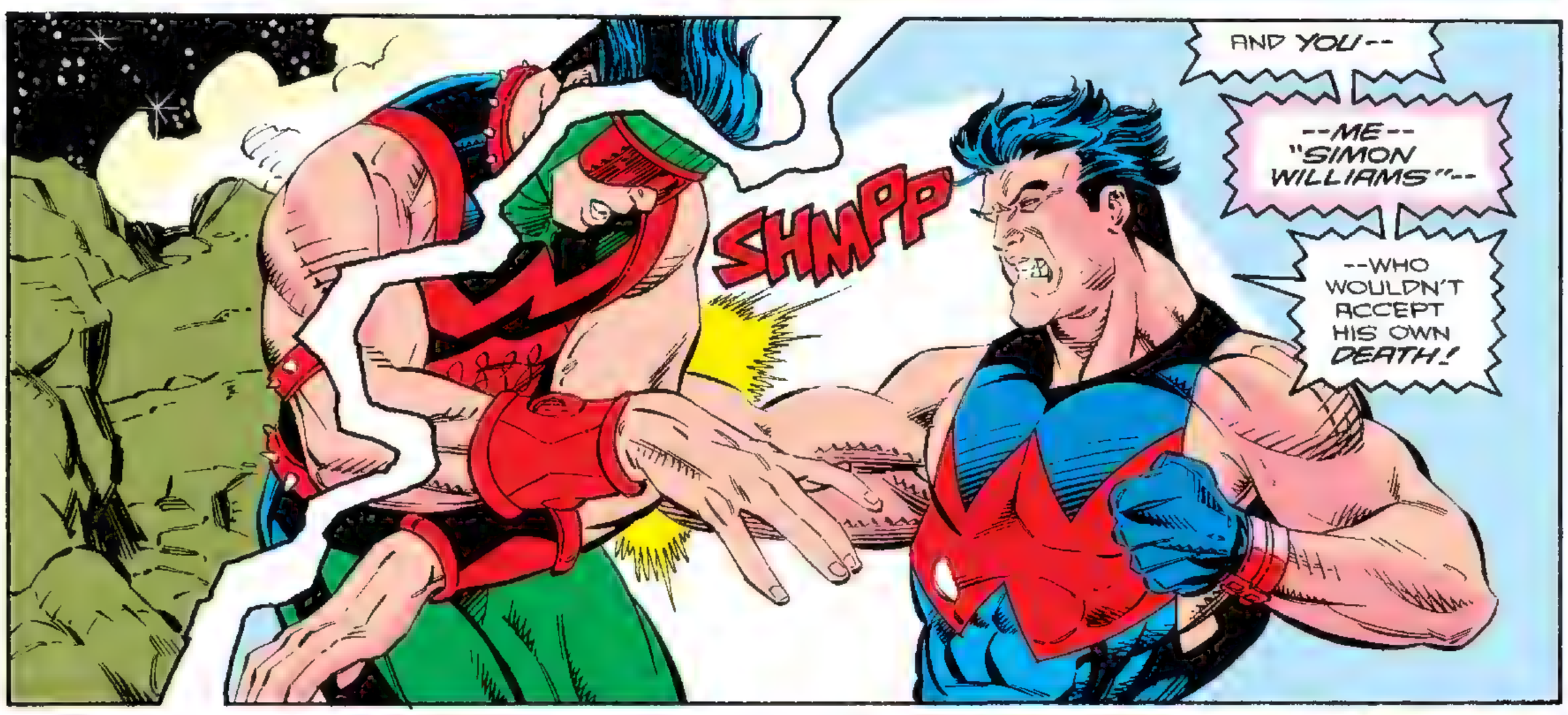
NO!
I--AM--THE--STRONGER--
--AS--MAGUS--DESIGNED--ME--TO--BE!
BECOME DESTRUCTION.
AND TELL YOURSELF YOU'LL TURN HUMAN AGAIN--

KRAKK
--AFTER IT'S OVER.
TELL YOURSELF. EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW.


WHACK
YOU KNOW THERE IS NO "AFTER."

SMUNCH
YOU'RE DEAD!!
THERE'S JUST RAGE--AND OBLIVION.
SO HATE HIM. MAKE HIM EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER HATED.

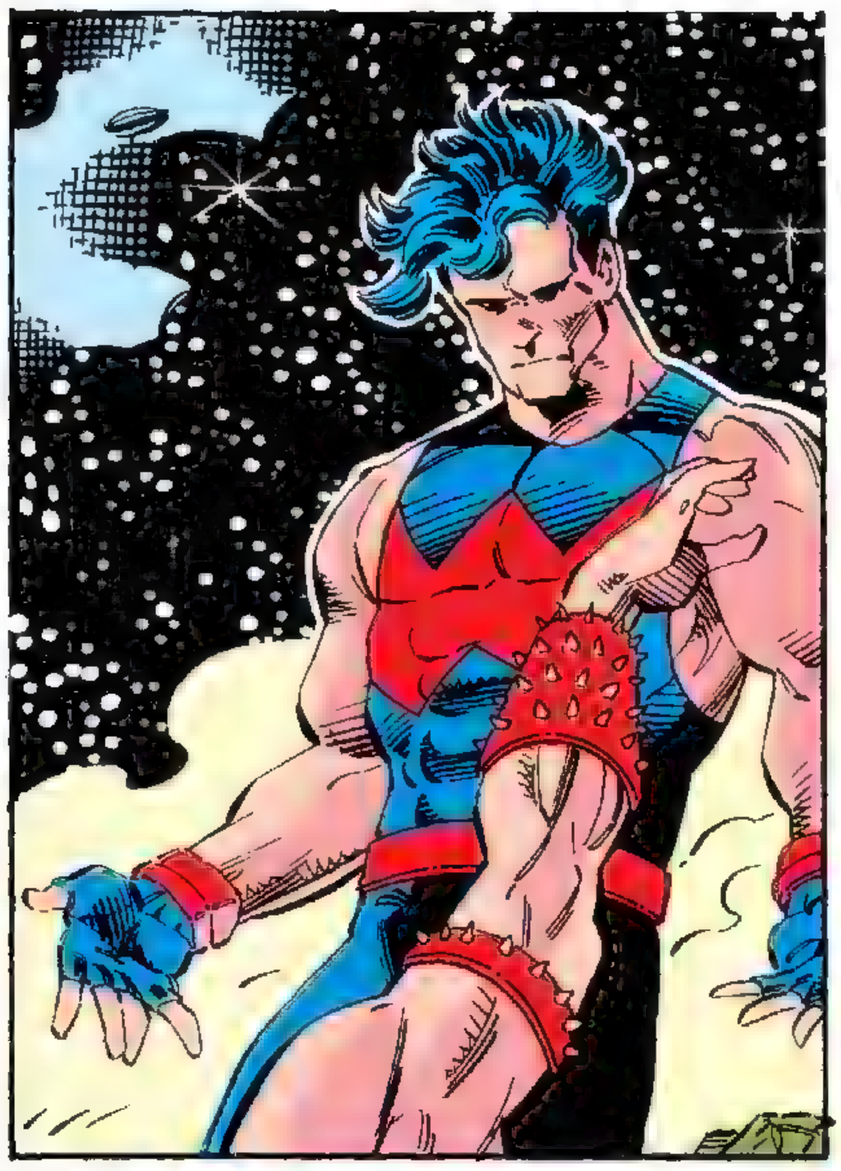

PAK
ALL OF YOU!
YOU-- ZEMO--
--WHO MADE ME THIS!


AND YOU--
--ME-- "SIMON WILLIAMS"--
SHMPP
--WHO WOULDN'T ACCEPT HIS OWN DEATH!

BOOM
AND YOU-- WHO USED ME--

BAM
--AND YOU-- WHO TAUNTED ME WITH THE LIE OF MY LIFE--

WHUNCH
--WHO TRIED TO MAKE ME: A HERO--
KRAK
--WHO MADE ME LOVE WHAT I COULDN'T HAVE--
--WHO MADE ME THINK I COULD BE HUMAN--
SMAP
YOU'RE DEAD!
YOU'RE DEAD!



AND SO YOU WIN. AND THE PEACE ROLLS OVER YOU, AND YOU SAY, "NOW I CAN BE HUMAN AGAIN. *NOW.*"

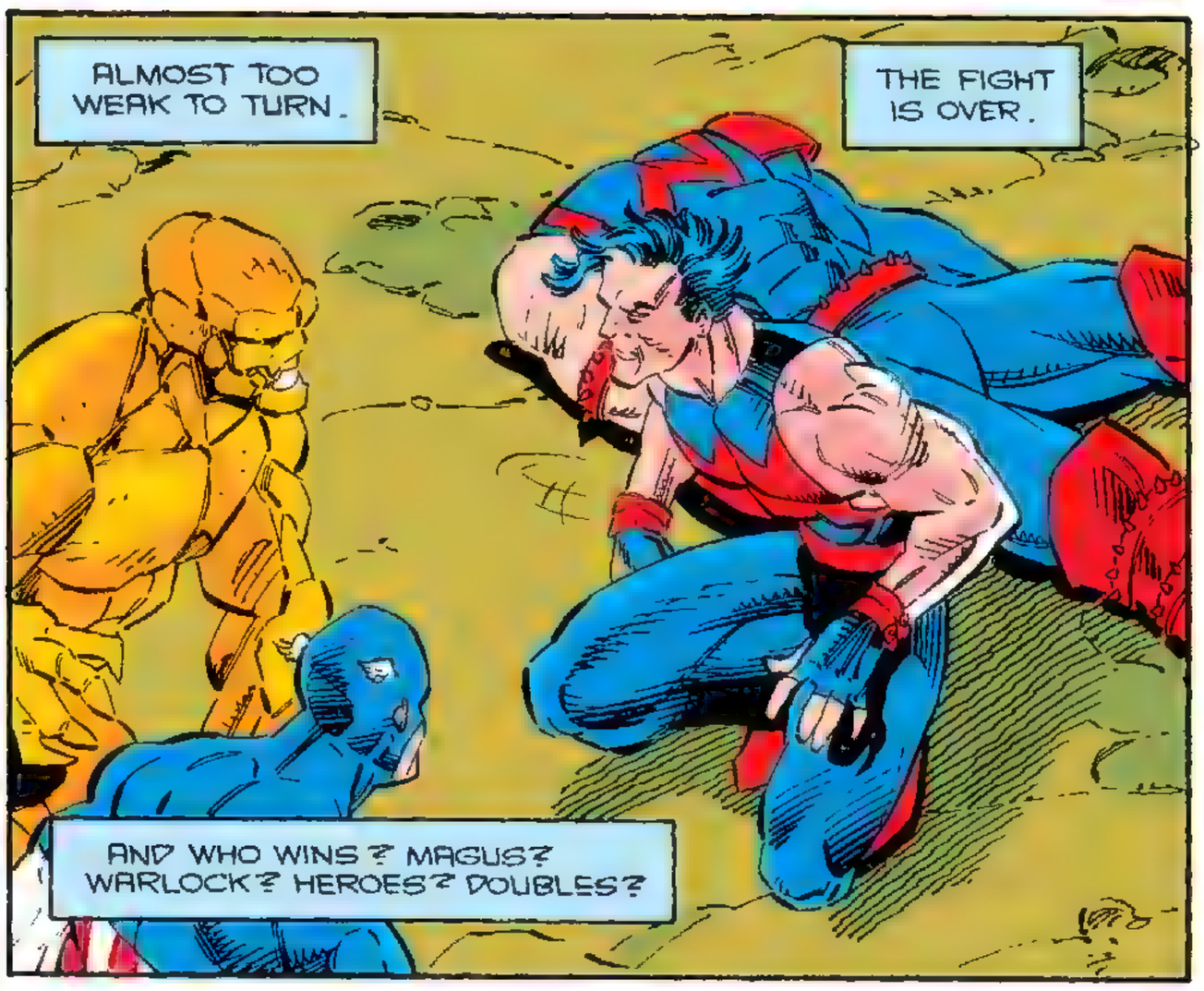
BUT TO WIN, WHAT YOU LOVED YOU'VE COME TO HATE. WHAT YOU HATED, YOU EMBRACE.

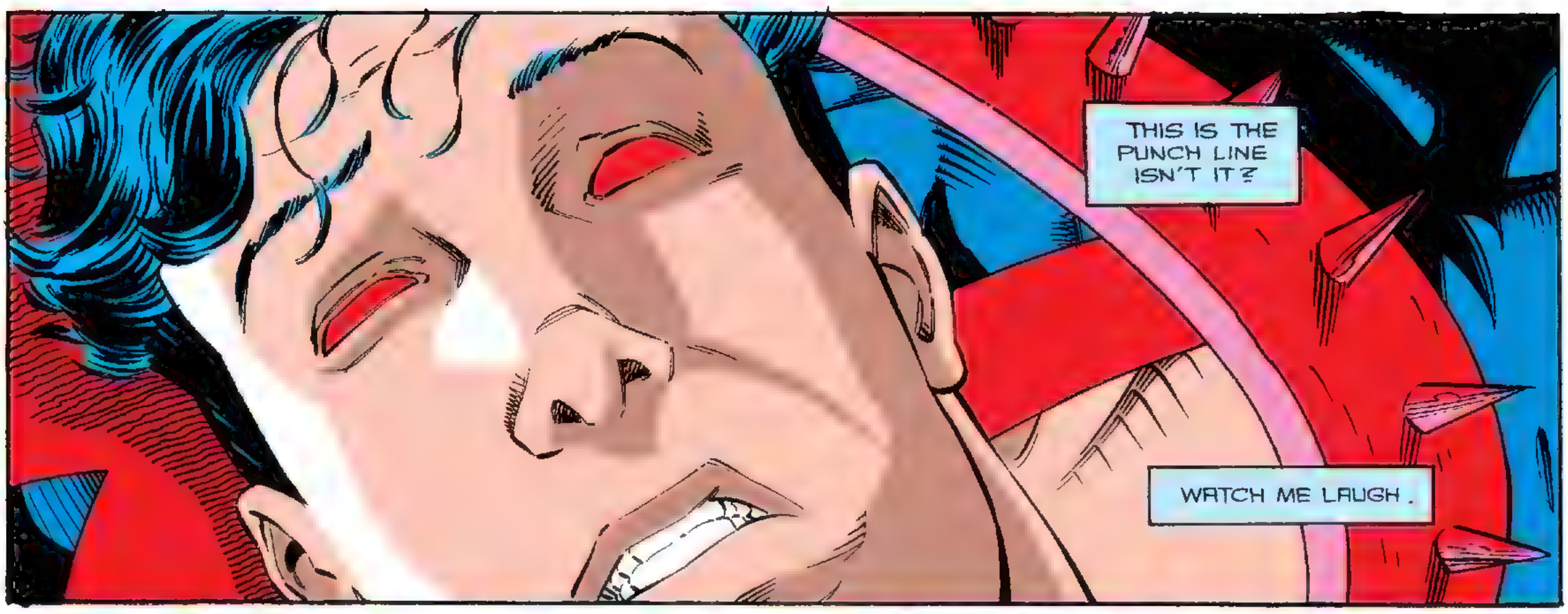
TAKE-DOWN TURNS TO LET-DOWN, AND THE IONS SWING NEGATIVE, AND A WHIRLPOOL WHIPS YOU DOWN INTO THE DARK OF DOUBT AND MEMORY AND OBLIVION.

TEETER FOR AN INSTANT BETWEEN MAN AND WEAPON.

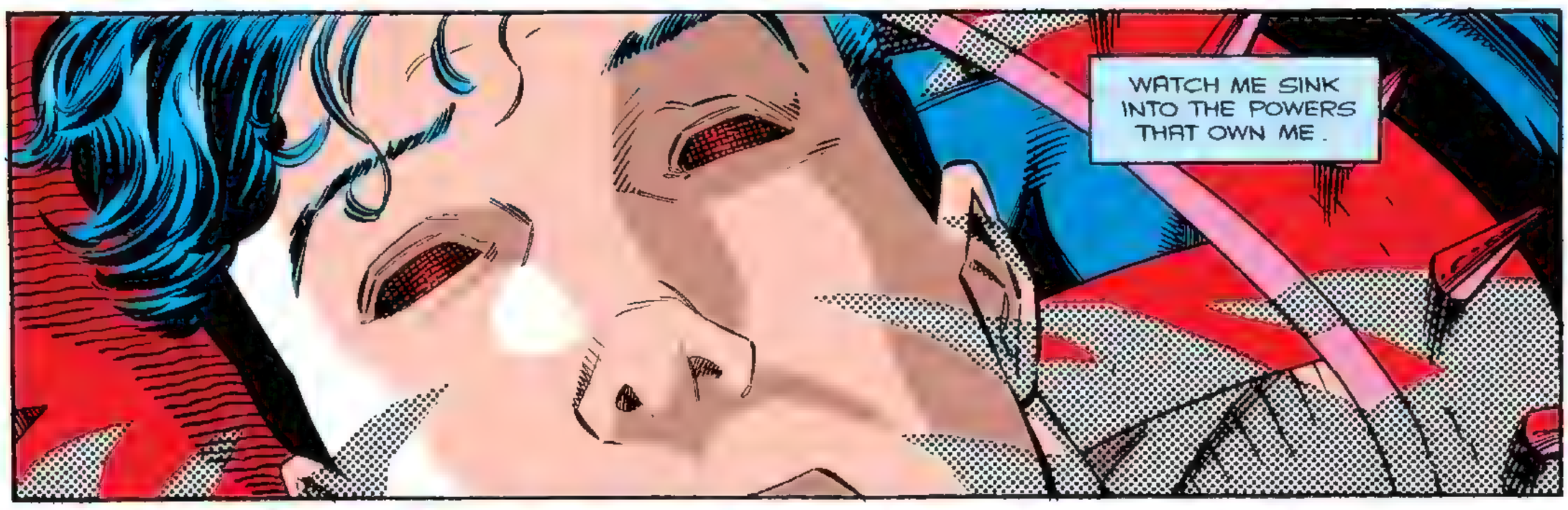
YOU WERE A WEAPON. AND THE WEAPON WAS *ALIVE.*

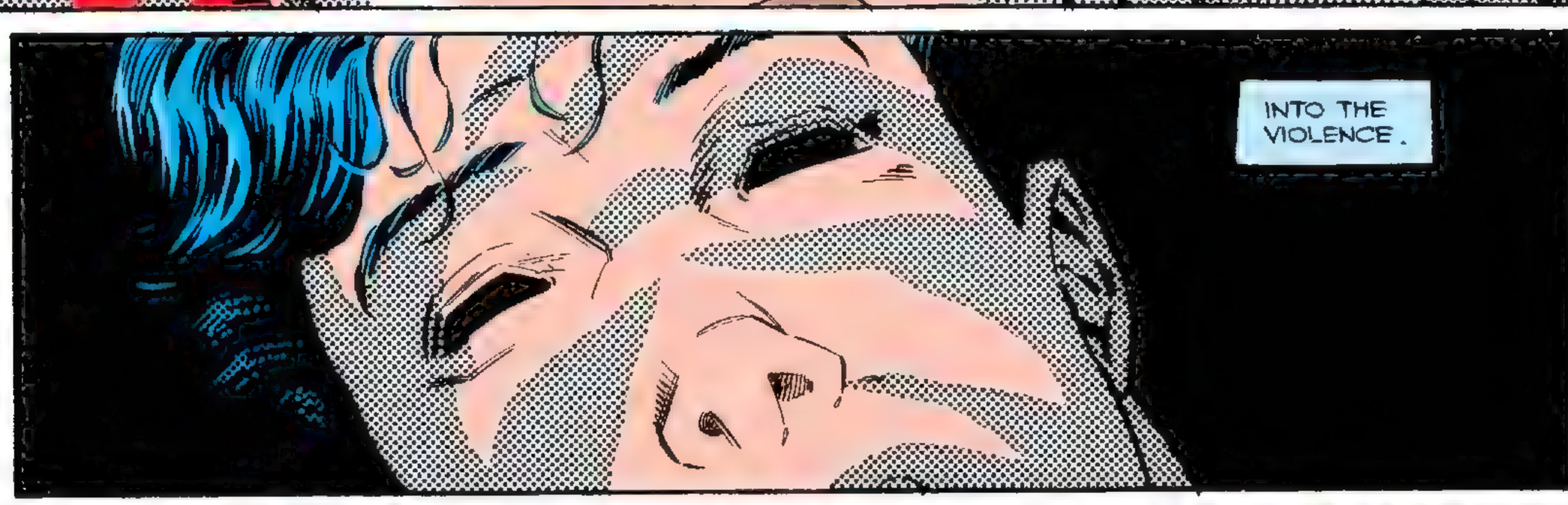
YOU HEAR THEM COMING, BUT YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO RAISE YOURSELF.




THIS IS THE PUNCH LINE ISN'T IT?
WATCH ME LAUGH.

WATCH ME SINK INTO THE IRONY.


WATCH ME SINK INTO THE POWERS THAT OWN ME.


INTO THE VIOLENCE.

INTO THE DARK.

INFINITY WAR #6, **PAGE 6 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

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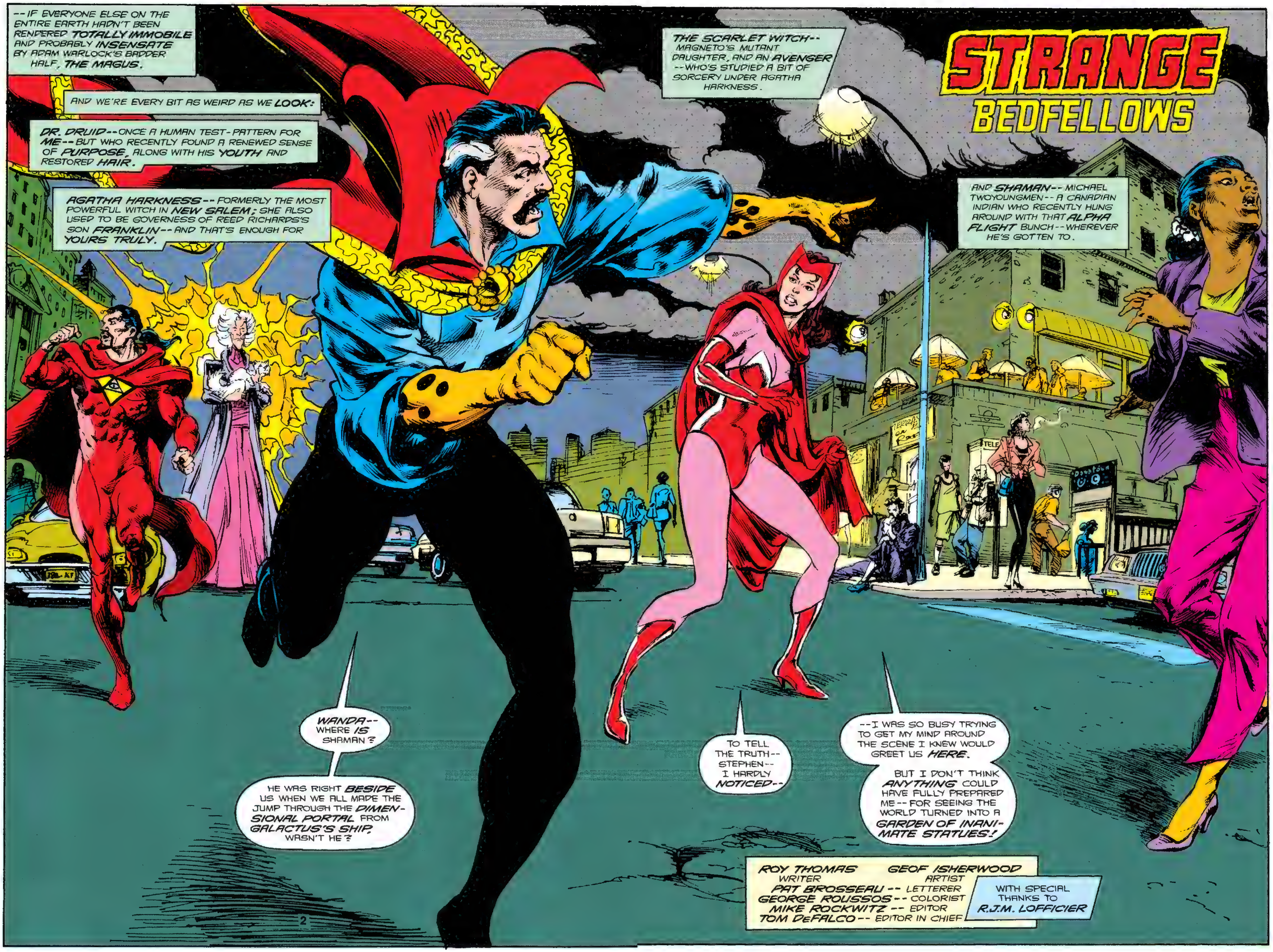
OCT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DR. STRANGE
SORCERER SUPREME
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
BEHOLD THE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS--
--THE MOST MAGICAL TEAM-UP OF ALL TIME!
ISHERWOOD '92

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!


STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
--IF EVERYONE ELSE ON THE ENTIRE EARTH HADN'T BEEN RENDERED TOTALLY IMMOBILE AND PROBABLY INSENSATE BY ADAM WARLOCK'S BADDER HALF, THE MAGUS.
AND WE'RE EVERY BIT AS WEIRD AS WE LOOK:
DR. DRUID--ONCE A HUMAN TEST-PATTERN FOR ME--BUT WHO RECENTLY FOUND A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE, ALONG WITH HIS YOUTH AND RESTORED HAIR.
AGATHA HARKNESS--FORMERLY THE MOST POWERFUL WITCH IN NEW SALEM; SHE ALSO USED TO BE GOVERNESS OF REED RICHARDS'S SON FRANKLIN--AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOURS TRULY.
THE SCARLET WITCH--MAGNETO'S MUTANT DAUGHTER, AND AN AVENGER--WHO'S STUDIED A BIT OF SORCERY UNDER AGATHA HARKNESS.
AND SHAMAN--MICHAEL TWOYOUNGMEN--A CANADIAN INDIAN WHO RECENTLY HUNG AROUND WITH THAT ALPHA FLIGHT BUNCH--WHEREVER HE'S GOTTEN TO.
WANDA--WHERE IS SHAMAN?
HE WAS RIGHT BESIDE US WHEN WE ALL MADE THE JUMP THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL FROM GALACTUS'S SHIP, WASN'T HE?
TO TELL THE TRUTH--STEPHEN--I HARDLY NOTICED--
--I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO GET MY MIND AROUND THE SCENE I KNEW WOULD GREET US HERE.
BUT I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD HAVE FULLY PREPARED ME--FOR SEEING THE WORLD TURNED INTO A GARDEN OF INANIMATE STATUES!
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GEOF ISHERWOOD ARTIST
PAT BROSSEAU -- LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS -- COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ -- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO -- EDITOR IN CHIEF
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO R.J.M. LOFFICIER
2

I AM *HERE*, STRANGE-- *EXAMINING* THESE PEOPLE-- OR *TRYING* TO.

THEY *DON'T BREATHE*-- THEY HAVE NO *HEARTBEAT*-- AND THEIR SKIN *GIVES* UNDER MY TOUCH NO MORE THAN IF IT WERE *MARBLE!*

FUNNY! *THREE* OF US HAVE BEEN *MEDICAL MEN*-- YET IN THIS SITUATION, WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL BE WANDERING THROUGH A *MUSEUM*.

WHAT ARE *YOU* UP TO OVER THERE, ANTHONY?

THIS *WOMAN*-- SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A HALF SECOND FROM BEING *RUN DOWN* WHEN THE MAGUS'S DEEP FREEZE OCCURRED.

I KNOW SHE'S ONLY ONE OUT OF *MANY*, BUT I CAN'T *LEAVE* HER-- LIKE THIS.

BUT WE DON'T DARE *MOVE* ANY OF THEM.

MY MAGIC IS LESS *SPELLS* THAN *RITUAL*--

--BUT MY HERITAGE MAY ALLOW ME TO TAP INTO JUST ENOUGH *INNATE POWER* TO--

NO GOOD! CELTIC RITUALS WORK BEST IN *THREES!*

COULD A *COUPLE* OF YOU--?

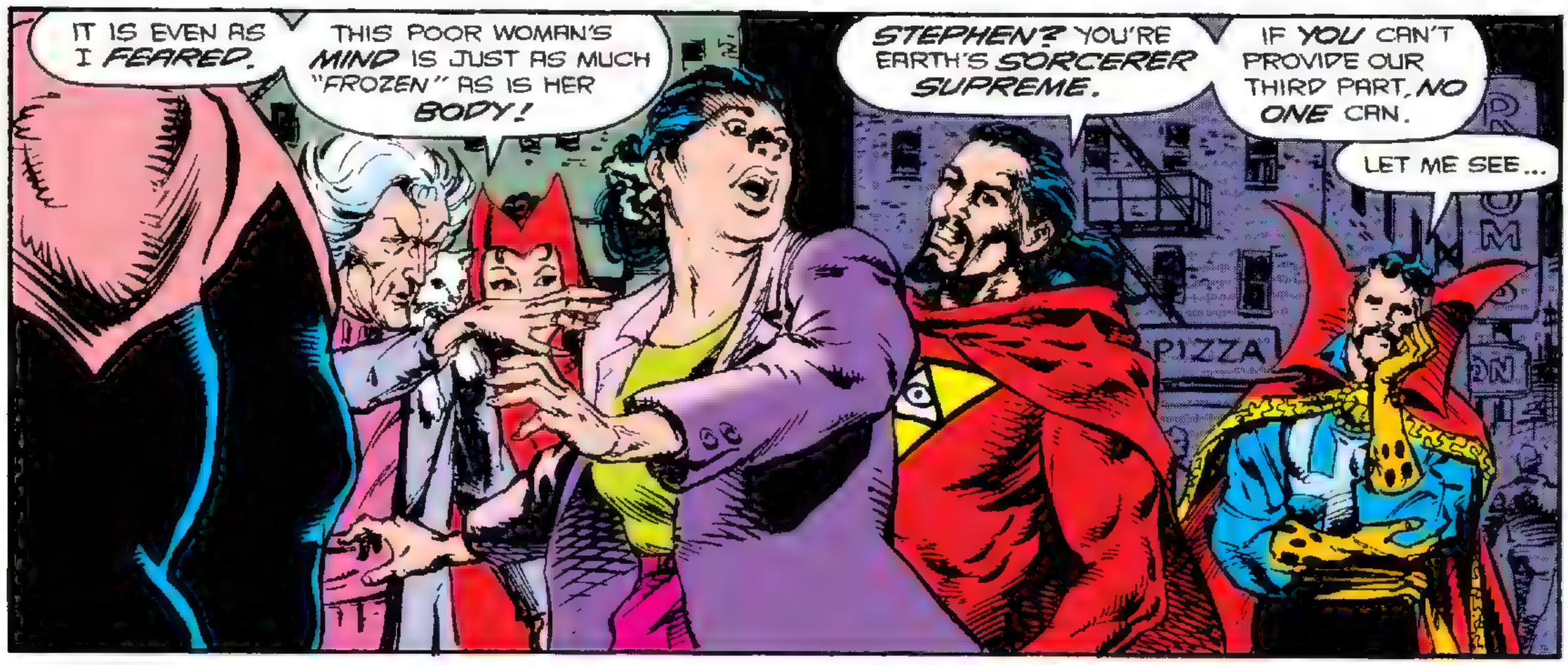
PERHAPS I CAN PERSUADE THE *SPIRITS OF LIFE* TO RE-ANIMATE HER INERT BODY...

NOT *QUITE!* BUT-- YOU SAID YOU NEEDED *THREE?*

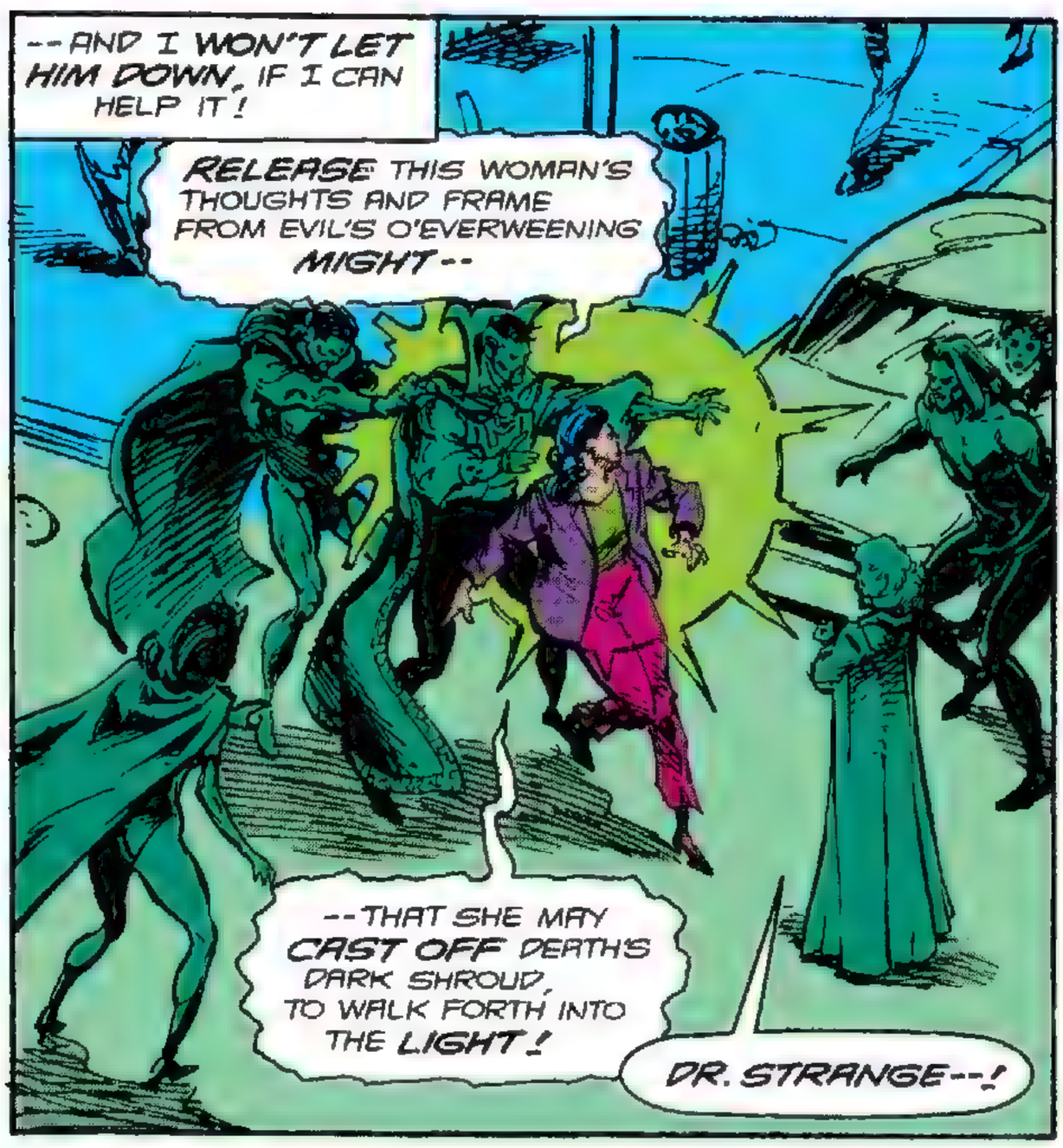
CAN *YOU* HELP THEM, MISS HARKNESS?

I KNOW SO *LITTLE* MAGIC-- AND MY MUTANT *HEX POWER'S* LIABLE TO DO MORE *HARM* THAN GOOD...

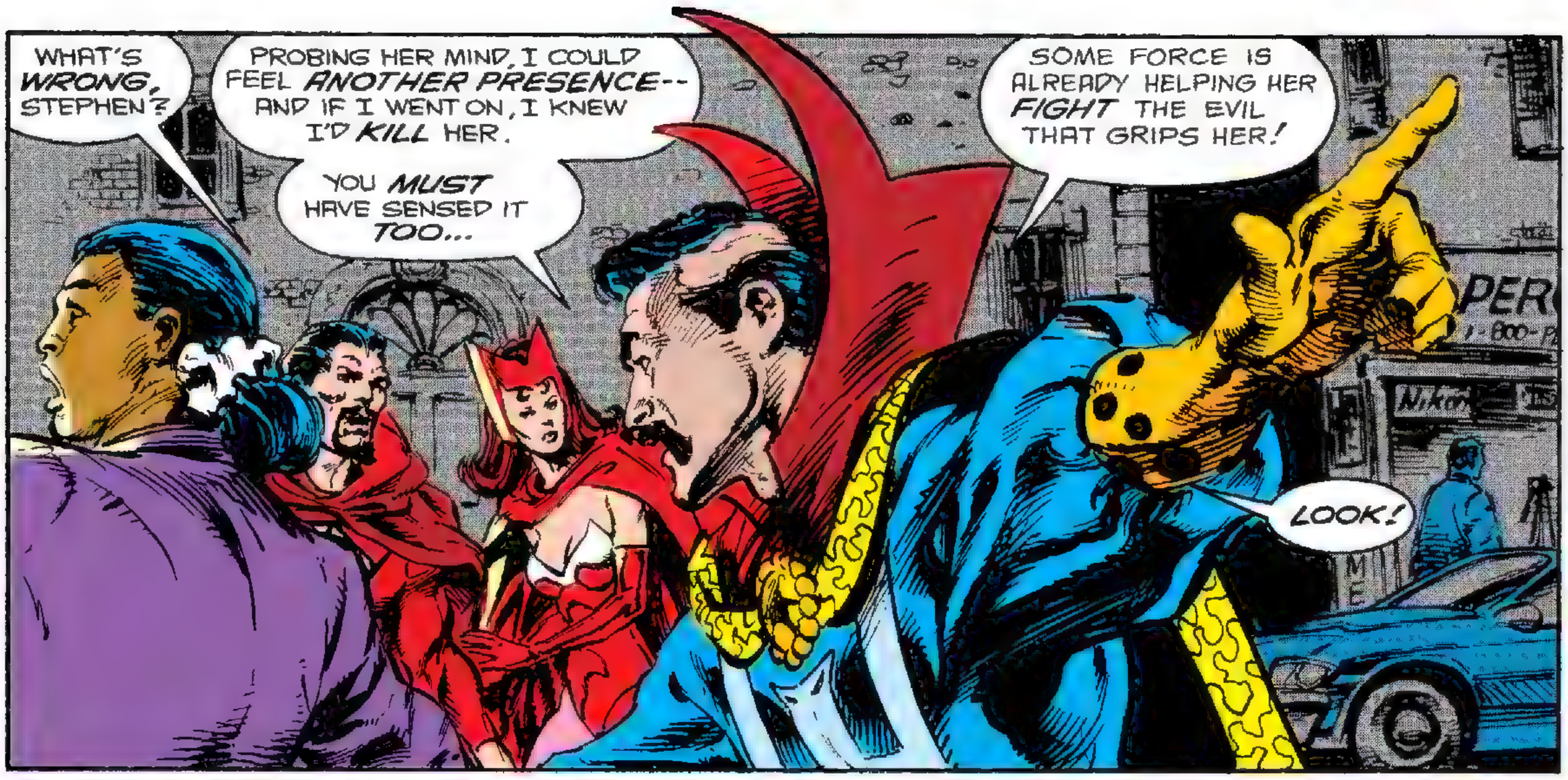
I'LL DO WHAT I *CAN*, MY CHILD...


IT IS EVEN AS I FEARED.
THIS POOR WOMAN'S MIND IS JUST AS MUCH "FROZEN" AS IS HER BODY!
STEPHEN? YOU'RE EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME.
IF YOU CAN'T PROVIDE OUR THIRD PART, NO ONE CAN.
LET ME SEE...
PIZZA

LET THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO NOW GUIDE US TO OUR GOAL--
LET THE GAZE OF THE ALL-SEEING PEER DEEP INTO HER SOUL--
I BEGIN TO FEEL A STRAIN-- PERHAPS AS GREAT AS ANY I'VE EVER FELT--BUT I WON'T QUIT.
ANTHONY DRUID IS A CHANGED MAN--A CARING MAN, NOW--


--AND I WON'T LET HIM DOWN, IF I CAN HELP IT!
RELEASE THIS WOMAN'S THOUGHTS AND FRAME FROM EVIL'S O'EVERWEENING MIGHT--
--THAT SHE MAY CAST OFF DEATH'S DARK SHROUD, TO WALK FORTH INTO THE LIGHT!
DR. STRANGE--!

AT AGATHA'S EXCLAMATION--
--MY EYES SUDDENLY MEET THE BLANKLY STARING ORBS OF THE UNMOVING RECIPIENT OF ALL OUR RAGING MYSTIC ENERGIES--
--AND I STOP COLD!

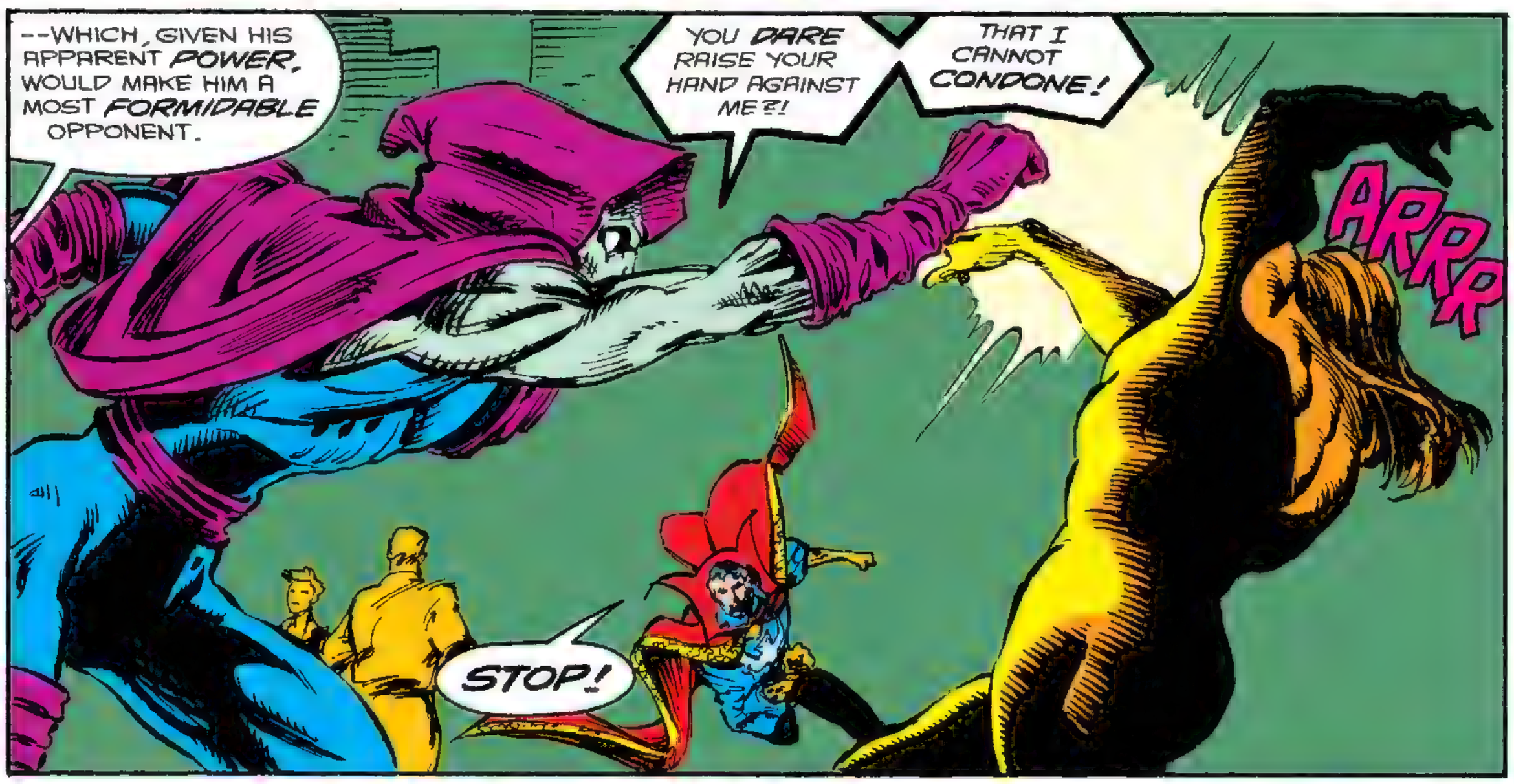

WHAT'S WRONG, STEPHEN?
PROBING HER MIND, I COULD FEEL ANOTHER PRESENCE-- AND IF I WENT ON, I KNEW I'D KILL HER.
YOU MUST HAVE SENSED IT TOO...
SOME FORCE IS ALREADY HELPING HER FIGHT THE EVIL THAT GRIPS HER!
LOOK!

TWO MOONS !?--
--IDENTICAL TO EACH OTHER-- HEADING TOWARD EACH OTHER!
THE MAGUS'S DOING!
I SENSE ALSO A SECOND, UNSEEN EARTH-- NAY, A DUPLICATE OF OUR ENTIRE UNIVERSE-- MOVING TOWARD MERGER WITH OURS.
WHEN THAT MERGING IS COMPLETE, THERE WILL BE BUT ONE NEW YORK--ONE EARTH-- ONE VERSION OF THIS UNIVERSE--
AND IN IT, THE MAGUS'S INFERNAL DOPPEL-GANGERS WILL HOLD THE UPPER HAND, ON HIS BE-HALF!
MAYBE SO, BUT I'M STILL GOING TO GIVE HELPING THAT WOMAN ANOTHER TRY-- ON MY OWN, THIS TIME.
WHO KNOWS, I MIGHT GET LUCKY...
BUT WAIT, OVER THERE!

THAT GREEN-SKINNED HUMANOID-- WALKING ON THIN AIR--
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?
YOU MAY CALL ME-- THE SLEEPWALKER!
HE'S AN ALIEN VISITOR, WANDA-- MAYBE EVEN AN EXILE--ON OUR WORLD--
--BUT THAT'S ALL THAT EVEN THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO'S BEEN ABLE TO TELL ME ABOUT HIM, UP TILL TODAY!

EVEN THAT IS MORE THAN YOU NEED TO KNOW. DO NOT--
YAH NO NAH!
MISS HARKNESS-- SHOULD WE JOIN SHAMAN IN ATTACKING THE CREATURE?

I...DO NOT THINK SO, MY CHILD.
THUS FAR, I CAN SENSE NO EVIL IN THIS "SLEEP-WALKER"--
--THOUGH I DO SENSE A SWIFTLY RISING ANIMOSITY--

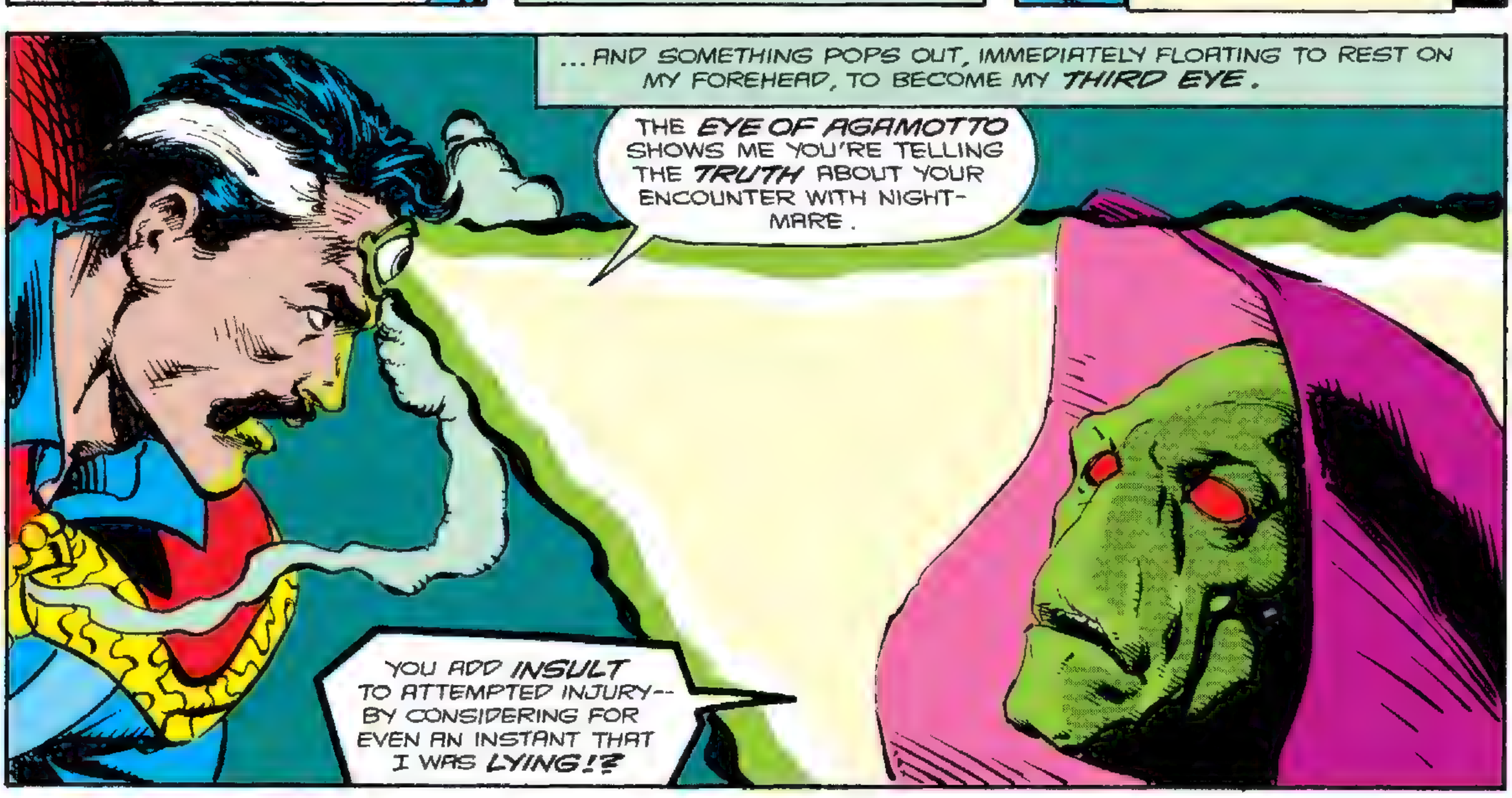

--WHICH, GIVEN HIS APPARENT POWER, WOULD MAKE HIM A MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.
YOU DARE RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST ME?!
THAT I CANNOT CONDONE!
ARRR
STOP!

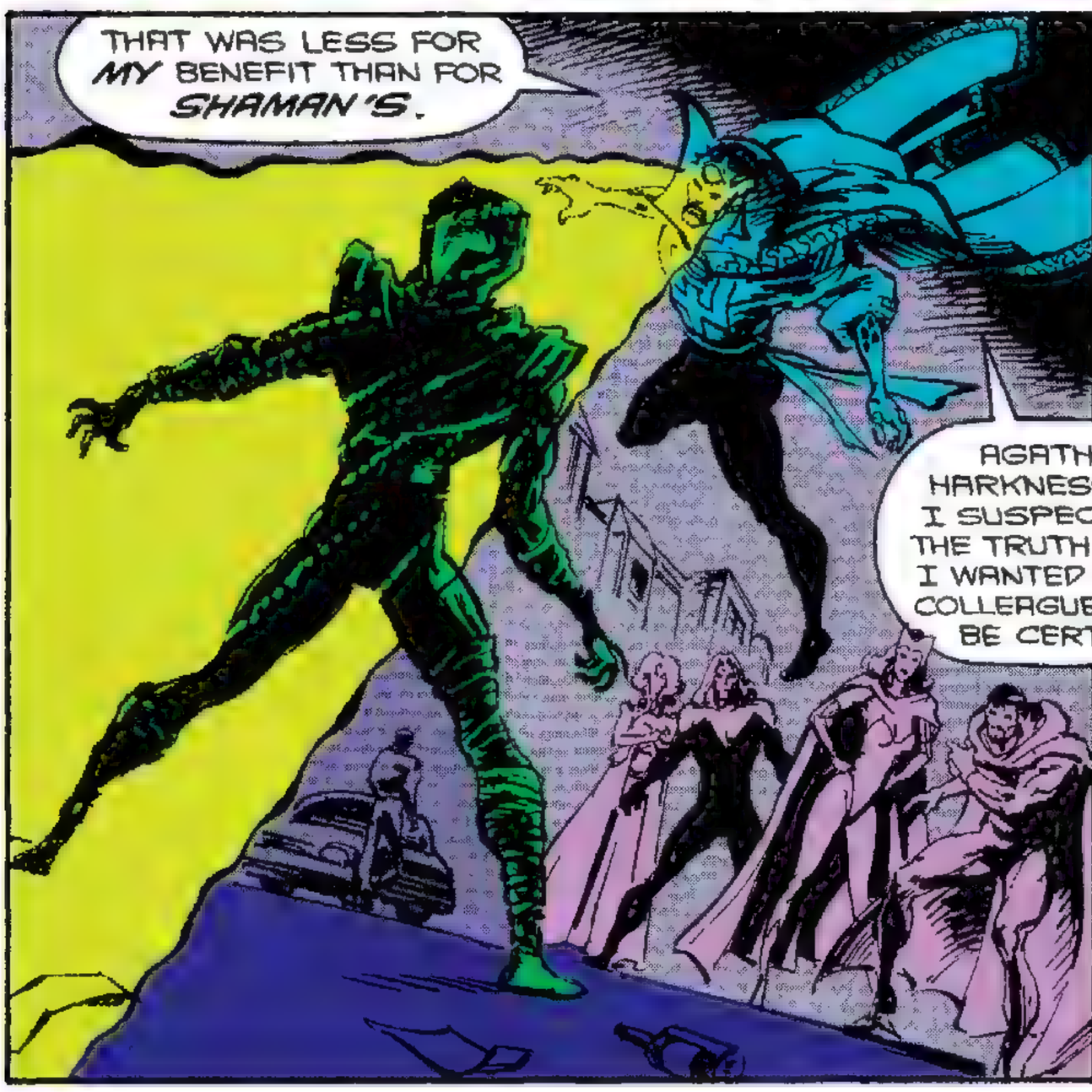
YOU WON'T FIND A SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM AS EASY TO PIERCE AS SHAMAN'S DEFENSES.
AH YES--YOU ARE THIS ASTRAL PLANE'S SORCERER SUPREME.
BUT THEN, I AM NOT FROM THIS PLANE--SO THAT HARDLY IMPRESSES ME.

THEN SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE FROM--AND WHY YOU'RE ON EARTH.
THAT IS MY SECRET, WIZARD.
YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF NIGHTMARE'S MINIONS TO ME!

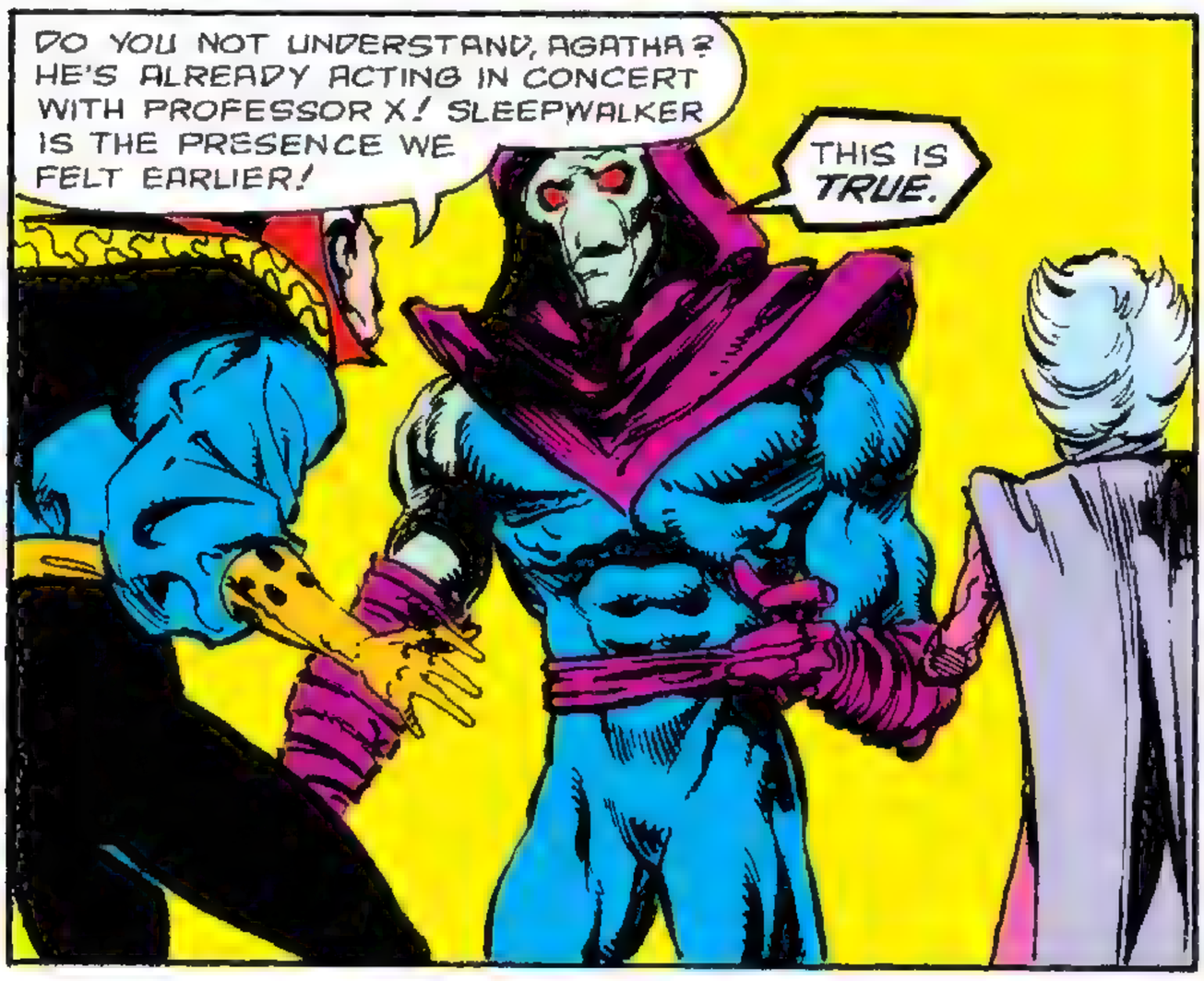
NIGHTMARE?! THAT SHADOW-SKULKING DE-SPOILER OF THE DREAMSCAPE?
WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT YOU KNOW HIM.
KNOW HIM-- LOATHE HIM-- FOUGHT HIM!*
I RESENT YOUR IMPLICATION OF ANY ALLIANCE BETWEEN US!
*SEE SLEEPWALKER #12.--MIKE.

GOOD! I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD GOAD THE ALIEN INTO TALKING INSTEAD OF FIGHTING FOR A MOMENT...
NIGHTMARE'S MY ENEMY, TOO, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING...
HIS CURIOSITY IS AROUSED AS MY AMULET OPENS...


...AND SOMETHING POPS OUT, IMMEDIATELY FLOATING TO REST ON MY FOREHEAD, TO BECOME MY THIRD EYE.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO SHOWS ME YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH NIGHT-MARE.
YOU ADD INSULT TO ATTEMPTED INJURY-- BY CONSIDERING FOR EVEN AN INSTANT THAT I WAS LYING!?


THAT WAS LESS FOR MY BENEFIT THAN FOR SHAMAN'S.
AGATHA HARKNESS AND I SUSPECTED THE TRUTH, BUT I WANTED OUR COLLEAGUES TO BE CERTAIN.

I'M CONVINCED, STEPHEN, IF YOU ARE. ANTHONY?
I'LL ADMIT--HIS APPEAR-ANCE CONFUSED ME AS WELL AS MICHAEL. BUT--SEEING THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE TURNED INTO STATUARY--!



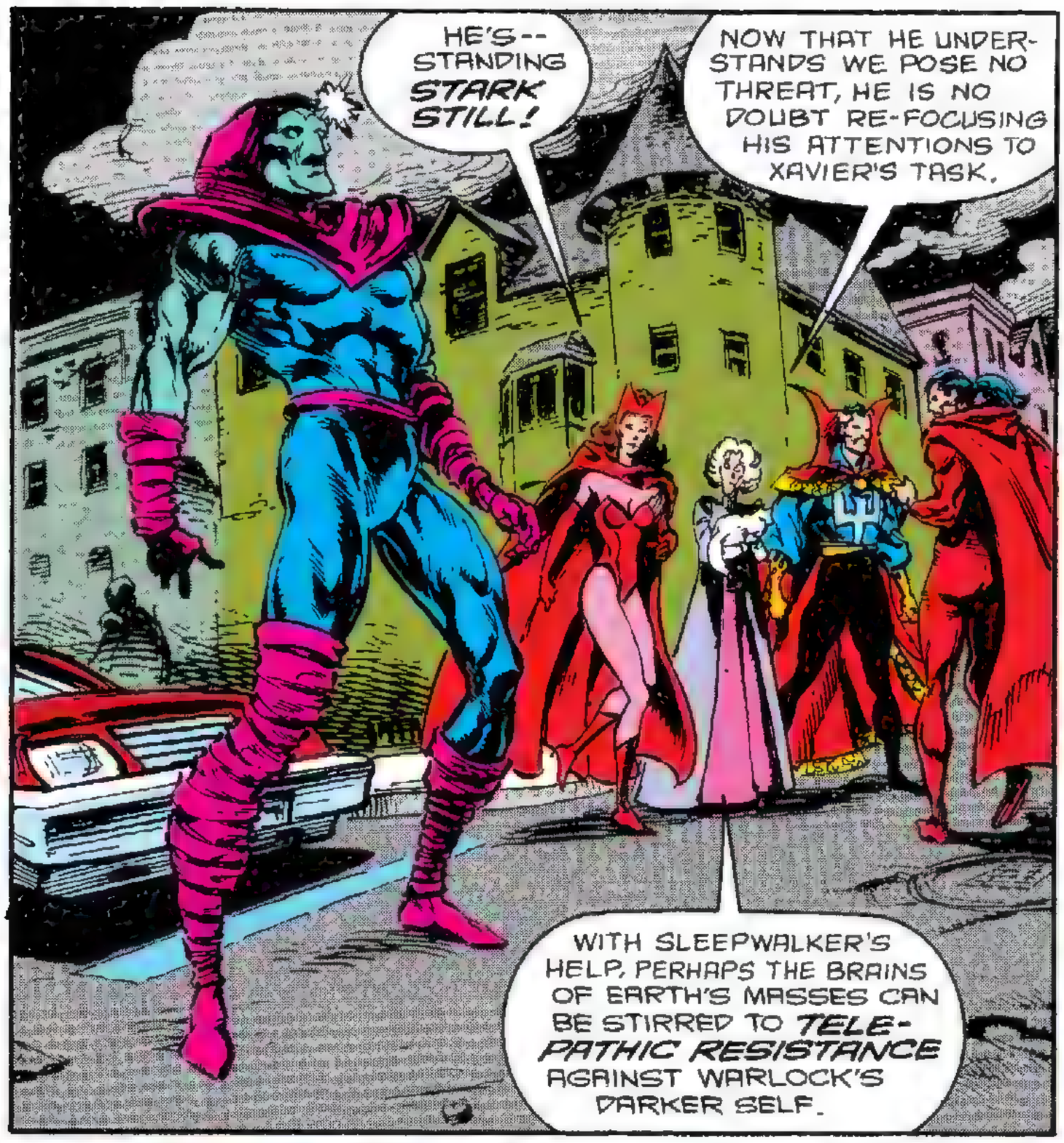
"BUT I HAD ALREADY OPENED MY MIND TO CHARLES XAVIER OVER AN HOUR AGO."*

THROUGH THE MUTANT'S MIND-- INTO AND THROUGH THE GREEN-SKINNED ALIEN'S--FLOWS THE INDOMITABLE MENTAL ENERGY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST PSYCHICS:

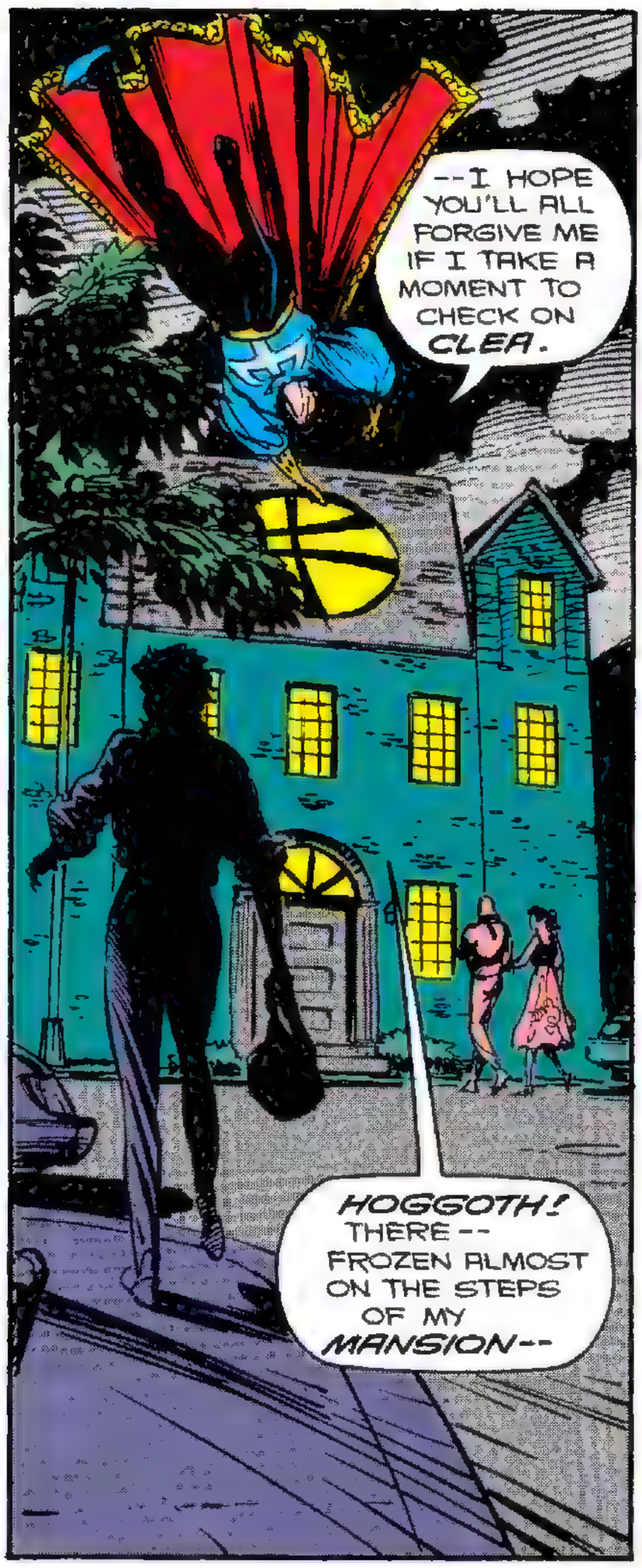
MOONDRAGON... PSYLOCKE... MARVEL WOMAN.

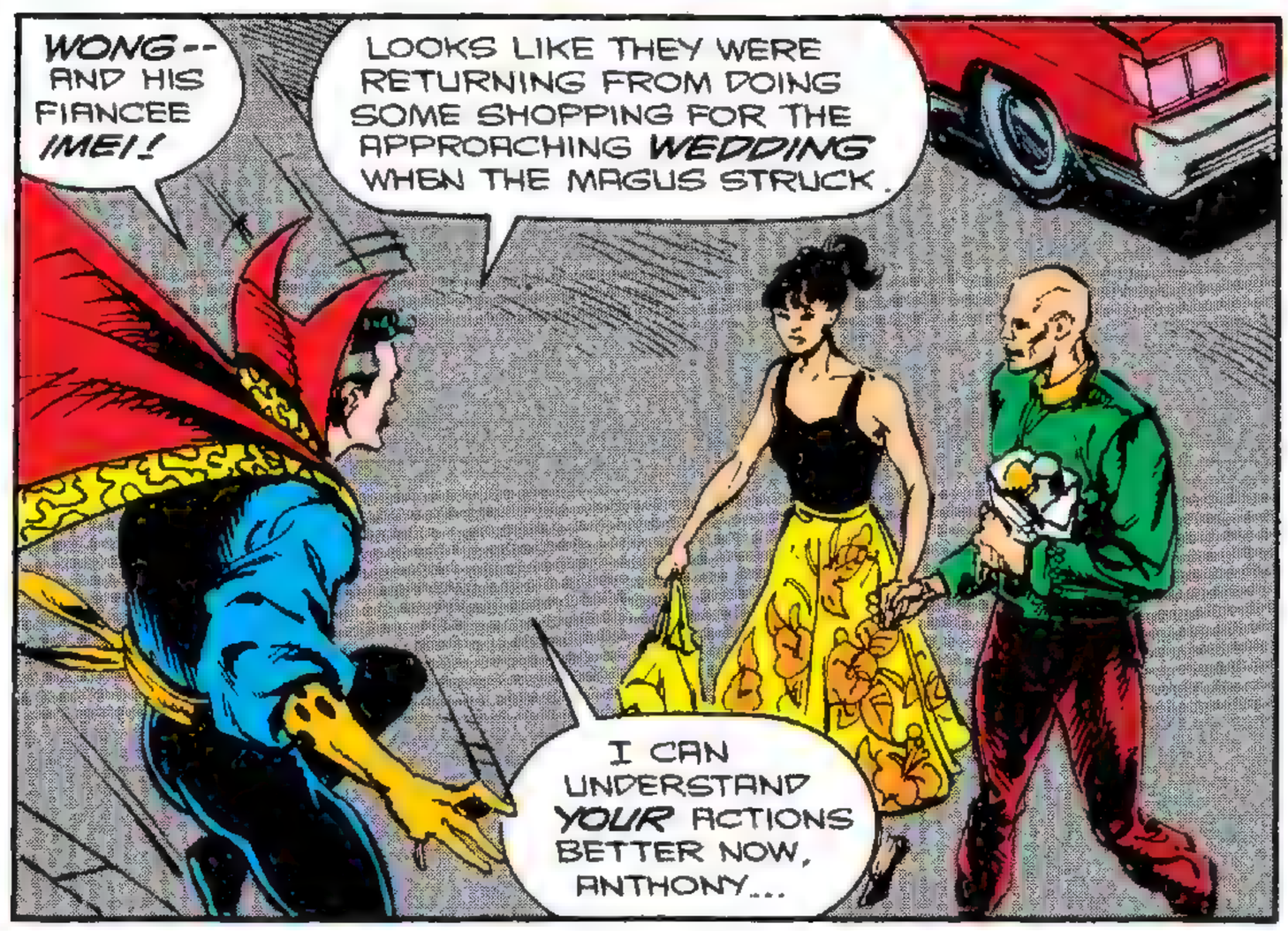
XAVIER'S PURPOSE: TO AT LEAST FREE THE EARTH'S BILLIONS FROM THE MIND-ENSLAVEMENT OF THE MAGUS.

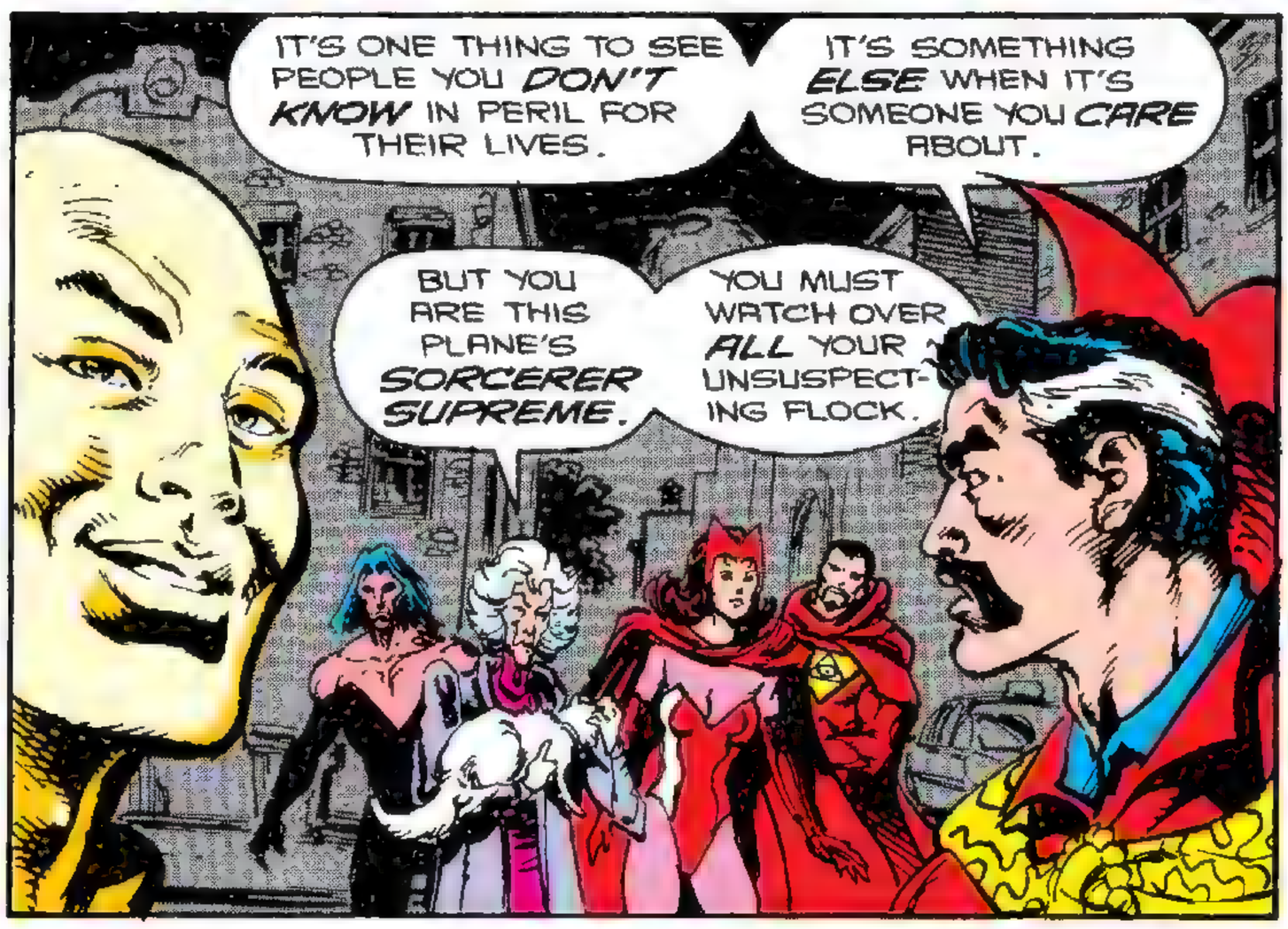
*SEE SLEEPWALKER # 18. --MIKE


HE'S-- STANDING STARK STILL!
NOW THAT HE UNDERSTANDS WE POSE NO THREAT, HE IS NO DOUBT RE-FOCUSING HIS ATTENTIONS TO XAVIER'S TASK.
WITH SLEEPWALKER'S HELP, PERHAPS THE BRAINS OF EARTH'S MASSES CAN BE STIRRED TO TELEPATHIC RESISTANCE AGAINST WARLOCK'S DARKER SELF.

YET, EVEN IF THEY SUCCEED, WE'RE ONLY FIGHTING A DELAYING ACTION HERE.
THE REAL BATTLE TO THE FINISH, I SUSPECT, WILL BE FOUGHT IN THE WORLD OF THE MAGUS--AND WE MUST SOON LEAVE TO TAKE PART IN IT.
BUT FIRST--


--I HOPE YOU'LL ALL FORGIVE ME IF I TAKE A MOMENT TO CHECK ON CLEA.
HOGGOTH! THERE-- FROZEN ALMOST ON THE STEPS OF MY MANSION--


WONG-- AND HIS FIANCEE IMEI!
LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE RETURNING FROM DOING SOME SHOPPING FOR THE APPROACHING WEDDING WHEN THE MAGUS STRUCK.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ACTIONS BETTER NOW, ANTHONY...


IT'S ONE THING TO SEE PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW IN PERIL FOR THEIR LIVES.
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE WHEN IT'S SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT.
BUT YOU ARE THIS PLANE'S SORCERER SUPREME.
YOU MUST WATCH OVER ALL YOUR UNSUSPECTING FLOCK.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, MS. HARKNESS.
BUT SOMETIMES... THE BURDEN GETS A BIT *HEAVIER* THAN USUAL.

I'M... *SURE* CLEA AND RINTRAH ARE ALL RIGHT, STEPHEN.
IN CASE YOU FORGOT YOUR *KEY*--HERE'S THE *SPARE* YOU TOLD ME TO HANG ONTO. WE CAN--

DRUID--*WAIT!* THERE ARE STILL *PROTECTIVE SPELLS* AROUND THE MANSION WHICH WILL KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP, REMEMBER?
THEY HAVEN'T ZAPPED ME *SO FAR*, WANDA. MAYBE THEY'RE ON THE *FRITZ*, COURTESY OF THE MAGUS.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES...

ANTHONY--*STOP!* I TOLD YOU YOU HAD TO RECITE A CERTAIN *RITUAL* BEFORE USING THAT KEY.
CLEARLY, IN HIS WELL-CONCEALED *ANXIETY* FOR YOUR LOVED ONES, HE HAS FORGOTTEN THAT.
EVEN SO, THE DOOR IS *OPENING* TO HIM...

SEE, WANDA? STEPHEN?
I *TOLD* YOU THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
RINTRAH? CLEA?
WAIT! THERE IN THE SHADOWS! SOMETHING'S--

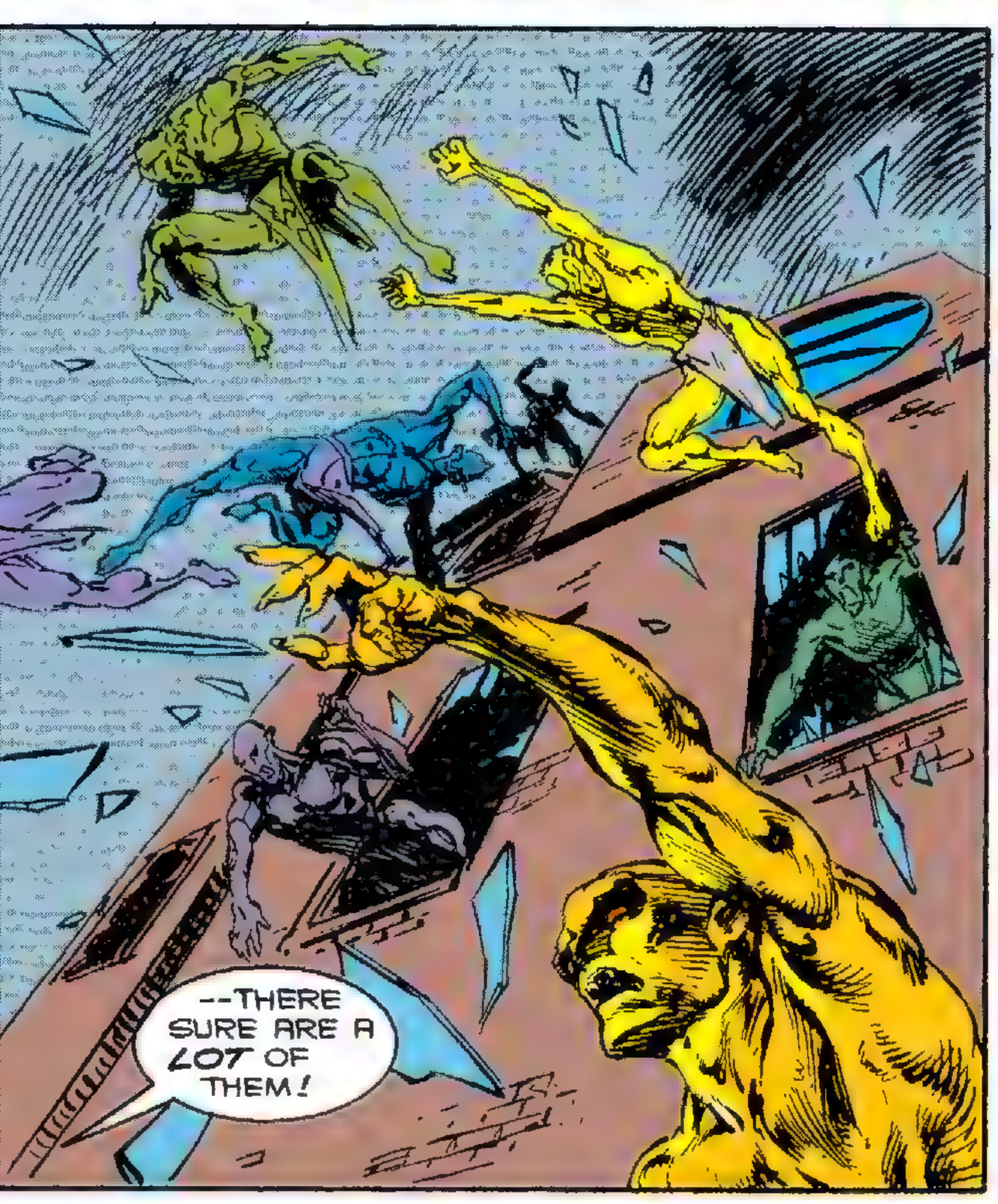
WHOOOOA!

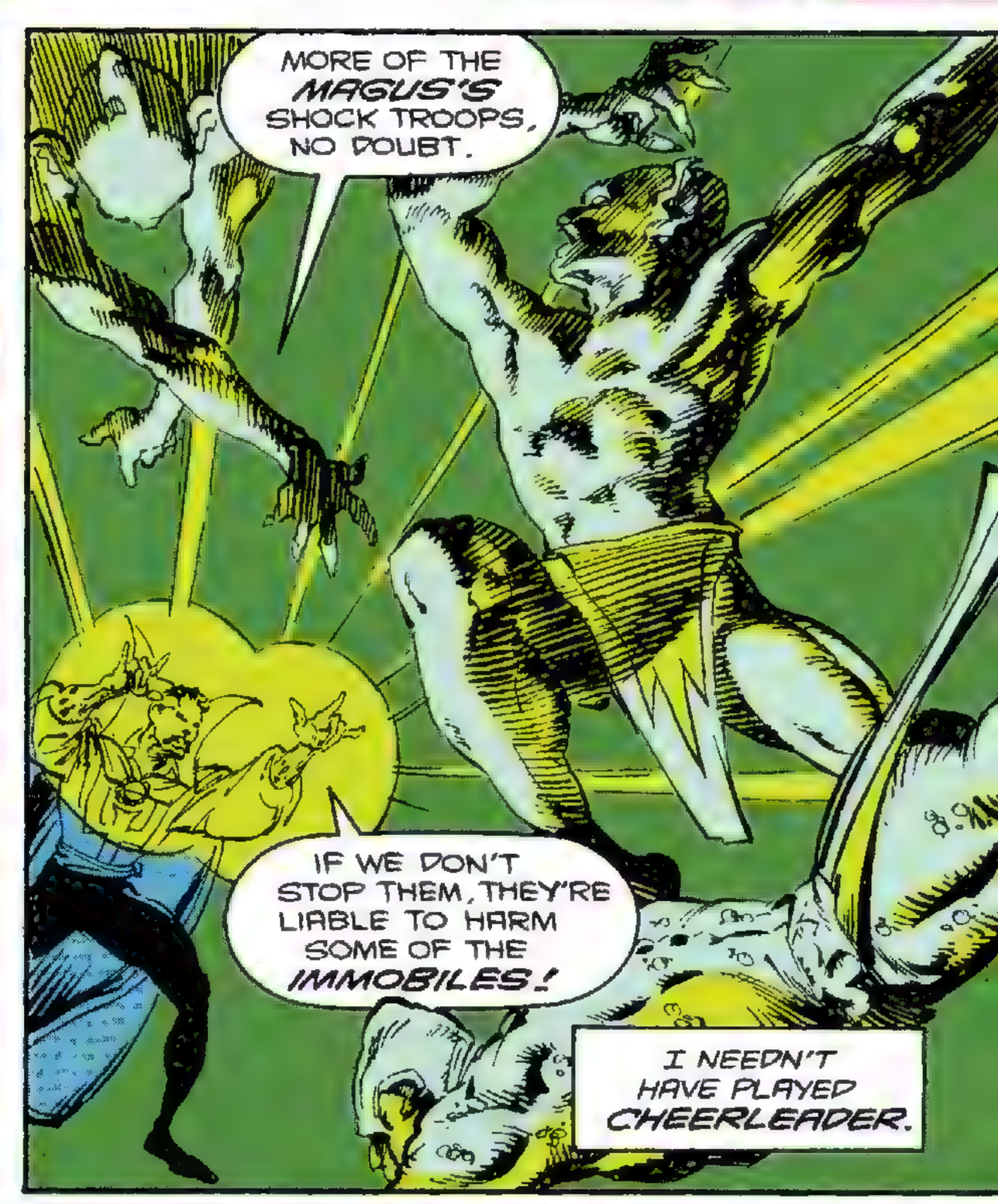
ARE THOSE -- *YOURS*, DR. STRANGE?

BITE YOUR *TONGUE*, SHAMAN.

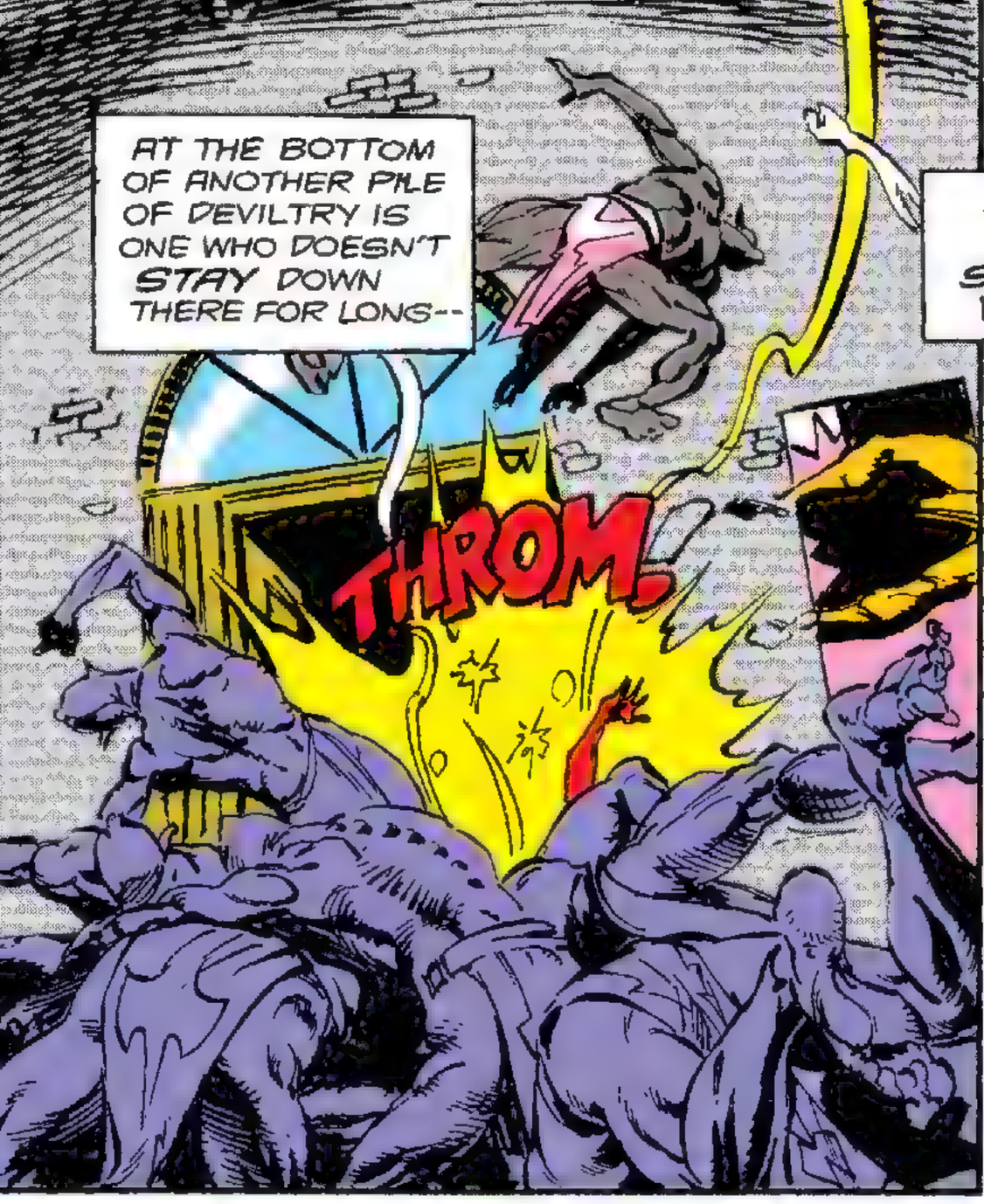
STILL, THOSE MINOR DEMONS *DO* LOOK VAGUELY *FAMILIAR*, SOMEHOW.

THEY SEEM TO BE *MUTE* -- NOT TOO *BIG* -- PROBABLY NOT TOO *POWERFUL* -- BUT I'LL SAY *THIS* --

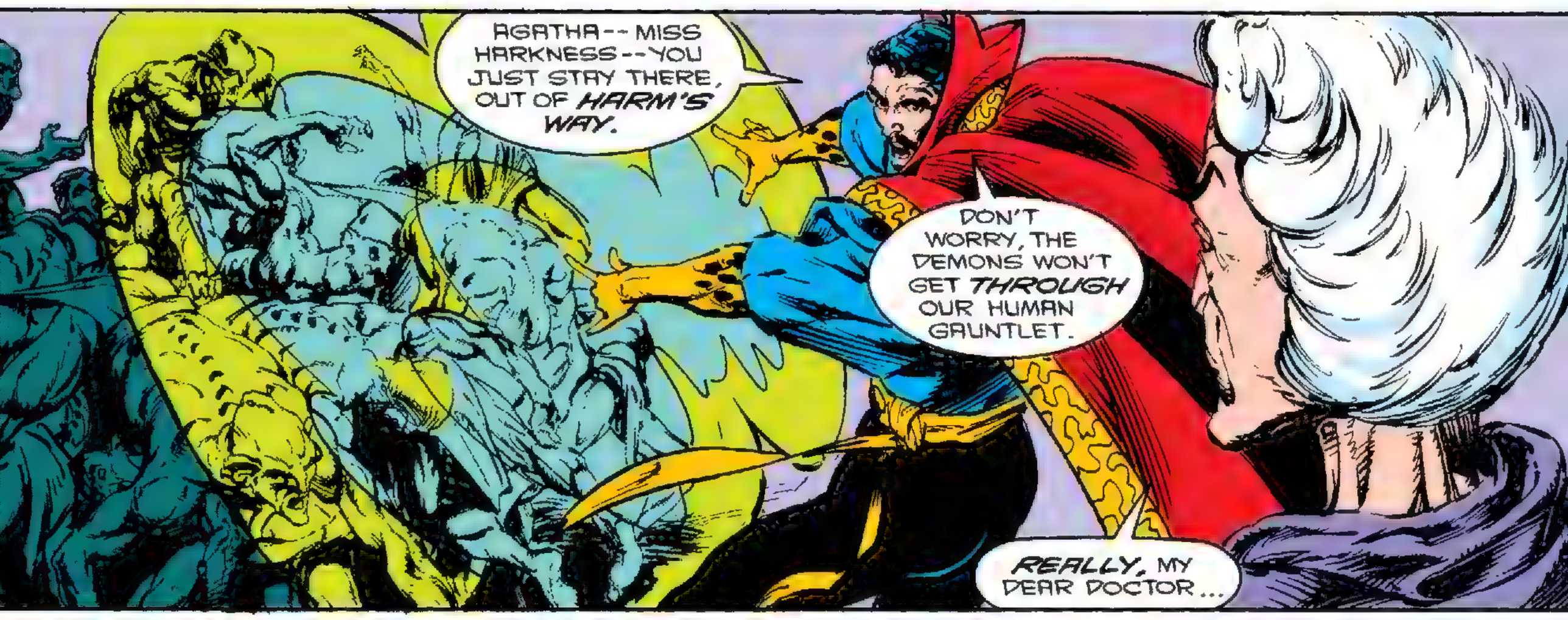


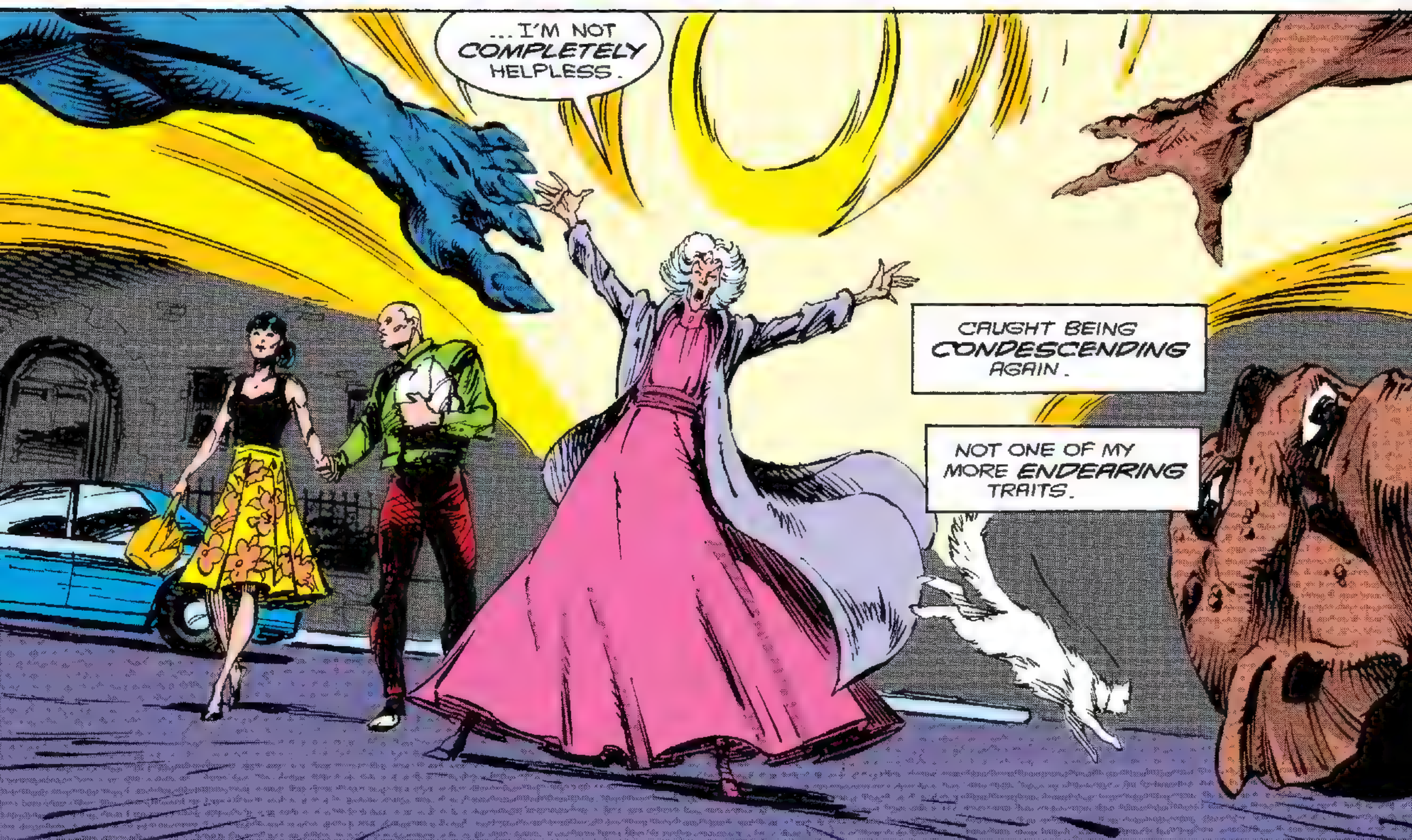


MICHAEL TWOYOUNGMEN'S ALREADY PROVING THAT HIS POWER TO HARNESS THE VERY *ELEMENTS* AGAINST HIS FOES IS VERY MUCH INTACT.


AT THE BOTTOM OF ANOTHER PILE OF DEVILTRY IS ONE WHO DOESN'T STAY DOWN THERE FOR LONG--
THROM!

--NAMELY, THE SCARLET WITCH.
ON YOUR FEET, DRUID!
MY HEX POWER DOESN'T AFFECT THESE THINGS, SO I HAD TO USE WHAT LITTLE MAGIC MISS HARKNESS HAS TAUGHT ME.
LOOKS LIKE YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK!


AGATHA -- MISS HARKNESS -- YOU JUST STAY THERE, OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
DON'T WORRY, THE DEMONS WON'T GET THROUGH OUR HUMAN GAUNTLET.
REALLY, MY DEAR DOCTOR...


...I'M NOT COMPLETELY HELPLESS.
CAUGHT BEING CONDESCENDING AGAIN.
NOT ONE OF MY MORE ENDEARING TRAITS.

ALL THE SAME...

...THEY DO KEEP COMING.

MAKES ME WONDER WHETHER MAYBE THAT SA'ARPOOL IN THE BASEMENT DIDN'T SPRING A DIMENSIONAL LEAK! *

* SEE DOC #41.--MIKE.

BUT NO--THESE DEFINITELY AREN'T THE N'GARAI--

--OR EVEN THE UNDYING ONES.

THEY'RE JUST MINOR DEMONS--HOBGOBLINS--POLTERGEISTS--WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

AND NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE--

--THEY'RE NOTHING!

I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BOTHER WASTING ANY RHYMED SPELLS ON THEM.

I CAN KNOCK THEM OVER LIKE SO MANY BOWLING PINS, WITHOUT CALLING IN BIG GUNS LIKE THE VISHANTI.

NOT TO DENIGRATE THE OTHERS.
THEY'VE ALL GOT MYSTIC SPECIALTIES OF THEIR OWN-- AND WE'RE LIKELY TO NEED THEM ALL, BEFORE WE PUT THE MAGUS AWAY.
BUT THIS KIND OF DEMONIC HOUSE-CLEANING IS MY AREA, MORE THAN THEIRS--
--AND I ESTIMATE THAT ONE MORE SPELL SHOULD DO FOR MY MANSION WHAT HERCULES CLAIMS HE DID FOR THE AUGEAN STABLES.
I GET SET TO LET 'ER RIP--
--AND THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER--
AARRRR
--AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW SECONDS.

MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL.
STAND AWAY FROM THAT FALLEN IMPOSTOR, WOMAN!
SO COMMANDS DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
STEPHEN-- WAKE UP!
THE MAN WHO JUST ZAPPED YOU--IS YOU!
AT LEAST, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU DID, BACK WHEN YOU WENT FOR MORE OF A SUPER HERO LOOK!*
AND, HEAVEN HELP US--
*SEE DR. STRANGE (FIRST SERIES) #177-183. --MIKE.
--HE EVEN SEEMS TO BELIEVE HE IS YOU!

I DON'T JUST "BELIEVE," GIRL.

I AM!

SURE! I GET IT! HE'S ONE OF THE DOPPEL-GANGERS THE MAGUS CREATED TO HELP IN HIS TAKEOVER!

WHO-EVER YOU ARE, MAN-- WHAT-EVER YOU MAY BE--

--KEEP YOUR DEMONLINGS AWAY FROM US-- AND FROM EVERYBODY ELSE!

"DR. STRANGE" YOU MAY DEEM YOUR-SELF--EVEN "MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS," AS I ONCE WAS--

BUT I AM SORCERER SUPREME!

YOU'VE GIVEN YOUR ORDERS.

NOW I SHALL GIVE MINE.

TAKE THEM ALL!

ISN'T THERE ANY *END* TO THESE THINGS.

I HATE TO *TELL* YOU, WANDA--

--BUT THE ANSWER, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, MAY BE *NO!*

MAGIC *OR* MUSCLE--WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP *FOREVER!*

BUT IF WE RETREAT--THEY'LL SPREAD INTO THE *WORLD AT LARGE*--

--AND I *SHUDDER* TO THINK WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO THE HELPLESS *POPULACE!*

OOOF!

IF ONLY WE COULD REACH THAT *DOPPEL-GANGER*--!

HE'S THE *KEY* WITH WHICH WE CAN *RE-LOCK THE DOOR!*

LEAVE THAT BOGUS DR. STRANGE TO *ME,* SHAMAN...

AS I SEE MY BRAVE COMRADES ***OVERWHELMED*** *MY SHEER WEIGHT OF NECROMANTIC NUMBERS, I HURL* ***ENCOUR-AGEMENT*** *IN LIEU OF BOLTS OF BEDEVEIL-MENT...*

I'LL SHOW HIM THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS" AND "SORCERER SUPREME" IS A LOT MORE THAN JUST SOMETHING TO STICK ON A MARQUEE!

SPEAKING OF "STICK," PRETENDER--

NO ...

--THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I INTEND TO DO TO FAITHFUL WONG AND THIS LUSCIOUS YOUNG LADY WITH HIM!

THE SCIMITAR WHICH HAS MATERIALIZED IN MY BLUE-FACED DOUBLE'S HANDS IS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF THE SWORD OF THE ULTIMATE SHADOW--

--A TALISMAN I THOUGHT PROTECTED BY SPELLS IN MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM!

SO AS I SWOOP DOWN WITH ALL THE SPEED MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION CAN GIVE ME, I TOSS UP A HASTY SERAPHIMIC SHIELD BETWEEN US.

IT ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH.

IT STOPS THE MYSTIC BLADE FROM CUTTING THROUGH ME--OR WONG AND IME!--LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER--

AAAGKK

BUT THE MAGICAL PAIN IS TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE SHIELD INTO MY INNERMOST BEING--

--AND MY CONSCIOUSNESS COWERS DAZED IN SOME DARK CORNER OF MY MIND, SUDDENLY AFRAID OF THE LIGHT.
DR. STRANGE IS FINISHED!
LONG LIVE DR. STRANGE!
NEXT:
STRANGE SECRETS!

***INFINITY WAR #6*, PAGE 7 ART** BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

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DR. STRANGE®

AN INFINITY WAR™ CROSSOVER

SORCERER SUPREME™

ISHERWOOD '92

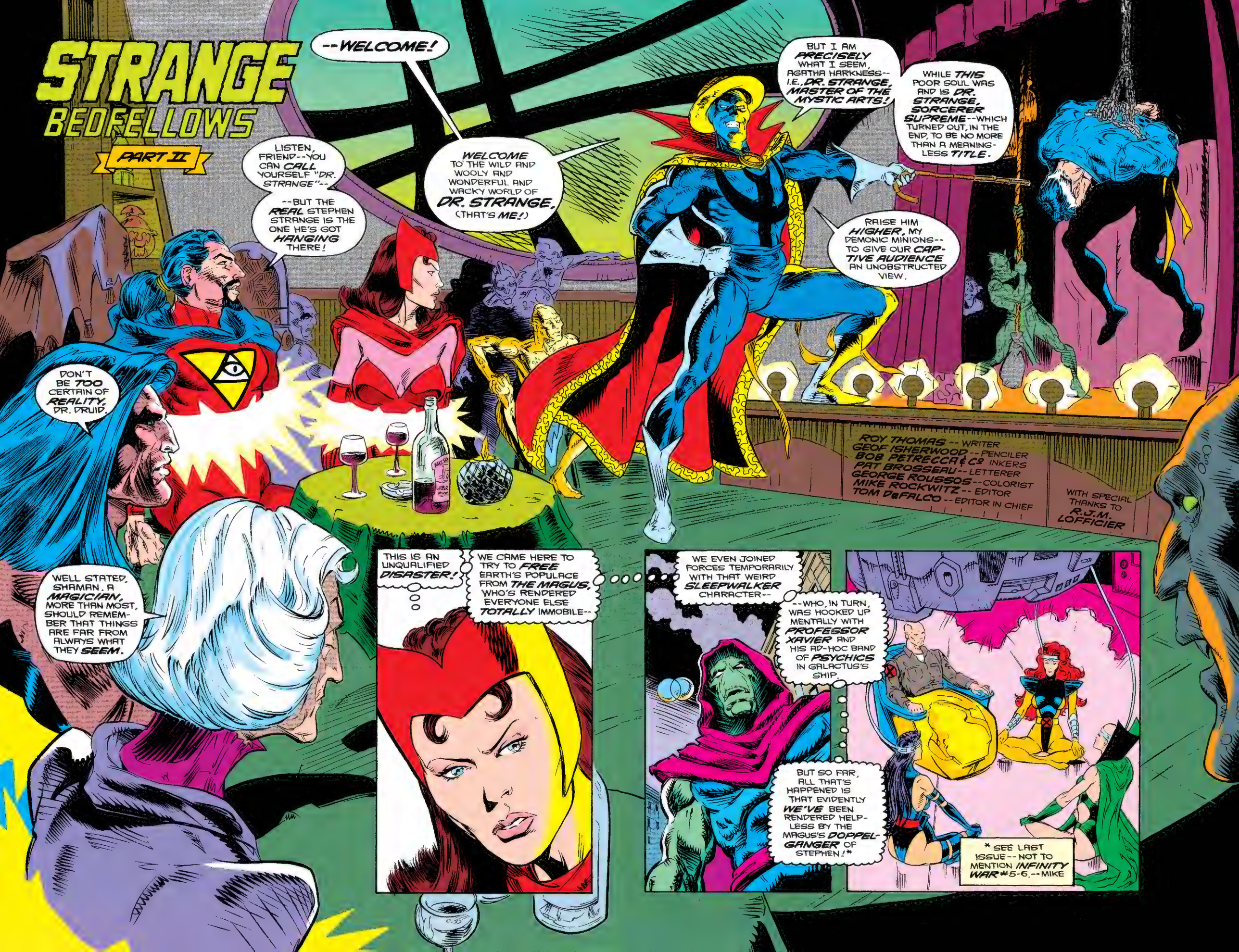
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WILL THE REAL DR. STRANGE® PLEASE STAND UP ?

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!


STRANGE
BEDFELLOWS
PART II
--WELCOME!
LISTEN, FRIEND--YOU CAN CALL YOURSELF "DR. STRANGE"--
--BUT THE REAL STEPHEN STRANGE IS THE ONE HE'S GOT HANGING THERE!
WELCOME TO THE WILD AND WOOLY AND WONDERFUL AND WACKY WORLD OF DR. STRANGE. (THAT'S ME!)
BUT I AM PRECISELY WHAT I SEEM, AGATHA HARKNESS--I.E., DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
WHILE THIS POOR SOUL WAS AND IS DR. STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME--WHICH TURNED OUT, IN THE END, TO BE NO MORE THAN A MEANINGLESS TITLE.
RAISE HIM HIGHER, MY DEMONIC MINIONS--TO GIVE OUR CAPTIVE AUDIENCE AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW.
DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN OF REALITY, DR. DRUID.
ROY THOMAS -- WRITER
GEOF ISHERWOOD -- PENCILER
BOB PETRECCA & Co INKERS
PAT BROSSEAU -- LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS -- COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ -- EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO -- EDITOR IN CHIEF
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO R.J.M. LOFFICIER
WELL STATED, SHAMAN. A MAGICIAN, MORE THAN MOST, SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THINGS ARE FAR FROM ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM.
THIS IS AN UNQUALIFIED DISASTER!
WE CAME HERE TO TRY TO FREE EARTH'S POPULACE FROM THE MAGUS, WHO'S RENDERED EVERYONE ELSE TOTALLY IMMOBILE--
WE EVEN JOINED FORCES TEMPORARILY WITH THAT WEIRD SLEEPWALKER CHARACTER--
--WHO, IN TURN, WAS HOOKED UP MENTALLY WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER AND HIS AD-HOC BAND OF PSYCHICS IN GALACTUS'S SHIP.
BUT SO FAR, ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IS THAT EVIDENTLY WE'VE BEEN RENDERED HELPLESS BY THE MAGUS'S DOPPELGANGER OF STEPHEN!*
* SEE LAST ISSUE -- NOT TO MENTION INFINITY WAR #5-6. -- MIKE

PAY ATTENTION, SCARLET WITCH!

THAT *IS* WHAT THEY CALL YOU, IS IT NOT?

CONSIDERING THE LOWLY STATE OF YOUR PROWESS, YOU'RE MORE *MUTANT* THAN *MAGE*.

RELEASE US FOR TWO MINUTES, AND YOU'LL *SEE* WHO'S--

YOU WON'T *GOAD* HIM INTO FREEING US, ANTHONY.

INDEED *NOT!* ACTUALLY, MY EASY VICTORY OVER ALL OF YOU HAS PUT ME IN RATHER AN *EXPANSIVE* MOOD...

...BUT THE *PRINCIPAL* MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE IN WHOM I'M INTERESTED PERSISTS IN *SLEEPING* THE DAY AWAY.

AND JUST BECAUSE I STRUCK HIM WITH THE *SWORD OF THE ULTIMATE SHADOW*, TOO!

PERHAPS A *WAKE-UP CALL* IS IN ORDER, HERE...

RISE AND SHINE, STRANGE!

TIME'S A-*WASTING*, AND YOU JUST DANGLE THERE LIKE A *SLAB OF BEEF!*

ARRGH

SNAP!!

NOW THAT'S MORE *LIKE* IT!

WH-WHAT --?

NOW I REMEMBER!

EVERYONE ON THIS ASTRAL PLANE "FROZEN"--

MINOR DEMONS POURING OUT OF MY MANSION--

--THEN YOU, GETTING PAST MY MYSTIC SHIELD!

WHO ARE YOU??

YOU LOOK LIKE ME--LIKE I ONCE DID, ANYWAY* --BUT--

* DR. STRANGE (1ST SERIES) #177-183. --MIKE.

IF IT LOOKS LIKE A DOC-- WALKS LIKE A DOC-- AND QUACKS LIKE A DOC--THEN IT MUST BE A DOC!

I'M YOU, STRANGE!

I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE, REMEMBER?

LIAR! THERE'S ONLY ONE DR. STRANGE!

I OUGHT TO KNOW, SINCE I WAS HIS PRECURSOR--HIS FORERUNNER!

AND PERHAPS THERE WAS ANOTHER OF YOU, AS WELL, EVEN ON MY HOME-WORLD--

--ON COUNTER-EARTH!

COUNTER-EARTH!?

AH! THAT GAINED YOUR ATTENTION, DIDN'T IT?

OR PERCHANCE SOME OF YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT NIGH-ABSOLUTE DUPLICATE OF EARTH.

ONCE, IT SHARED YOUR PLANET'S SOLAR ORBIT, HIDDEN FROM ALL DETECTION, ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SUN.

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY MEANT IT TO BE HIS ULTIMATE CREATION-- AN EARTH ON WHICH VIOLENT EVIL WOULD NEVER GAIN A FOOTHOLD.*

HE WAS A FOOL!

THE MAN-BEAST--ONE OF HIS NEW-MEN--SOON PROVED TO BE THE SERPENT IN THAT PARTICULAR EDEN.

FROM THAT DAY, THE NEW WORLD ALSO REPEATED THE LESS SAVORY ASPECTS OF YOUR HISTORY--

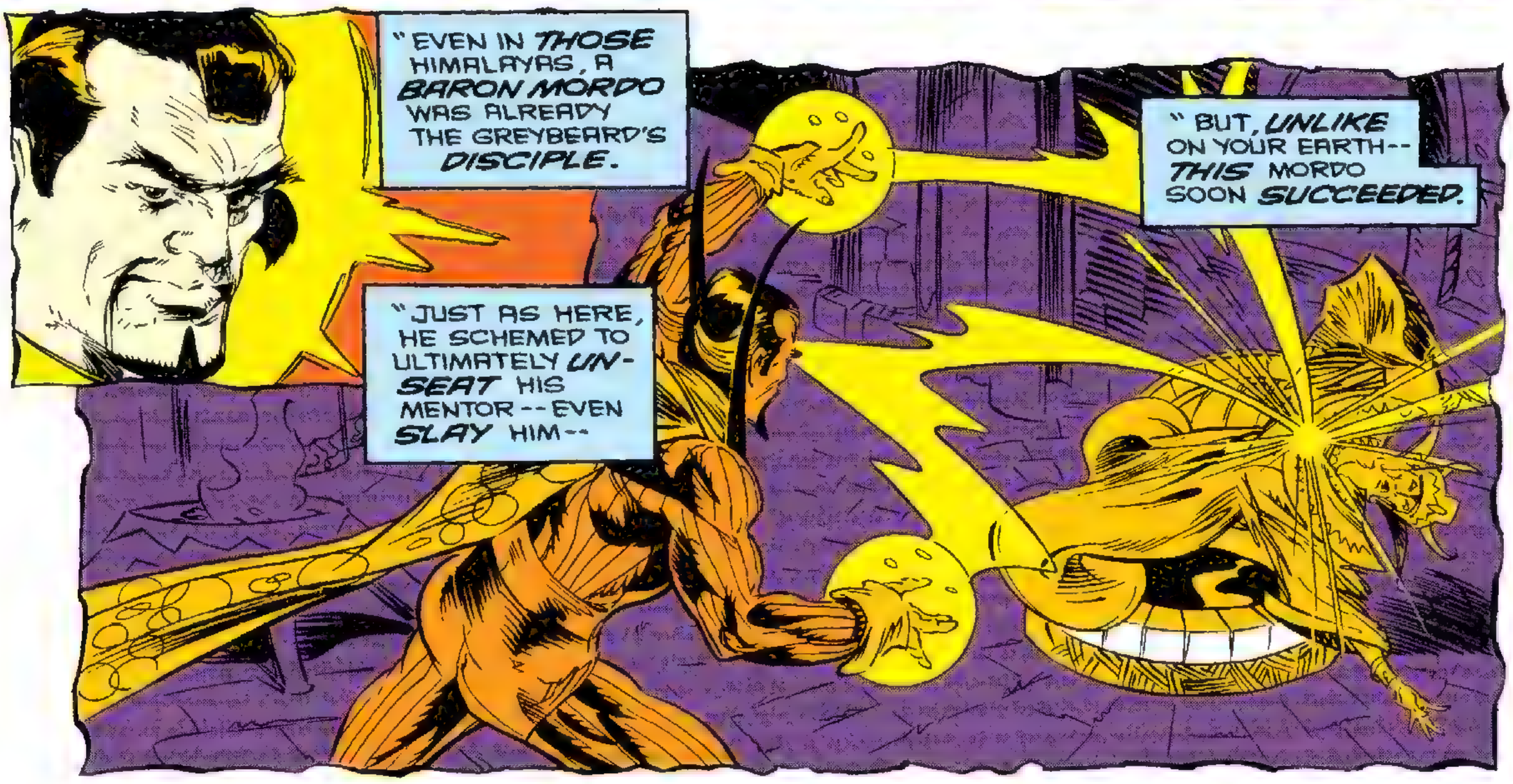
--THOUGH USUALLY WITH A SUBTLE DIFFERENCE.

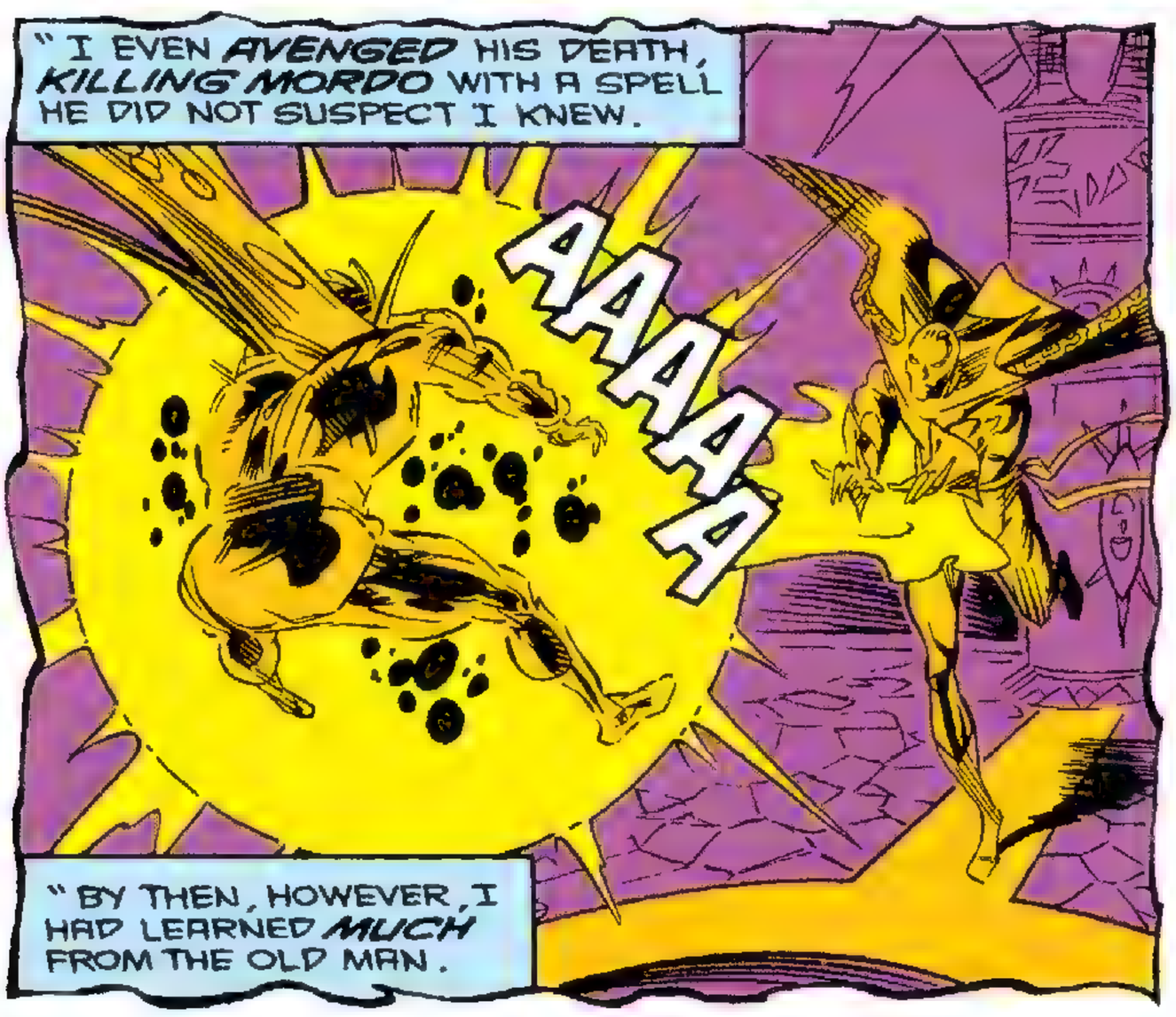
* SEE MARVEL PREMIERE #1. --MIKE.

"FOR INSTANCE, ON COUNTER-EARTH, AS HERE, ONE STEPHEN STRANGE BECAME A BRILLIANT BUT GREED-DRIVEN SURGEON--
THEY SAY HE'S STILL GOT THE FIRST REFERRAL FEE HE EVER EARNED.

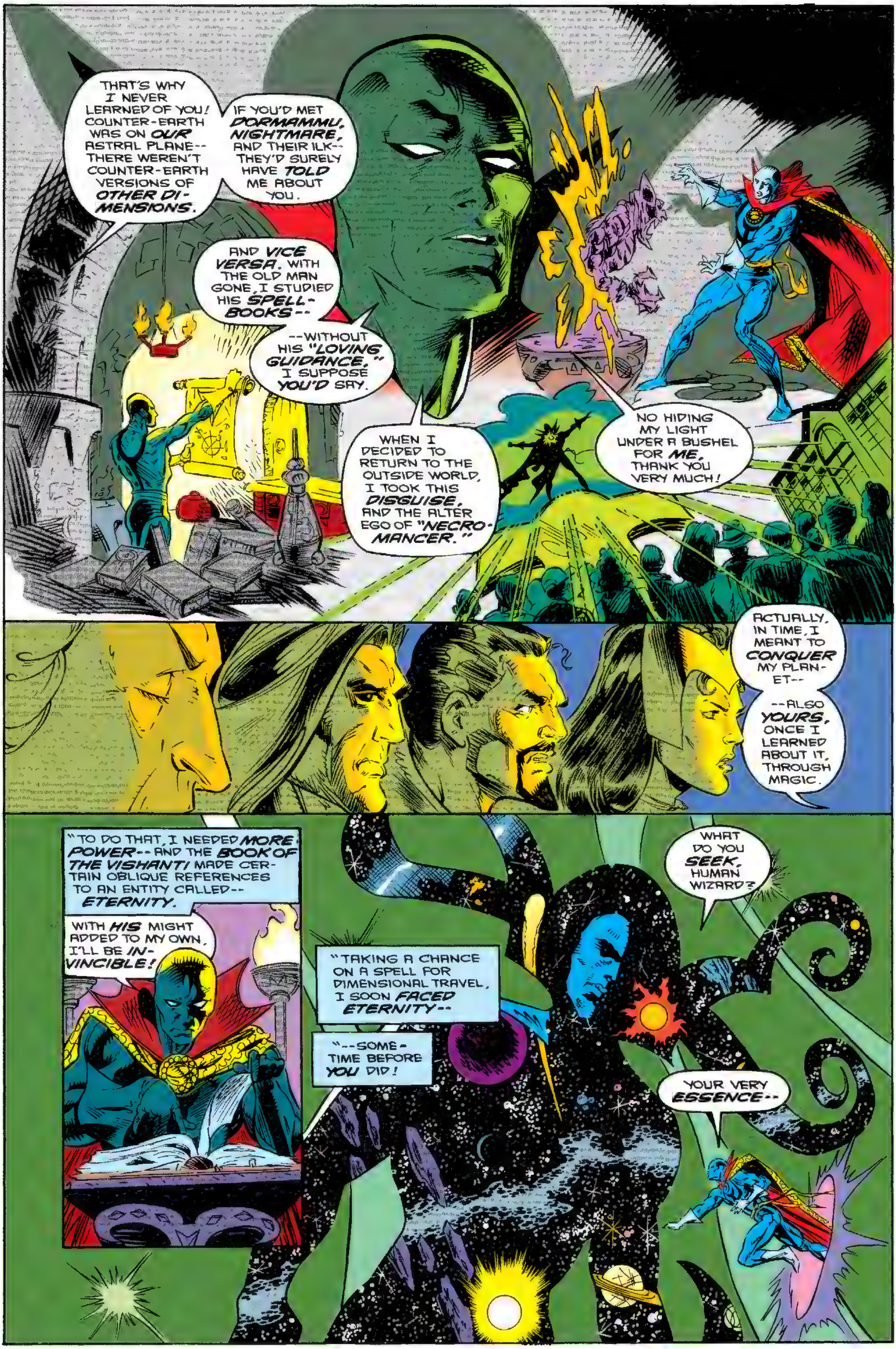
"--THEN WRAPPED HIS SPORTS CAR AROUND AN UNYIELDING TREE--

"--AND, HIS OPERATING DAYS FOREVER ENDED, EVENTUALLY FOUND HIS WAY TO COUNTER-EARTH'S ANCIENT ONE.
STAY HERE... STUDY WITH ME.


"EVEN IN THOSE HIMALAYAS, A BARON MORDO WAS ALREADY THE GREYBEARD'S DISCIPLE.
"JUST AS HERE, HE SCHEMED TO ULTIMATELY UN-SEAT HIS MENTOR--EVEN SLAY HIM--
"BUT, UNLIKE ON YOUR EARTH--THIS MORDO SOON SUCCEEDED.


"I EVEN AVENGED HIS DEATH, KILLING MORDO WITH A SPELL HE DID NOT SUSPECT I KNEW.
AAAAA
"BY THEN, HOWEVER, I HAD LEARNED MUCH FROM THE OLD MAN.

BY THEN, AS I NOW KNOW, I HAD DUPLICATED MANY OF YOUR EARLY EXPLOITS--THOUGH I'D NEVER BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO CROSS OVER TO ALIEN DIMENSIONS.
THE ANCIENT ONE MUST HAVE SUSPECTED YOU'D ONE DAY SUCCUMB TO YOUR DARKER INSTINCTS--
--AS YOU DID WHEN YOU KILLED MORDO, INSTEAD OF CAPTURING HIM.


THAT'S WHY I NEVER LEARNED OF YOU! COUNTER-EARTH WAS ON OUR ASTRAL PLANE-- THERE WEREN'T COUNTER-EARTH VERSIONS OF OTHER DI-MENSIONS.
IF YOU'D MET DORMAMMU, NIGHTMARE, AND THEIR ILK-- THEY'D SURELY HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
AND VICE VERSA. WITH THE OLD MAN GONE, I STUDIED HIS SPELL-BOOKS--
--WITHOUT HIS "LOVING GUIDANCE," I SUPPOSE YOU'D SAY.
WHEN I DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, I TOOK THIS DISGUISE, AND THE ALTER EGO OF "NECRO-MANCER."
NO HIDING MY LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL FOR ME, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
ACTUALLY, IN TIME, I MEANT TO CONQUER MY PLAN-ET--
--ALSO YOURS, ONCE I LEARNED ABOUT IT, THROUGH MAGIC.
"TO DO THAT, I NEEDED MORE POWER-- AND THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI MADE CER-TAIN OBLIQUE REFERENCES TO AN ENTITY CALLED-- ETERNITY.
WITH HIS MIGHT ADDED TO MY OWN, I'LL BE IN-VINCIBLE!
"TAKING A CHANCE ON A SPELL FOR DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL, I SOON FACED ETERNITY--
"--SOME-TIME BEFORE YOU DID!
WHAT DO YOU SEEK, HUMAN WIZARD?
YOUR VERY ESSENCE--

--AND I MEAN TO *WREST IT FROM YOU!*

"HE SIMPLY STRETCHED OUT HIS GREAT STAR-FILLED *HAND*--

"THIS TIME, IT WAS *I* WHO WAS THE FOOL.

"THE PALTRY INCANTATIONS I HAD GLEANED WERE AS *NOTHING* NEXT TO HIS POWER.

"--AND *PULLED* ME INEXORABLY INTO HIS *OWN GIGANTIC FRAME*.

I WAS *STILL THERE*, IN FACT, TO BEHOLD *YOU* FIRST ENCOUNTERING ETERNITY, MONTHS LATER.

CLEARLY, HE DIDN'T THINK YOUR PRESENCE WORTH *MENTIONING*.

"MY EGO TO THE CONTRARY, YOU ARE PROBABLY *RIGHT*. I REMAINED LOCKED INSIDE HIS MASSIVE, UNIVERSE-CONTAINING FORM THROUGH ALL COUNTER-EARTH'S TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS--

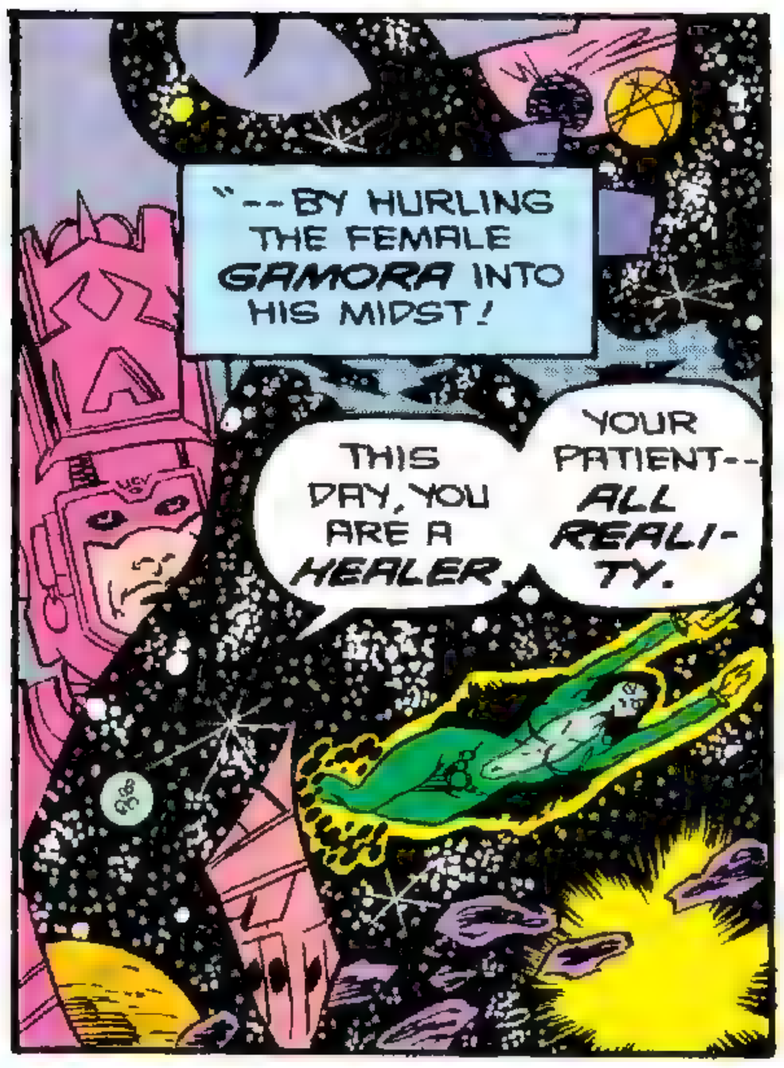
"--UNTIL, NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, IT *EXPLODED!**

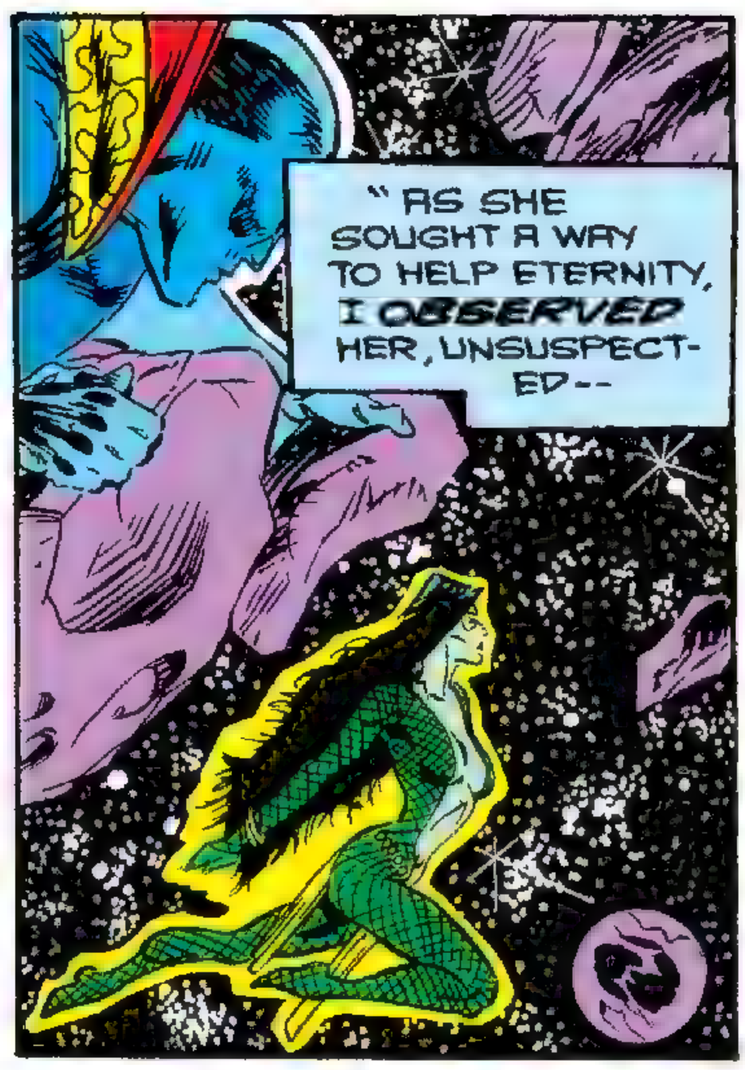
DEEP WITHIN ETERNITY, I *GRIEVED* FOR MY POOR, DESTROYED VERSION OF *EARTH*.

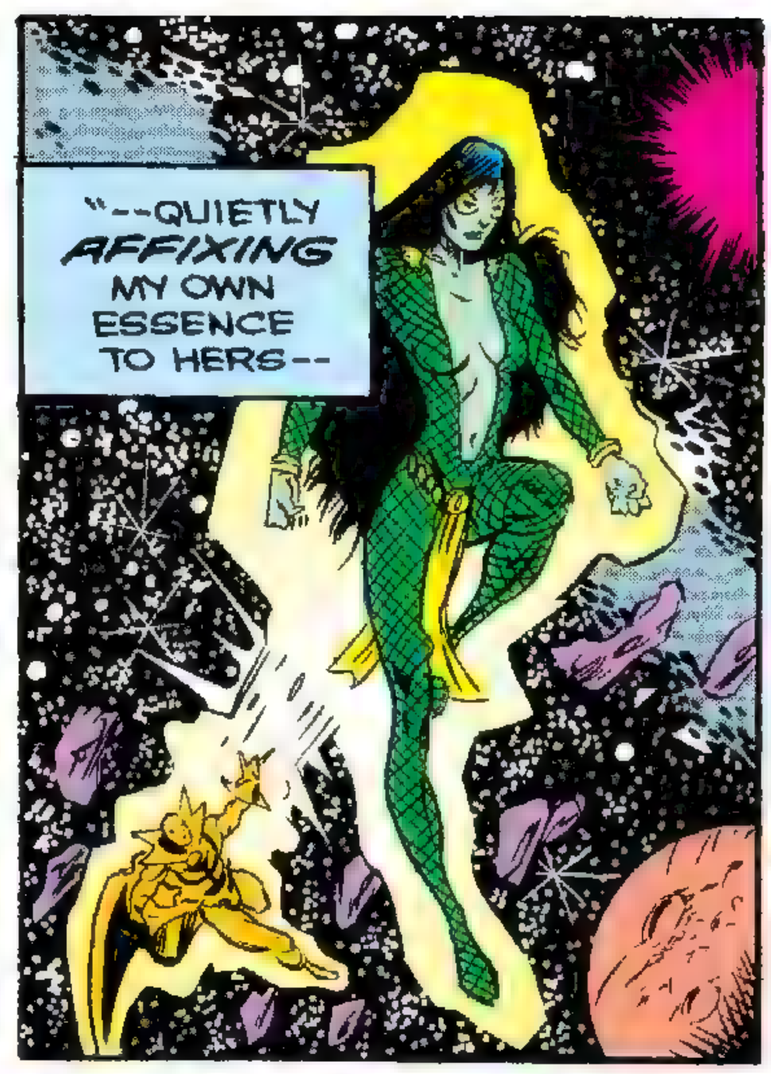
FORTUNATELY FOR ME--THERE WAS *ANOTHER* ONE, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN.

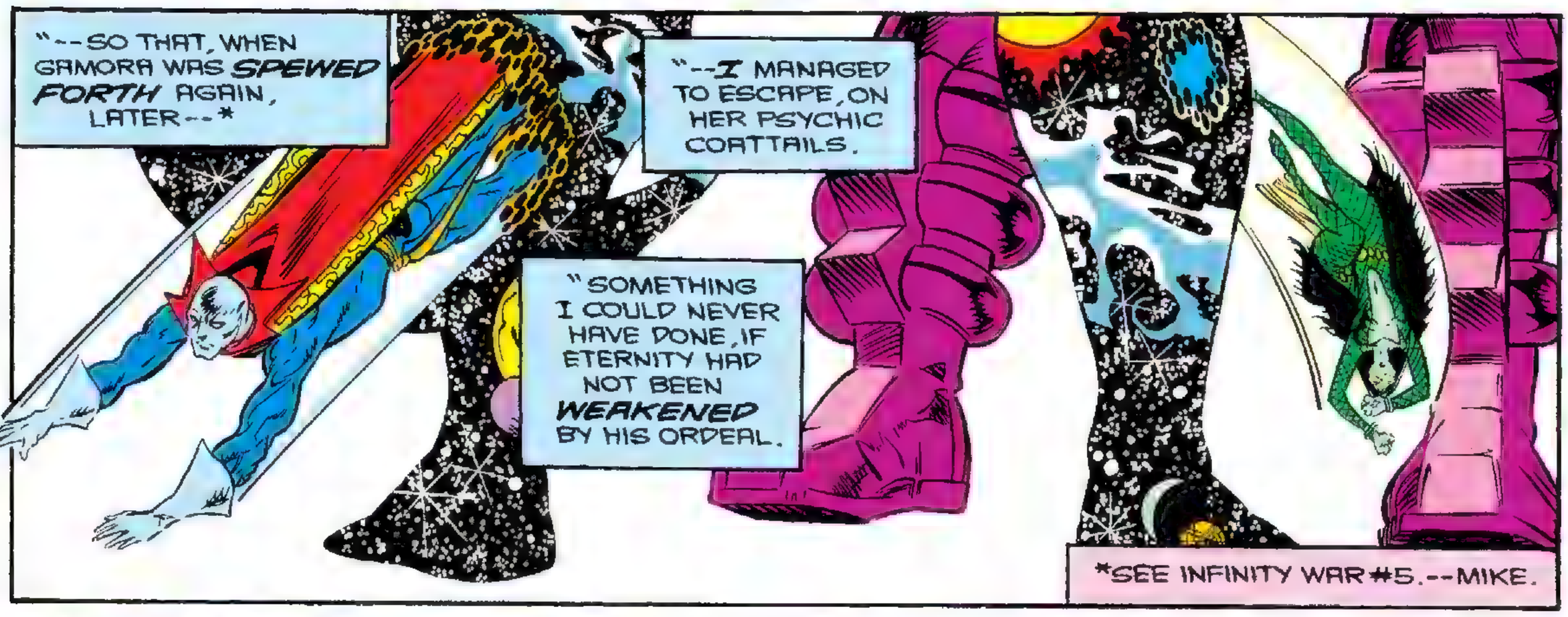
RECENTLY, WHEN ETERNITY WAS RENDERED *CATATONIC* BY THE *MAGUS*, *GALACTUS* SOUGHT TO CURE HIM--

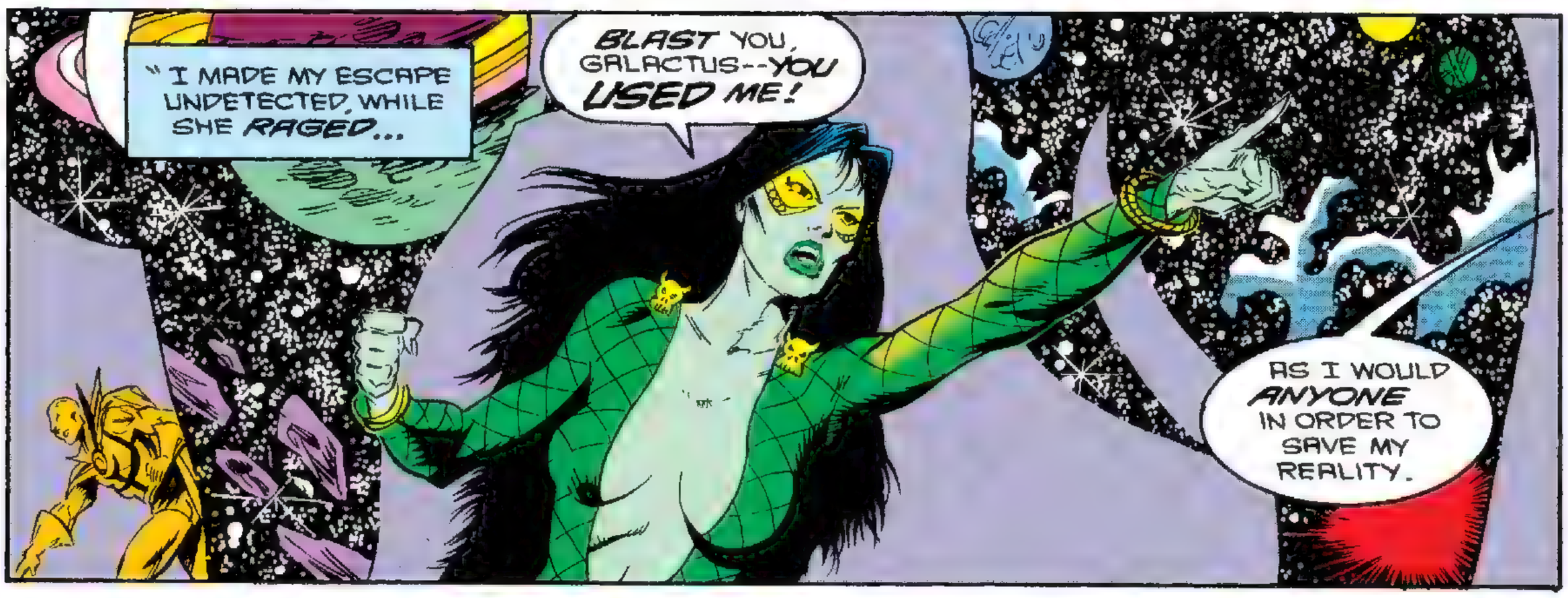
* SEE WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #4.--MIKE.

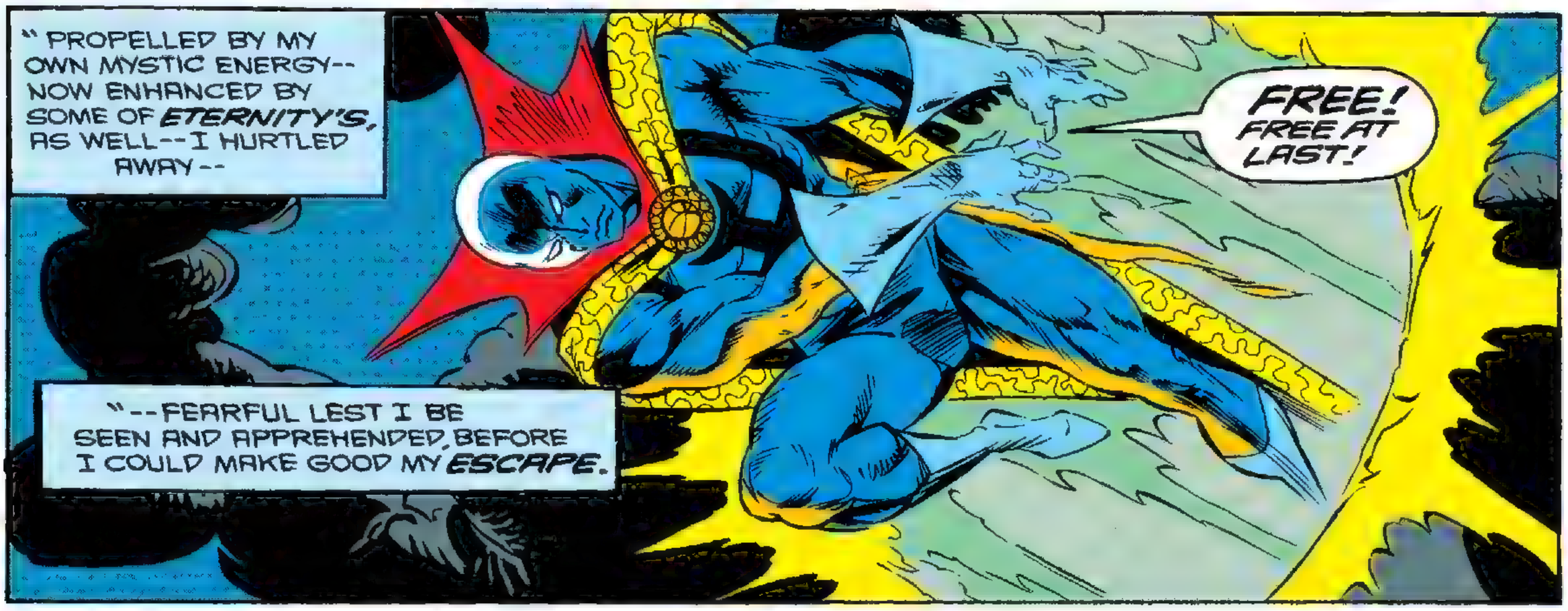

"--BY HURLING THE FEMALE GAMORA INTO HIS MIDST!
THIS DAY, YOU ARE A HEALER.
YOUR PATIENT--ALL REALITY.


"AS SHE SOUGHT A WAY TO HELP ETERNITY, I OBSERVED HER, UNSUSPECTED--


"--QUIETLY AFFIXING MY OWN ESSENCE TO HERS--


"--SO THAT, WHEN GAMORA WAS SPEWED FORTH AGAIN, LATER--*
"--I MANAGED TO ESCAPE, ON HER PSYCHIC COATTAILS.
"SOMETHING I COULD NEVER HAVE DONE, IF ETERNITY HAD NOT BEEN WEAKENED BY HIS ORDEAL.
*SEE INFINITY WAR #5.--MIKE.


"I MADE MY ESCAPE UNDETECTED, WHILE SHE RAGED...
BLAST YOU, GALACTUS--YOU USED ME!
AS I WOULD ANYONE IN ORDER TO SAVE MY REALITY.


"PROPELLED BY MY OWN MYSTIC ENERGY--NOW ENHANCED BY SOME OF ETERNITY'S, AS WELL--I HURTLED AWAY--
FREE! FREE AT LAST!
"--FEARFUL LEST I BE SEEN AND APPREHENDED, BEFORE I COULD MAKE GOOD MY ESCAPE.

"I DISCOVERED THAT MY FIERCE EXERTIONS HAD HURLED ME INTO *ANOTHER DIMENSION*.

"IT WAS ONCE RULED BY THE WITCH *SHAZANA*, WHOSE WEAKER *SISTER* HAD BEEN PUT ON THE THRONE IN HER PLACE-- BY NONE OTHER THAN *YOU*, "*SORCERER SUPREME*."*

"BUT WHAT *ONE* STEPHEN STRANGE CAN DO--ANOTHER CAN *UNDO*.

"ETERNITY'S PURLOINED POWER ENABLED ME TO OVERCOME *BOTH* SIBLINGS.

"IT IS THEIR *DEMON SUBJECTS* YOU SEE ALL ABOUT YOU, EVEN NOW!

*STRANGE TALES #133.--MIKE.

"IT TOOK LITTLE EFFORT, AFTER THAT, TO LOCATE YOUR *PLACE OF POWER* UPON THIS WORLD...

"...AND PASS THROUGH ALL DIMENSIONAL *BARRIERS* TO IT.

"I HAD *LOST* MY OWN EARTH, DURING MY LONG CONFINEMENT WITHIN ETERNITY.

"I MEANT TO HAVE A *RE-PLACEMENT*.

"THERE WERE NO PROTECTIVE SPELLS, NOT EVEN A LOCKED DOOR WHEN I REACHED YOUR MANSION.

"I MOVED TOWARD A FIGURE WHICH SEEMED, FROM THE BACK, NOT UNLIKE *MYSELF*...

DR. STRANGE!

YESSSS?

"THIS, NOT MYSELF, WAS THE DR. STRANGE DOPPEL-GANGER WHO SERVED THE SO-CALLED MAGUS.

" HE HAD TAKEN OVER YOUR MANSION-- AND MEANT TO TAKE BOTH YOUR TALISMANS AND YOUR LIFE.

" IN ME, HE INSTANTLY RECOGNIZED A NATURAL ENEMY--

"--AND HE ATTACKED.

" I SAVED YOU THE TROUBLE OF DEFEATING HIM, MY DEAR DOUBLE, BY KILLING HIM MYSELF.

" YOUR PRECIOUS TALISMANS WERE SAFE--

"--EVEN FROM YOUR COUNTER-EARTH ALTER EGO, AS IT TURNED OUT.

OWWRR

THIS BOOK OF THE VISHANTI IS ATTUNED TO MY VIBRATIONS.

THE MAGUS MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY FOR MY DOPPEL-GANGER TO IMITATE THEM--BUT YOURS WOULD BE SUBTLY DIFFERENT.

IF YOU'RE NOT THE MAGUS'S LACKEY, THEN WHY DID YOU LAUNCH AN ASSAULT AGAINST THE ORIGINAL DR. STRANGE?

NOT TO MENTION US!

FREE US--AND WE'LL WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE!

GOOD PEOPLE--I SAID I WASN'T A MAGUS-CREATED DOPPEL-GANGER--NOT THAT I WASN'T IN THE MAGUS'S EMPLOY!

IN POINT OF FACT, I HAVE ALREADY OFFERED MY SERVICES TO HIM TELEPATHICALLY--AND BEEN ACCEPTED.

HE'S A VERY PRACTICAL FELLOW, THIS MAGUS.

HIS MAJOR REQUIREMENT WAS THAT I KILL EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME--

--SOMETHING I'LL BE HAPPY TO DO--SINCE THEN I'LL BE THE ONLY DR. STRANGE, WHICH MAY EASE MY WAY TO HIS TALISMANS.

NO USE TELLING HIM, AS HE UNLEASHES THE VAPORS OF VALTOOR, THAT THE MAGUS WILL ELIMINATE HIM, WHEN HE HAS NO MORE USE FOR HIM.

BUT I DO KNOW AN INCANTATION--WHICH I'VE BEEN MUTTERING UNDER MY BREATH--WHICH CAN UTILIZE THE FAMILIAR SPELL BEING USED BY MY OTHER SELF...

...SO THAT, WHEN A SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT BLINDS HIM, HE BELIEVES HE'S OBLITERATED ME AND MINE--

--WHEN, IN TRUTH, I ADDED HIS ETERNITY-ENHANCED FORCE TO MY OWN, TO PROPEL MY FRIENDS AND MYSELF --EVEN MY CLOAK-- TO AN ASTEROID FLOATING SOMEWHERE IN SPACE.

THANK HOGGOTH-- YOU'RE ALL SAFE! AND YET--

ALONG WITH THE AURA-HELD OXYGEN IN OUR IMMEDIATE VICINITY, OF COURSE.*

* SEE INFINITY WAR #6, NOW ON SALE.--MIKE.

--WE'VE FAILED, THE MAGUS HAS WON THIS ROUND.

BUT-- EARTH--?

OH, I SUSPECT MS. HARKNESS'S CAT CAN GET US BACK THERE IN SHORT ORDER.

HER CAT?

IT IS MISSING-- BUT SHE'S NOT MOVING--!

AGATHA'S SOUL HAS LEFT THE BUILDING, WANDA ...

"I ONLY PRAY SHE ACCOMPLISHES THE TASK SHE AND I AGREED UPON, BEFORE WE RUN OUT OF AIR--OR BEFORE THAT ERSATZ DR. STRANGE WREAKS TOTAL HAVOC BACK ON TERRA FIRMA!"

YOU HAVE DONE WELL TONIGHT, MY MONSTROUS LITTLE MINIONS-- AND YOU DESERVE A TREAT!

GO FORTH, AND DO ANYTHING YOU LIKE TO THE IMMOBILIZED MORTALS WITHOUT!

I SHALL BE HERE, FAMILIARIZING MYSELF WITH--

KRREEKK

EH?

DR. STRANGE!?

DID YOU BARELY SURVIVE MY BOLT OF OBLIVION SOMEHOW--

--AND RETURN TO FORCE ME TO DOLE OUT MORE OF THE SAME?

OUR OXYGEN AURA IS RUNNING LOW FAST...

WE MUST ALL LAY HANDS UPON MS. HARKNESS...

I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT. SHE'S ALWAYS SEEMED... SO FRAIL...

ONLY HER BODY-- NOT HER SPIRIT.

NOW, I'LL SEE IF I CAN CONTACT--

"YES! I SEE EBONY NOW--

MROWR

"--DODGING A TIMES SQUARE FULL OF DEMONS.

" AGATHA HARKNESS'S SOUL IS INSIDE EBONY ALL RIGHT--BUT IN ALL THE FUROR, THEIR MINDS HAVE BECOME INTERTWINED --CONFUSED.

"SHE'S OUR ANCHOR-- OUR PATHWAY BACK HOME--BUT THIS WAY, THERE'S NOTHING IN HER MIND THAT WE CAN GRAB ON TO!"

CAN WE MAKE THE GREAT LEAP BACK TO EARTH, DR. STRANGE?

I'M-- NOT SURE. AND IF WE TRY AND FAIL--IT COULD PROVE FATAL TO ALL OF US.

" BUT--ONE OF THOSE DEVILS HAS EBONY NOW!

" THE CHASE BEGAN AS A VICIOUS PRANK-- BUT NOW IT SENSES A POWERFUL WITCH'S MIND INTERMINGLED WITH THAT OF HER FAMILIAR.

" ANOTHER SECOND, AND IT WILL HAVE SQUEEZED THE LIFE OUT OF HER-- AND OF MS. HARKNESS!

"HANG ON TO YOUR POINTED HATS, FELLOW WIZARDS! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THE JUMP--

MROWRR

--NOW!

WE'RE HERE!

BY THE DIREFUL DEMONS OF DENAK-- I NOW ABJURE THEE-- HURL THEE BACK!

DON'T WASTE YOUR POWERS ANY FURTHER ON THESE MINOR MONSTERS, DR. STRANGE.

LET US DEAL WITH THEM-- WHILE YOU SEEK OUT YOUR EVIL COUNTER-PART.

JUST WHAT I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST, MICHAEL TWOYOUNG-MEN.

AS IF THROUGH THE OPEN-AIR HALLS OF A MUSEUM FULL OF STATUES CARVED IN PECULIARLY AWKWARD POSES, I HURL MYSELF--

--TOWARD THE EERIE DOMICILE WHICH I'VE CALLED **HOME**, EVER SINCE MY FIRST RETURN TO AMERICA FROM TIBET.

BUT NOW, ITS BECKONING DOORWAY SEEMS NOT UNLIKE THE WIDE-GAPING JAWS OF A MAMMOTH **SHARK**.

AND TO ENTER THROUGH THAT PORTAL--

--IS TO ENTER THE **BELLY** OF THE BEAST.

STILL, ONE NEEDN'T WALK IN **BLINDLY**...

...NOT WHEN ONE CAN DISPATCH HIS SENTIENT **SENDINGS** BEFORE HIM...

...TO SEARCH FOR THE **HIDDEN FOE**.

LET'S SEE NOW--**WONG** AND **IMEI** WE'VE GOTTEN TO **SAFETY**.

SARA WOLFE, MORGANA BLESSING, MY VAMPIRE BROTHER VIC--

--THEY'RE ALL **OUT OF TOWN** AT THE MOMENT, THANK THE VISHANTI!

FAR AS I CAN TELL, THAT MEANS THERE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE ANYONE IN THE HOUSE EXCEPT **MYSELF**, MY **ALTER EGO**, AND PERHAPS--

RINTRAH!?!

DON'T WORRY, OLD FRIEND.

A *SIMPLE SPELL* SHOULD FREE YOU.

ARRRR

A THOUSAND THANKS, *"MASTER"!*

CAN WE SPELL *"DOPPEL-GANGER,"* BOYS AND GIRLS--

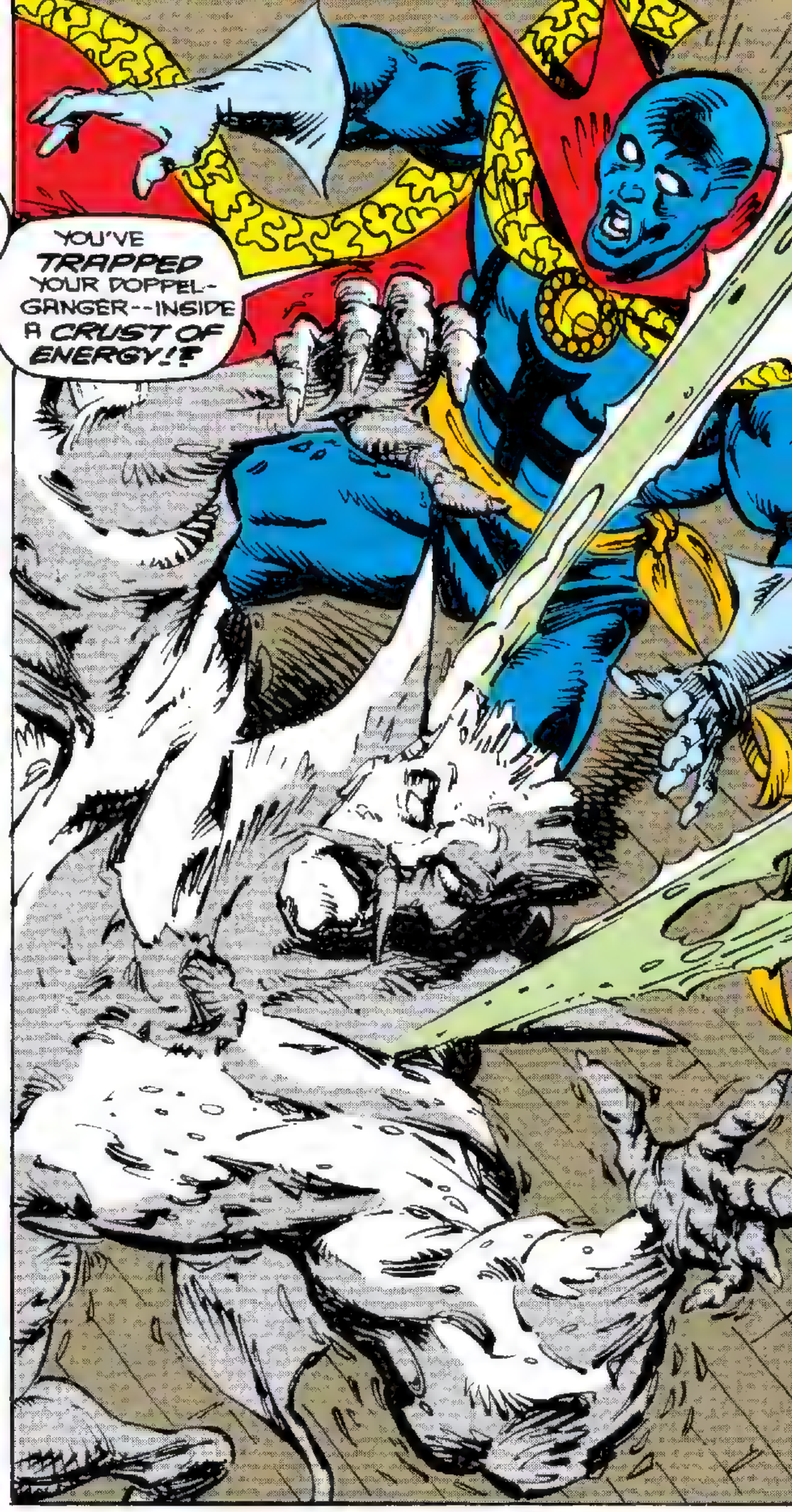
--WITH OR WITHOUT THE CORRECT GERMAN *UMLAUT* OVER THE *"A"*?

AND NOW THAT I'VE RESTORED YOUR MAGUS-GIVEN DOUBLE TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM, *"SORCERER SUPREMO,"* I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THERE ARE A FEW DR. STRANGES *TOO MANY.*

BUT, *FEAR NOT*--

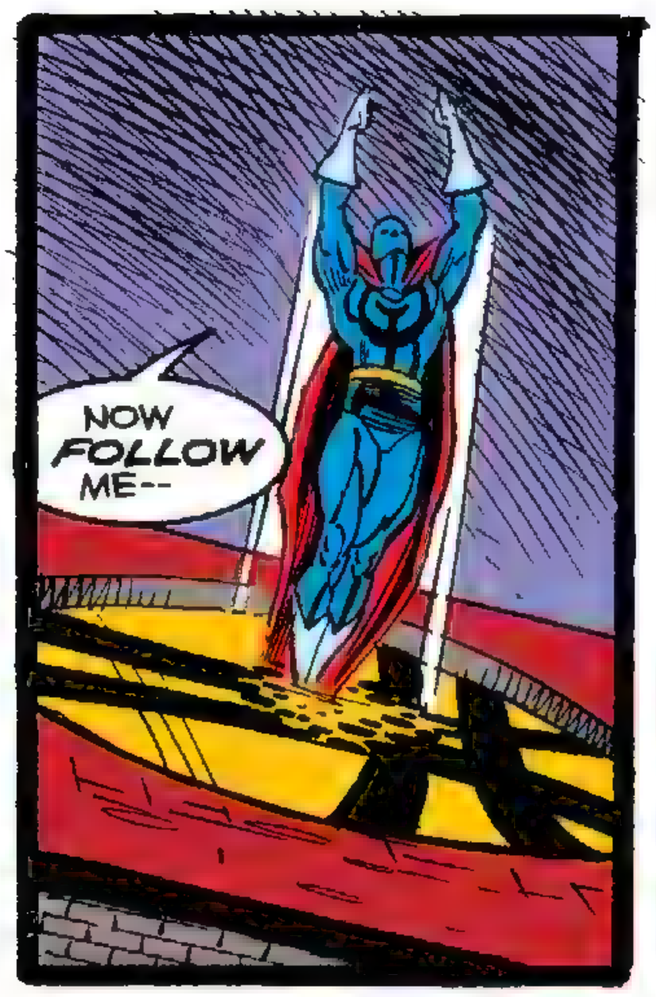
--FOR, IN A SECOND, WE'LL BE BACK DOWN TO TWO AGAIN!

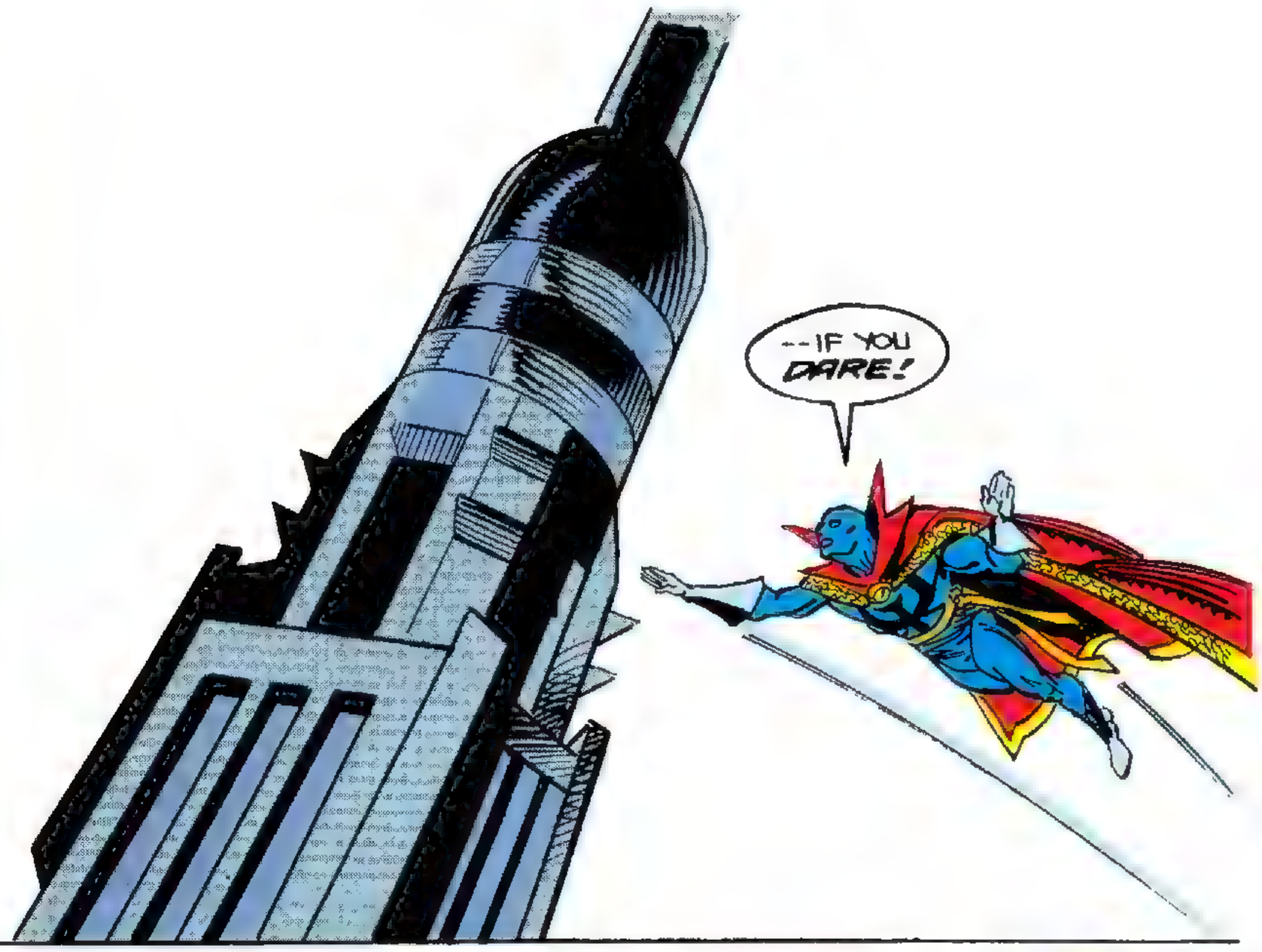
WHY STOP THERE?!
LET'S GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO ONE!
YYAAAAAH

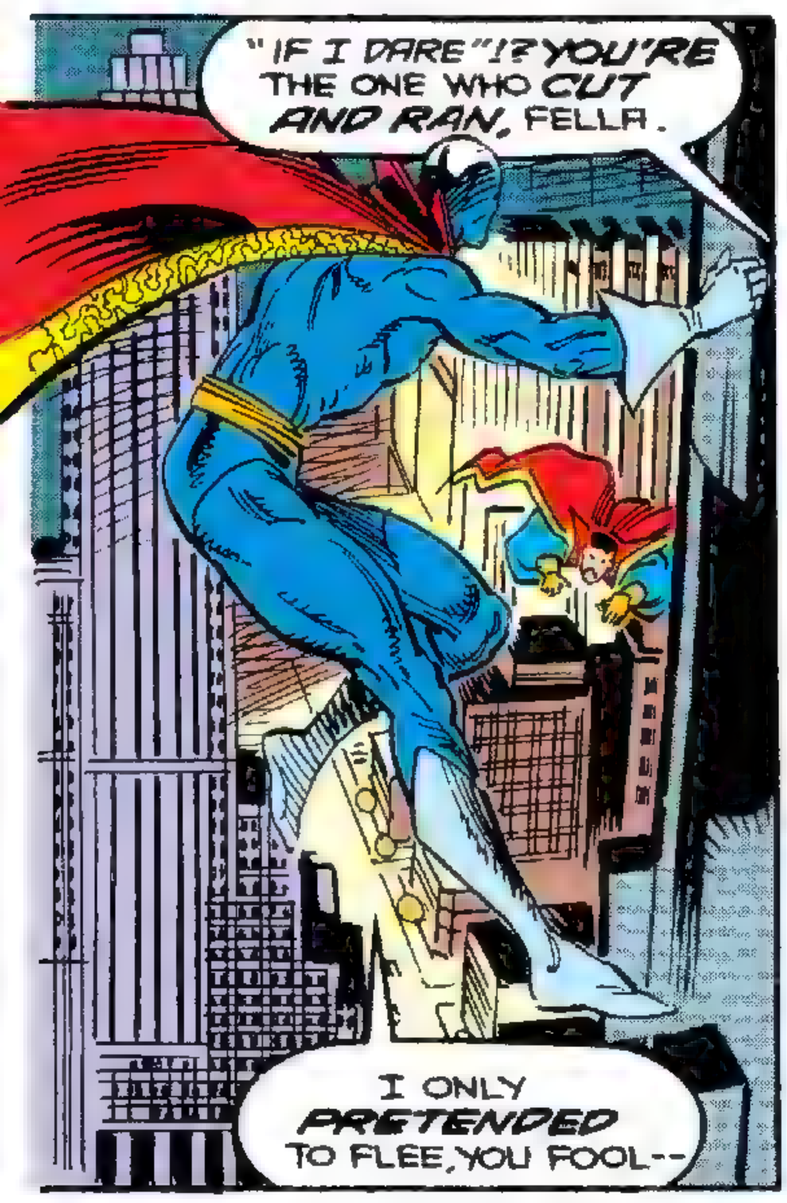

YOU'VE TRAPPED YOUR DOPPEL-GANGER--INSIDE A CRUST OF ENERGY!?

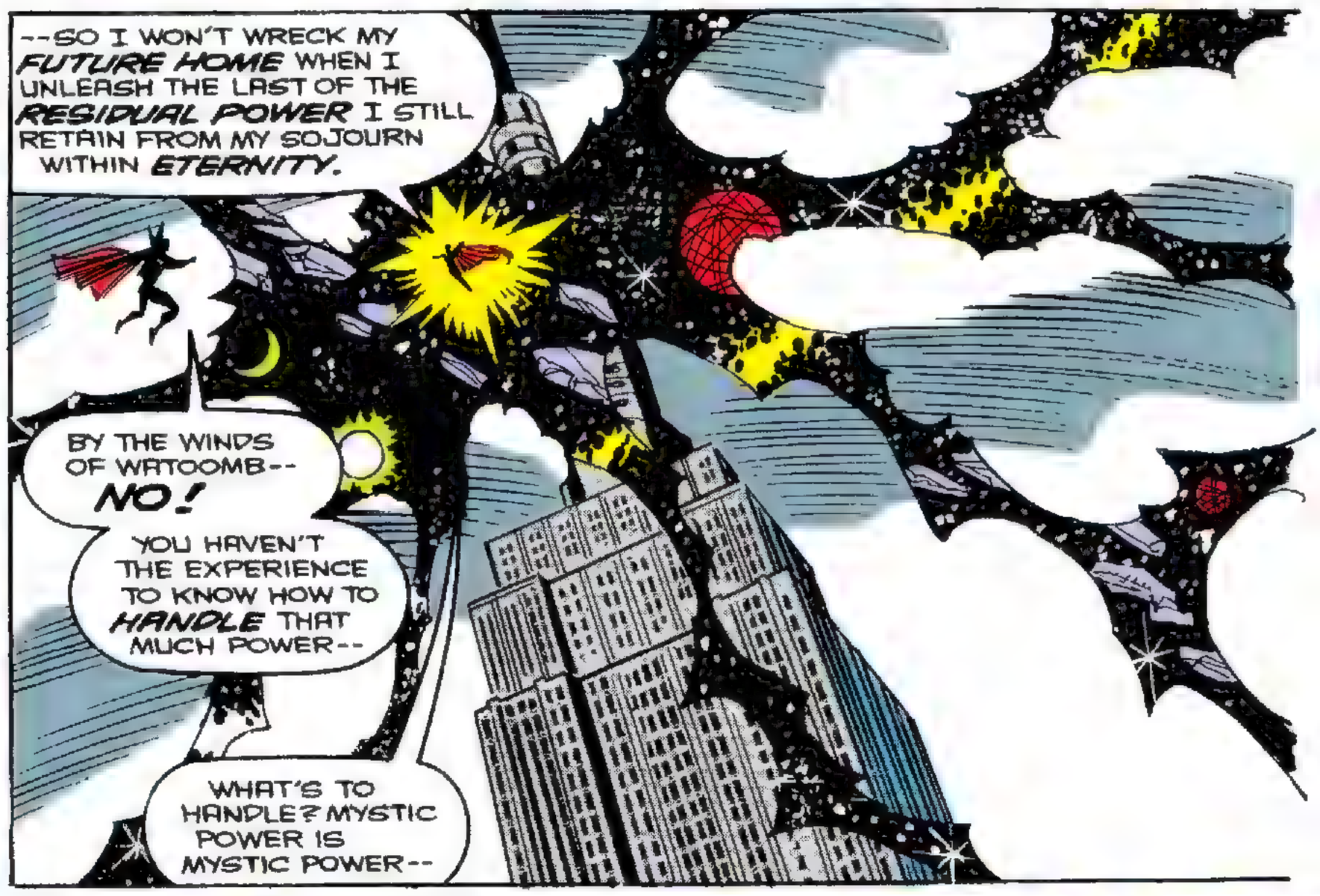
THE BETTER TO BOWL YOU OVER WITH!
DO NOT CONFUSE ME WITH THIS HUNK OF MYSTICALLY ANI-MATED CLAY, WIZARD...

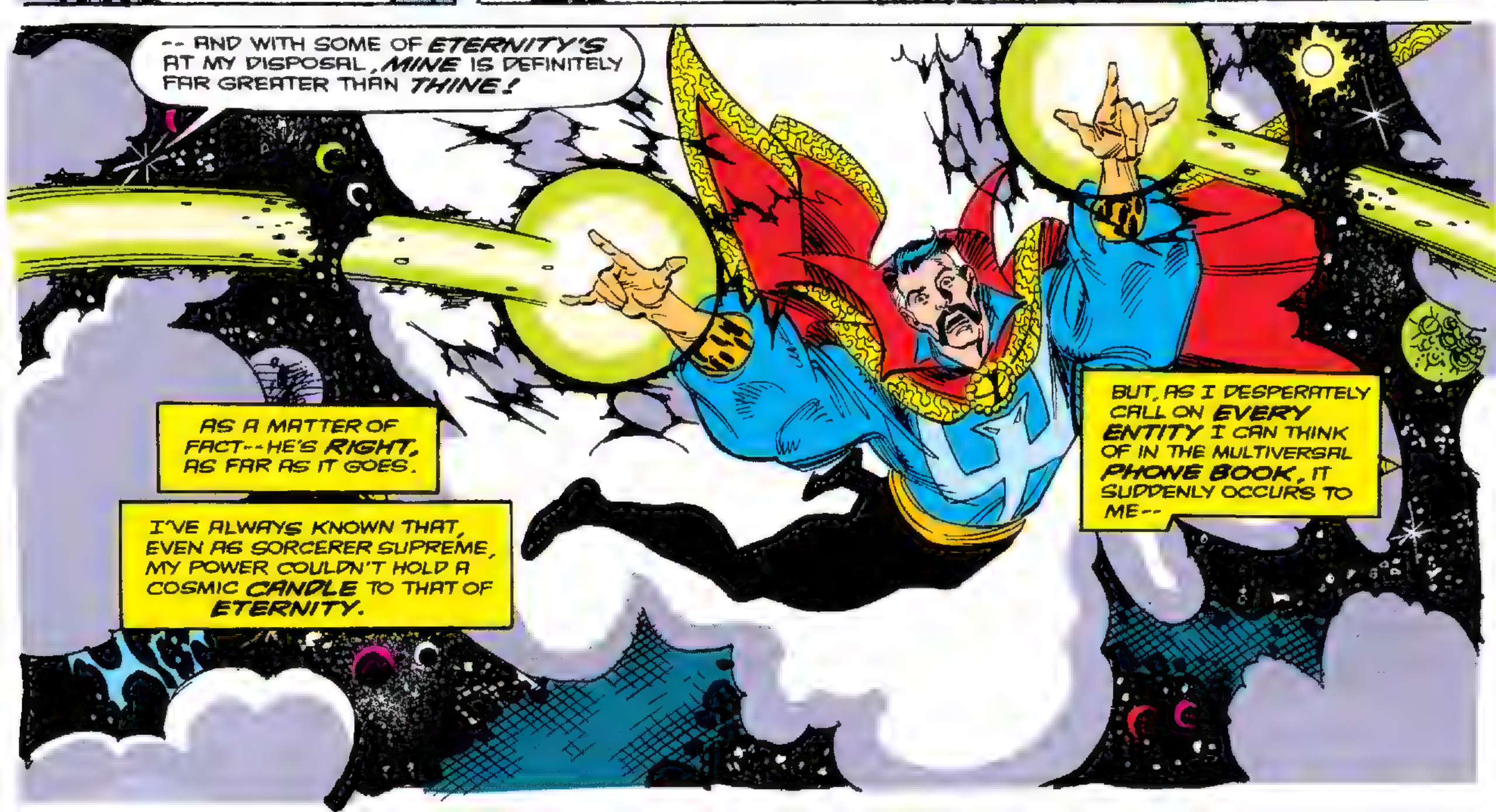
HE WAS BUT A CARBON COPY--WITH ALL THE IMPERFECTIONS THAT TECHNOLOGICALLY OUT-MODED TERM IMPLIES.
WHILE I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM YOU--WITH NONE OF YOUR SENTIMENTAL WEAKNESSES, WHICH I HAVE BURNED LIKE DROSS FROM MY MIND.
HNNFF--!


NOW FOLLOW ME--


--IF YOU DARE!


"IF I DARE"!? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CUT AND RAN, FELLA.
I ONLY PRETENDED TO FLEE, YOU FOOL--


--SO I WON'T WRECK MY FUTURE HOME WHEN I UNLEASH THE LAST OF THE RESIDUAL POWER I STILL RETAIN FROM MY SOJOURN WITHIN ETERNITY.
BY THE WINDS OF WATOOMB-- NO!
YOU HAVEN'T THE EXPERIENCE TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THAT MUCH POWER--
WHAT'S TO HANDLE? MYSTIC POWER IS MYSTIC POWER--


-- AND WITH SOME OF ETERNITY'S AT MY DISPOSAL, MINE IS DEFINITELY FAR GREATER THAN THINE!
AS A MATTER OF FACT--HE'S RIGHT, AS FAR AS IT GOES.
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT, EVEN AS SORCERER SUPREME, MY POWER COULDN'T HOLD A COSMIC CANDLE TO THAT OF ETERNITY.
BUT, AS I DESPERATELY CALL ON EVERY ENTITY I CAN THINK OF IN THE MULTIVERSAL PHONE BOOK, IT SUDDENLY OCCURS TO ME--

--THAT MAYBE I DON'T **HAVE** TO BE AS STRONG AS MY OVERLY-AMBITIOUS COUNTERPART IN ORDER TO **DEFEAT** HIM.

IN FACT, PERHAPS I **HAVE** DEFEATED HIM--MERELY BY ANSWERING HIS CHALLENGE!

FOR MY SPELLS PRODDED HIM INTO, AS HE PUT IT, "**UNLEASHING**" ANY OF ETERNITY'S POWER STILL **INSIDE** HIM.

HE'S TOO **INEXPERIENCED** TO REALIZE THAT EVEN AN **INFINITESIMAL** SHARD OF ETERNITY'S ESSENCE IS FAR MORE THAN **ANY** HUMAN BEING COULD POSSIBLY HOPE TO CONTROL.

HE'S THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS SOME LIVING **STORAGE BATTERY**--

--WHEN, IN FACT, HE'S REALLY MORE LIKE A **DOORWAY** THROUGH WHICH ETERNITY'S **TRANS-DIMENSONAL ENERGY** WILL FLOW INTO THIS UNIVERSE.

A DOORWAY WHICH IS **FAR TOO SMALL**--

--AND WHICH THE **POWER WITHIN** INSTINCTIVELY, INEXORABLY, **UNENDURABLY** BEGINS TO **WIDEN**.

AAAAA

IN AN INSTANT, IT'S **ALL OVER**.

FAR AS THAT GOES, SO IS MY AMBITION-MADDENED **COUNTERPART**.

IT ALL FEELS--DARE I SAY IT--**STRANGE**.

FOR TODAY, I'VE DEFEATED--**MYSELF**.

AND I WONDER--

WOULD THE **UNIVERSE** REALLY HAVE NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE IF I HAD **LOST**?

WELCOME **BACK**, STEPHEN.

IT **IS** YOU, ISN'T IT, AND NOT **OL' BLUE-EYES** IN DISGUISE?

IT IS **HE**, DR. DRUID.

IT WAS AN UP-HILL FIGHT, BUT I THINK WE'VE CORRALLED **ALL** THE DEMONS YOUR SEMI-DOUBLE SET FREE ON EARTH.

WITH THEIR MASTER DISTRACTED, THAT WAS THE **EASY** PART.

IF NEW YORK THINKS GETTING RID OF ITS **GARBAGE** IS HARD--WHAT PLACE IS GOING TO TAKE **THESE** GUYS?

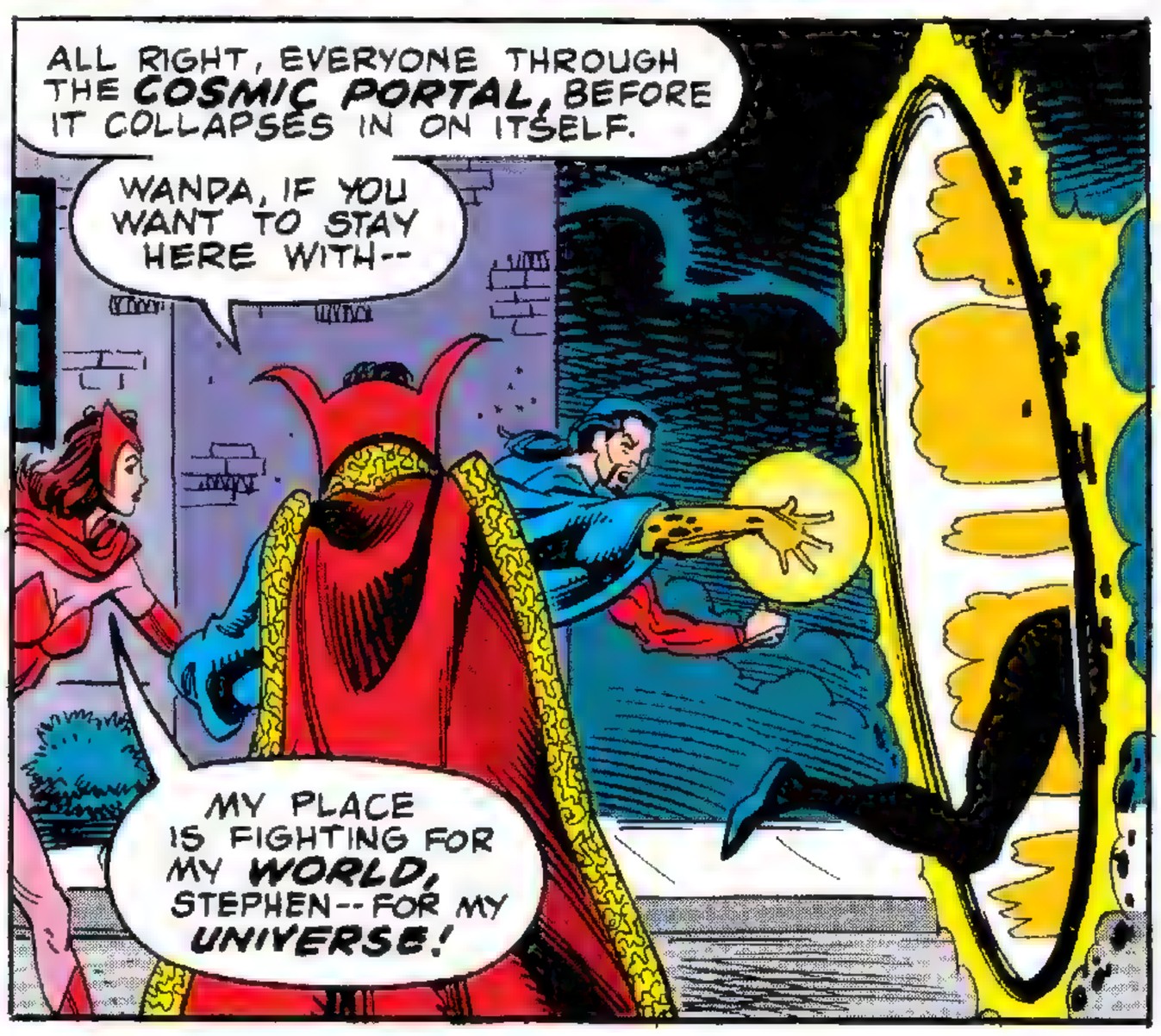
ACTUALLY, WANDA, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE--

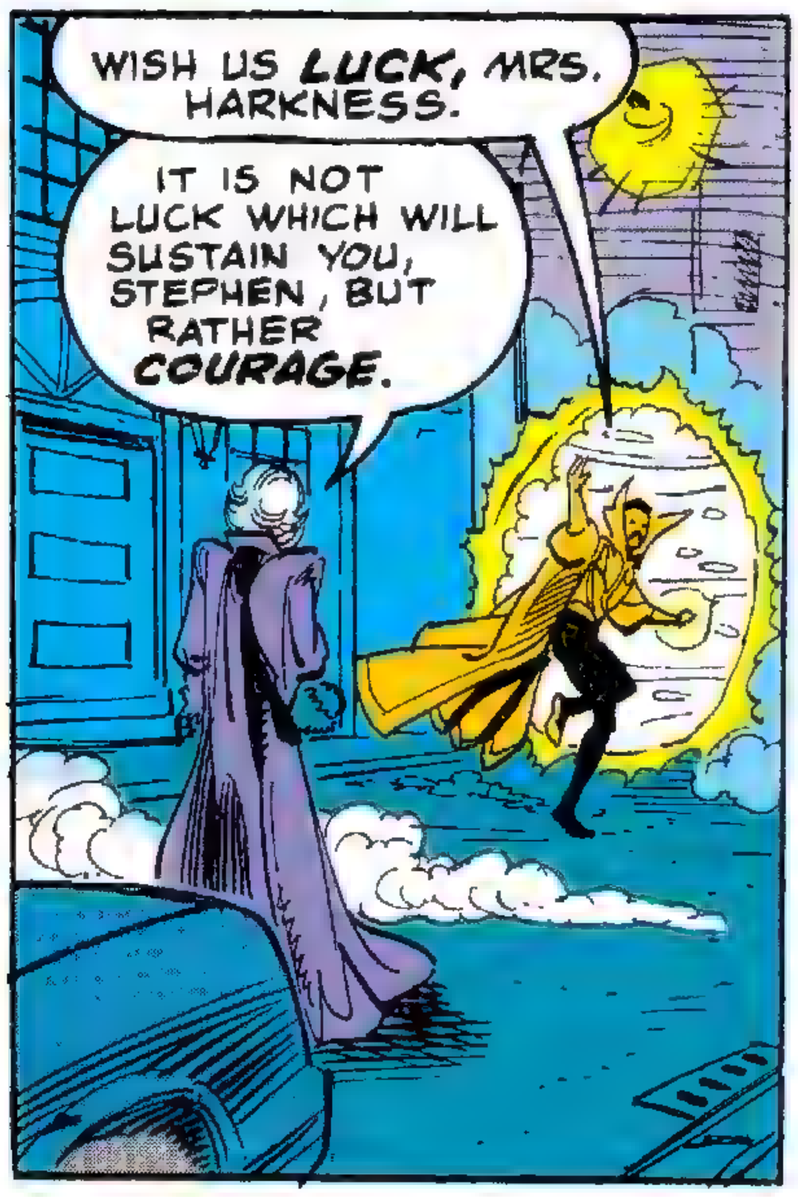
--HOME!

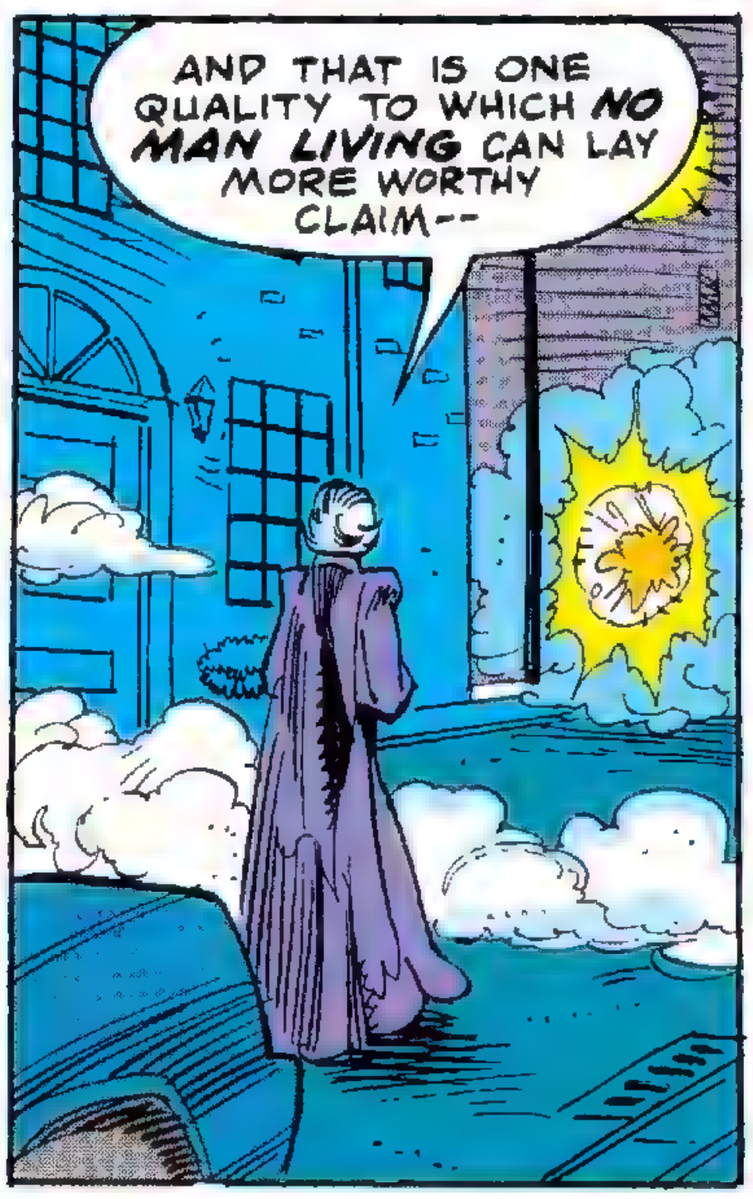
BUT, WITH THEIR RIGHTFUL QUEEN IMPRISONED BACK IN THEIR OWN DIMENSION--
I'LL FREE HER WITH ANOTHER SPELL--ON OUR WAY BACK TO GALACTUS'S SHIP.
THEN YOU THINK OUR WORK HERE IS DONE?
TO THE MAGUS, AT LEAST, ALL THIS WAS ONLY A SIDE SHOW. IS EVERYONE READY?

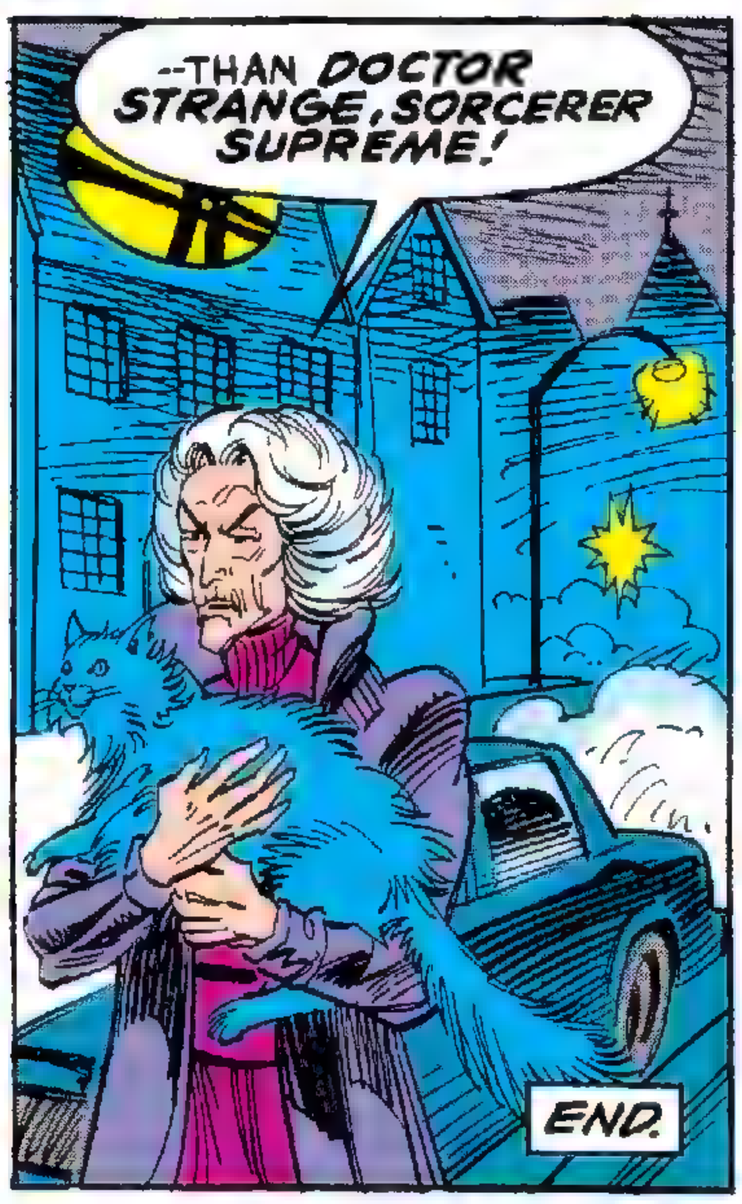
I SHALL REMAIN HERE, DR. STRANGE--
--TO DEAL WITH THE ODD LEFTOVER DEMON WHO MAY POP UP AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT.
GOOD IDEA, MRS. HARKNESS.

AND YOU, WANDA DEAR-- TAKE CARE, FOR I SENSED WEIRD EMANATIONS WHEN I TOUCHED YOU BEFORE.
WHAT KIND OF EMANATIONS?
IF I WERE CERTAIN OF THAT MY CHILD, YOU MAY BE CERTAIN THAT I WOULD TELL YOU.*
*SEE UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE DARKHOLD. --MIKE


ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE THROUGH THE COSMIC PORTAL, BEFORE IT COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF.
WANDA, IF YOU WANT TO STAY HERE WITH--
MY PLACE IS FIGHTING FOR MY WORLD, STEPHEN-- FOR MY UNIVERSE!


WISH US LUCK, MRS. HARKNESS.
IT IS NOT LUCK WHICH WILL SUSTAIN YOU, STEPHEN, BUT RATHER COURAGE.


AND THAT IS ONE QUALITY TO WHICH NO MAN LIVING CAN LAY MORE WORTHY CLAIM--


--THAN DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!
END.

DR. STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #42, **PAGE 22 ART** BY GEOF ISHERWOOD

DR. STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #43
COVER ART BY GEOF ISHERWOOD

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #27, **PAGE 16 ART** BY JIM VALENTINO & STEVE MONTANO

NEW WARRIORS #27 **COVER ART** BY MARK BAGLEY & LARRY MAHLSTEDT

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112 SEPT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALPHA FLIGHT
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
GAMMA FLIGHT IS DEAD!
I'VE SAVED THE WORLD!
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

"REALITIES MESH, WORLDS MERGE.
"IT BEGINS... IN EARNEST!
"UNLESS THE PROCESS IS REVERSED, EARTH WILL BE LOST, REPLACED BY A TWISTED FACSIMILE OF THE MAGUS'S CREATION.*
"WORLDWIDE, THE HUMAN ANTS WATCH ENTHRALLED, A FROZEN AUDIENCE TO A DEMI-GOD'S POWER PLAY. THEY CANNOT SAVE EARTH.
"I CAN!
"I AM THE MASTER, AND THIS WORLD I HAVE CLAIMED AS MY OWN TO DO WITH AS I SEE FIT. THROUGH A POCKET OF MADNESS STRONG ENOUGH EVEN TO RESIST YOUR INFLUENCE, I WILL FIGHT YOU FOR IT, MAGUS!
"OTHER MINDS, STRONG MINDS, ALSO STRIVE TO STOP YOU-- CREATING A PSYCHIC RESONANCE AMONG THE POPULATION, A WALL OF RESISTANCE.
"WITH A BOLT-HOLE OF UNAFFECTED REALITY THEY ARE DESTINED TO FAIL, BUT THEY SHOULD KEEP THE ASSIMILATION AT BAY LONG ENOUGH..."
*SEE INFINITY WAR #4.

"...FOR ME TO DEAL WITH A *SMALL*, BUT POTENTIALLY *DISASTROUS*, IRRITATION.

FURMAN / BRODERICK / PATTERSON
CHIANG / SHAREN / TOKAR / DeFALCO

BARE BONES

PART 3

UNN! WASTING YOUR TIME, *SKINNY*. IT MAY TAKE A WHILE, BUT *MISS MASS* ALWAYS GETS THERE IN THE END. *HNH*-- FRIEND OF YOURS TRIED BLOWING ME AWAY RECENTLY*... I *BROKE HER SCRAWNY NECK!*

YOU... I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR BONY BODY APART AND MAKE A *WISH!*

PAY HER NO HEED, *WINDSHEAR*. YOU JUST KEEP ON HITTING HER WITH THAT SOLID AIR!

*WINDSHEAR DOES NOT REPLY. HE COULDN'T IF HE WANTED TO. RIGHT NOW HIS MIND (AND BODY) BELONG ENTIRELY TO *PERSUASION*. HERS IS A SUBTLE, CEREBRAL POWER...*

*TALISMAN, IN ISSUE #110.

--IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO APEMAN--

--WHO JUST HITS THINGS!

NICE TRY KID... BUT YOUR FRIEND *LACKS* SOMETHING IN THE *STEALTH* DEPARTMENT!

MANIKIN'S IN *TROUBLE!* HE BLACKS OUT NOW, HIS PAST AND FUTURE SELVES WILL DISAPPEAR! HE'LL BE *HELPLESS!*

"THE MYSTIC CALLS HERSELF *WITCHFIRE*. SHE, *MANIKIN*, PERSUASION, *GOBLYN* AND *LAURA DEAN* FORM *GAMMA FLIGHT*, ALPHA'S JUNIOR TEAM.

"I ASSUMED, ERRONEOUSLY, IT WOULD BE A FORMALITY FOR MY *OMEGA FLIGHT* TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE PICTURE. BUT THE PUPS...

"...HAVE TEETH!"

ACTUAL COMBAT IS FOR *LESSER BEINGS*. THAT IS *WHY* OMEGA FLIGHT EXISTS. BUT SHOULD THIS BATTLE DRAG ON LONGER, I *MUST* INTERVENE--

--OR RISK LOSING *EVERYTHING*.

THE MYSTIC HAS *UNPLUMBED DEPTHS*, A HERITAGE STEEPED IN ARCANE MIGHT...

SHE ALREADY HAS UNCONSCIOUSLY SHIELDED HERSELF AND HER TEAMMATES FROM THE SKA'R. IF SHE DISTURBS THEM *FURTHER*, I MAY BE LEFT *POWERLESS* TO DEFY THE MAGUS!

"SUCH *POTENTIAL*! WERE CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFERENT I WOULD CONSIDER RECRUITING HER, BENDING HER TO *MY WILL*."

AS IT IS, SHE IS JUST A *STUMBLING BLOCK*--

--TO BE *REMOVED*!

HAVEN'T YOU GOT THE MESSAGE YET, GIRLY?

ALL YOU'RE DOING IS TICKING ME OFF!
SHE'S RIGHT-- BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ENOUGH ABOUT WINDSHEAR'S MUTANT ABILITY TO ORDER HIM TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN START AND...
STOP!
UH?
WHOA.
GNN.
RI
NOW YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT!

UH UH -- I WAS HAVING TROUBLE *ZEROING IN* BEFORE TOO MUCH PSYCHIC *STATIC!* BUT *NOW*...

...NOW YOU'RE *MINE!*

*!

THE *GIRL*...

... REMOVE *HER* AND NOT ONLY IS ONE OF THE MOST *POWERFUL* OF THEIR NUMBER ELIMINATED...

...THE ONE SHE CALLED WINDSHEAR IS LEFT EXPOSED, *VULNERABLE!*

ONE TOUCH, ONE SWEET CARESS...

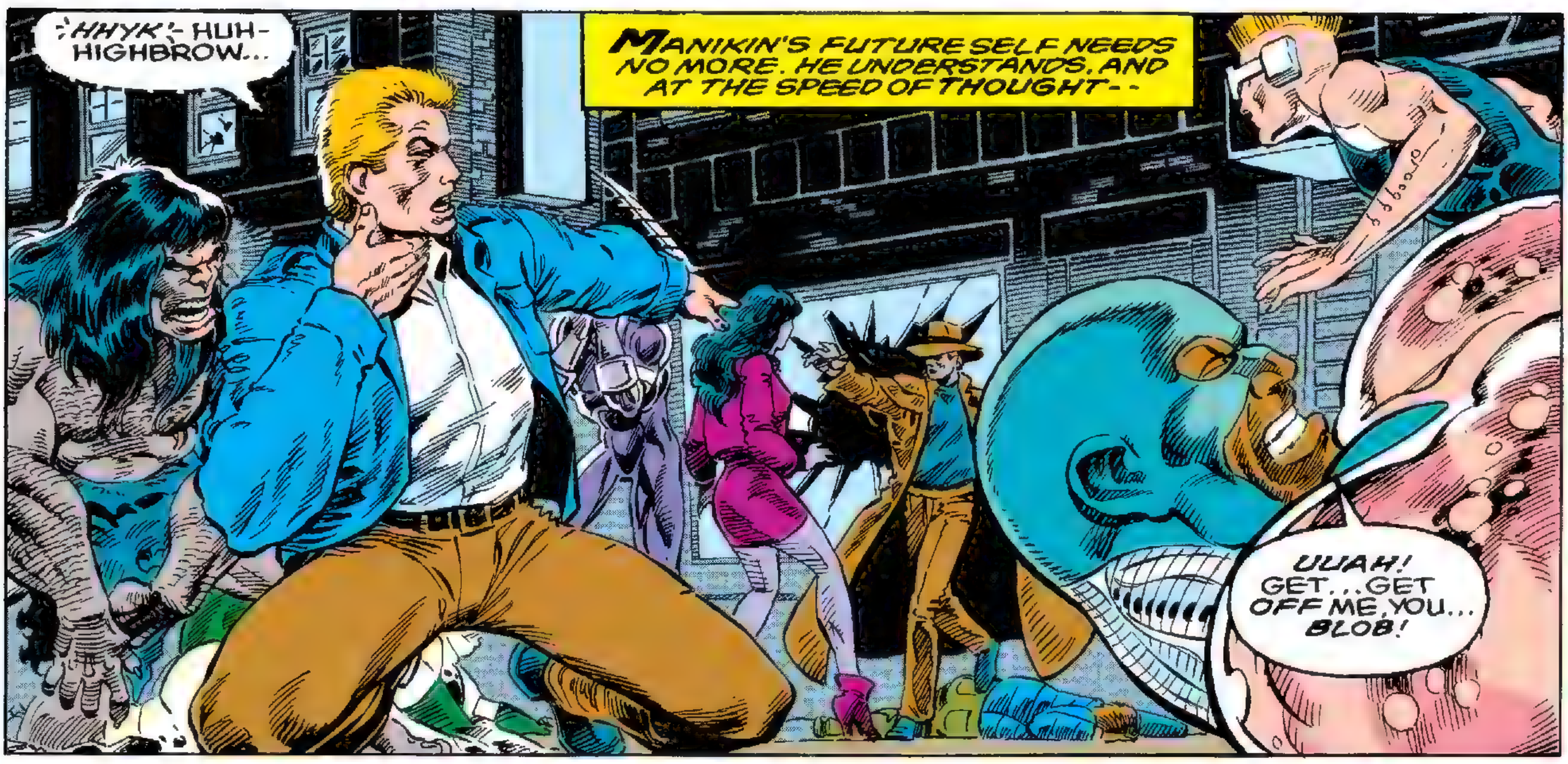
...AND LIFE IS *GONE!*

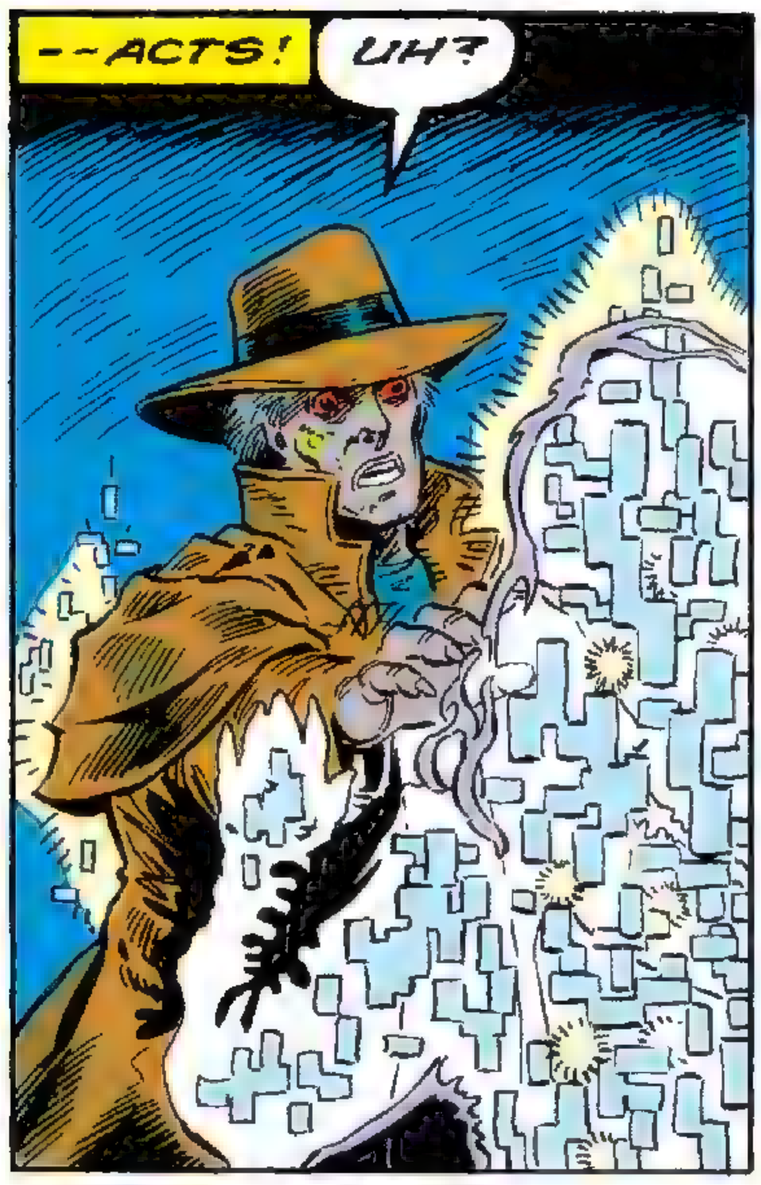
YO, BUDDY... THA'S A *NICE HAT.* THINK I'LL HAVE--

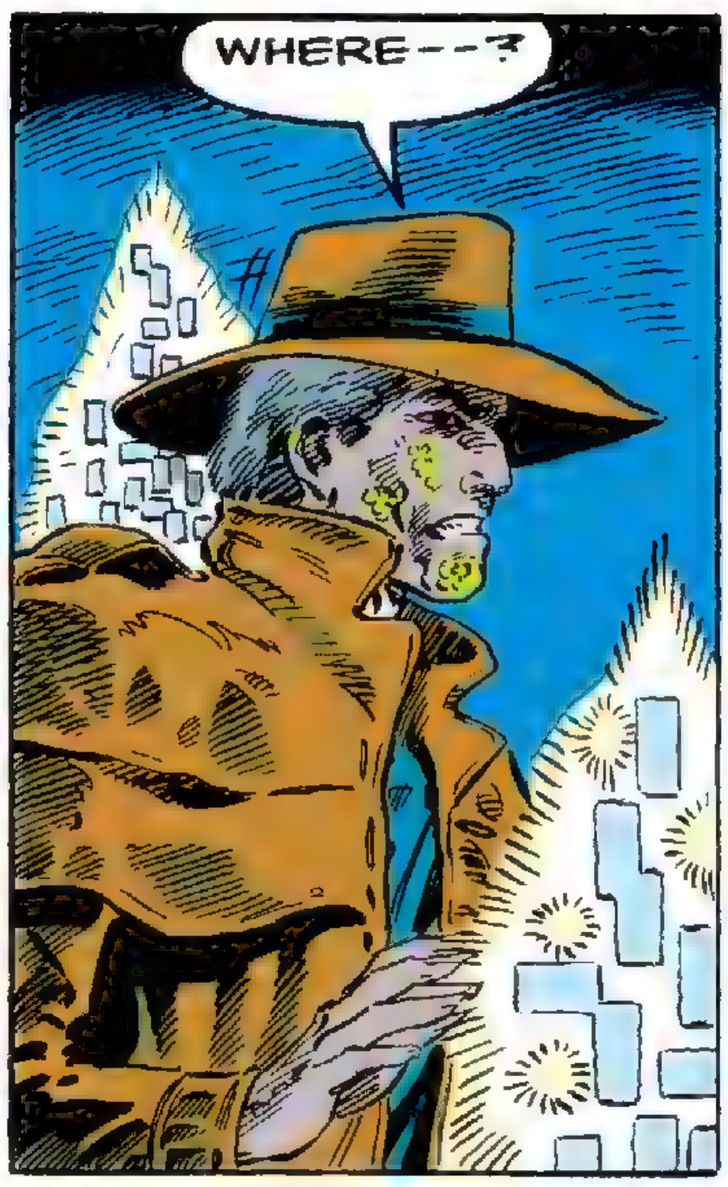
IMBECILE HERE...HAVE DEATH INSTEAD!
FOR THAT IS ALL BILE HAS TO GIVE!
AHK!

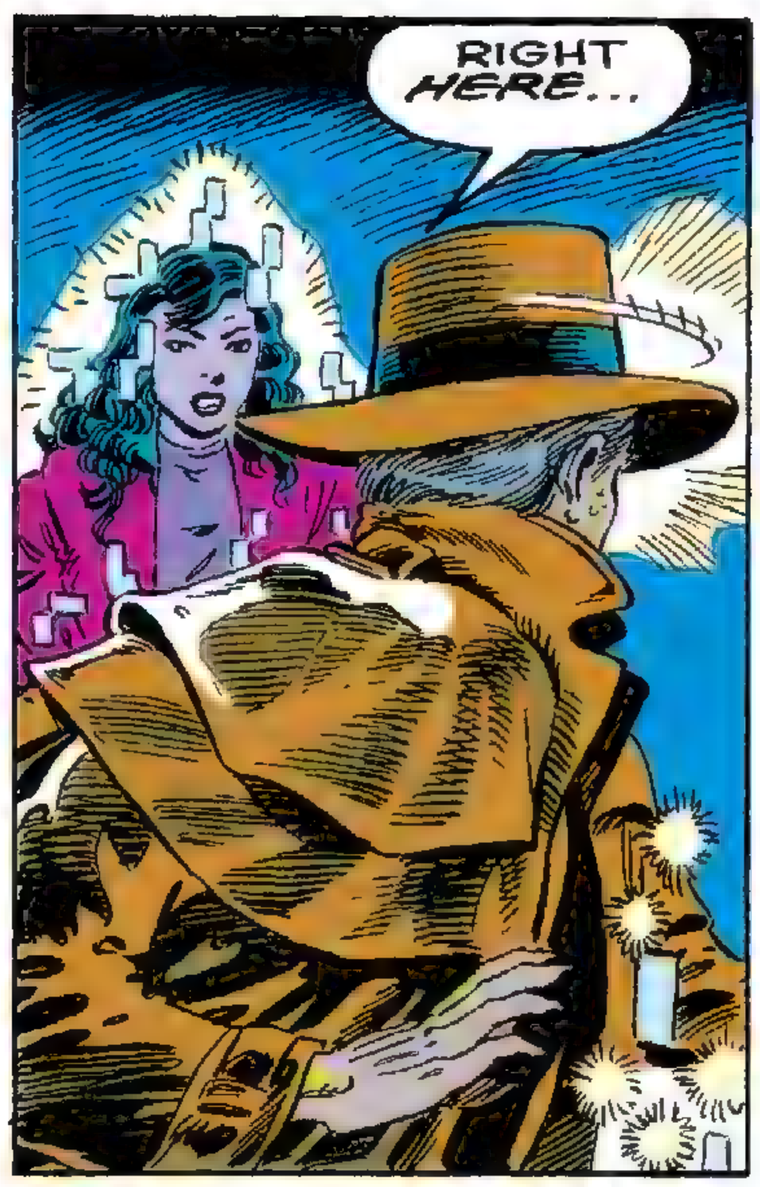
WHAT?
OH.
OH, MY GOD!

"STOP," SHE THINKS, BUT THE COMMAND DOESN'T MAKE IT THROUGH A THROAT TIGHTENED BY FEAR, A MOUTH SUDDENLY DRY...


HHYK! HUH-HIGHBROW...
MANIKIN'S FUTURE SELF NEEDS NO MORE. HE UNDERSTANDS, AND AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT--
UUAH! GET...GET OFF ME, YOU... BLOB!

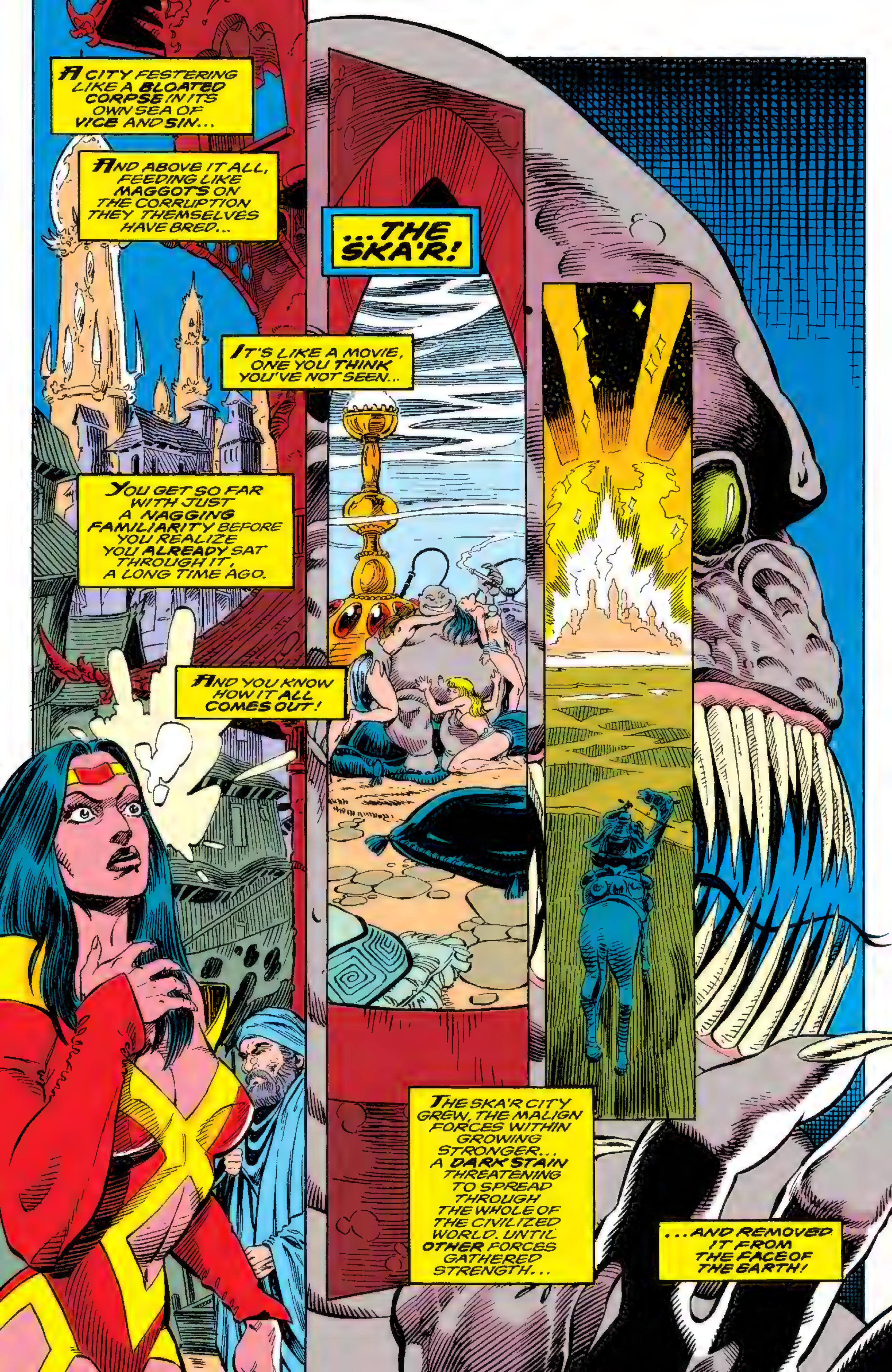

--ACTS!
UH?


WHERE--?

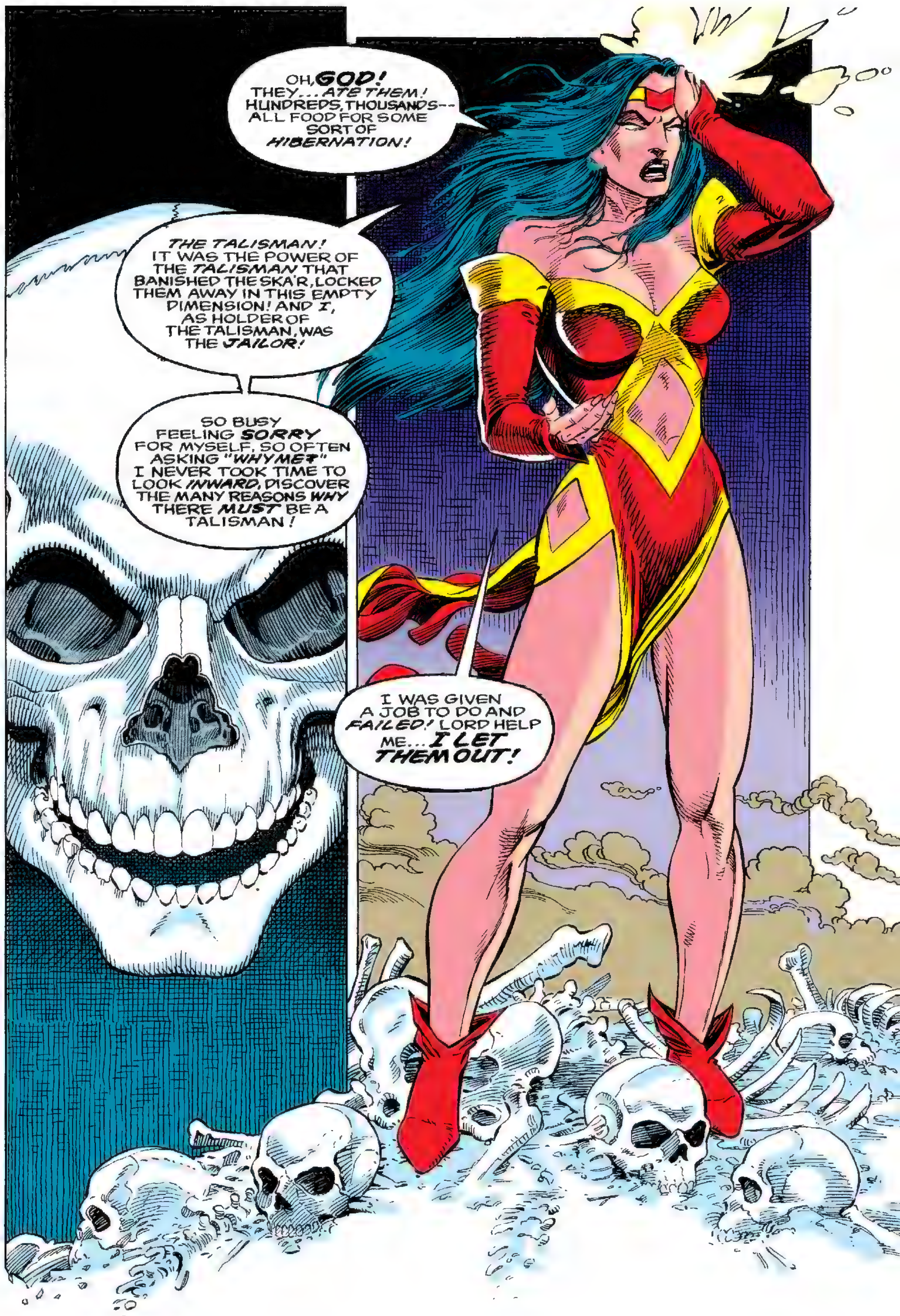

RIGHT HERE...

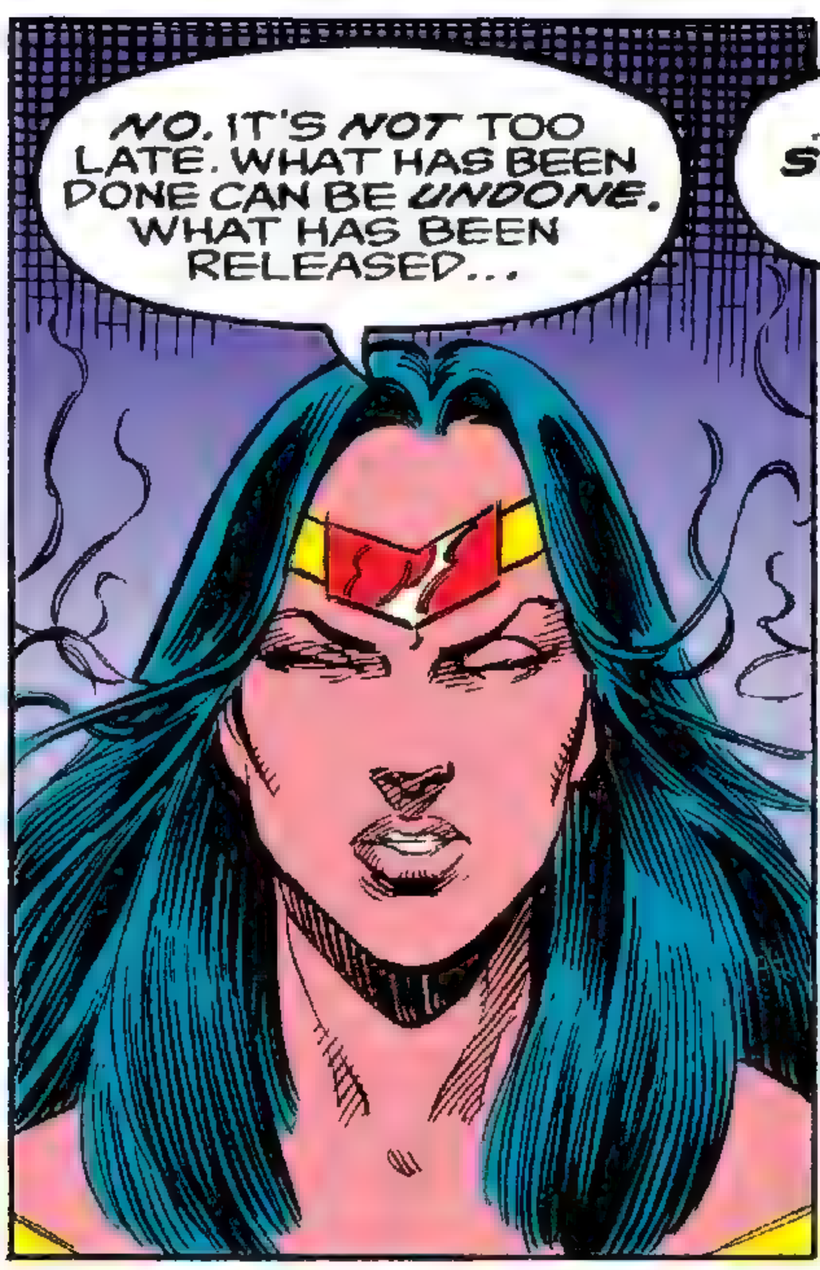
...BILE!
THIS TIME HE DOESN'T HESITATE...
NOW...
...GO PLAY WITH YOUR TEAM-MATES!
URH...? WHA'PN--?
NO!
NO!
GET AWAY!

ELSEWHERE (CONSIDERABLY)...
...ELIZABETH TWOYOUNGMEN'S ALREADY CONVOLUTED YOUNG LIFE TAKES ANOTHER (CONSIDERABLE) TURN...
TALK TO ME, FATHER! ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS... THIS TERRIBLE PLACE...
--IS WITHIN MY OWN MIND?!
NOTHING. IT WOULD SEEM THAT SHAMAN WAS MERELY THE GUIDE ONCE HERE, I AM ON MY OWN.
BUT WHAT DID HE MEAN? "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS BEEN UNLEASHED!" HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO--
OH!
OH.
A VEIL LIFTS, IMAGES THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD SUDDENLY CRYSTAL CLEAR...


A CITY FESTERING LIKE A BLOATED CORPSE IN ITS OWN SEA OF VICE AND SIN...
AND ABOVE IT ALL, FEEDING LIKE MAGGOTS ON THE CORRUPTION THEY THEMSELVES HAVE BRED...
...THE SKA'R!
IT'S LIKE A MOVIE, ONE YOU THINK YOU'VE NOT SEEN...
YOU GET SO FAR WITH JUST A NAGGING FAMILIARITY BEFORE YOU REALIZE YOU ALREADY SAT THROUGH IT, A LONG TIME AGO.
AND YOU KNOW HOW IT ALL COMES OUT!
THE SKA'R CITY GREW, THE MALIGN FORCES WITHIN GROWING STRONGER... A DARK STAIN THREATENING TO SPREAD THROUGH THE WHOLE OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD. UNTIL OTHER FORCES GATHERED STRENGTH...
...AND REMOVED IT FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

THEY SCREAMED.
THEY STRUGGLED.
THEY FOUGHT.
REALIZING THEIR PANTRY OF BLACKENED SOULS WOULD GROW OLD AND STALE, NO NEW BLOOD TO SWELL THEIR BELLIES, THEY LOOKED AT THE MEAT LOCKED AWAY WITH THEM AND--
OH, GOD! NO... NO!
SCREAMS FILL HER MIND, A SWELLING ORCHESTRA OF TERROR AND TORMENT...
A HUNDRED THOUSAND LOST SOULS CRYING OUT IN UNISON...
BUT THEIR PRISON WAS A STRONG ONE. IT HELD.


OH, GOD! THEY... ATE THEM! HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS-- ALL FOOD FOR SOME SORT OF HIBERNATION!
THE TALISMAN! IT WAS THE POWER OF THE TALISMAN THAT BANISHED THE SKA'R, LOCKED THEM AWAY IN THIS EMPTY DIMENSION! AND I, AS HOLDER OF THE TALISMAN, WAS THE JAILOR!
SO BUSY FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF, SO OFTEN ASKING "WHY ME?" I NEVER TOOK TIME TO LOOK INWARD, DISCOVER THE MANY REASONS WHY THERE MUST BE A TALISMAN!
I WAS GIVEN A JOB TO DO AND FAILED! LORD HELP ME... I LET THEM OUT!



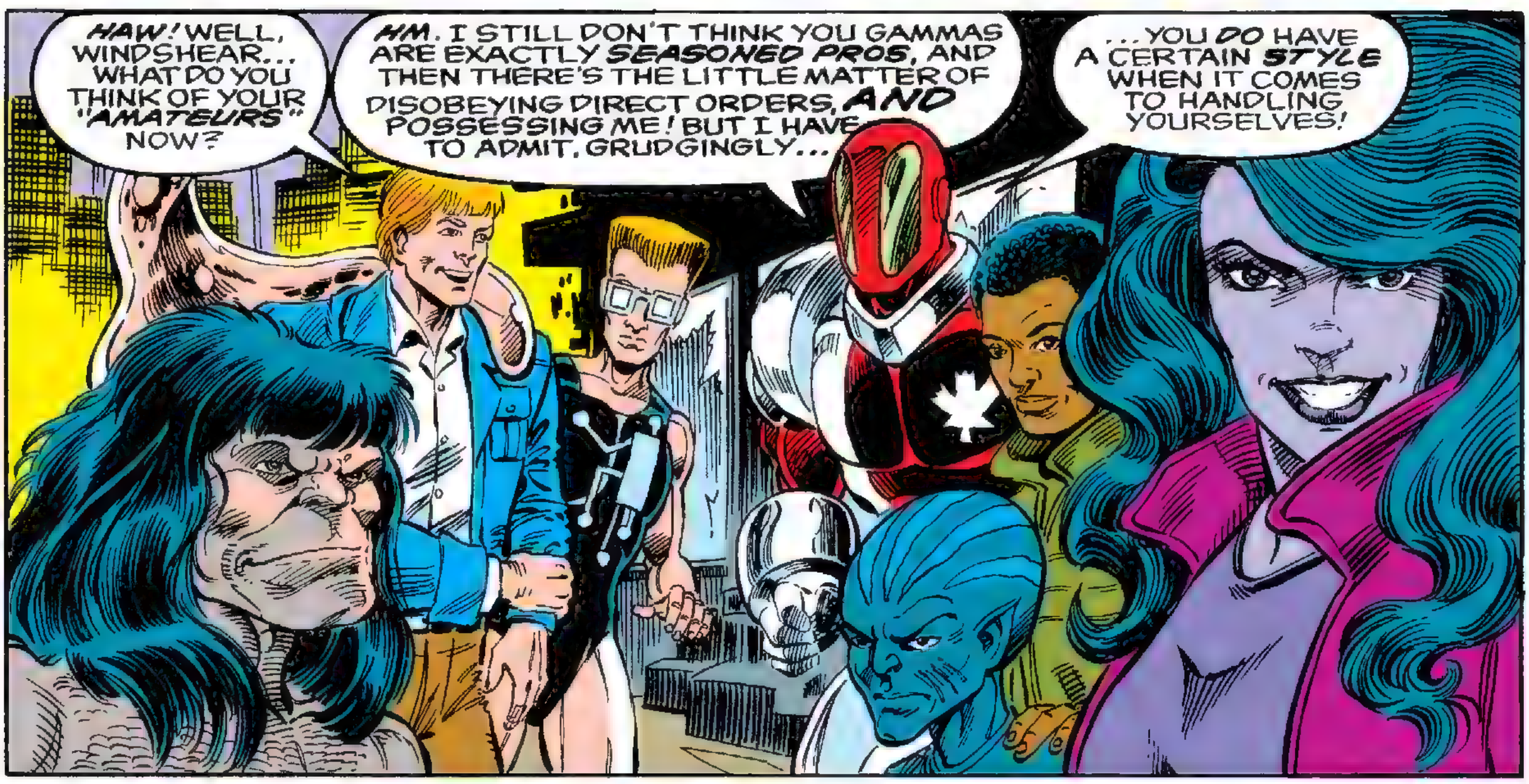
"...ON BEING THE TALISMAN!"

EEUURGH!

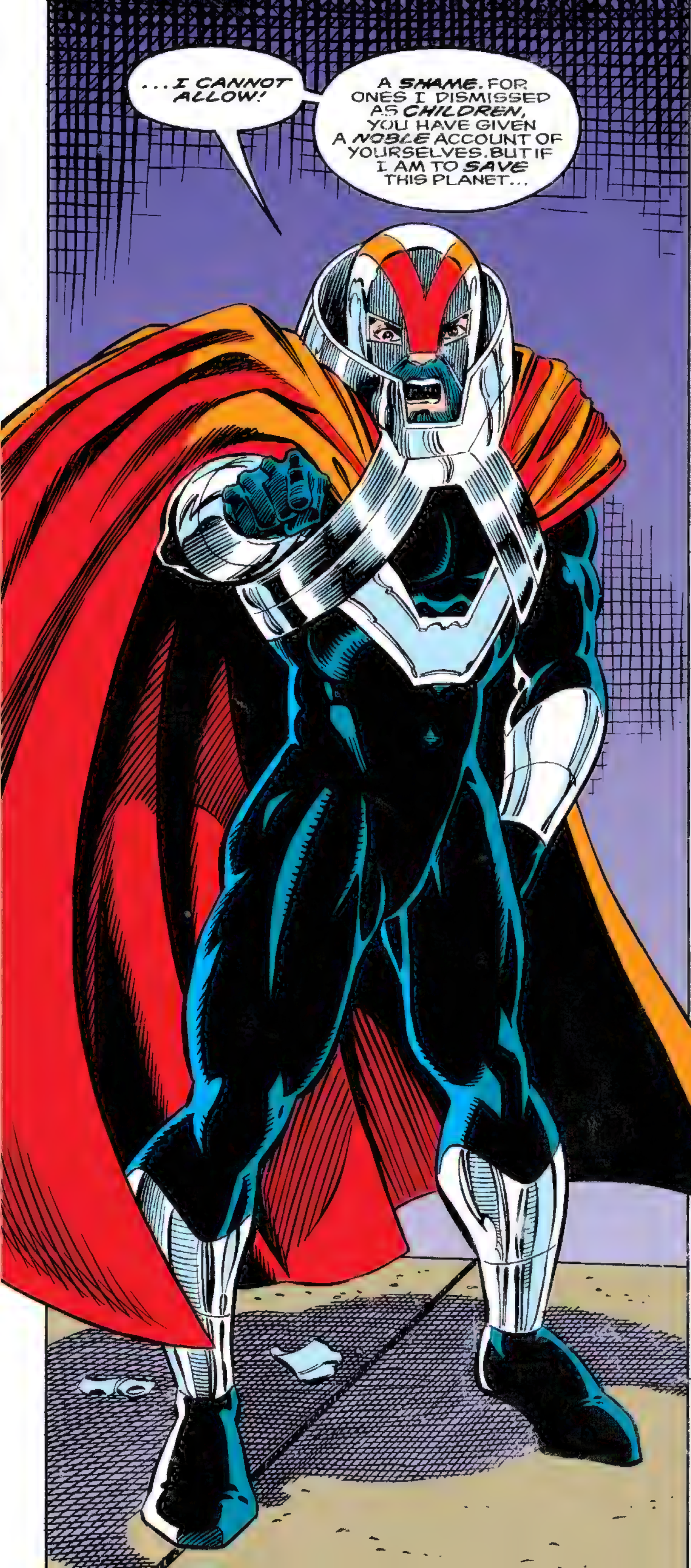
I MUST... TOUCH YOU!

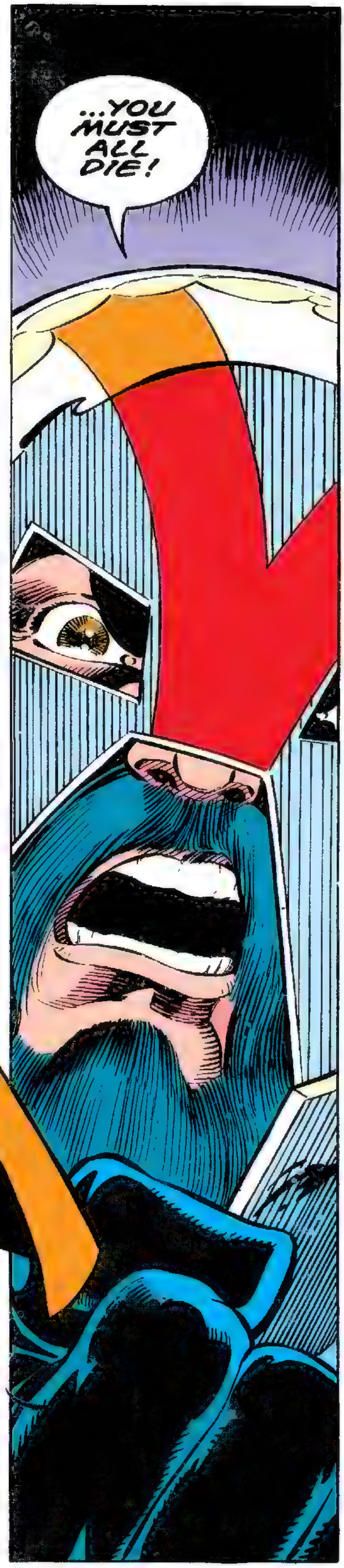
NO, GET AWAY! HELP ME--ONE OF YOU...

HELP ME!
HSSR!
HOW? BRAIN DRAIN...
ER...
SHOOT HIM, KILL HIM! HECK, I'LL WASTE THE LITTLE CREEP MESELF...


HAW! WELL, WINDSHEAR... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR "AMATEURS" NOW?
HM. I STILL DON'T THINK YOU GAMMAS ARE EXACTLY SEASONED PROS, AND THEN THERE'S THE LITTLE MATTER OF DISOBEYING DIRECT ORDERS, AND POSSESSING ME! BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, GRUDGINGLY...
...YOU DO HAVE A CERTAIN STYLE WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING YOURSELVES!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE REAL BATTLE'S ONLY JUST BEGUN. THERE'S AN INTELLIGENCE BEHIND ALL THIS... THE CHAOS, THE MADNESS.
TO STOP IT... WE FIRST HAVE TO STOP THE SKA'R!
AND THAT, MY DEAR GIRL...


...I CANNOT ALLOW!
A SHAME. FOR ONES I DISMISSED AS CHILDREN, YOU HAVE GIVEN A NOBLE ACCOUNT OF YOURSELVES. BUT IF I AM TO SAVE THIS PLANET...


...YOU MUST ALL DIE!

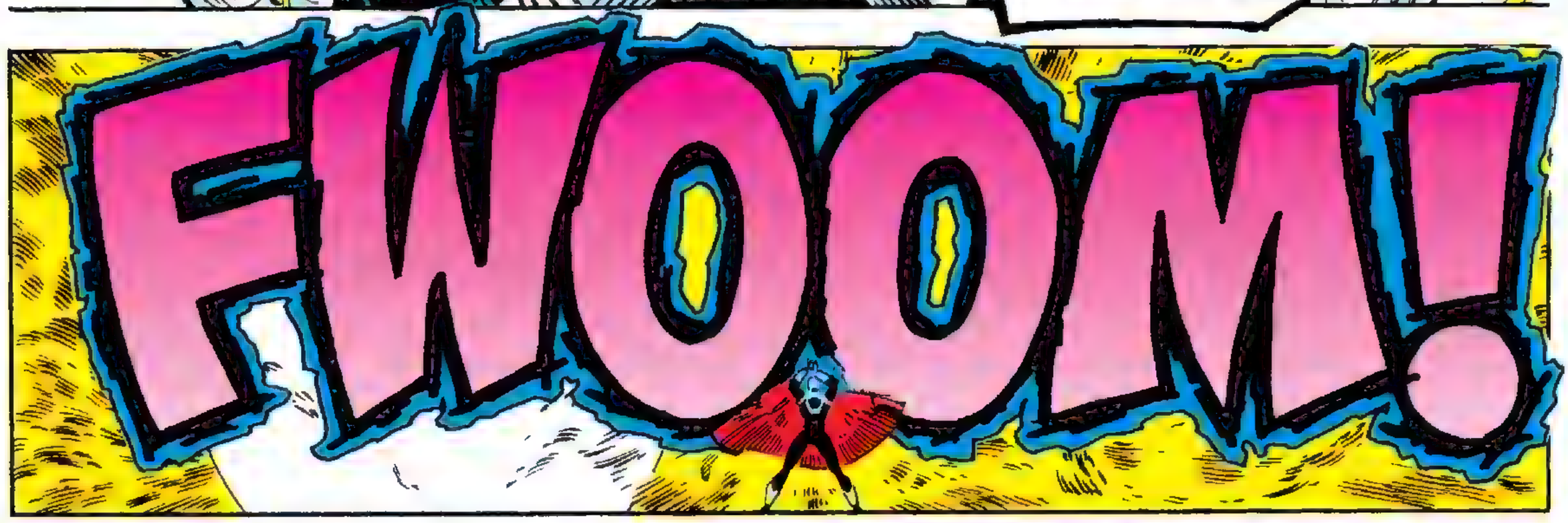
THAT SO? WELL EXCUSE US IF WE BEG TO DIFFER!

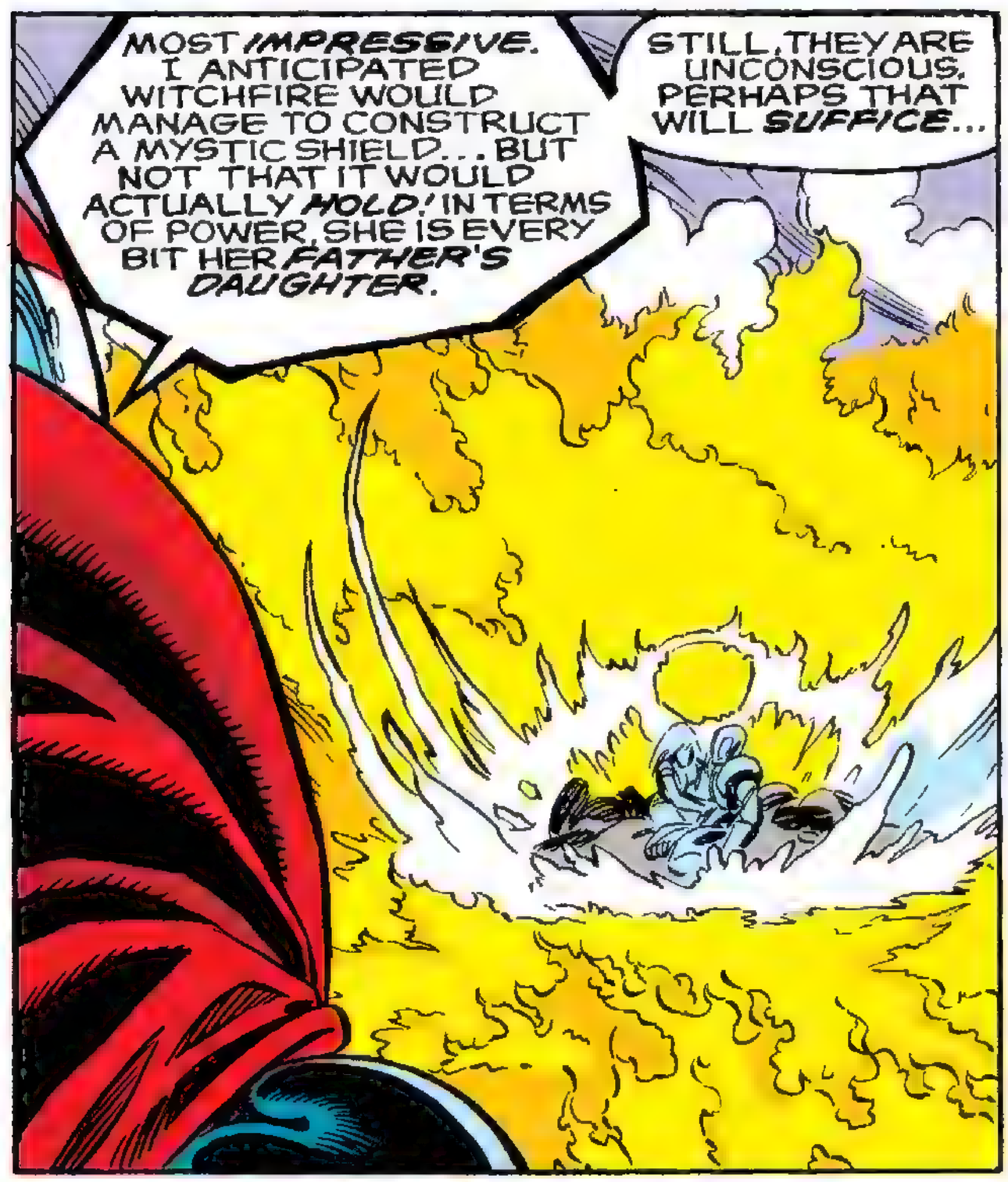
ER, WINDSHEAR, THAT'S *THE MASTER!* I THINK WE...

THE *ENTITY*, THIS ONE YOU CALL *FIREBUG*. I FOUND HIS SOMEWHAT *VOLATILE* MOLECULES DRIFTING ON THE WINDS. HOW *UNTIDY* OF YOU!

BUT *LOOK*, HERE HE IS-- ALL GATHERED UP, ABSORBED INTO MY ARMOR'S SYSTEMS. THE *POTENTIAL* OF THAT RATHER PETTY ARSONIST...

...*FULLY REALIZED!*

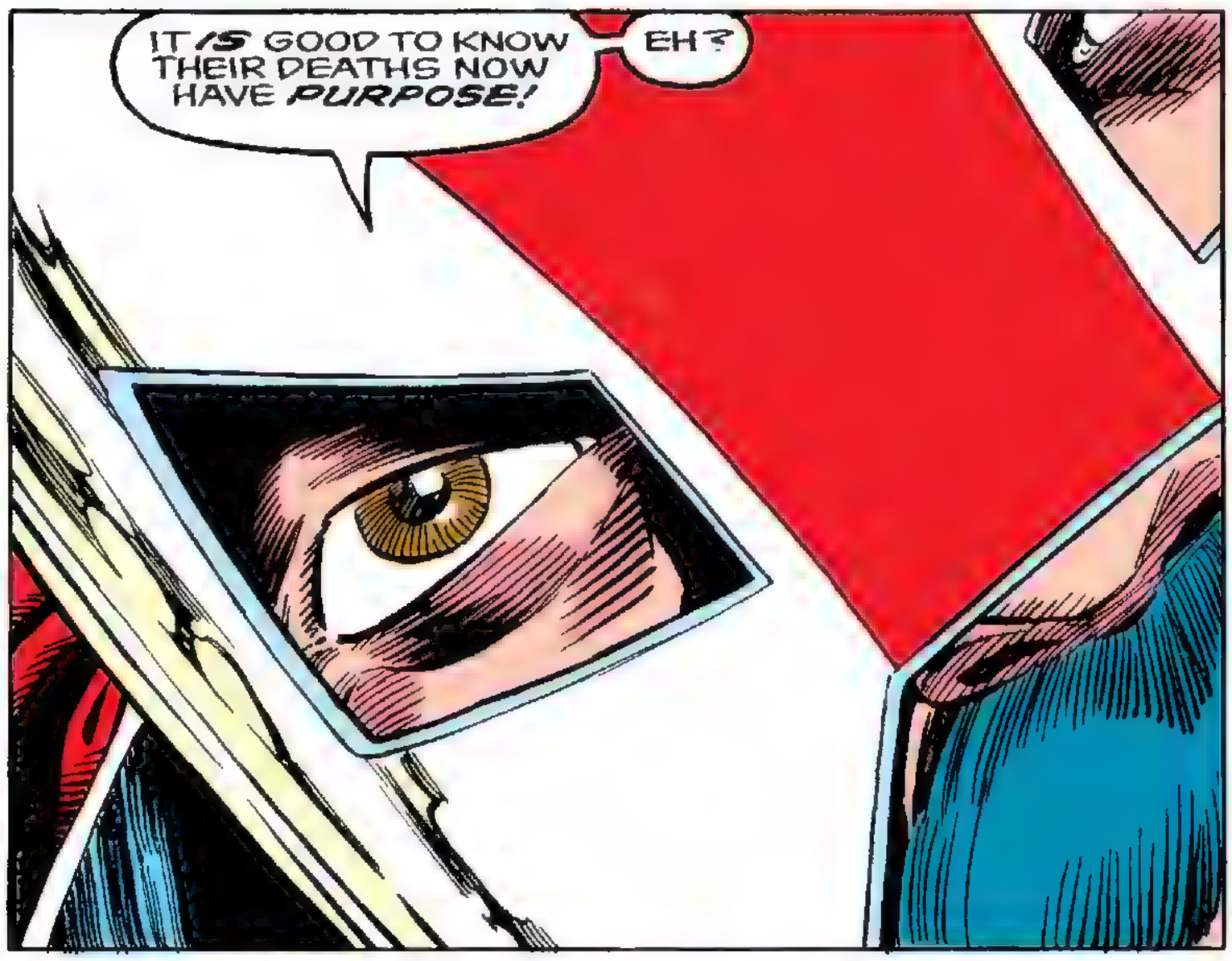


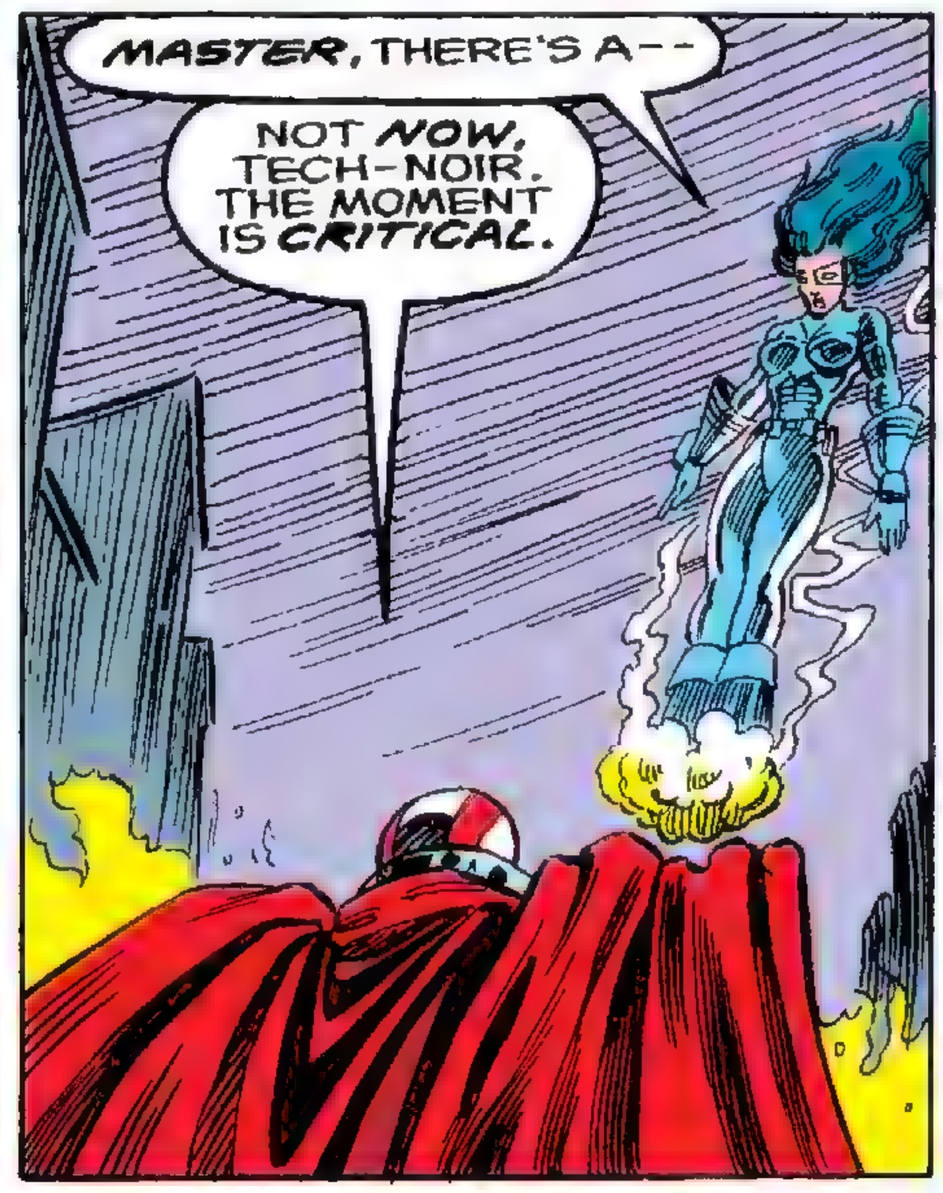


I THINK NOT.

TK. COMPASSION? HOW HUMAN OF YOU, OLD MAN. I THOUGHT YOU'D HAD SUCH DEGRADING FOIBLES REMOVED MILLENIA AGO, WHEN THE PLODEX RESTRUCTURED YOUR MIND AND BODY.

STILL...





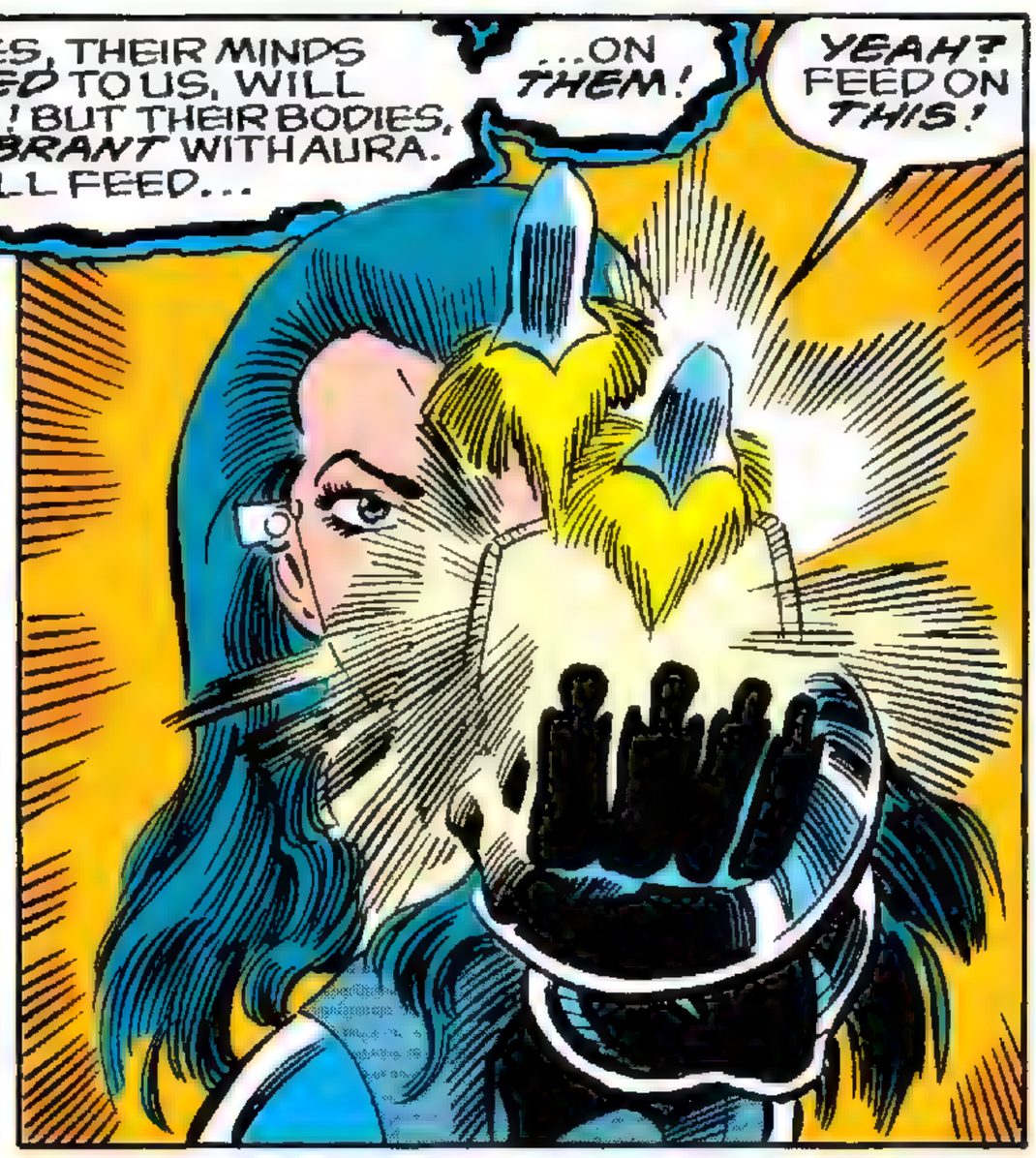
THE HUMAN PSI'S ARE BUCKLING UNDER THE STRAIN OF KEEPING THE WORLDS FROM MERGING. FROM THIS MOMENT ON I MUST FOCUS ALL MY ENHANCED MIGHT, LOCK MENTAL HORNS WITH THIS MAGUS.

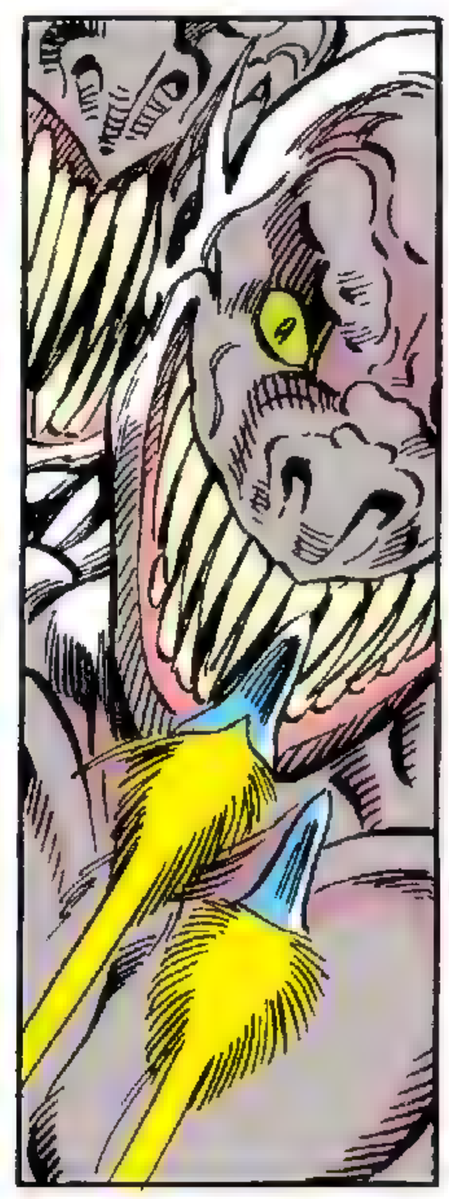
BUT...MASTER, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

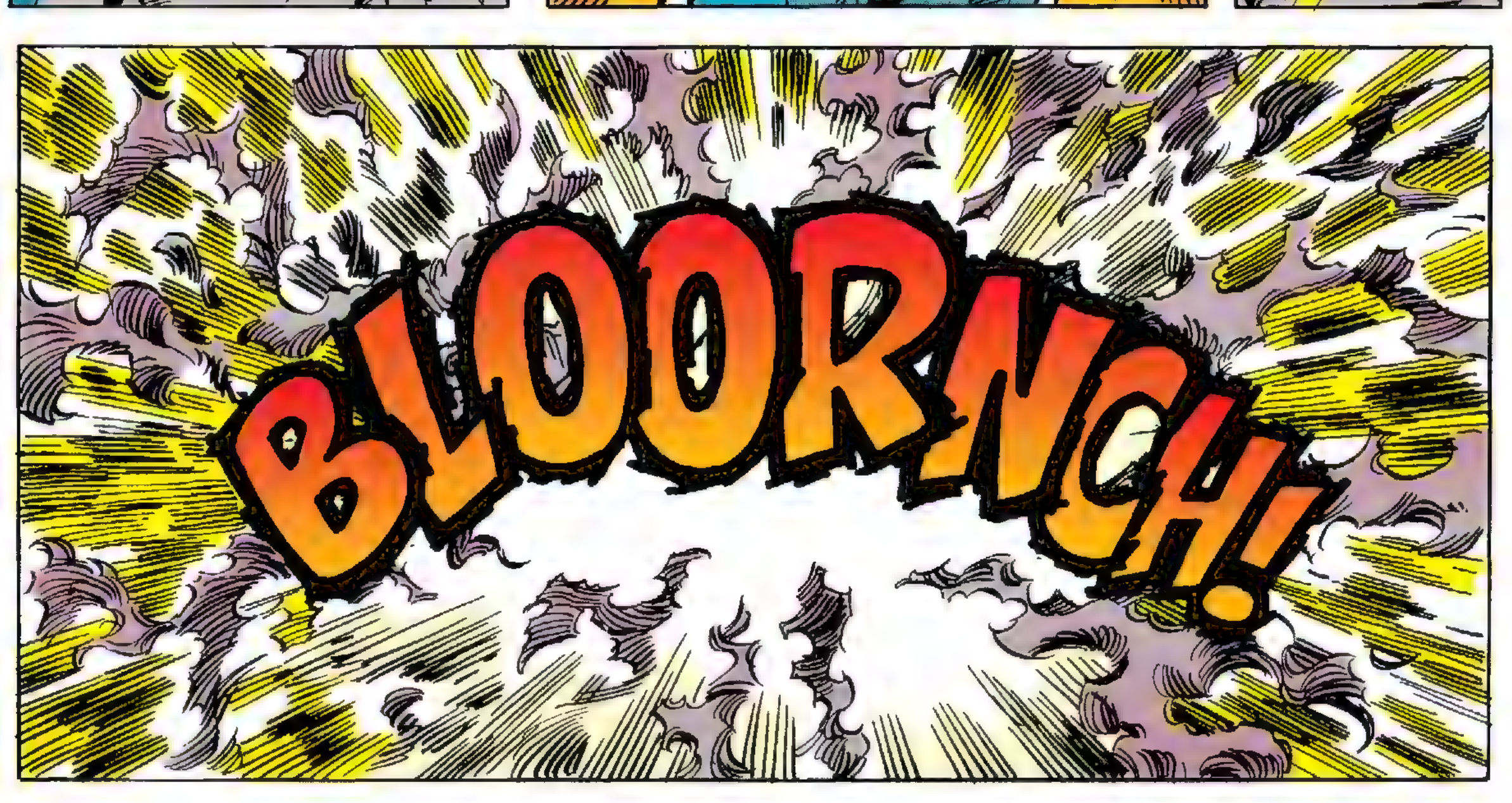
I DON'T WHAT? HOW DARE -- OH NO...

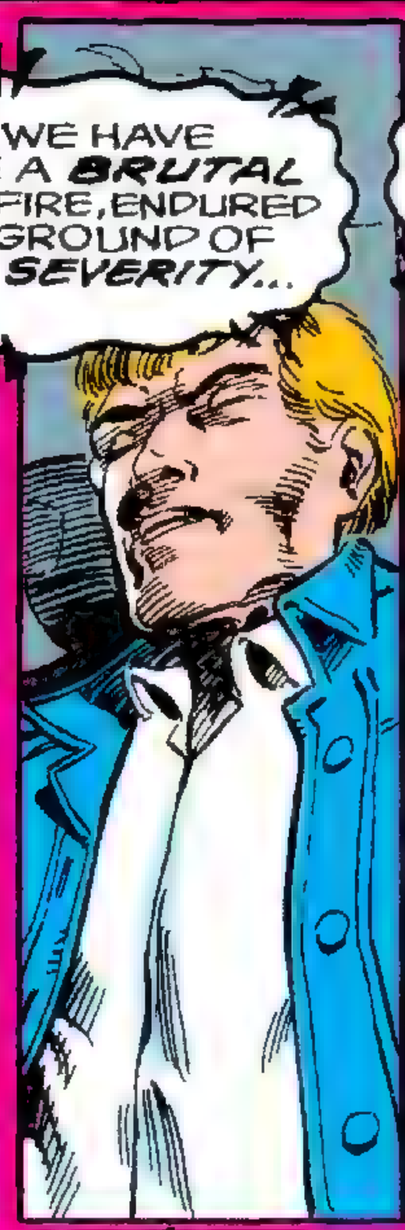
THE SKA'R!
HUNGRY!

THESE ONES, THEIR MINDS ARE CLOSED TO US, WILL NOT SATE US! BUT THEIR BODIES, THEY ARE VIBRANT WITH AURA. WE WILL FEED...


...ON THEM!
YEAH? FEED ON THIS!




BLOORNCH!

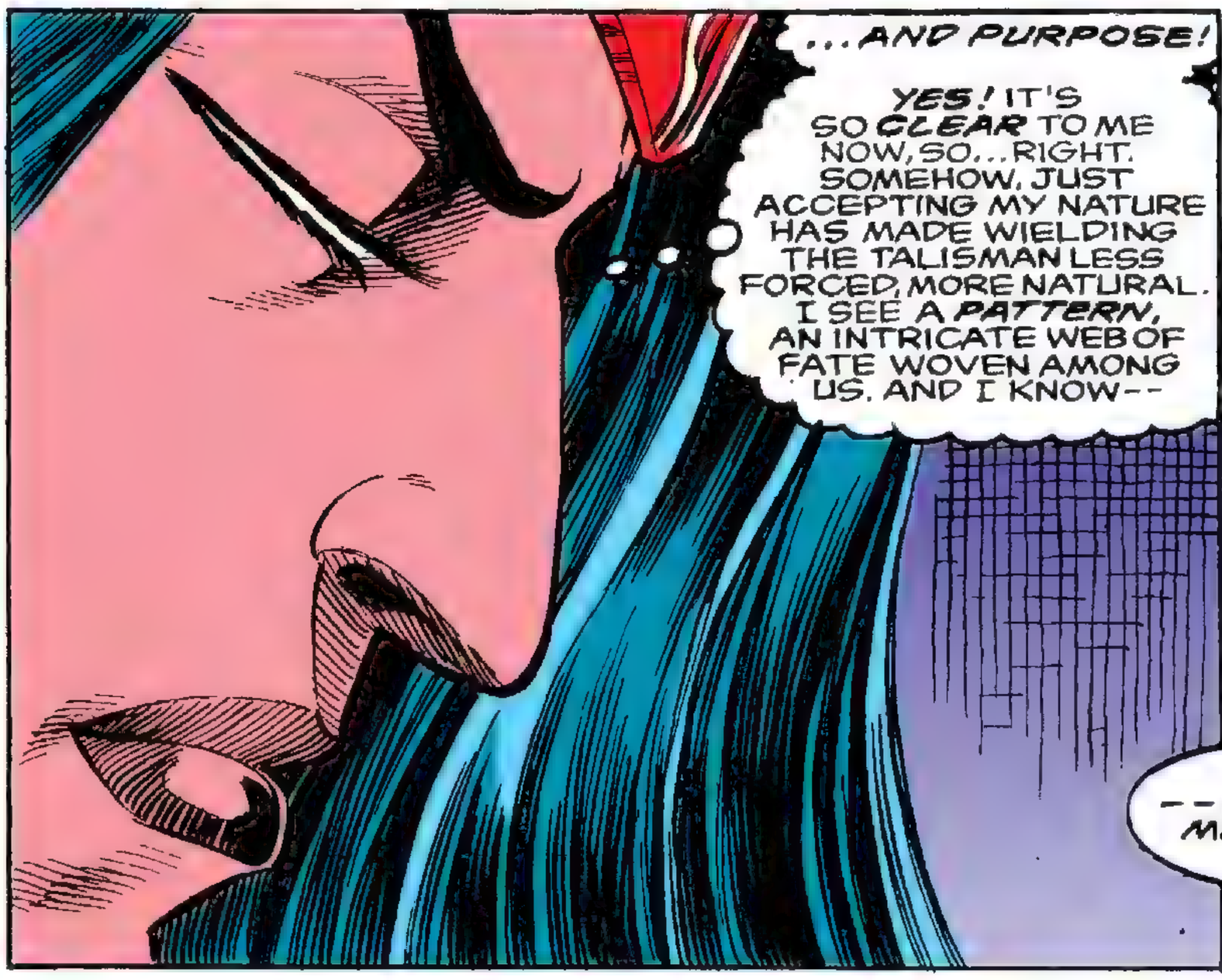


I WILL GUIDE YOU, HELP YOU. BUT WE MUST BE OF ONE BODY, ONE MIND.

WE MUST DO TOGETHER, WHAT CANNOT BE DONE ALONE!

WITCHFIRE, PERSUASION, MANIKIN, WINDSHEAR, GOBLYN, LAURA DEAN... AND TALISMAN. AS INDIVIDUALS, THERE ARE FLAWS, WEAKNESSES. BUT AS A TEAM...

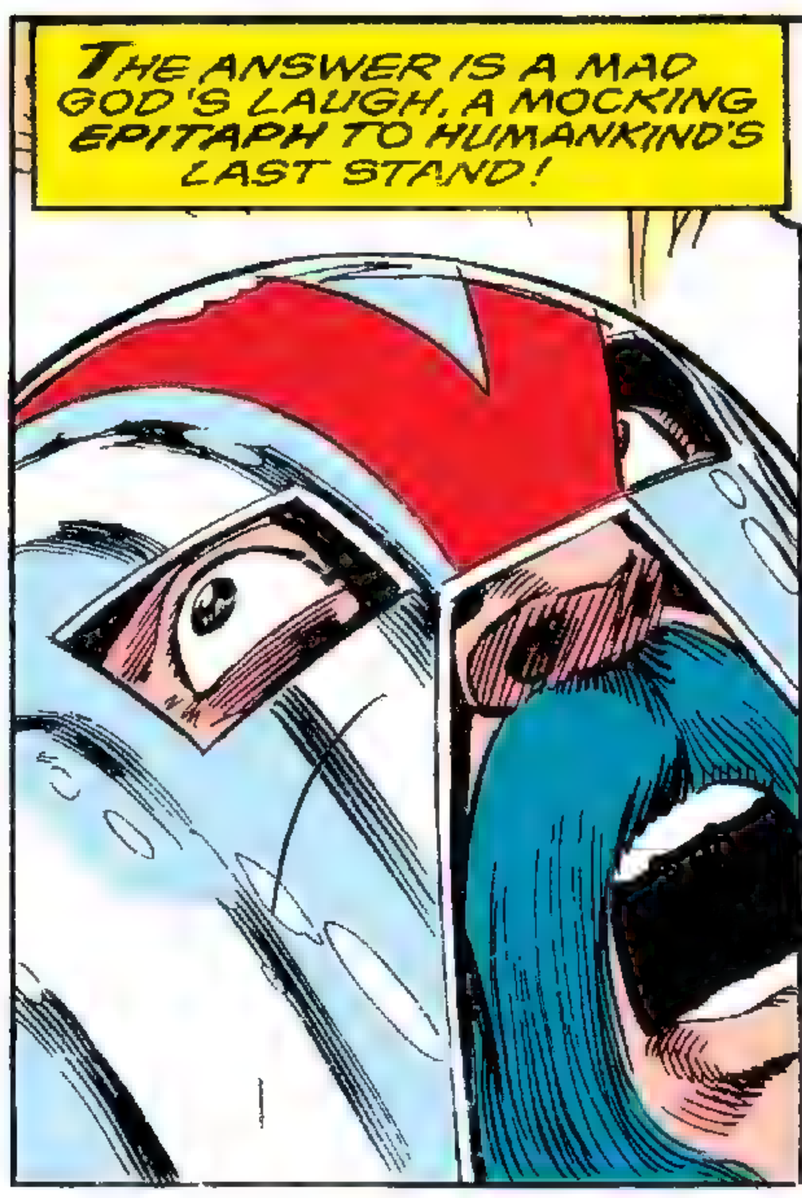
...THERE IS STRENGTH...

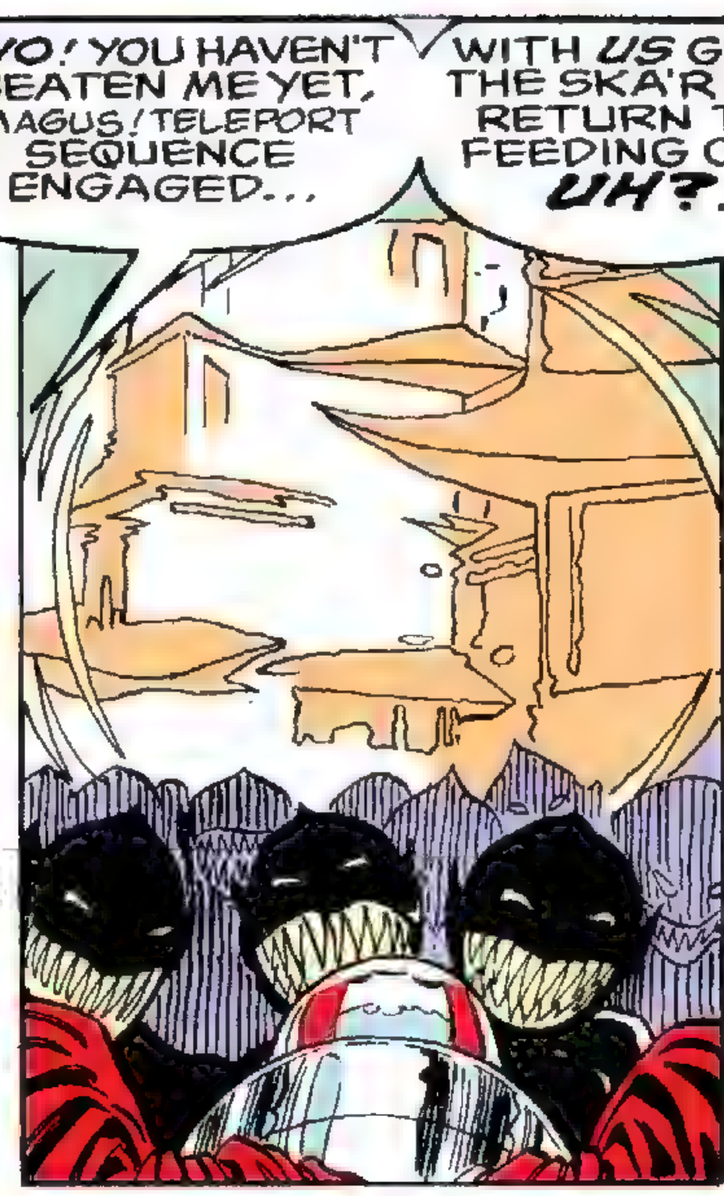


MEANWHILE...
GET...
...AWAY FROM THEM!
FOOLISH CHILD! YOU ARE DOING EXACTLY WHAT I WISHED TO PREVENT GAMMA FLIGHT FROM DOING!
Uuh!
ALREADY, MY...HOLD ON EARTH IS WEAKENING!
HEAR ME!
I GIVE THIS COUNTRY TO YOU, THE SKA'R! FEED, GROW FAT ON THE MILLIONS OF RIPE SOULS! YOU DO NOT NEED--
EH?
YOU...
RICH IN POWER, WE WILL TAKE WHAT YOU OFFER...
...AFTER WE PICK YOUR BONES CLEAN!

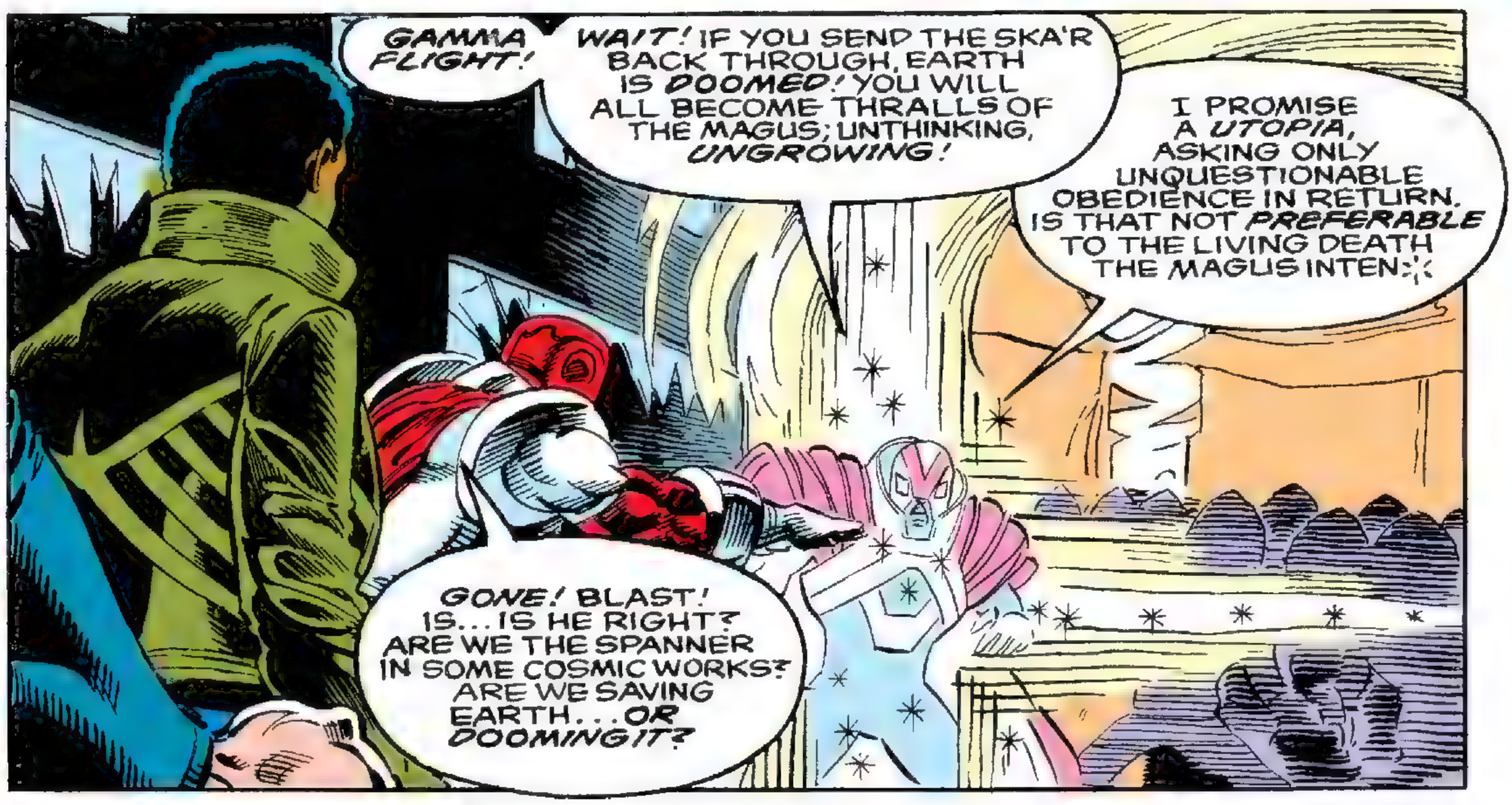
DEAD?
THE REACTION IS INSTINCTIVE. THE PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH AN ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE TRANSGRESSION SWIFT AND FINAL. BUT IN THAT INSTANT, THE MASTER'S PSYCHIC HOLD ON THE MAGUS...
WHORCH

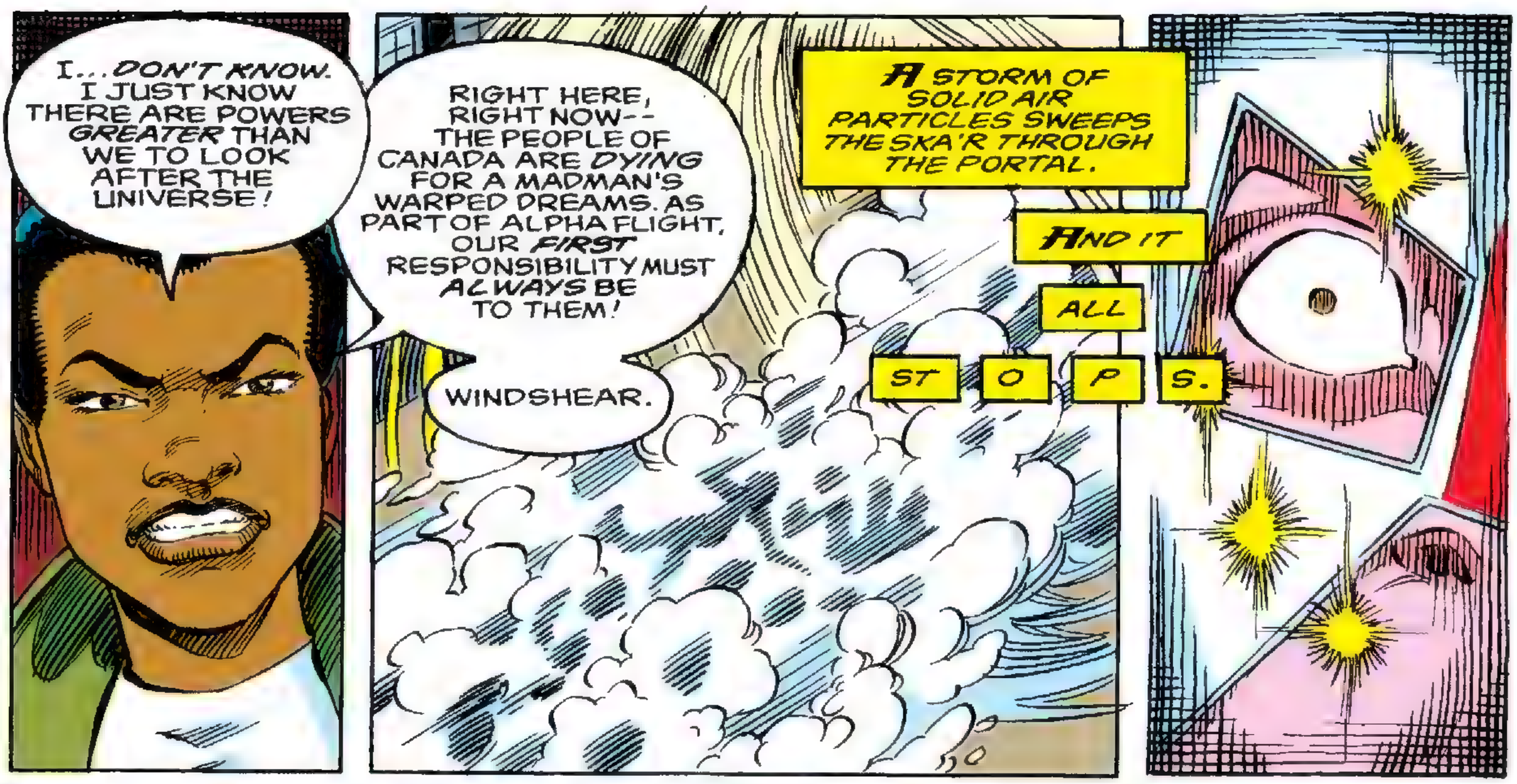
...IS BROKEN.
WHAT...
...HAVE I DONE?

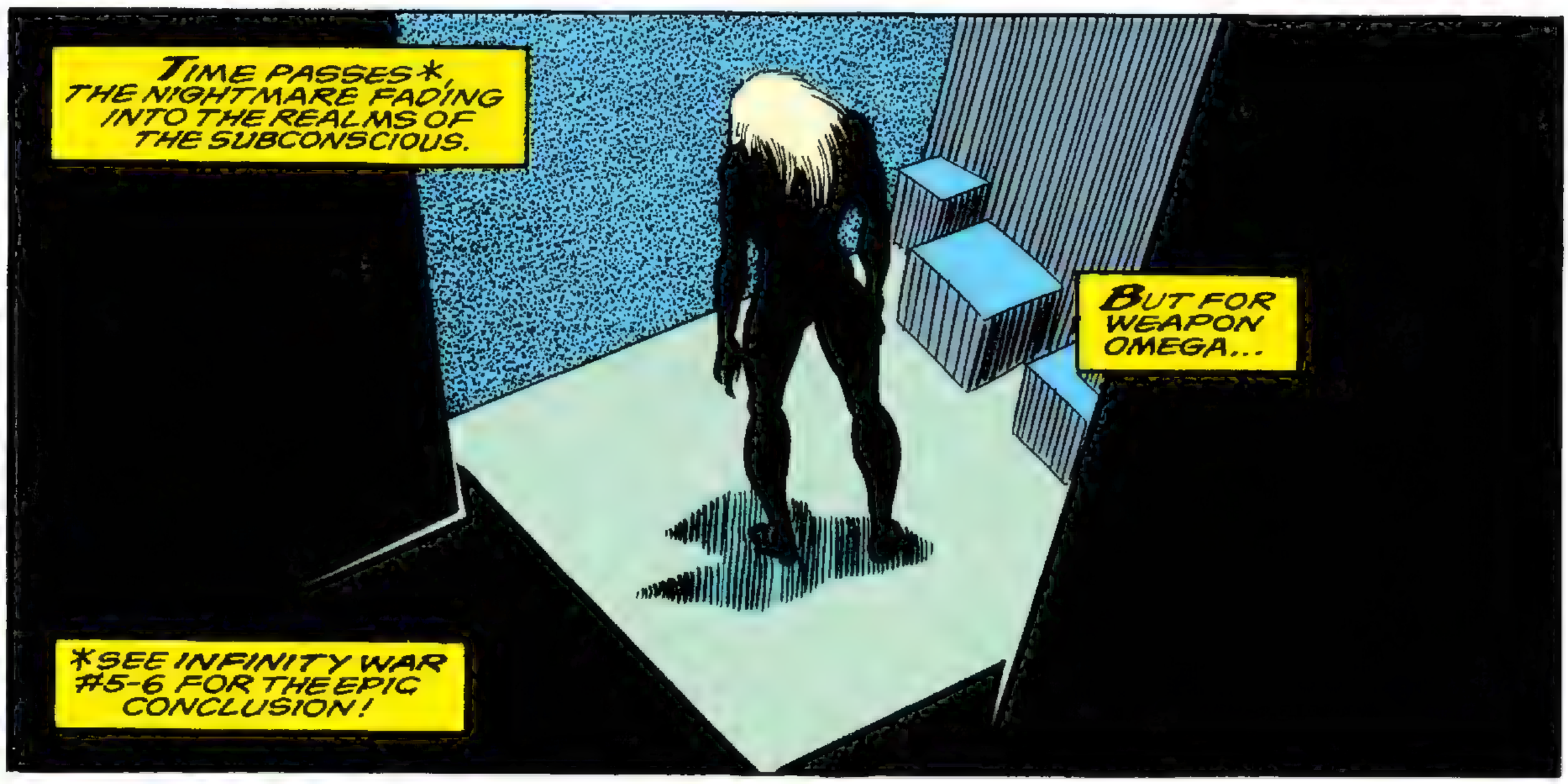

THE ANSWER IS A MAD GOD'S LAUGH, A MOCKING EPITAPH TO HUMANKIND'S LAST STAND!

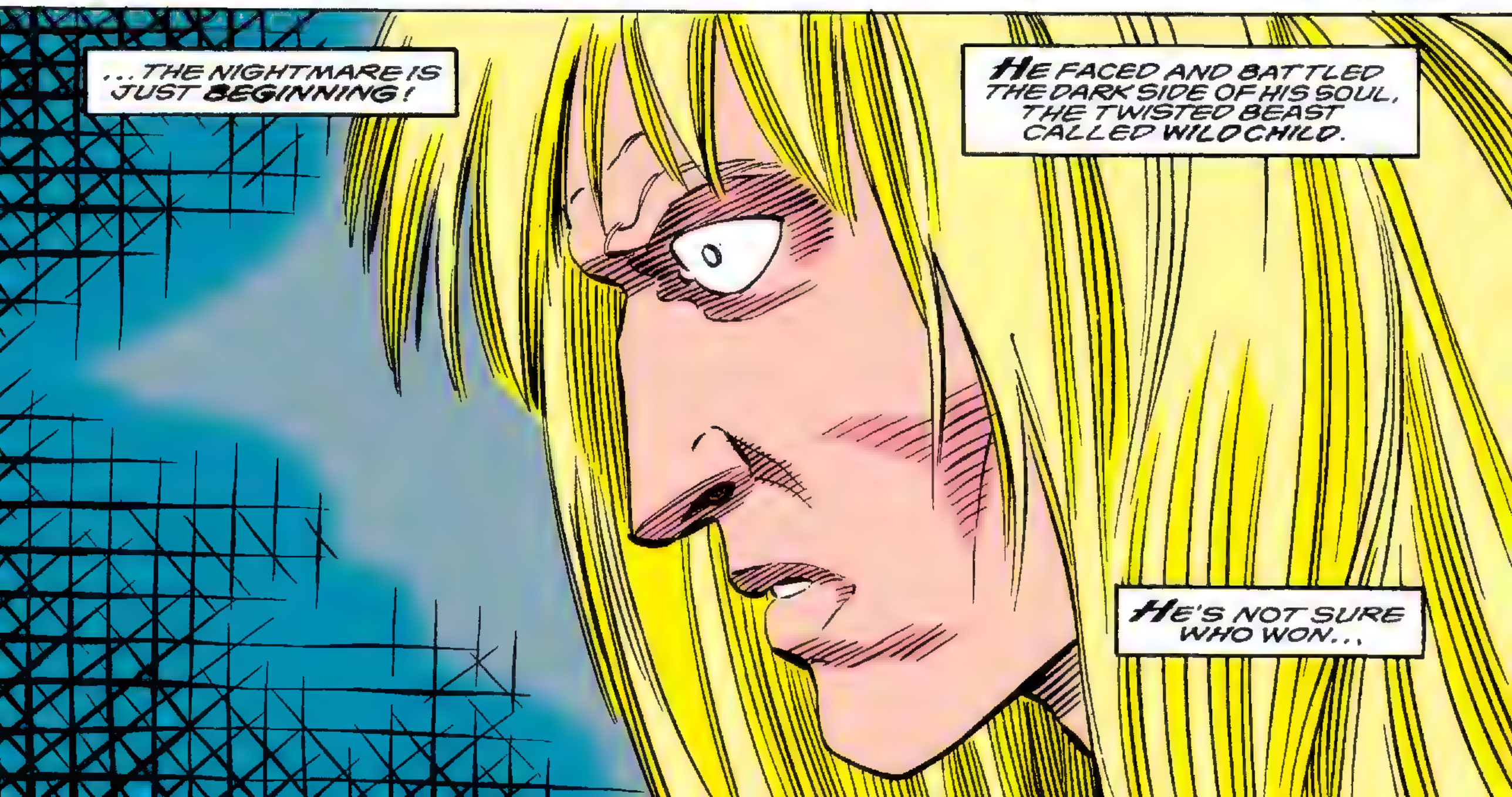

NO! YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET, MAGUS! TELEPORT SEQUENCE ENGAGED...
WITH US GONE, THE SKA'R CAN RETURN TO FEEDING ON-- UH?!

DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE, A PORTAL TO THE SKA'R CITY! BUT THAT WOULD MEAN--


GAMMA FLIGHT!
WAIT! IF YOU SEND THE SKA'R BACK THROUGH, EARTH IS DOOMED! YOU WILL ALL BECOME THRALLS OF THE MAGUS; UNTHINKING, UNGROWING!
I PROMISE A UTOPIA, ASKING ONLY UNQUESTIONABLE OBEDIENCE IN RETURN. IS THAT NOT PREFERABLE TO THE LIVING DEATH THE MAGUS INTENDS
GONE! BLAST! IS...IS HE RIGHT? ARE WE THE SPANNER IN SOME COSMIC WORKS? ARE WE SAVING EARTH...OR DOOMING IT?


I... DON'T KNOW. I JUST KNOW THERE ARE POWERS GREATER THAN WE TO LOOK AFTER THE UNIVERSE!
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW-- THE PEOPLE OF CANADA ARE DYING FOR A MADMAN'S WARPED DREAMS. AS PART OF ALPHA FLIGHT, OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY MUST ALWAYS BE TO THEM!
WINDSHEAR.
A STORM OF SOLID AIR PARTICLES SWEEPS THE SKA'R THROUGH THE PORTAL.
AND IT
ALL
ST
O
P
S.


TIME PASSES*, THE NIGHTMARE FADING INTO THE REALMS OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS.
BUT FOR WEAPON OMEGA...
*SEE INFINITY WAR #5-6 FOR THE EPIC CONCLUSION!


...THE NIGHTMARE IS JUST BEGINNING!
HE FACED AND BATTLED THE DARK SIDE OF HIS SOUL, THE TWISTED BEAST CALLED WILD CHILD.
HE'S NOT SURE WHO WON...

EPILOGUE...
I WAS WRONG, I ADMIT THAT FREELY.
I CALLED THEM THE BARE BONES OF A TEAM, AND THEY SHOWED ME A COHESIVE UNIT, STRONG AND RESOLUTE. I CALLED THEM CHILDREN AND THEY PROVED THEMSELVES WISE BEYOND THEIR YEARS.
I CALLED THEM GAMMA FLIGHT, WHEN IN TRUTH--
--THEY ARE
BETA FLIGHT™
AND WHERE WE WERE ONE TEAM... NOW WE ARE TWO!
THE END OF THIS CHAPTER...
...THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT!

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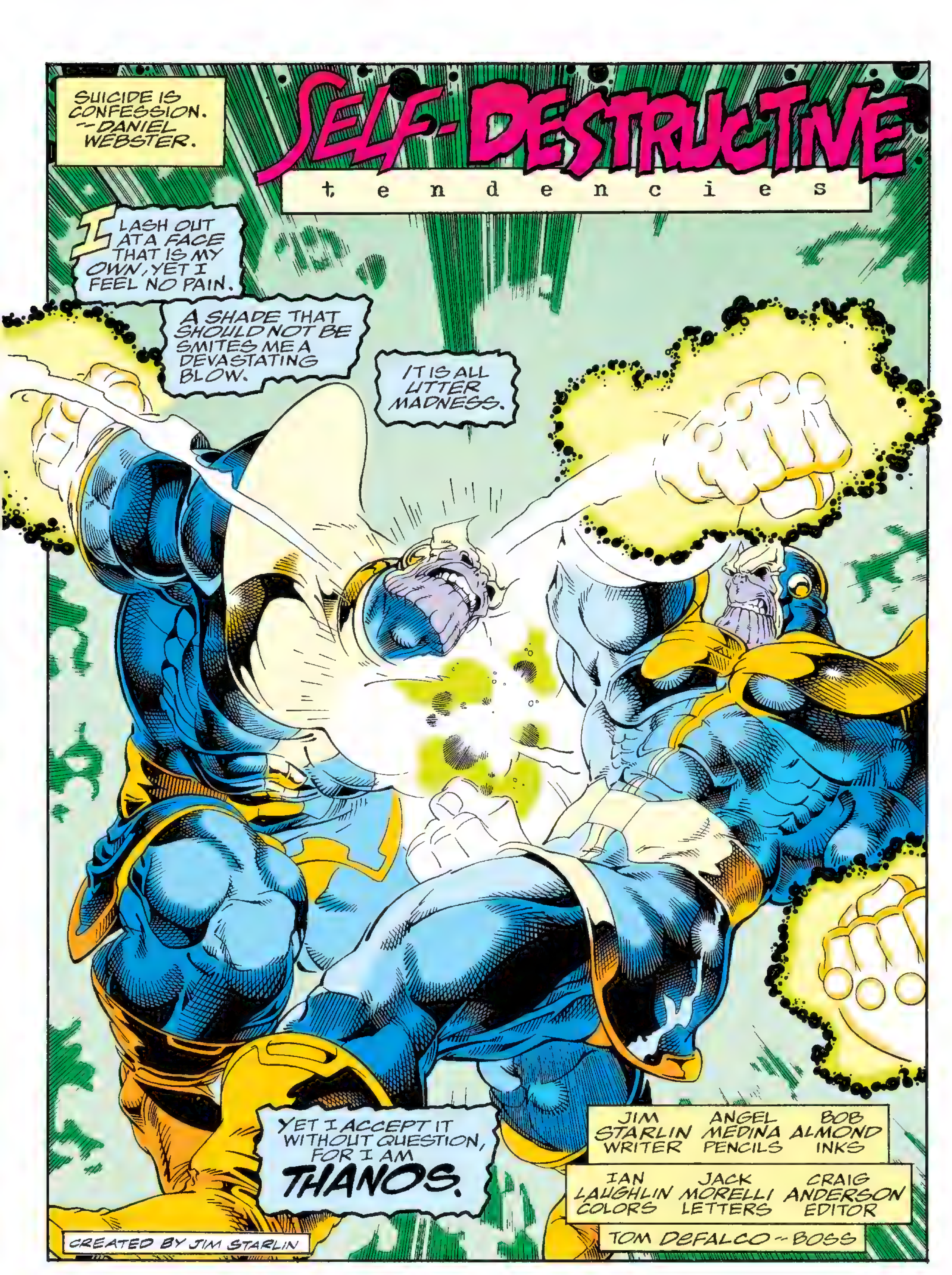
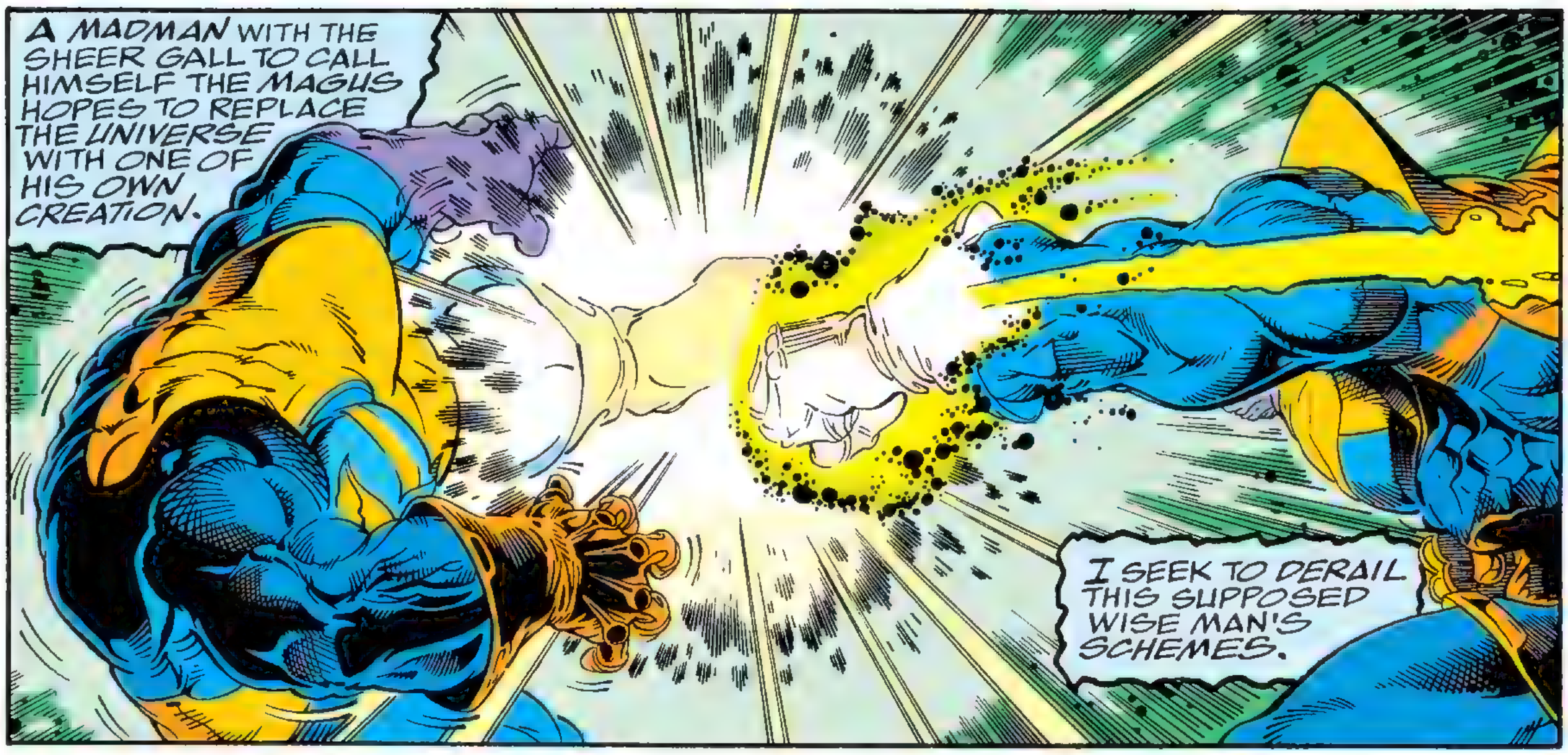
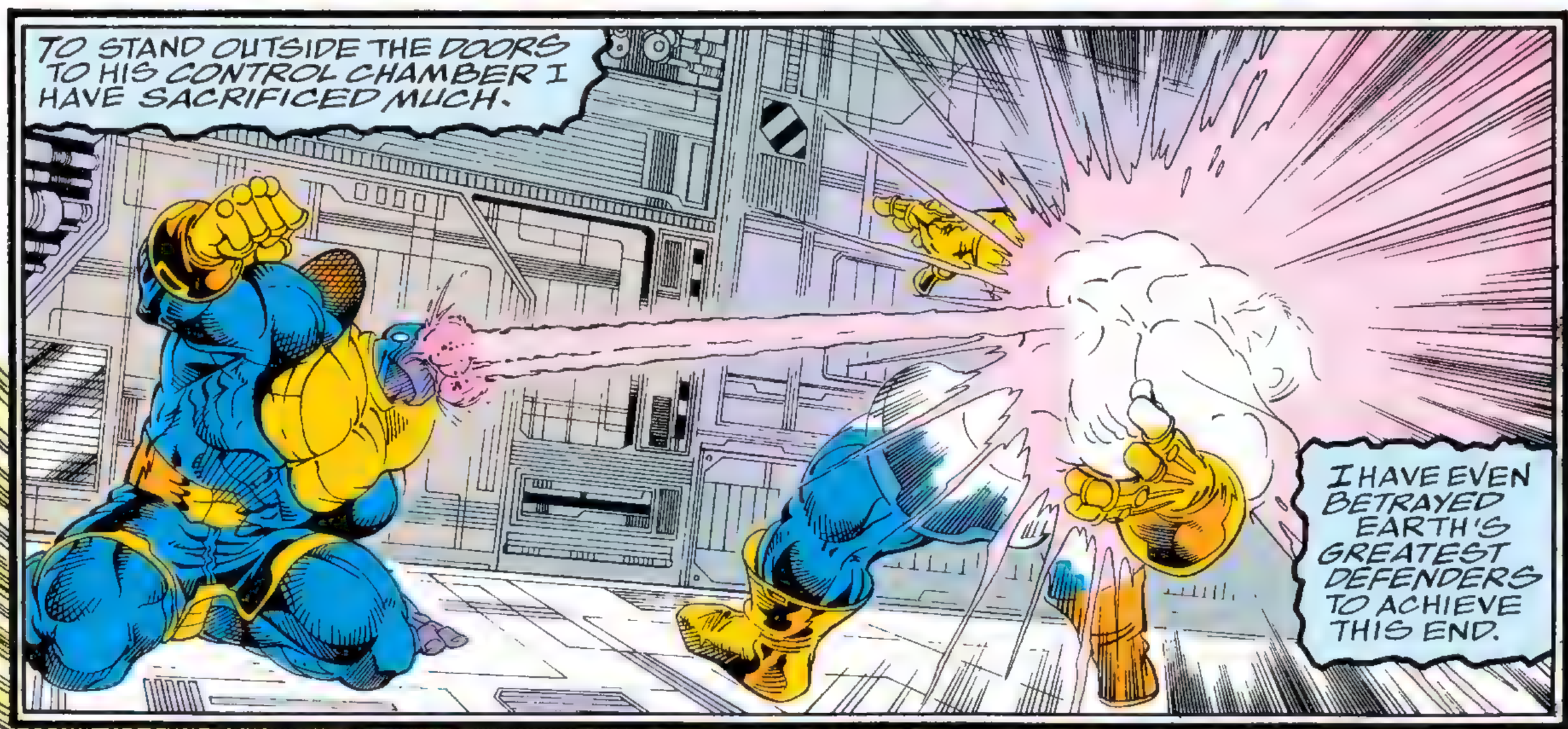
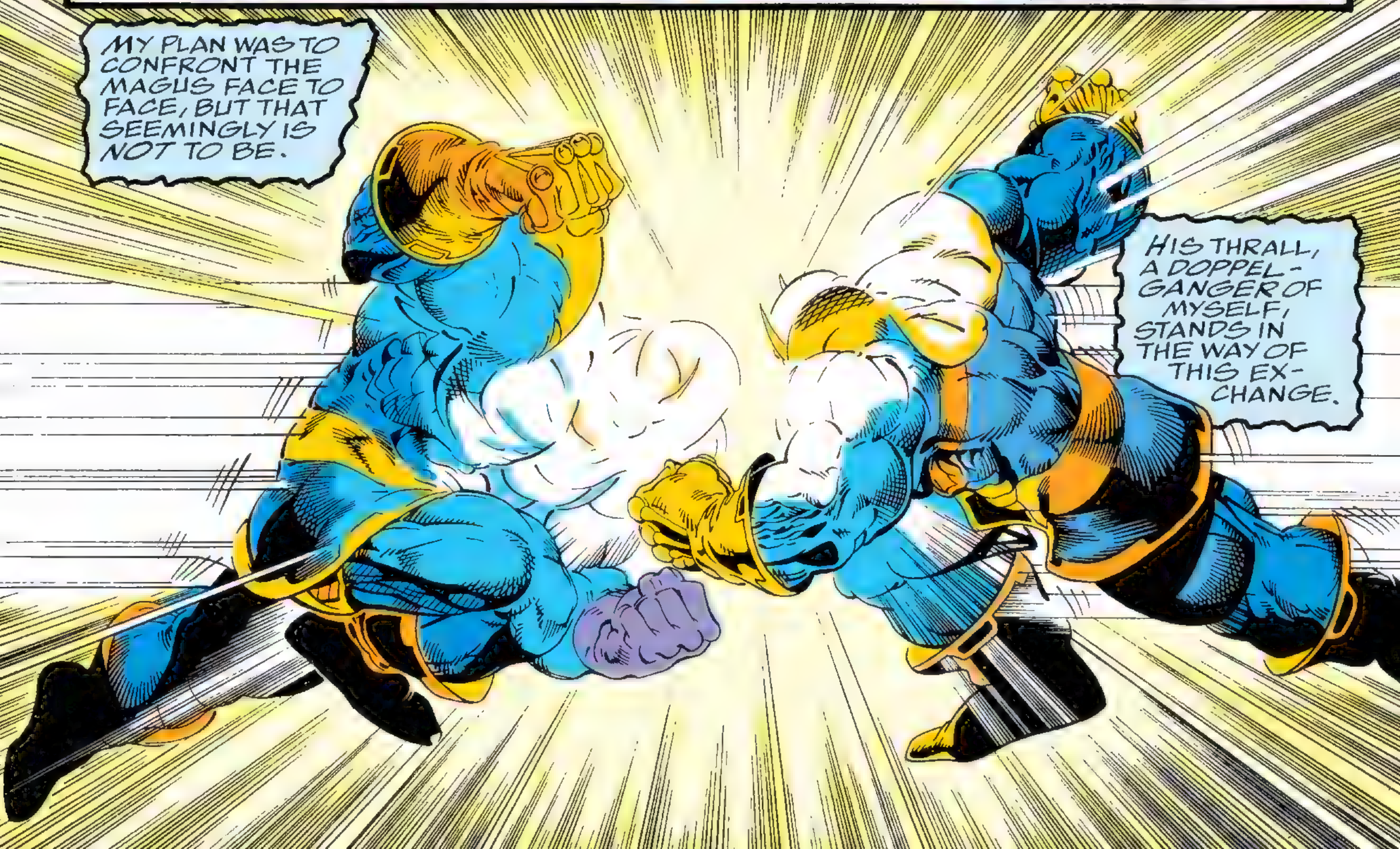
10 NOV
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WARLOCK
and the INFINITY WATCH
CLASH OF THE TITANS!


SUICIDE IS CONFESSION. --DANIEL WEBSTER.
SELF-DESTRUCTIVE tendencies
I LASH OUT AT A FACE THAT IS MY OWN, YET I FEEL NO PAIN.
A SHADE THAT SHOULD NOT BE SMITES ME A DEVASTATING BLOW.
IT IS ALL UTTER MADNESS.
YET I ACCEPT IT WITHOUT QUESTION, FOR I AM THANOS.
JIM STARLIN WRITER
ANGEL MEDINA PENCILS
BOB ALMOND INKS
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO--BOSS
CREATED BY JIM STARLIN


A MADMAN WITH THE SHEER GALL TO CALL HIMSELF THE MAGUS HOPES TO REPLACE THE UNIVERSE WITH ONE OF HIS OWN CREATION.
I SEEK TO DERAIL THIS SUPPOSED WISE MAN'S SCHEMES.


TO STAND OUTSIDE THE DOORS TO HIS CONTROL CHAMBER I HAVE SACRIFICED MUCH.
I HAVE EVEN BETRAYED EARTH'S GREATEST DEFENDERS TO ACHIEVE THIS END.


MY PLAN WAS TO CONFRONT THE MAGUS FACE TO FACE, BUT THAT SEEMINGLY IS NOT TO BE.
HIS THRALL, A DOPPEL-GANGER OF MYSELF, STANDS IN THE WAY OF THIS EX-CHANGE.

SO I MUST BEST THIS BOGUS SELF BEFORE DEALING WITH THE TRUE ARCHITECT OF MY REALITY'S TROUBLES.

NO EASY MATTER, SEEING AS HOW MY DOUBLE APPEARS TO POSSESS EVEN GREATER RAW POWER THAN MYSELF.

BUT THEN, THE UNFORESEEN OCCURS...

MASTER?

WHAT?

SCREEEEE

THE UNFORESEEN AND THE UNWANTED.

I IMMEDIATELY SENSE THE RAW POWER ISSUING FROM BEHIND THOSE DOORS.

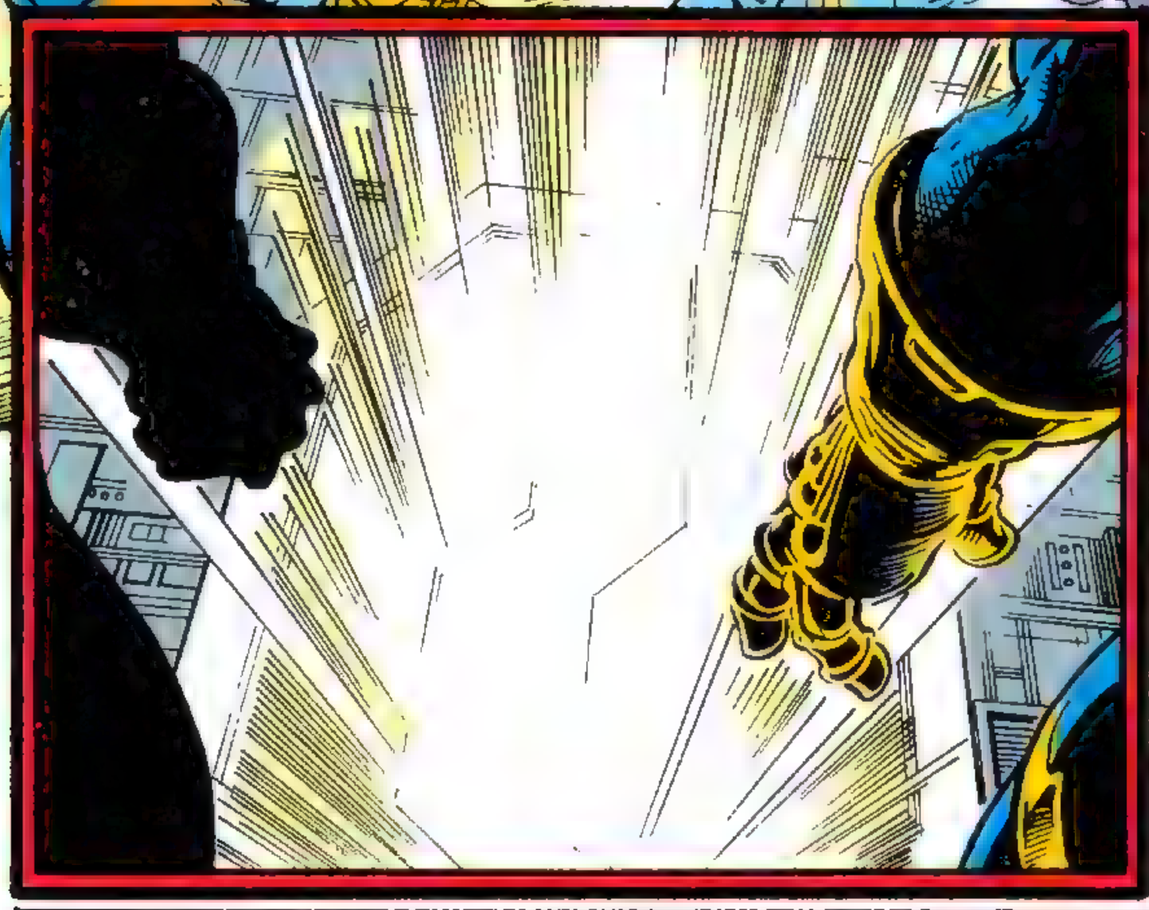
ONCE I WIELDED THAT UNMISTAKABLE MIGHT AND CLAIMED OMNIPOTENCE.

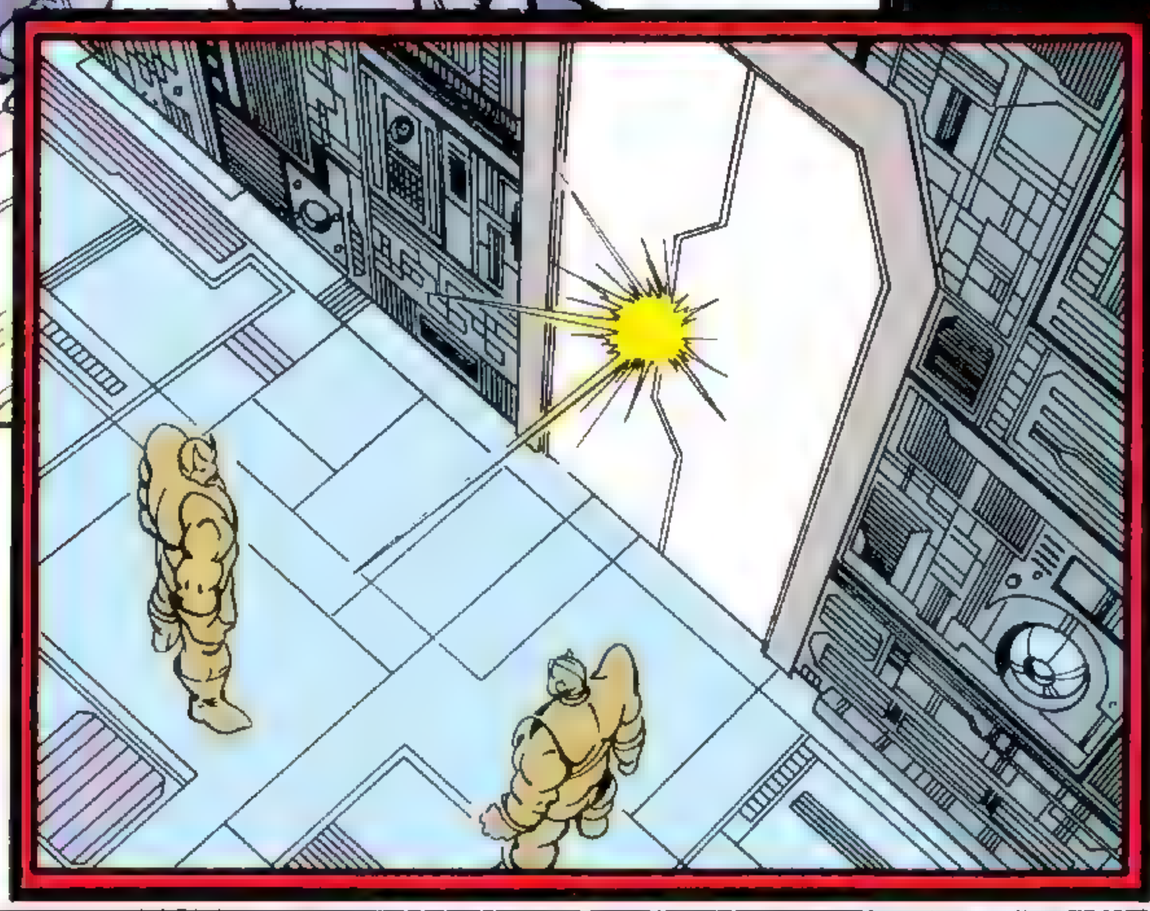
NOW ANOTHER WEARS THE MANTLE OF ALMIGHTINESS.
HE GAZES AT ME AND HIS CREATION, HALF-INTOXICATED WITH HIS NEW-FOUND MIGHT.
THE MAGUS, THE NEWEST SUPREME BEING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
AND BEHIND HIM, ADAM WARLOCK, THE BEING FROM WHOSE SPIRIT THIS DEADLY MADMAN SPRANG, TRAPPED AND HELPLESS.

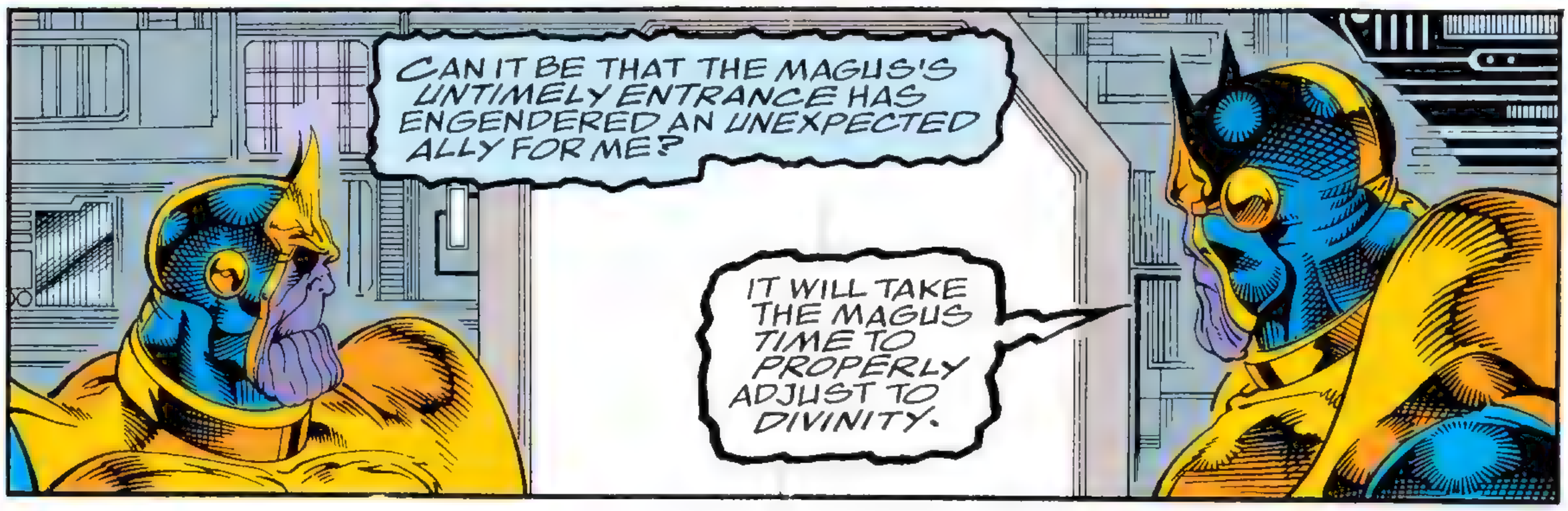
CARRY ON, DON'T MIND ME.

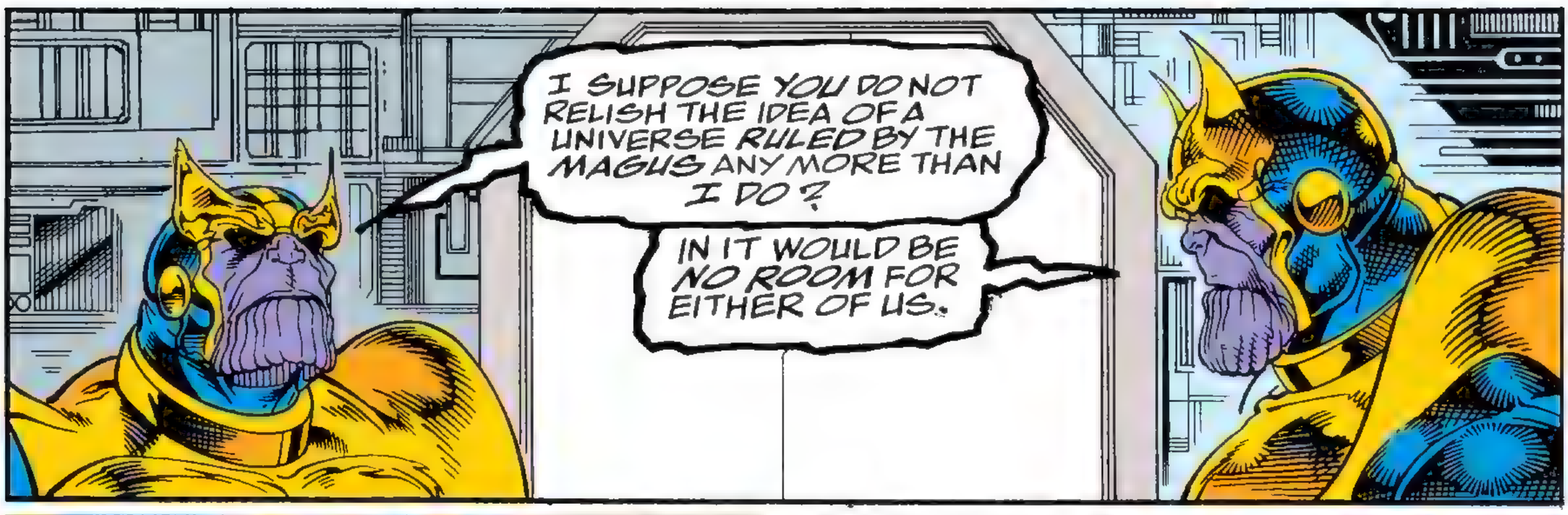
FINISH YOUR BATTLE.

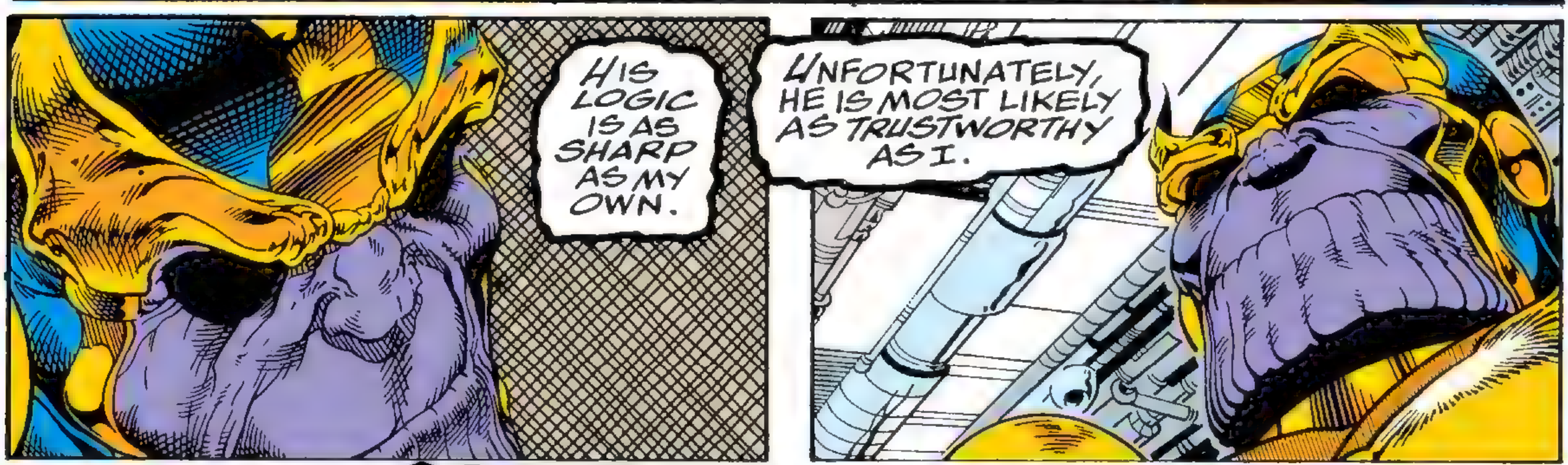
WHOEVER IS TRIUMPHANT MAY THEN JOIN ME WITHIN THIS CHAMBER.



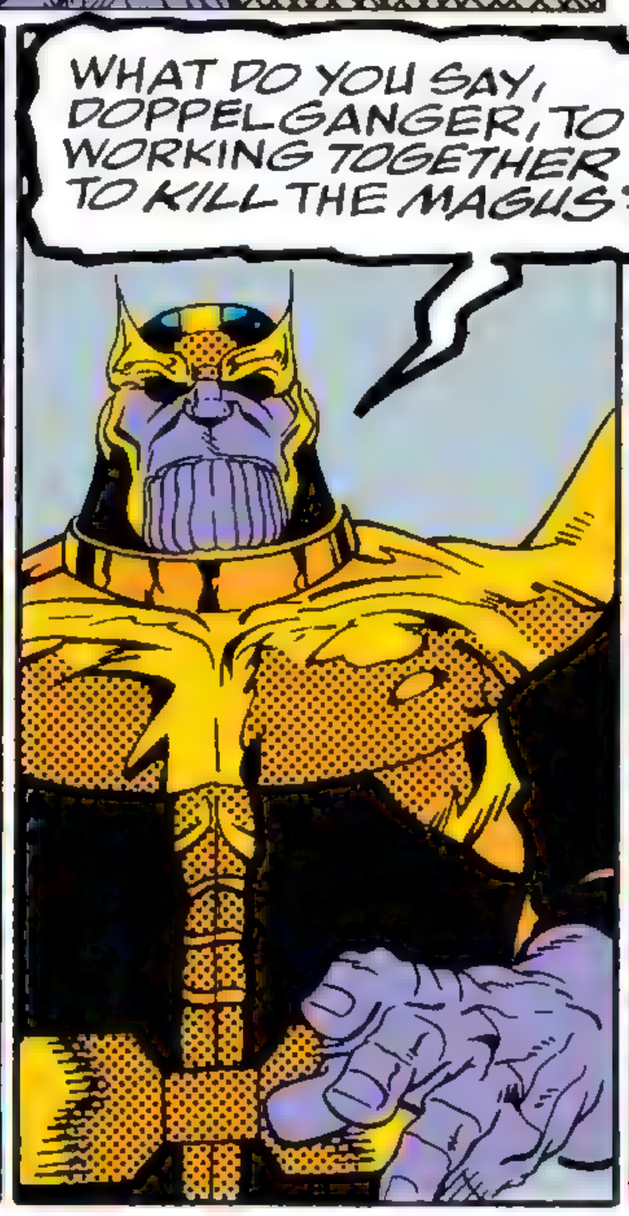





I SUPPOSE YOU DO NOT RELISH THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSE RULED BY THE MAGUS ANY MORE THAN I DO?
IN IT WOULD BE NO ROOM FOR EITHER OF US.


HIS LOGIC IS AS SHARP AS MY OWN.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS MOST LIKELY AS TRUSTWORTHY AS I.

I SENSE YOU HAVE A PROPOSAL TO MAKE, TITAN.

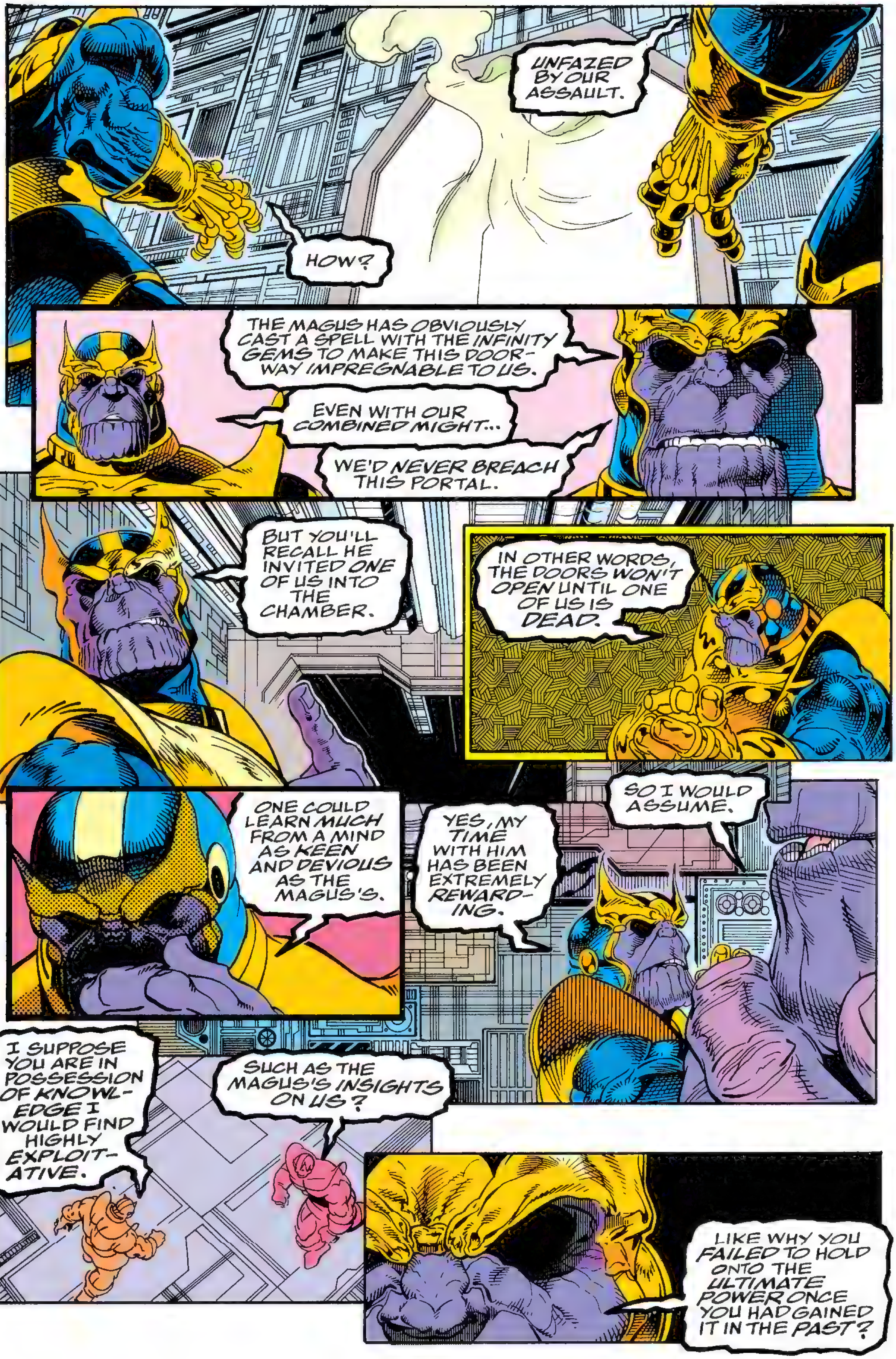

WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOPPELGANGER, TO WORKING TOGETHER TO KILL THE MAGUS?

IT APPEALS TO ME, BUT WHAT ABOUT AFTER-WARDS?

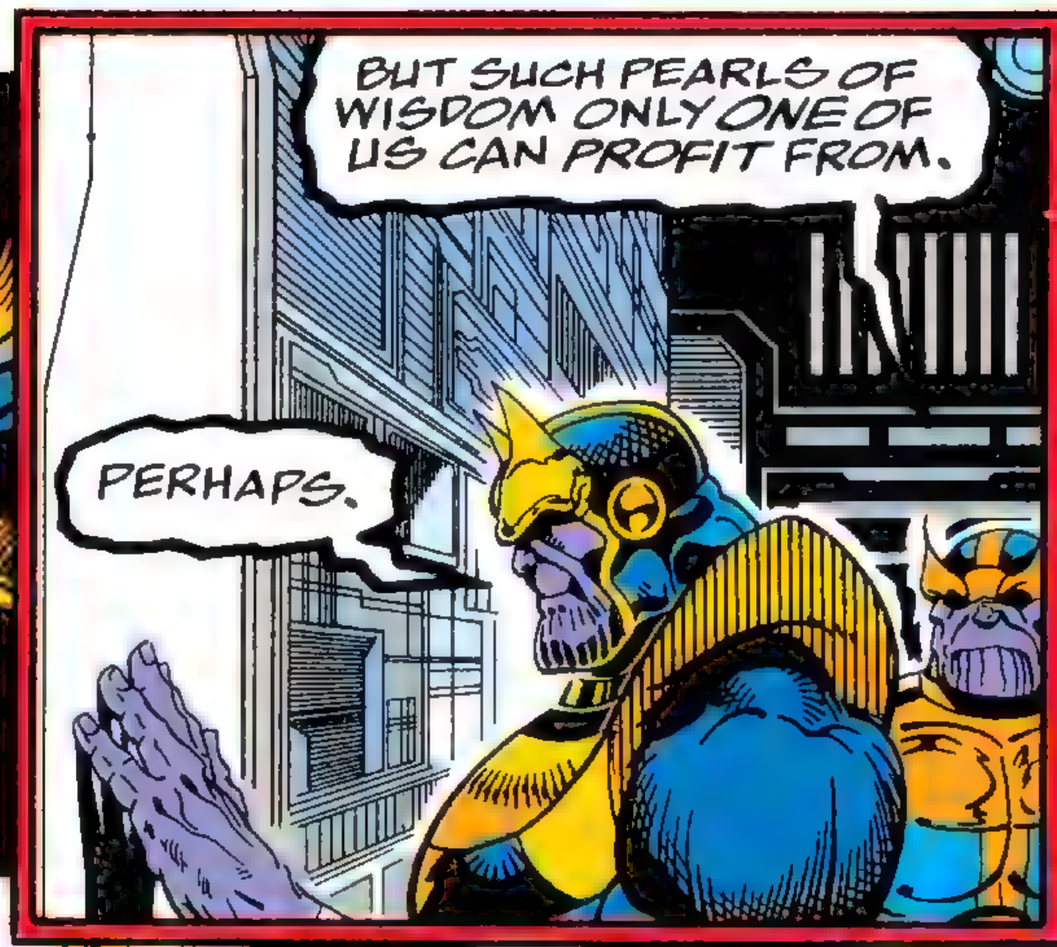
ONLY THEN DO WE SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES THAT LIE BETWEEN US.

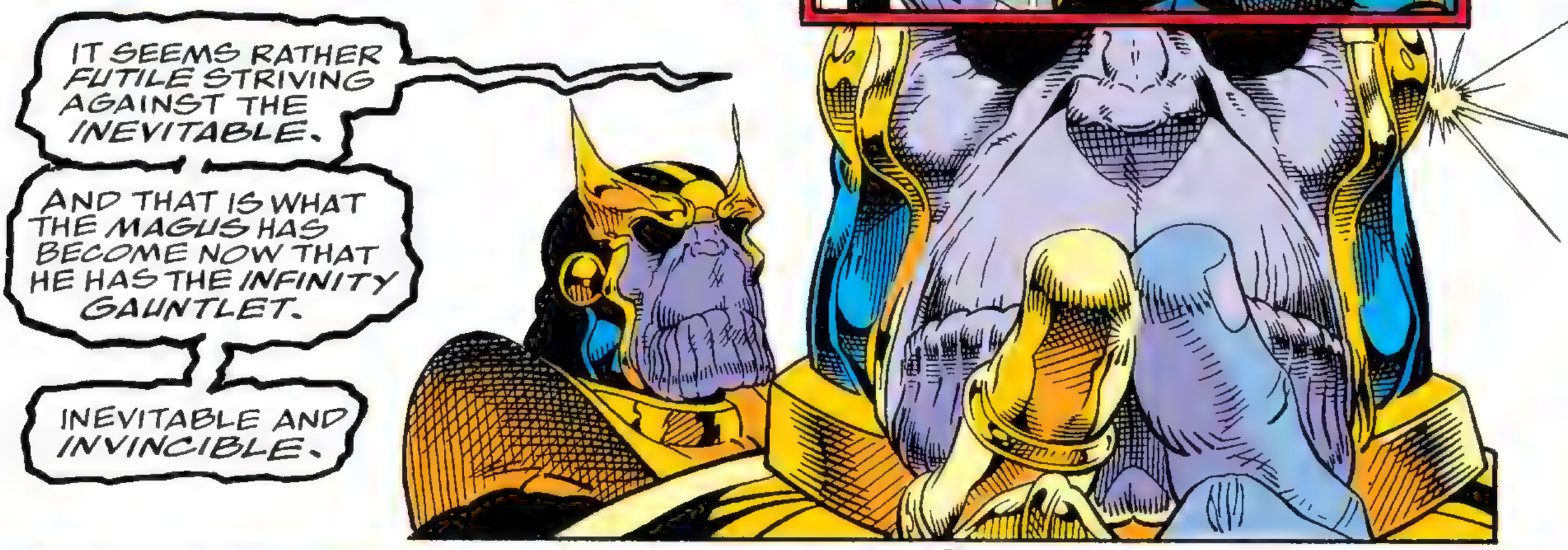
REALITY CAN ILL AFFORD MORE THAN ONE THANOS.
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY. BUT IN THE MEANTIME?
A TRUCE AND AN ALLIANCE IS AGREED UPON.

THEN LET US BE ABOUT DISPATCHING THE MAGUS FROM THIS LIFE.


UNFAZED BY OUR ASSAULT.
HOW?
THE MAGUS HAS OBVIOUSLY CAST A SPELL WITH THE INFINITY GEMS TO MAKE THIS DOOR-WAY IMPREGNABLE TO US.
EVEN WITH OUR COMBINED MIGHT...
WE'D NEVER BREACH THIS PORTAL.
BUT YOU'LL RECALL HE INVITED ONE OF US INTO THE CHAMBER.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE DOORS WON'T OPEN UNTIL ONE OF US IS DEAD.
ONE COULD LEARN MUCH FROM A MIND AS KEEN AND DEVIOUS AS THE MAGUS'S.
YES, MY TIME WITH HIM HAS BEEN EXTREMELY REWARD-ING.
SO I WOULD ASSUME.
I SUPPOSE YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF KNOWL-EDGE I WOULD FIND HIGHLY EXPLOIT-ATIVE.
SUCH AS THE MAGUS'S INSIGHTS ON US?
LIKE WHY YOU FAILED TO HOLD ONTO THE ULTIMATE POWER ONCE YOU HAD GAINED IT IN THE PAST?

AND WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO RETAIN THAT WHICH YOU MAY GAIN IN THE FUTURE?
YES, THOSE WOULD BE PRICELESS LESSONS.


BUT SUCH PEARLS OF WISDOM ONLY ONE OF US CAN PROFIT FROM.
PERHAPS.


IT SEEMS RATHER FUTILE STRIVING AGAINST THE INEVITABLE.
AND THAT IS WHAT THE MAGUS HAS BECOME NOW THAT HE HAS THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
INEVITABLE AND INVINCIBLE.

MAYBE YOU AND I WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO ABANDON THIS REALITY FOR GREENER PASTURES.
IN SOME FAR DISTANT DIMENSION, MIGHT WE NOT FIND YET ANOTHER INFINITY GAUNTLET AND BECOME GOD OF THAT ACTUALITY?

UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE SOME CERTAIN SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REALITY.
ASDOI.

WHICH IS WHY YOU MUST DIE!
THE WORDS SPRING FORTH WITH MORE FEELING THAN CONVICTION.
MY DOUBLE WILL NOT EASILY PASS OVER THE GREAT DIVIDE.
HIS POWER IS STAGGERING.
BUT EVEN MORE DISTURBING IS THE DOUBT I HAVE THAT I CAN DELIVER A KILLING BLOW TO HIM.

SUCH A FASCINATING BLEND OF EVIL AMBITION AND FLAWED NOBILITY.

A TRULY UNIQUE BEING, YOUR FRIEND THANOS.

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO OF HIM.

BUT THAT IS AT BEST ONLY A TEMPORARY SITUATION.

MY AUGMENTING THE MIGHT OF THE COPY WILL INSURE DEATH TO THE ORIGINAL.

THEN I WILL PERSONALLY DEAL WITH MY DISLOYAL THRALL.

EVEN THE INDULGENCES OF GODS HAVE THEIR LIMITS.

A BALANCE WILL BE STRUCK. TWO OF ANYTHING IS ONE TOO MANY.

WHERE THERE IS NOW EARTH'S DEFENDERS AND MY EVIL DOUBLES, THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE SET.

MY SET.

AS THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE UNIVERSE.

MY UNIVERSE.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE EXISTENCE.

MY EXISTENCE!

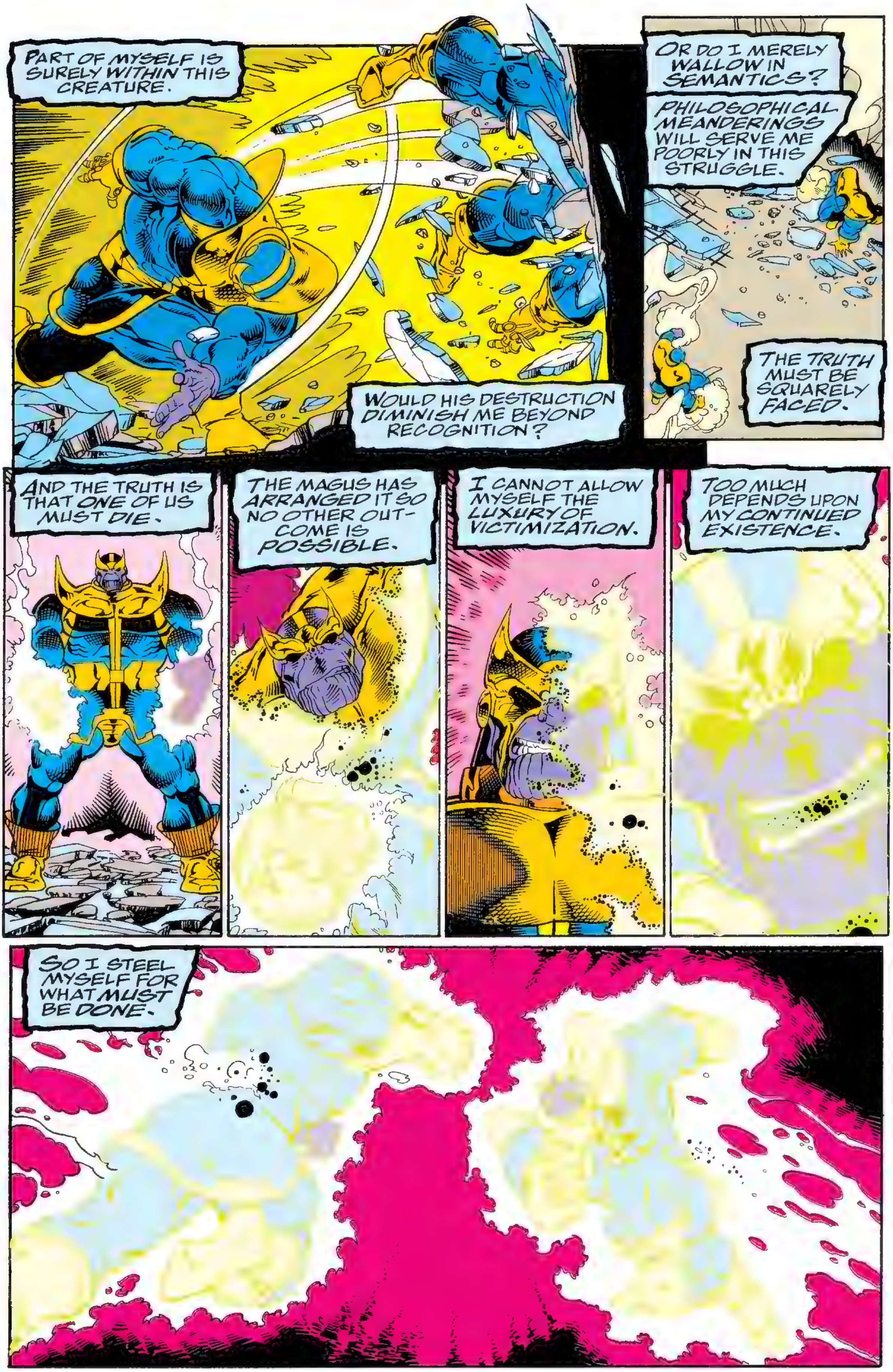
DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY WORDS, ADAM WARLOCK ?!?

OF COURSE YOU DO.

HOW COULD YOU NOT?

THE DOPPELGANGER SENSES THE WEAKNESS WITHIN ME AND STRIKES MERCILESSLY.
HE IS THE KILLING MACHINE I SHOULD BE.
THE PRE-INFINITY GAUNTLET AFFAIR THANOS WOULD HAVE ALREADY DISPATCHED OF THIS BOTHERSOME DOUBLE.
BUT THAT COLD AND CALCULATING CREATURE NO LONGER EXISTS WITHIN ME.
MY BRUSH WITH OMNIPOTENCE AND THE STINGING WORDS OF ACCURSED WARLOCK HAVE DIMMED THE INNER CRAVINGS AND FIRE.

I AM BUT A SHADOW OF WHAT I ONCE WAS.
AND THAT SHADOW WILL SOON PERISH UNLESS CERTAIN RESURRECTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY INSTITUTED.
BUT WILL EVEN THAT BE ENOUGH TO WIN OUT?
HE THINKS LIKE I DO, AND STRIKES AS SAVAGELY AS I WOULD IF WHOLE.
NOT FROM EMPTY AIR WAS HE CREATED.
TO DESTROY THIS MIRRORED MENACE IS TO KILL A PART OF MYSELF.


PART OF MYSELF IS SURELY WITHIN THIS CREATURE.
WOULD HIS DESTRUCTION DIMINISH ME BEYOND RECOGNITION?
OR DO I MERELY WALLOW IN SEMANTICS?
PHILOSOPHICAL MEANDERINGS WILL SERVE ME POORLY IN THIS STRUGGLE.
THE TRUTH MUST BE SQUARELY FACED.
AND THE TRUTH IS THAT ONE OF US MUST DIE.
THE MAGUS HAS ARRANGED IT SO NO OTHER OUT-COME IS POSSIBLE.
I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF THE LUXURY OF VICTIMIZATION.
TOO MUCH DEPENDS UPON MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE.
SO I STEEL MYSELF FOR WHAT MUST BE DONE.

ASTRAL SUICIDE!

A SACRIFICE HARD TO COMPREHEND.

BUT ONE THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED.

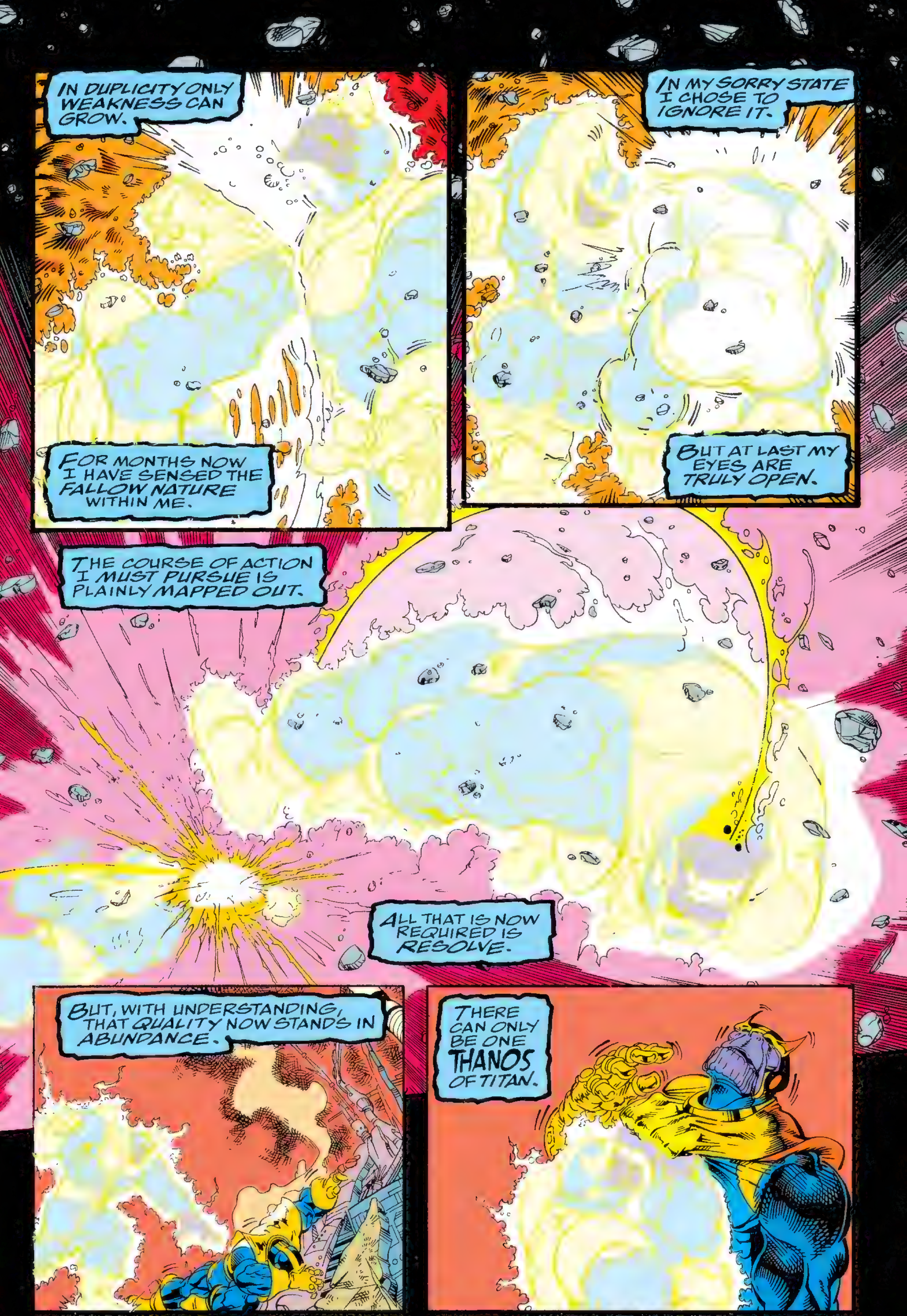
IT IS SUDDENLY ALL SO CLEAR TO ME.

DESPITE HIS POWER, THE DOUBLE IS BUT PART OF THE WHOLE.

WARLOCK IN WORD AND DIVINE ACTION MUST HAVE SURELY CREATED THIS INTOLERABLE SITUATION.

REMEDYING IT IS THE UNIVERSE'S ONLY SALVATION.

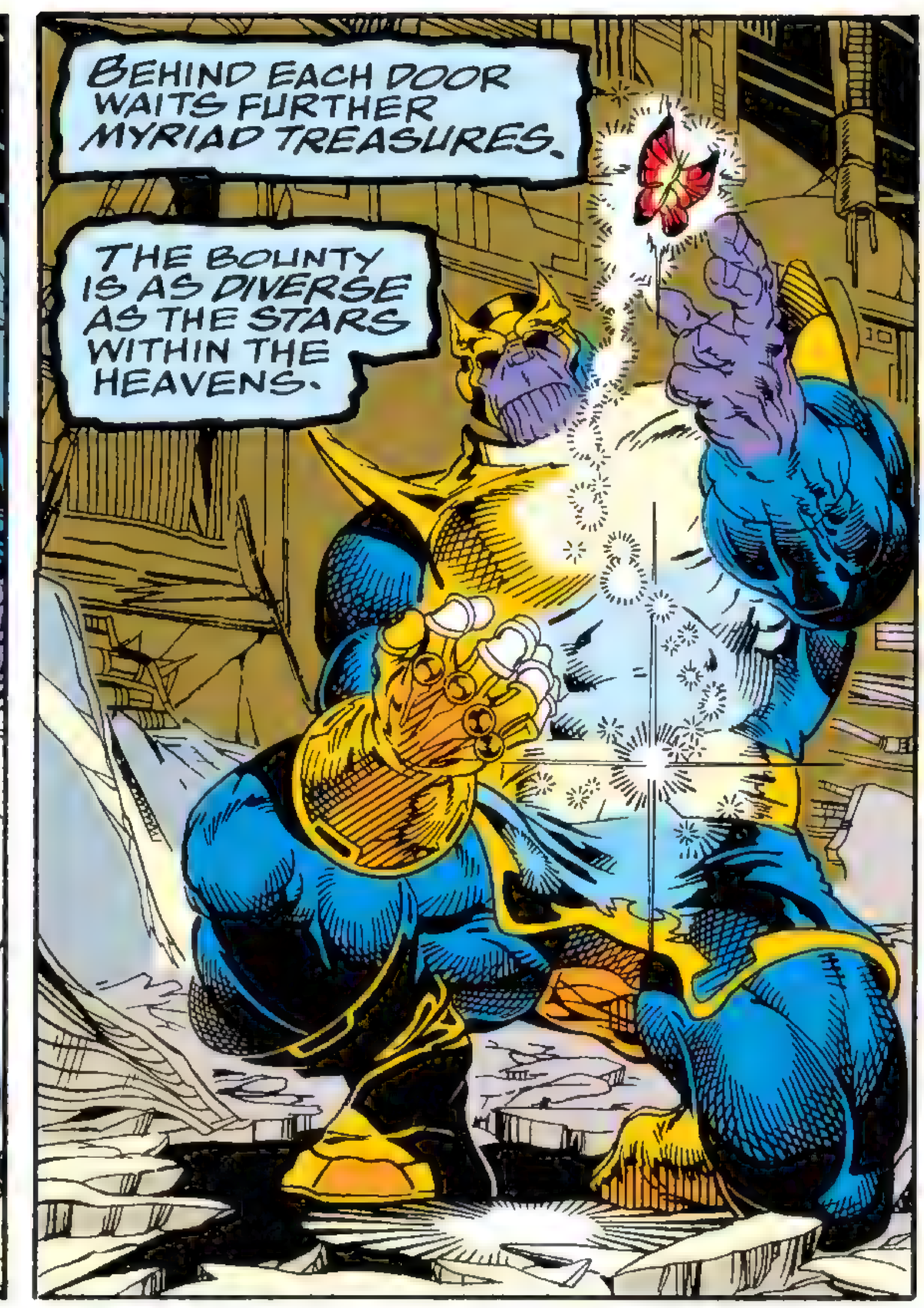
THAT WHICH WAS MUST BE REUNITED WITH THAT WHICH IS.


IN DUPLICITY ONLY WEAKNESS CAN GROW.
FOR MONTHS NOW I HAVE SENSED THE FALLOW NATURE WITHIN ME.
IN MY SORRY STATE I CHOSE TO IGNORE IT.
BUT AT LAST MY EYES ARE TRULY OPEN.
THE COURSE OF ACTION I MUST PURSUE IS PLAINLY MAPPED OUT.
ALL THAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS RESOLVE.
BUT, WITH UNDERSTANDING, THAT QUALITY NOW STANDS IN ABUNDANCE.
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE THANOS OF TITAN.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, ALL I NEED DO IS SIP FROM THE CHALICE OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.
DO I DARE?
YET!

IN RETROSPECT IT ALL SEEMS INCREDIBLY EASY.
THE HUSK IS MERELY CLAY RETURNING TO THE EARTH.
SIMPLY A CONTAINER, DULL AND UNIMPRESSIVE COMPARED TO THE TREASURE WITHIN IT.
BUT ONLY ONE SUCH AS I, WHO HAS LOOKED BEYOND THE VEIL, COULD RECOGNIZE THIS PRIZE FOR WHAT IT IS.
ONLY A BEING OF DARK KNOWLEDGE AND VAST POWER COULD GRASP THIS ELUSIVE GRAIL.

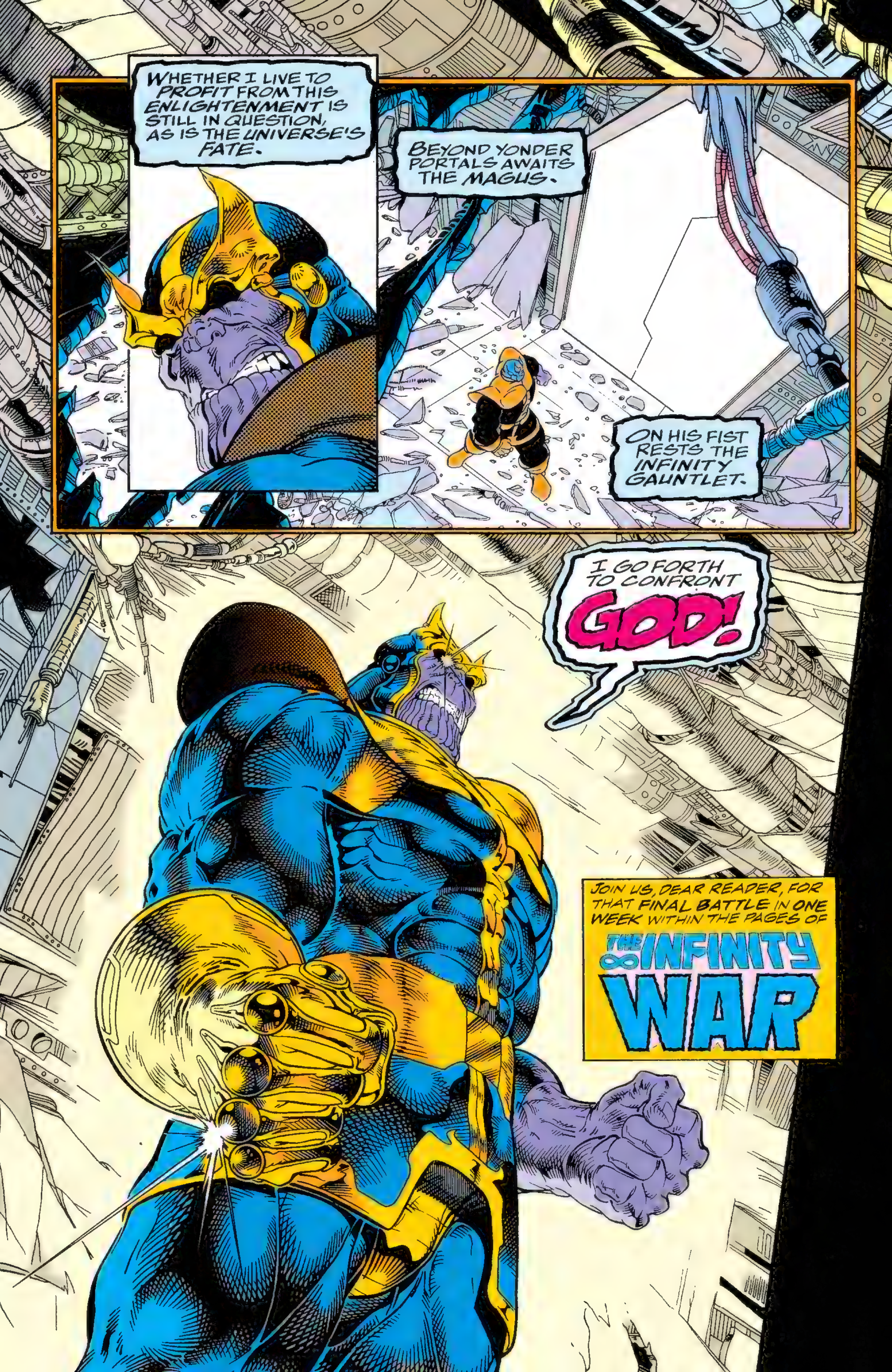
ONE NEED ONLY INTERRUPT THE NORMAL CYCLE OF REBIRTH TO GAIN FULL COMPREHENSION.
WITH SUCH UNDERSTANDING ENDLESS DOORS OPEN WITHOUT EFFORT.


BEHIND EACH DOOR WAITS FURTHER MYRIAD TREASURES.
THE BOUNTY IS AS DIVERSE AS THE STARS WITHIN THE HEAVENS.

BUT THE GILDED GOAL I SEEK IS THE MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL.
FURTHER ENLIGHTENMENT.

I WAIT PATIENTLY FOR DIVINE REVELATION, FOR THE BLINDERS TO BE LIFTED FROM MY EYES.
TIME LENGTHENS. I BEGIN TO WONDER IF INSPIRATION WILL EVER COME TO ME.
THEN...
AAAAAARRGGHH!

UNDERSTANDING.
IT IS NOW MINE.
IT AGAIN BURNS WITHIN MY DARK SOUL.
ALL MY DOPPEL-GANGER WAS IS NOW PART OF ME, INCLUDING THE MAGUS'S INSIGHTS ON MY INNER SELF.
HOW CLEARLY HE PERCEIVED THE MIS-CONCEPTIONS AND DELUSIONS I HAD ENSHROUDED MYSELF IN.
SO PAINFULLY OBVIOUS NOW.
IT WILL TAKE TIME TO SET THINGS RIGHT WITHIN THE TWISTING CORRIDORS OF MY SELF.
BUT...
...ONCE AGAIN THANOS OF TITAN IS WHOLE!
UNFORTUNATELY THIS BE NOT THE TIME TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SOUL SHARD.
ALL MY EFFORTS MAY STILL BE FOR NAUGHT.


WHETHER I LIVE TO PROFIT FROM THIS ENLIGHTENMENT IS STILL IN QUESTION, AS IS THE UNIVERSE'S FATE.
BEYOND YONDER PORTALS AWAITS THE MAGUS.
ON HIS FIST RESTS THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
I GO FORTH TO CONFRONT GOD!
JOIN US, DEAR READER, FOR THAT FINAL BATTLE IN ONE WEEK WITHIN THE PAGES OF
THE INFINITY WAR

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Fantastic Four

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REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! **BEN GRIMM,** THE THING! **SUE RICHARDS,** INVISIBLE WOMAN! **JOHNNY STORM,** THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

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PLOT, PENCILS, SCRIPT

DANNY BULANADI
INKS

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS

GINA GOING
COLORS

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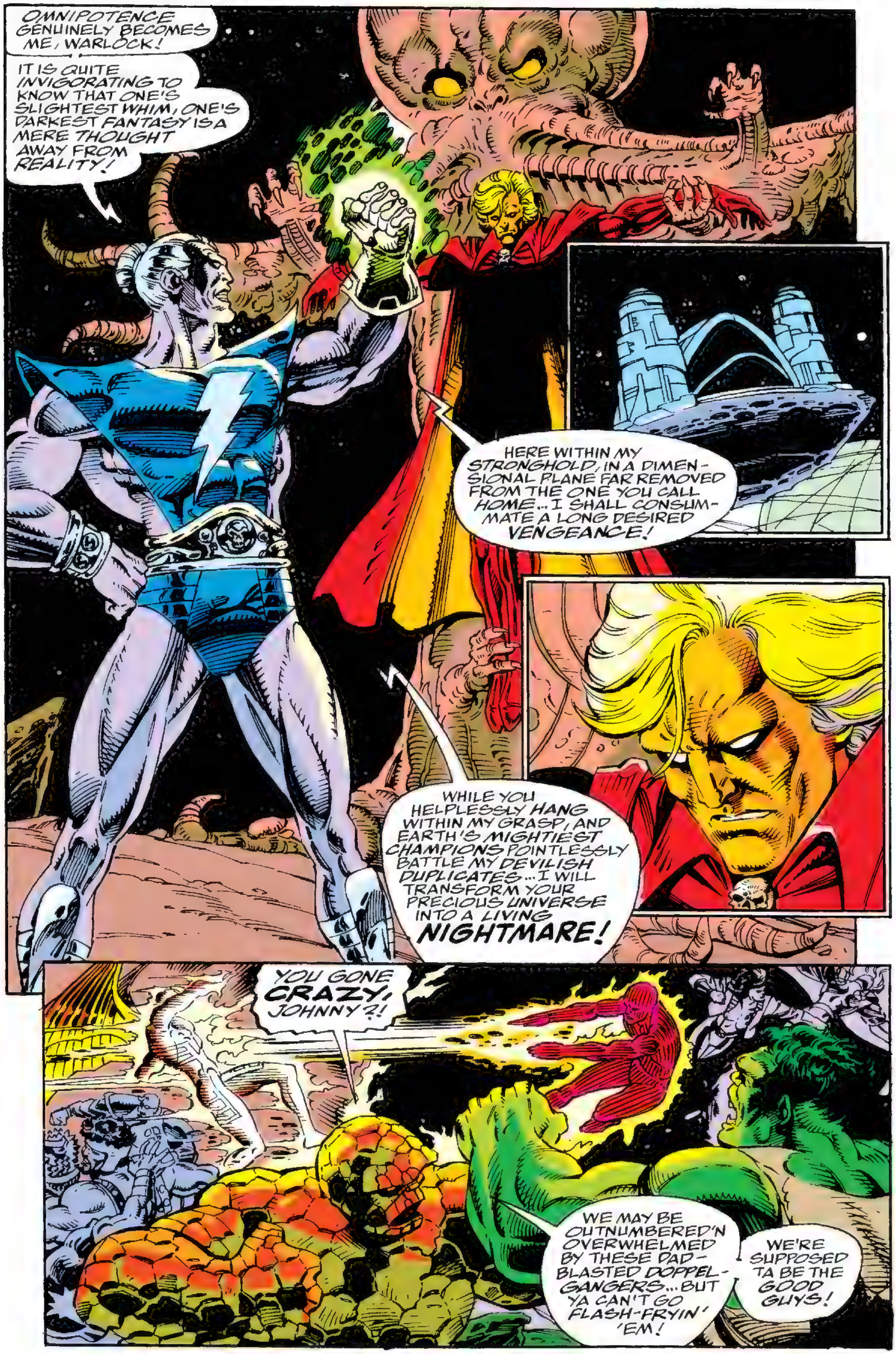
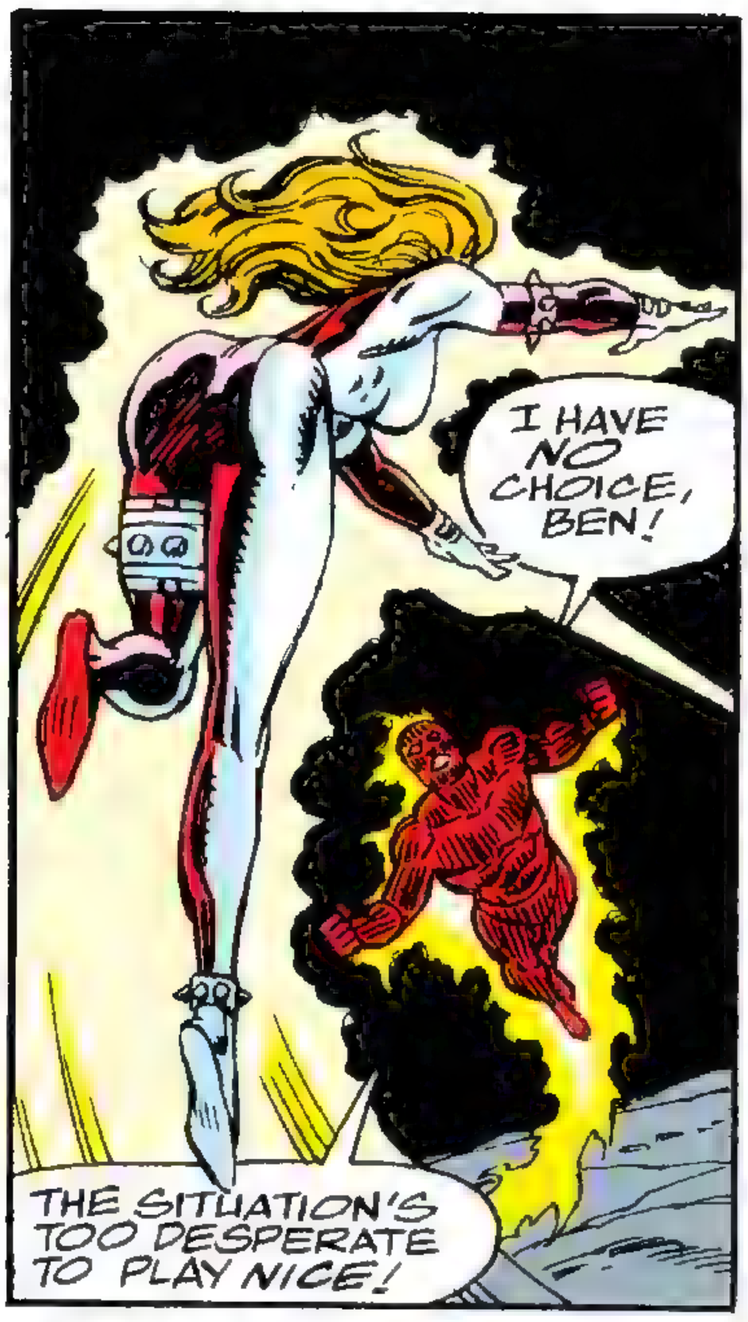
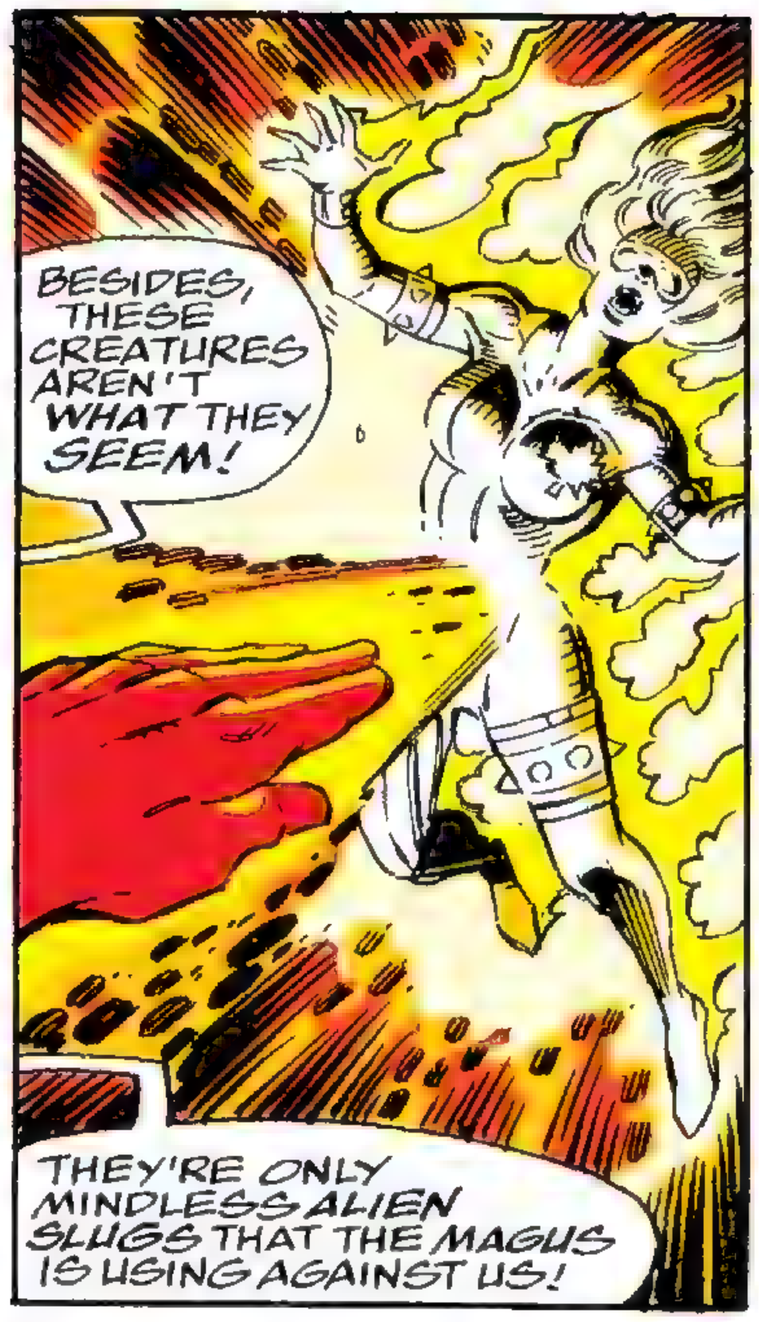
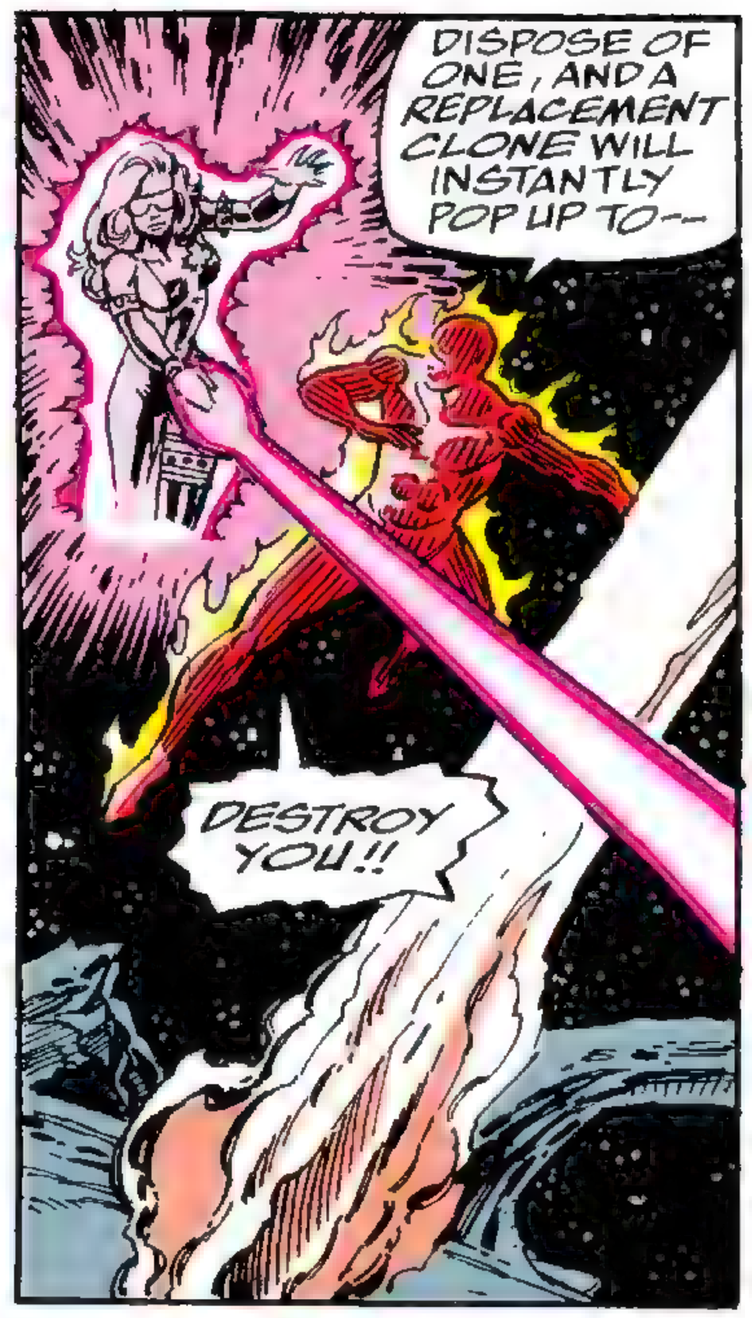
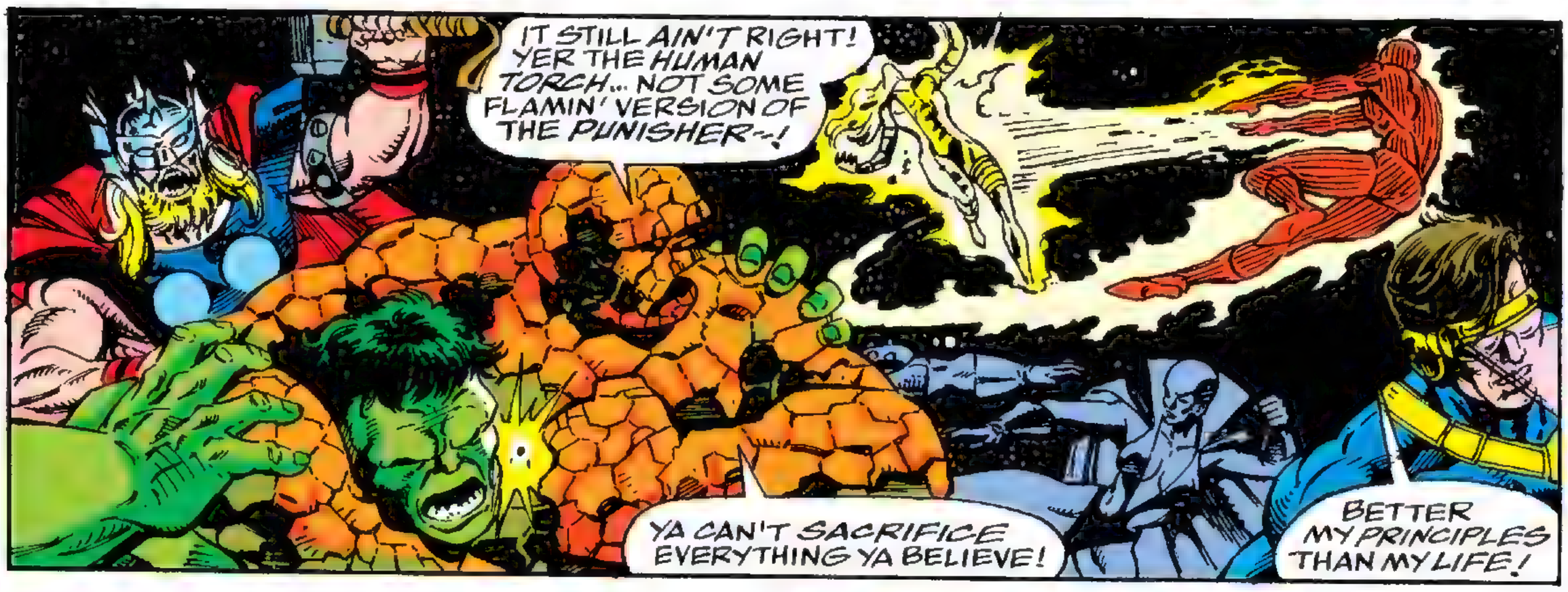
EDITOR


OMNIPOTENCE GENUINELY BECOMES ME, WARLOCK!
IT IS QUITE INVIGORATING TO KNOW THAT ONE'S SLIGHTEST WHIM, ONE'S DARKEST FANTASY IS A MERE THOUGHT AWAY FROM REALITY!
HERE WITHIN MY STRONGHOLD, IN A DIMENSIONAL PLANE FAR REMOVED FROM THE ONE YOU CALL HOME... I SHALL CONSUMMATE A LONG DESIRED VENGEANCE!
WHILE YOU HELPLESSLY HANG WITHIN MY GRASP, AND EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAMPIONS POINTLESSLY BATTLE MY DEVILISH DUPLICATES... I WILL TRANSFORM YOUR PRECIOUS UNIVERSE INTO A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
YOU GONE CRAZY, JOHNNY?!
WE MAY BE OUTNUMBERED'N OVERWHELMED BY THESE DAD-BLASTED DOPPEL-GANGERS... BUT YA CAN'T GO FLASH-FRYIN' 'EM!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TA BE THE GOOD GUYS!

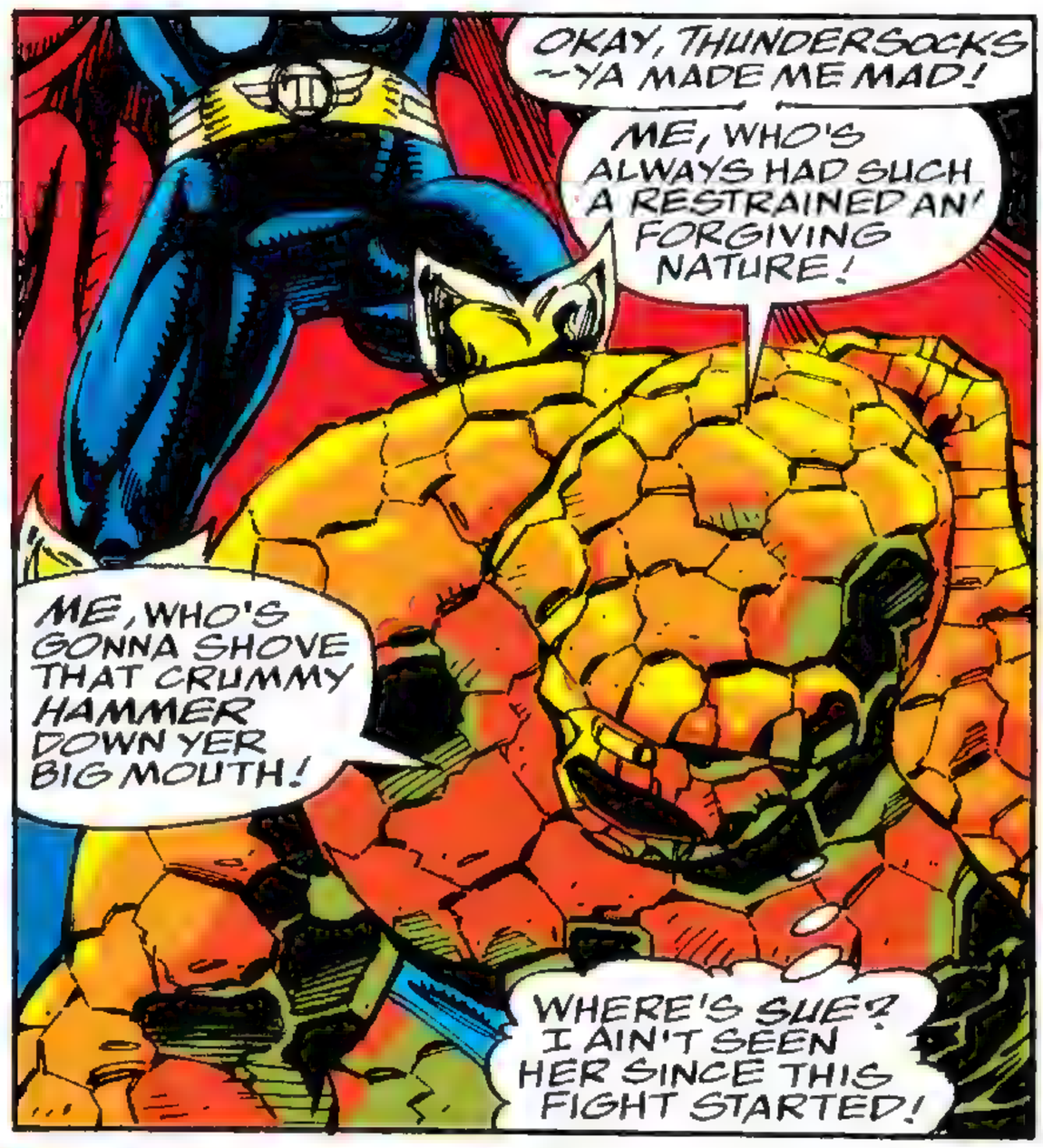

I HAVE NO CHOICE, BEN!
THE SITUATION'S TOO DESPERATE TO PLAY NICE!

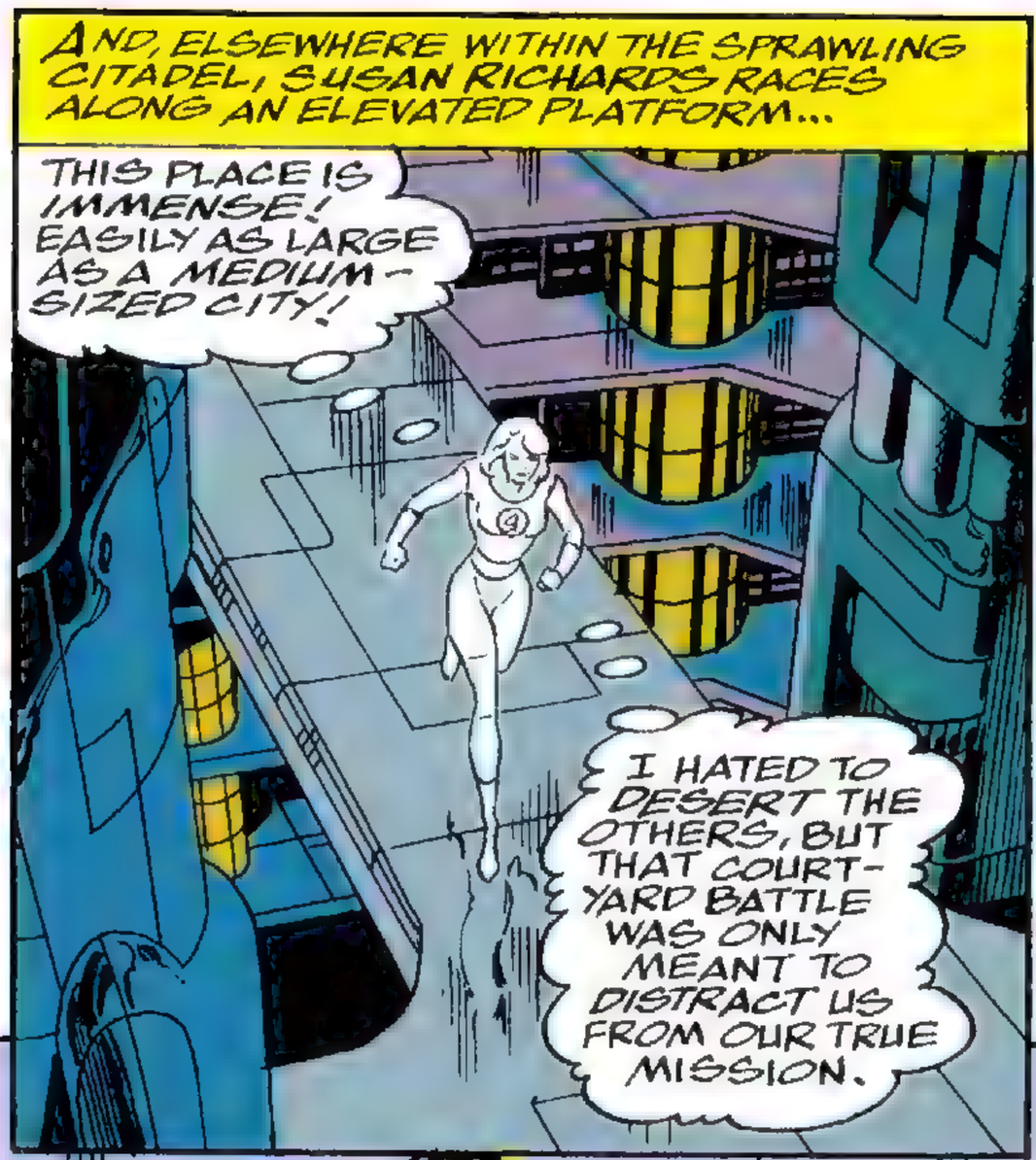

BESIDES, THESE CREATURES AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM!
THEY'RE ONLY MINDLESS ALIEN SLUGS THAT THE MAGUS IS USING AGAINST US!


DISPOSE OF ONE, AND A REPLACEMENT CLONE WILL INSTANTLY POP UP TO--
DESTROY YOU!!

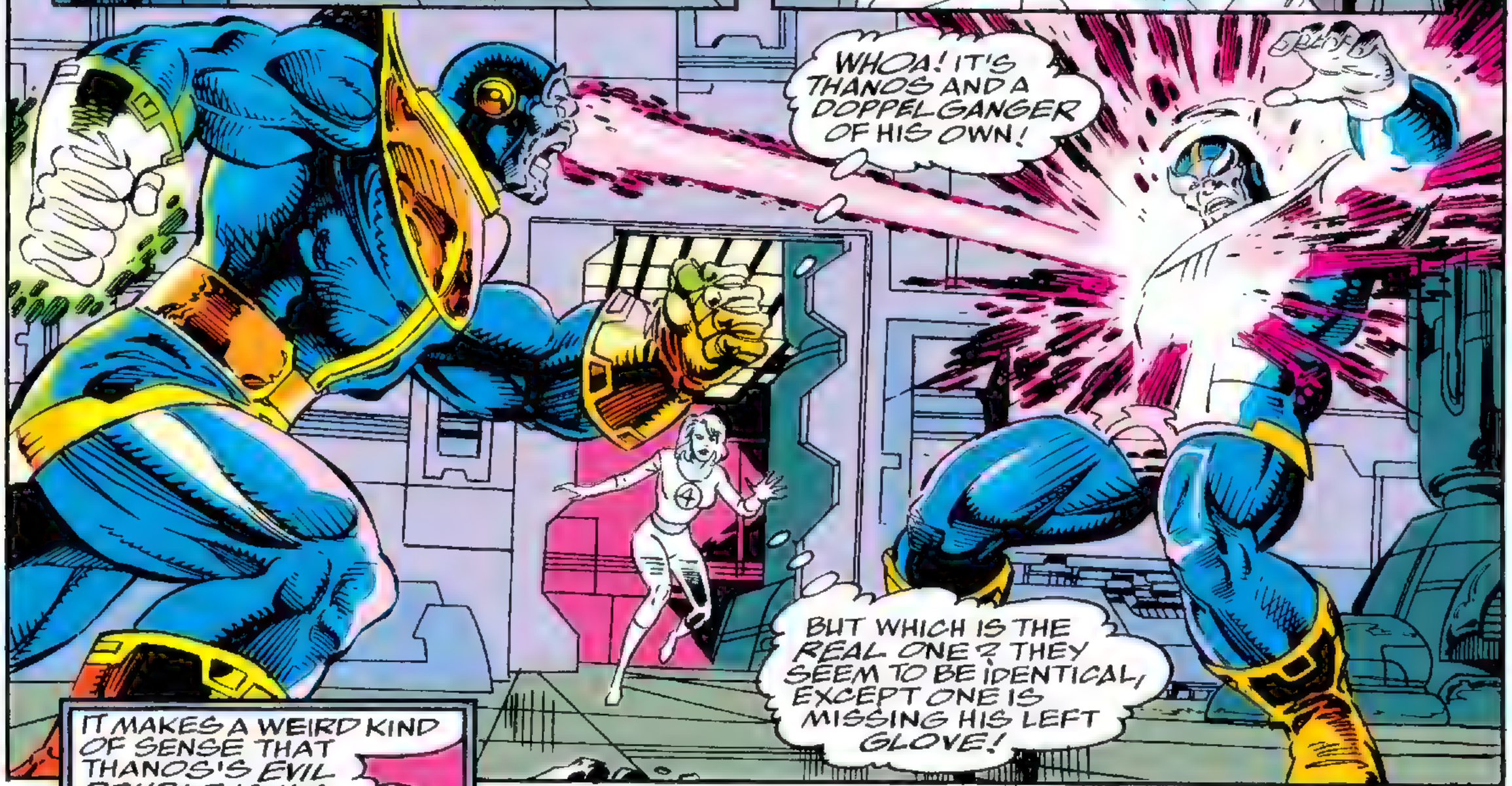

IT STILL AIN'T RIGHT! YER THE HUMAN TORCH... NOT SOME FLAMIN' VERSION OF THE PUNISHER--!
YA CAN'T SACRIFICE EVERYTHING YA BELIEVE!
BETTER MY PRINCIPLES THAN MY LIFE!

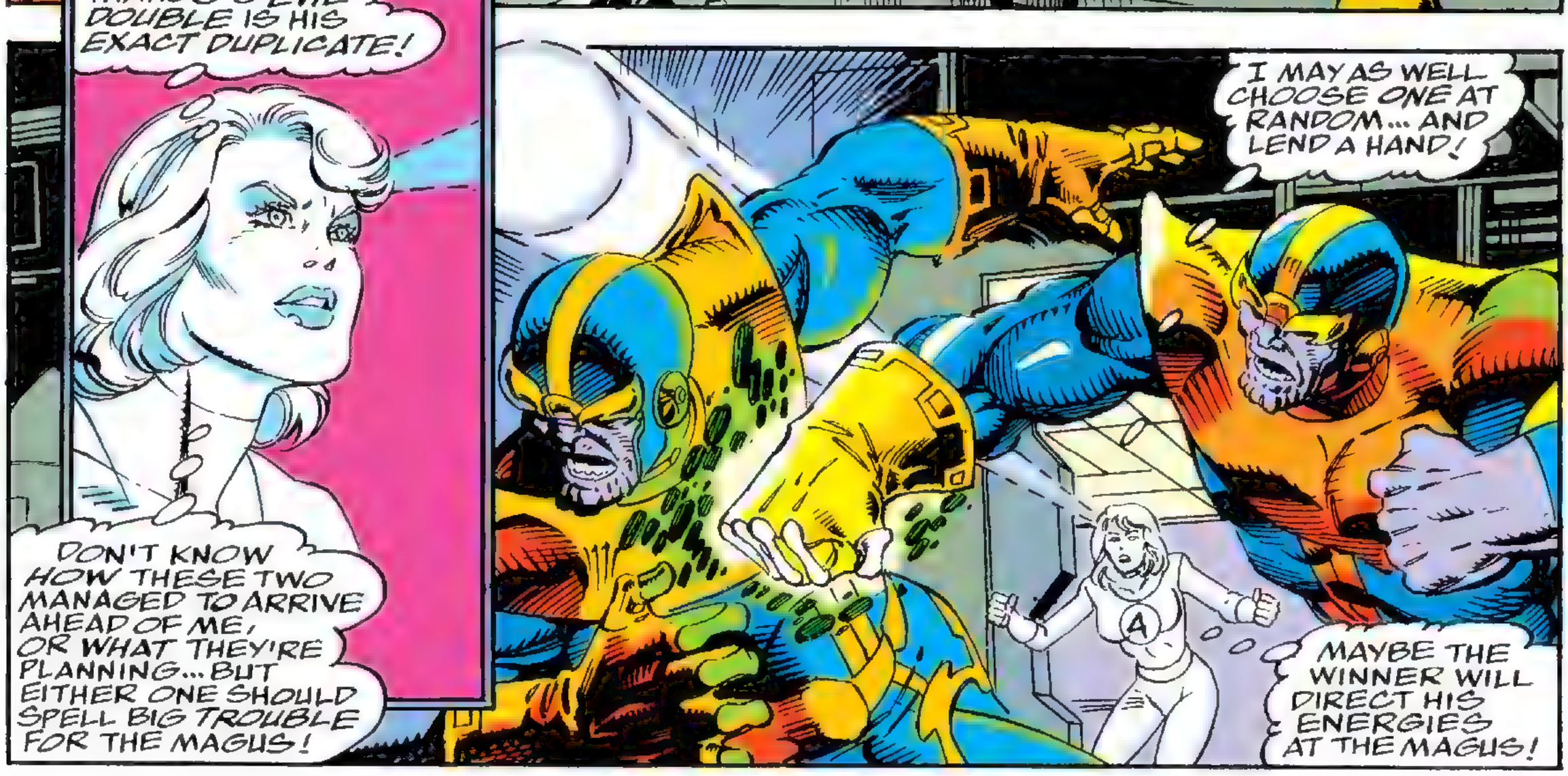
YOUR HOT-HEADED FRIEND MAKES A LOT OF SENSE, THING, BUT YOU'D BE BETTER SERVED TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR OWN BATTLES!
THWAAT


OKAY, THUNDERSOCKS --YA MADE ME MAD!
ME, WHO'S ALWAYS HAD SUCH A RESTRAINED AN' FORGIVING NATURE!
ME, WHO'S GONNA SHOVE THAT CRUMMY HAMMER DOWN YER BIG MOUTH!
WHERE'S SUE? I AIN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS FIGHT STARTED!

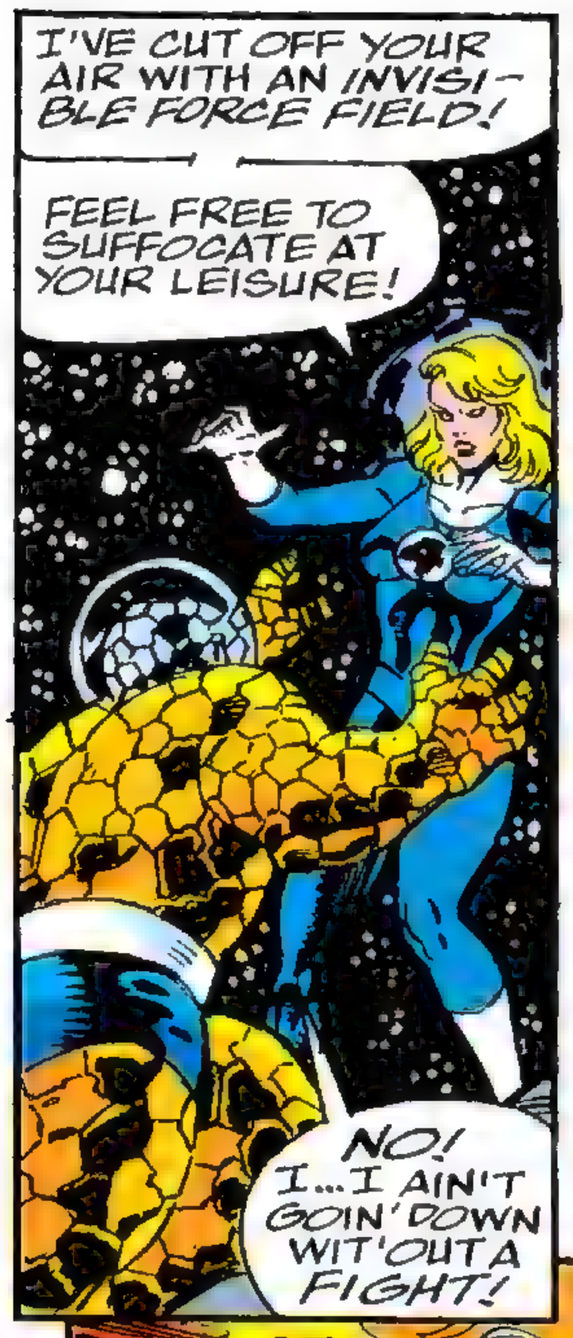

AND, ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE SPRAWLING CITADEL, SUSAN RICHARDS RACES ALONG AN ELEVATED PLATFORM...
THIS PLACE IS IMMENSE! EASILY AS LARGE AS A MEDIUM-SIZED CITY!
I HATED TO DESERT THE OTHERS, BUT THAT COURT-YARD BATTLE WAS ONLY MEANT TO DISTRACT US FROM OUR TRUE MISSION.

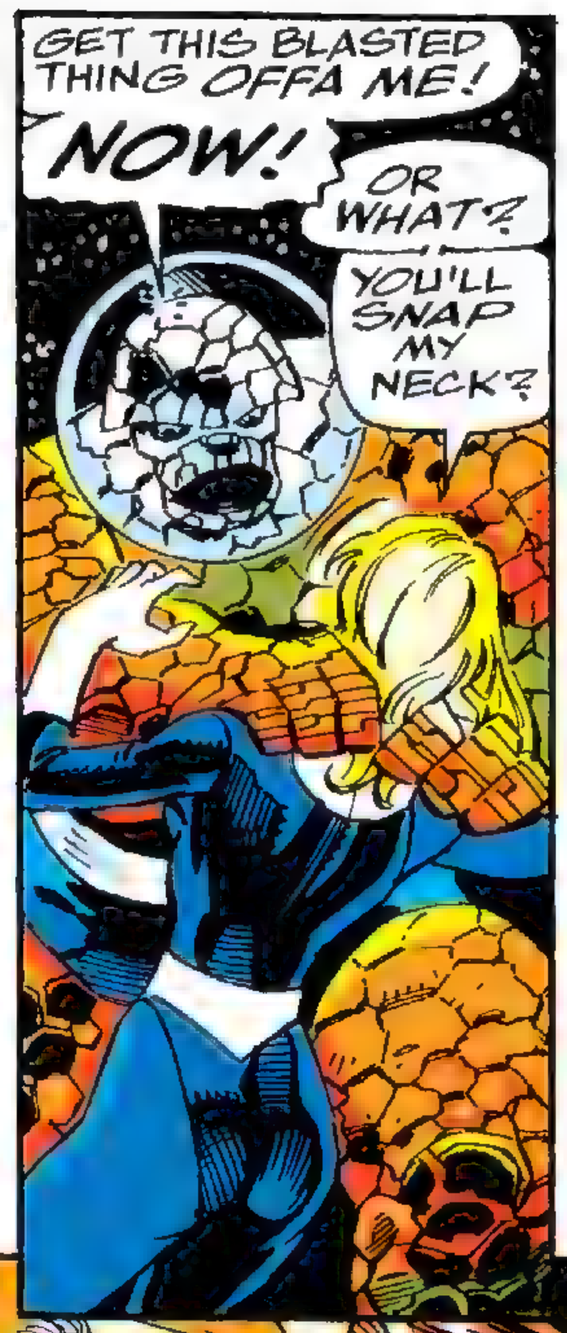
I'VE GOT TO FIND THE MAGUS, AND-- WAIT! WHAT'S THAT RUCKUS?!
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER FIGHT COMING FROM THAT CHAMBER TO THE LEFT.
I'LL JUST TAKE A QUICK PEEK, AND--

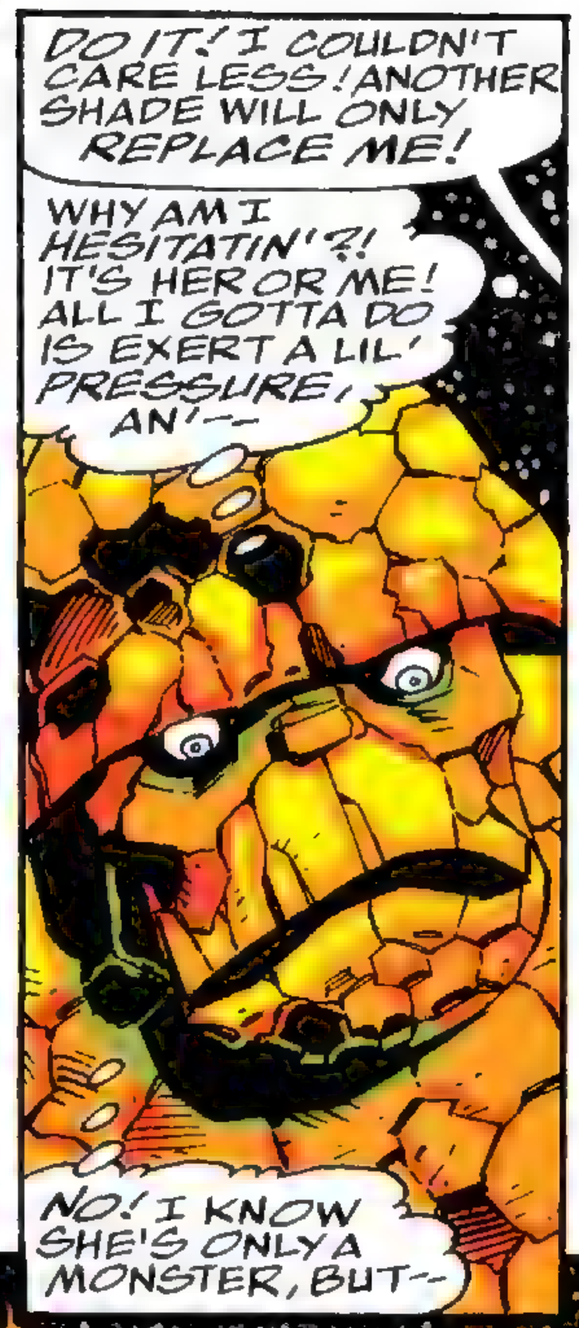

WHOA! IT'S THANOS AND A DOPPELGANGER OF HIS OWN!
BUT WHICH IS THE REAL ONE? THEY SEEM TO BE IDENTICAL, EXCEPT ONE IS MISSING HIS LEFT GLOVE!

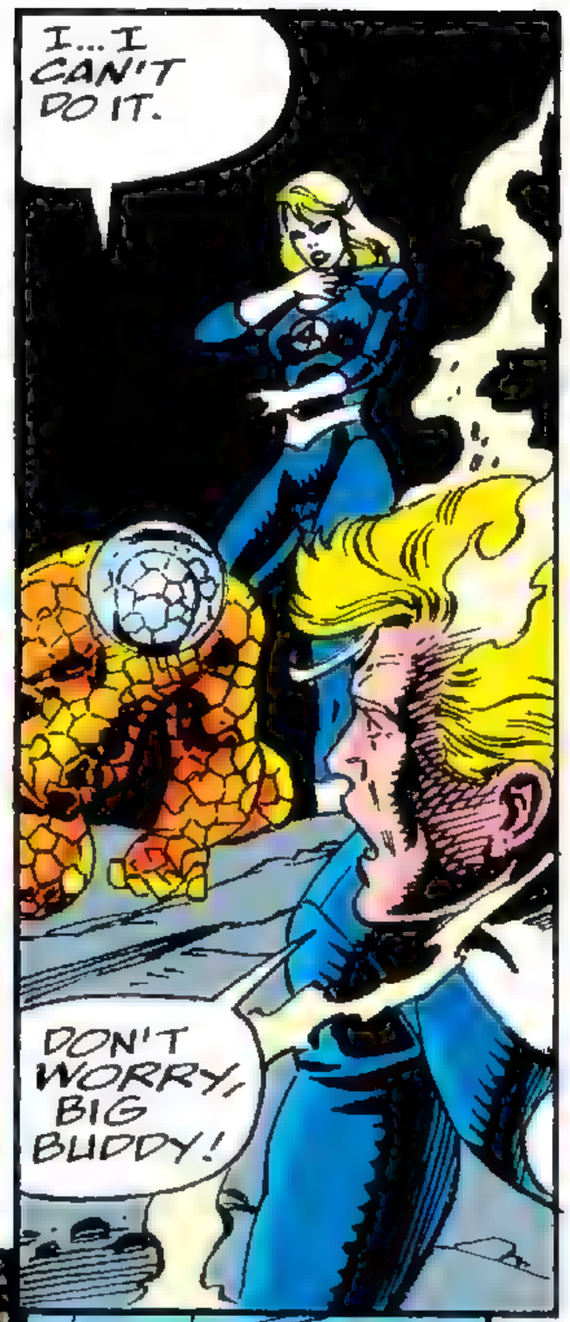

IT MAKES A WEIRD KIND OF SENSE THAT THANOS'S EVIL DOUBLE IS HIS EXACT DUPLICATE!
DON'T KNOW HOW THESE TWO MANAGED TO ARRIVE AHEAD OF ME, OR WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING... BUT EITHER ONE SHOULD SPELL BIG TROUBLE FOR THE MAGUS!
I MAY AS WELL CHOOSE ONE AT RANDOM... AND LEND A HAND!
MAYBE THE WINNER WILL DIRECT HIS ENERGIES AT THE MAGUS!

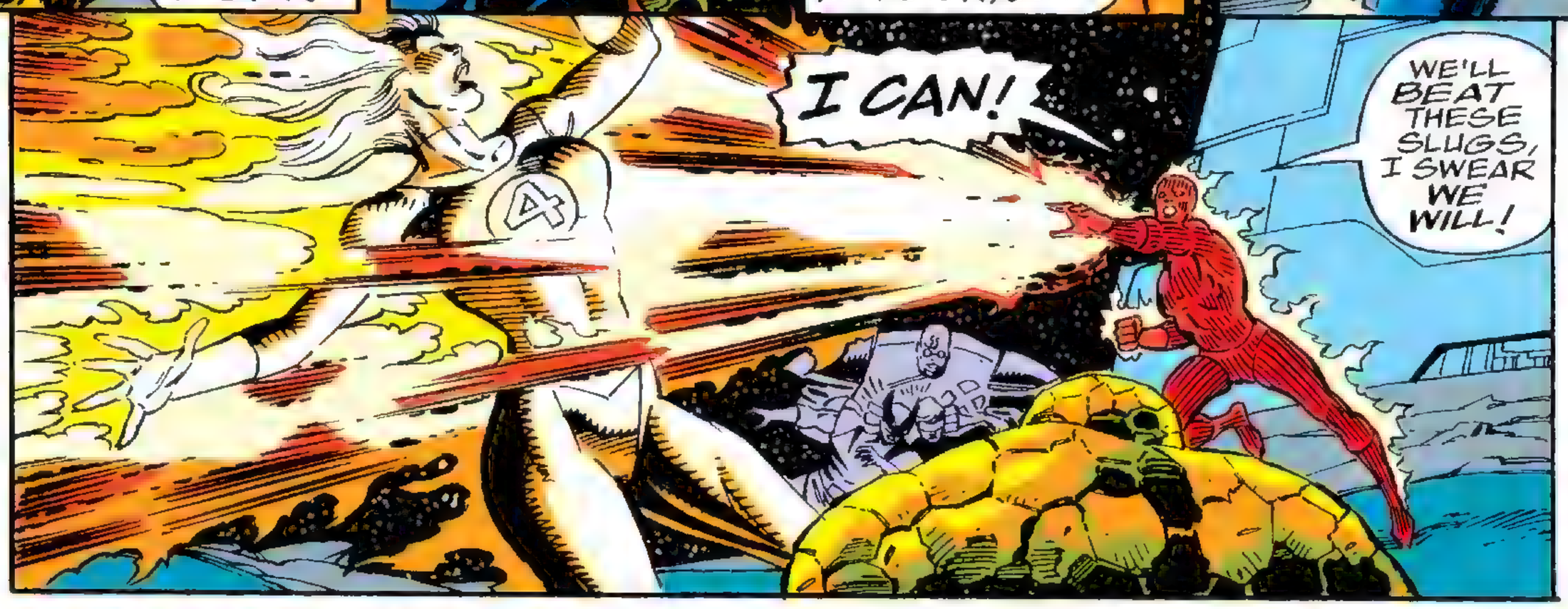
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE COURTYARD...
HANG ON, BENNY BOY! I'M COMING--! NO SENSE TRYING TO WIN THIS WAR ALL BY YOURSELF!
YOU MAY BE A LIVING POWERHOUSE, BUT EVEN YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THOSE FOUR JOKERS!
I'LL JUST BLAST 'EM WITH MY =ARRGH=!
NO, MY FRIEND...
YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE THE BLASTED-- NOT THE BLASTER!
JOHNNY--!
THAT CRUMMY WEATHER WITCH BLEW HIM RIGHT OUTTA TH' SKY!
STAY BACK, KID--I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP, AND-- =UNGK= THIS FAKE HULK WALLOPS ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE REAL ONE!
OUTTA MY WAY! LEMME THROUGH! I GOTTA REACH 'IM BEFORE--
SUMTHIN'S WRONG...
ALLOFA SUDDEN I CAN'T BREATHE ...!
I'M AFRAID THAT IS MY DOING, MR. GRIMM!
SUZIE'S DOUBLE!
YES--AND I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND MY COUNTERPART IN ALL OF THE CONFUSION-- THE POOR, INVISIBLE DEAR IS PROBABLY COWERING IN SOME CORNER!

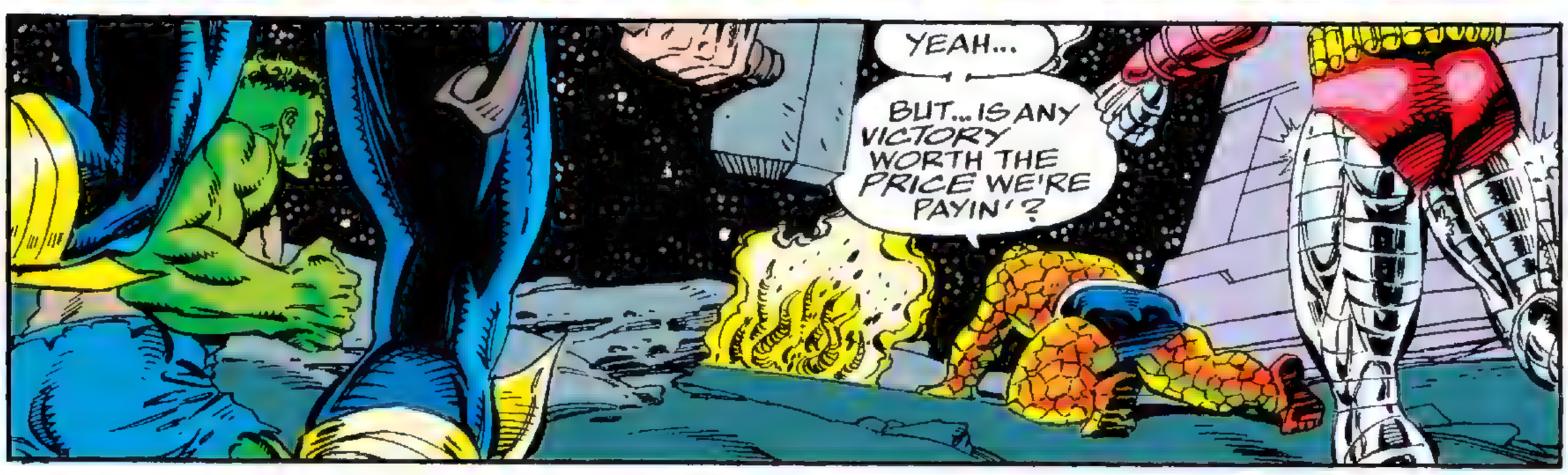

I'VE CUT OFF YOUR AIR WITH AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!
FEEL FREE TO SUFFOCATE AT YOUR LEISURE!
NO! I...I AIN'T GOIN' DOWN WIT'OUTA FIGHT!

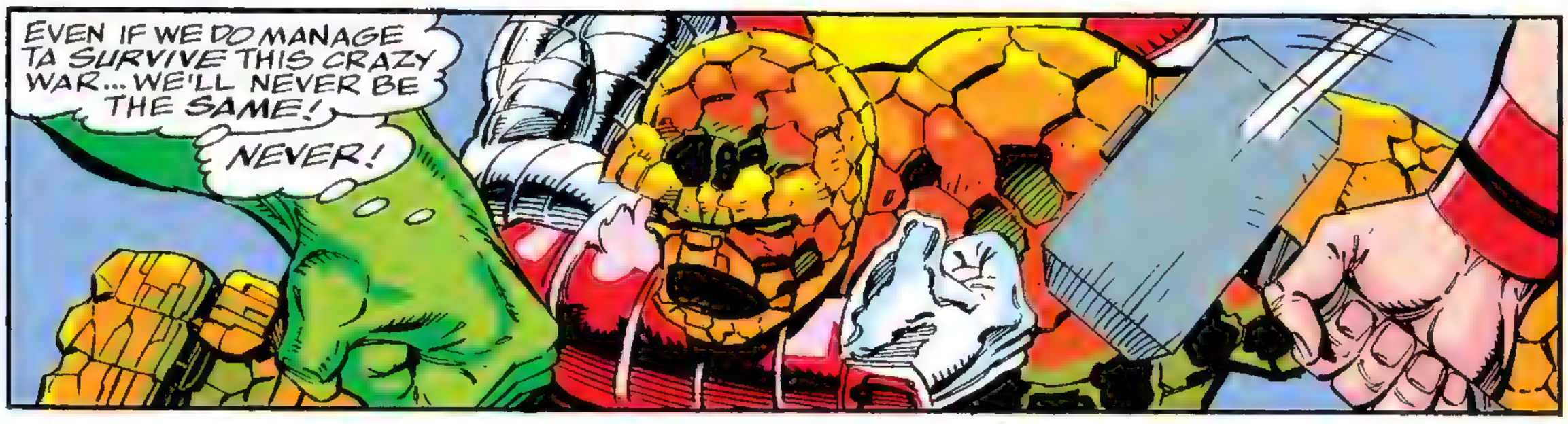

GET THIS BLASTED THING OFFA ME!
NOW!
OR WHAT?
YOU'LL SNAP MY NECK?

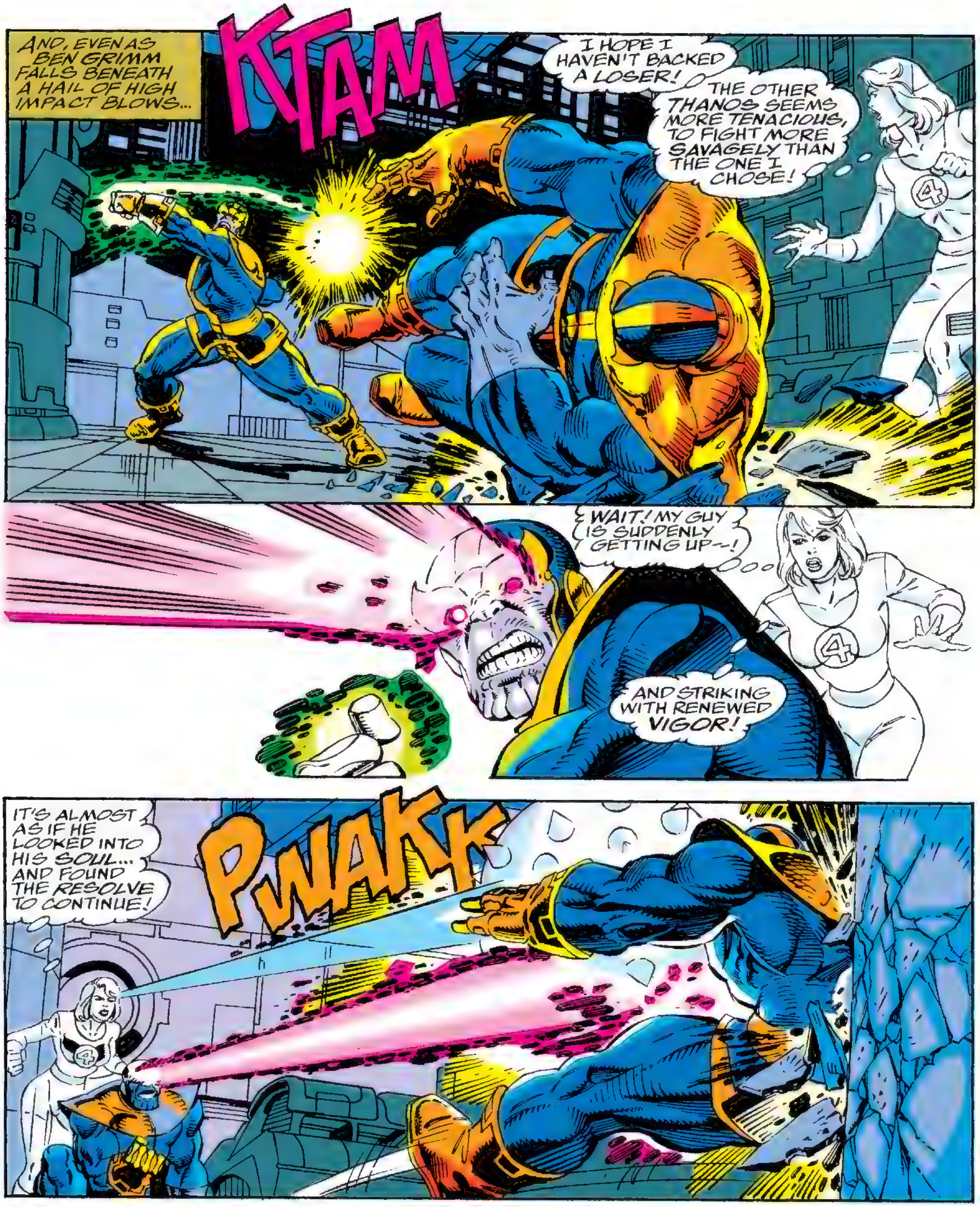

DO IT! I COULDN'T CARE LESS! ANOTHER SHADE WILL ONLY REPLACE ME!
WHY AM I HESITATIN'?! IT'S HER OR ME! ALL I GOTTA DO IS EXERT A LIL' PRESSURE, AN'--
NO! I KNOW SHE'S ONLY A MONSTER, BUT--

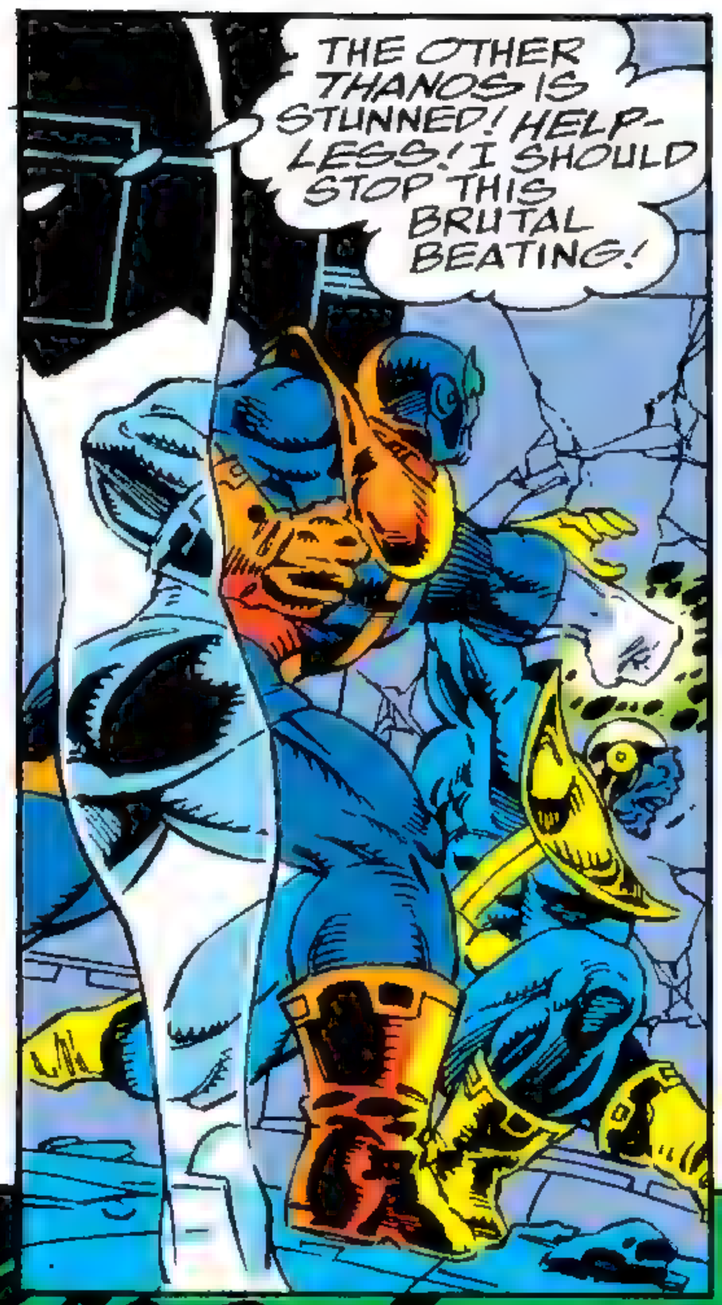

I...I CAN'T DO IT.
DON'T WORRY, BIG BUDDY!


I CAN!
WE'LL BEAT THESE SLUGS, I SWEAR WE WILL!


YEAH...
BUT...IS ANY VICTORY WORTH THE PRICE WE'RE PAYIN'?

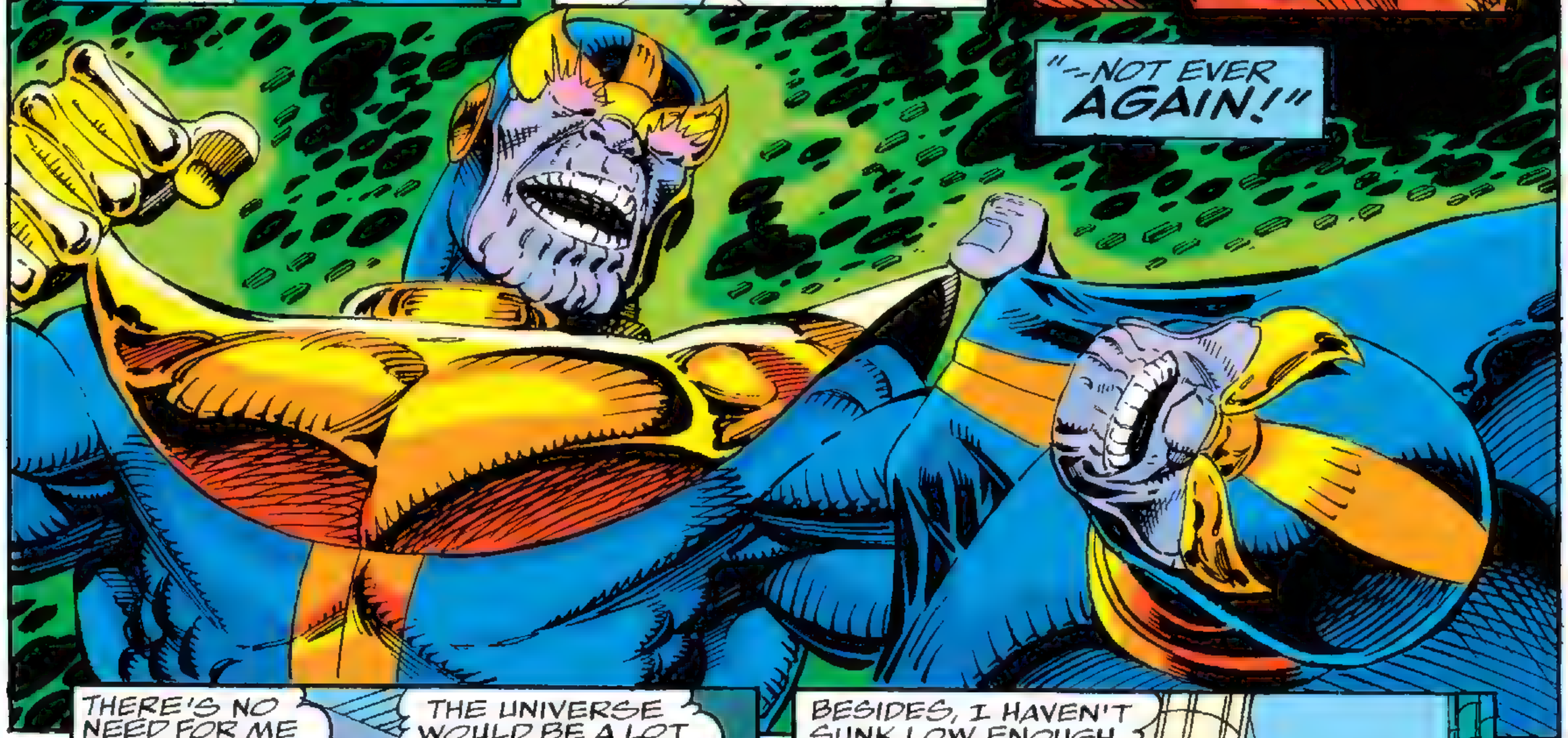

EVEN IF WE DO MANAGE TA SURVIVE THIS CRAZY WAR...WE'LL NEVER BE THE SAME!
NEVER!

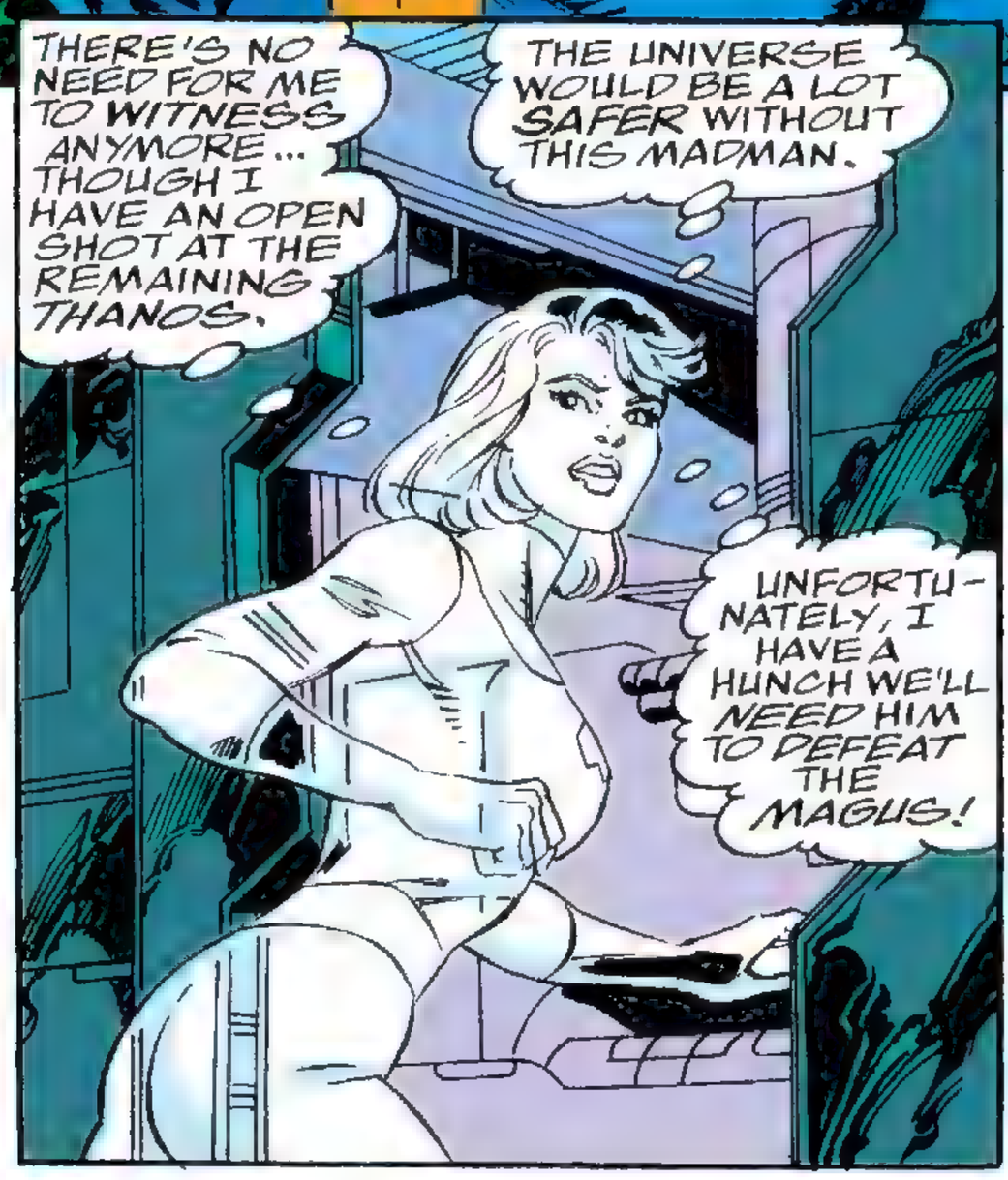

AND, EVEN AS BEN GRIMM FALLS BENEATH A HAIL OF HIGH IMPACT BLOWS...
KTAM
I HOPE I HAVEN'T BACKED A LOSER!
THE OTHER THANOS SEEMS MORE TENACIOUS, TO FIGHT MORE SAVAGELY THAN THE ONE I CHOSE!
WAIT! MY GUY IS SUDDENLY GETTING UP--!
AND STRIKING WITH RENEWED VIGOR!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE LOOKED INTO HIS SOUL... AND FOUND THE RESOLVE TO CONTINUE!
PWAKK
HIS REVITALIZED DETERMINATION, COMBINED WITH MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELDS, HAVE TURNED THE TIDE!

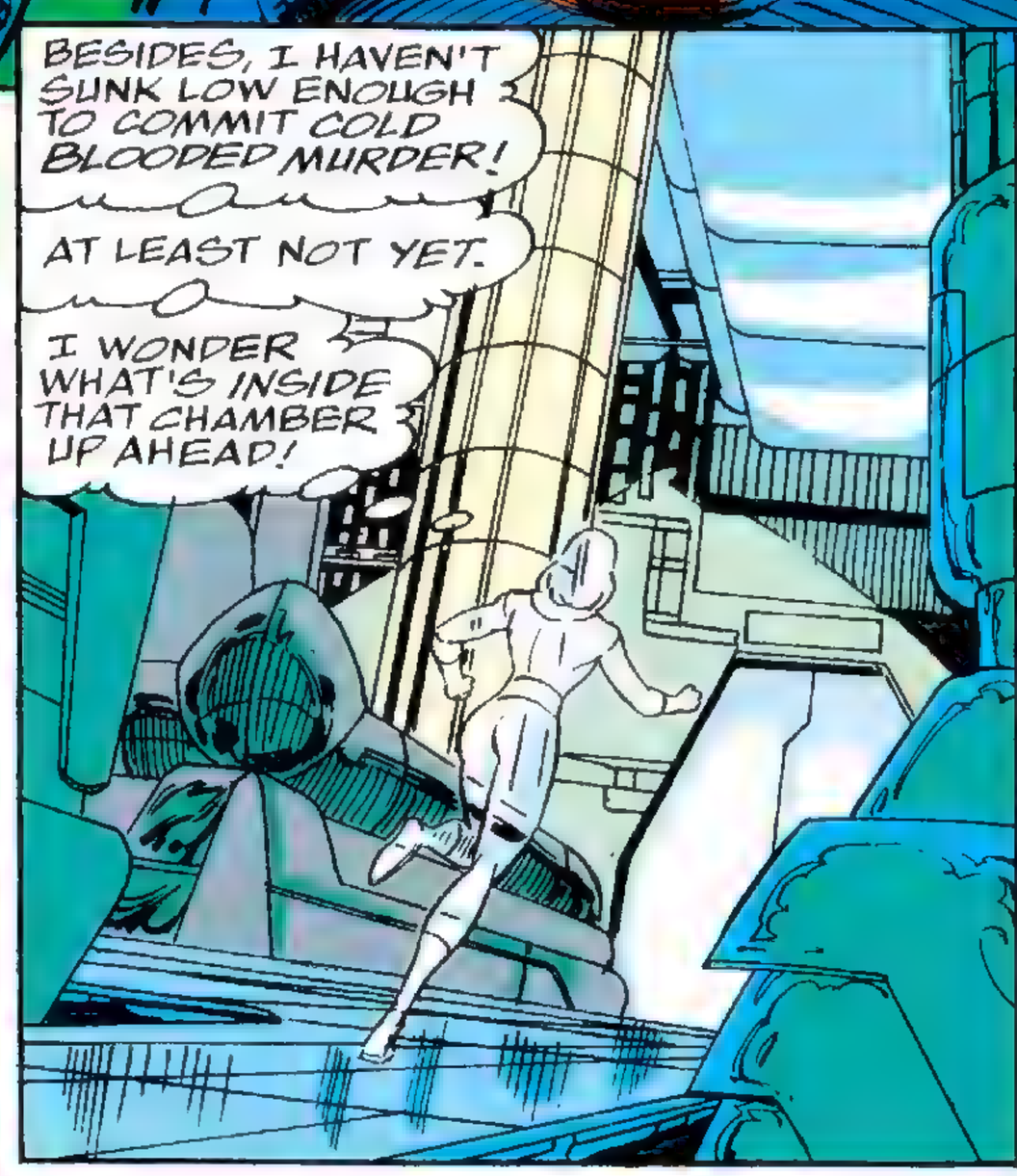

THE OTHER THANOS IS STUNNED! HELPLESS! I SHOULD STOP THIS BRUTAL BEATING!

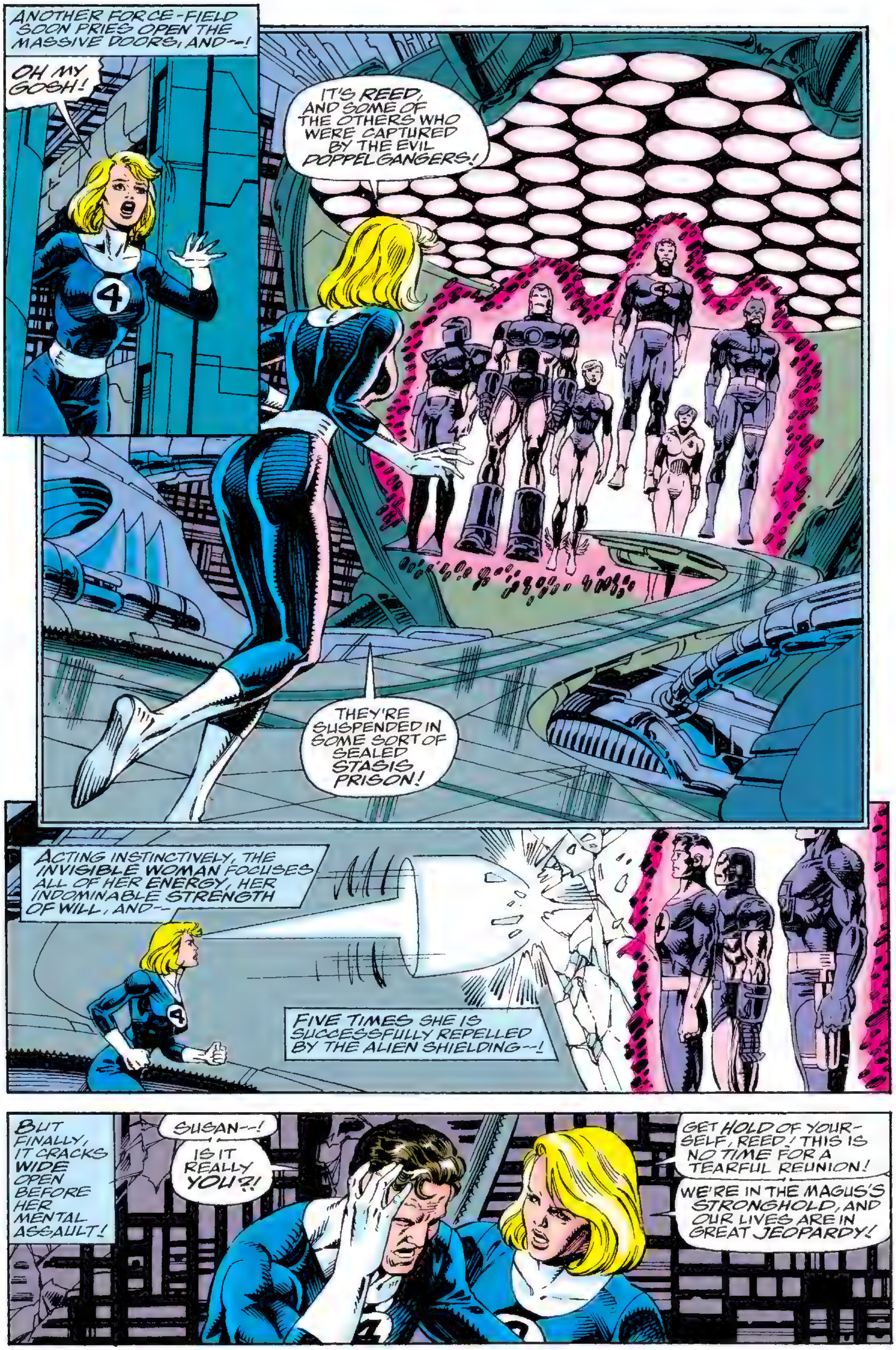
NO! THIS IS TOTAL WAR! A WAR WHICH HAS ALREADY COST ME MY HUSBAND AND ENDANGERED MY CHILD!

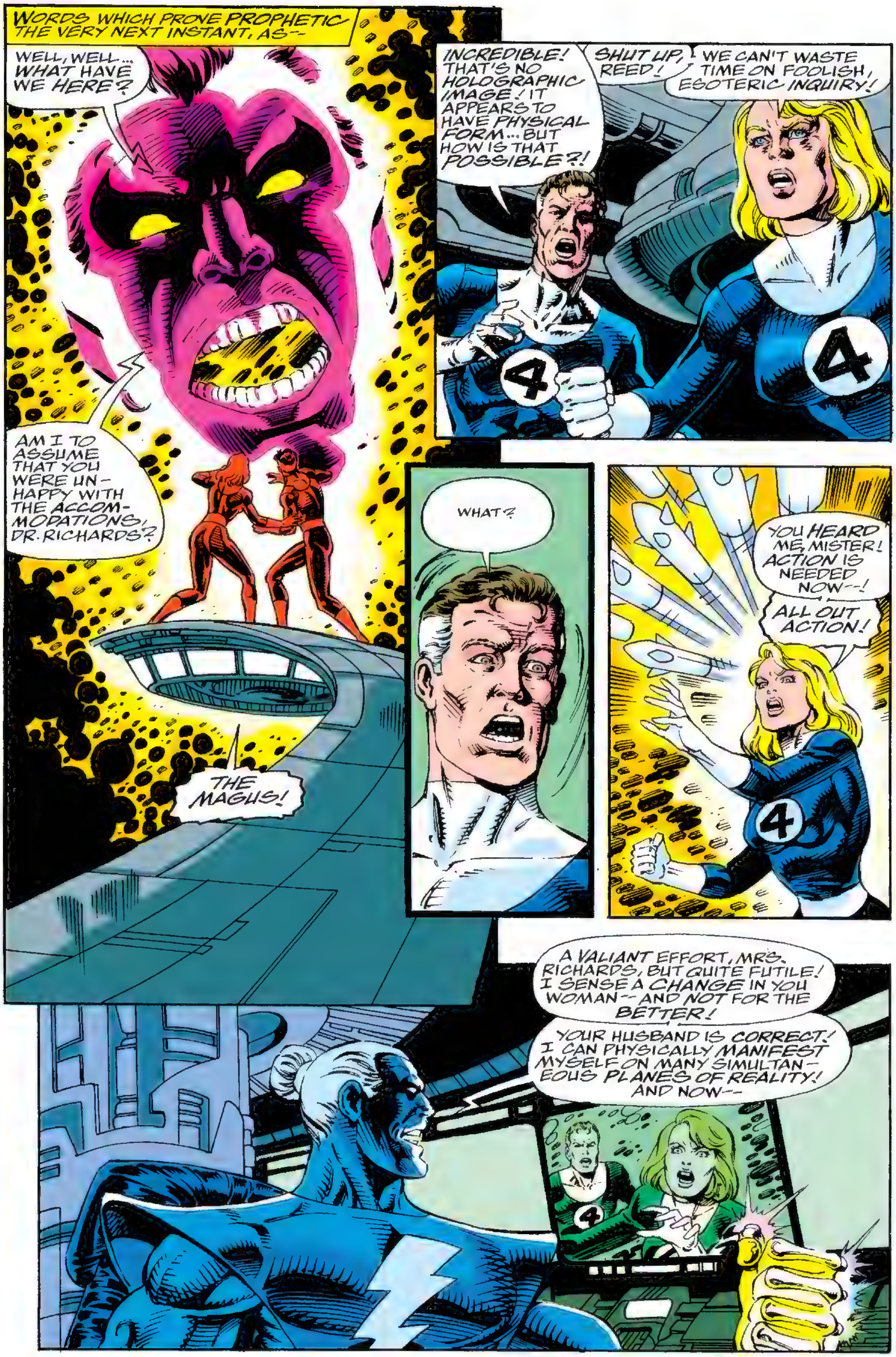
"THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MERCY! NOT NOW, AND MAYBE —"

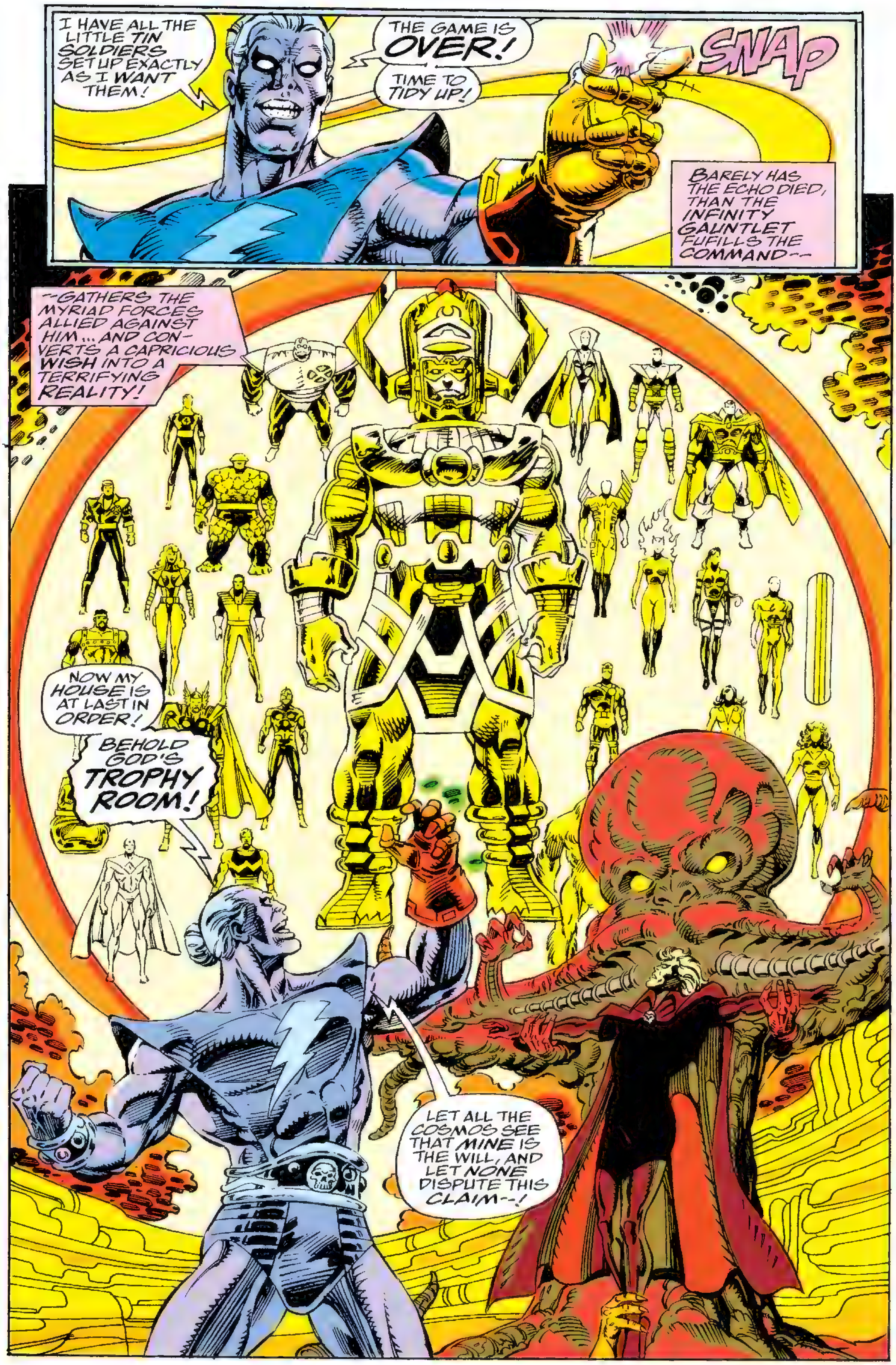

"—NOT EVER AGAIN!"


THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO WITNESS ANYMORE... THOUGH I HAVE AN OPEN SHOT AT THE REMAINING THANOS.
THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE A LOT SAFER WITHOUT THIS MADMAN.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE A HUNCH WE'LL NEED HIM TO DEFEAT THE MAGUS!

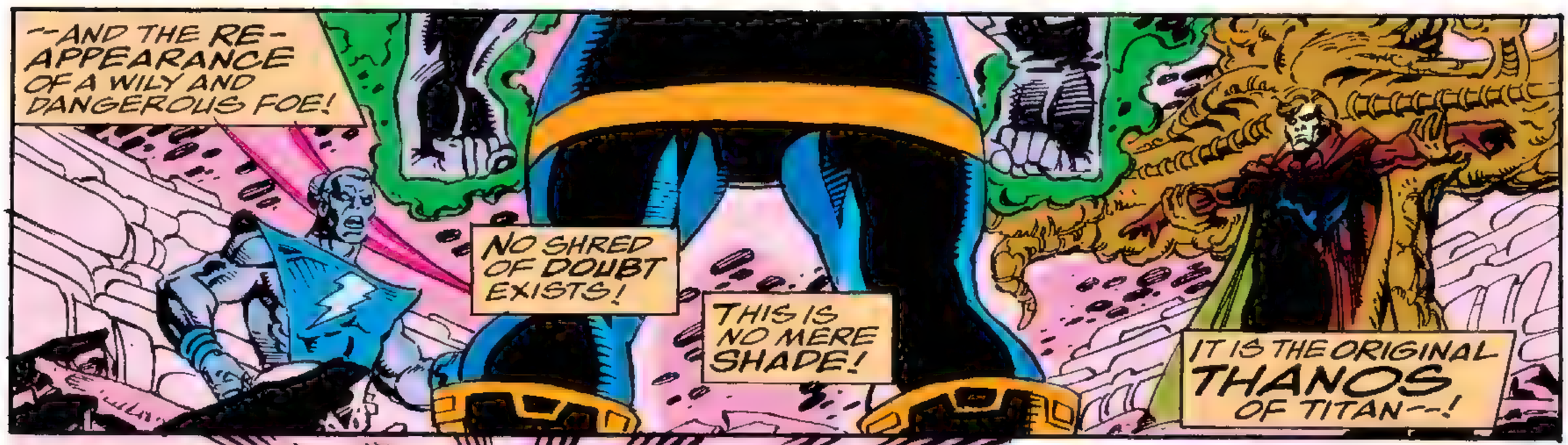

BESIDES, I HAVEN'T SUNK LOW ENOUGH TO COMMIT COLD BLOODED MURDER!
AT LEAST NOT YET.
I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE THAT CHAMBER UP AHEAD!

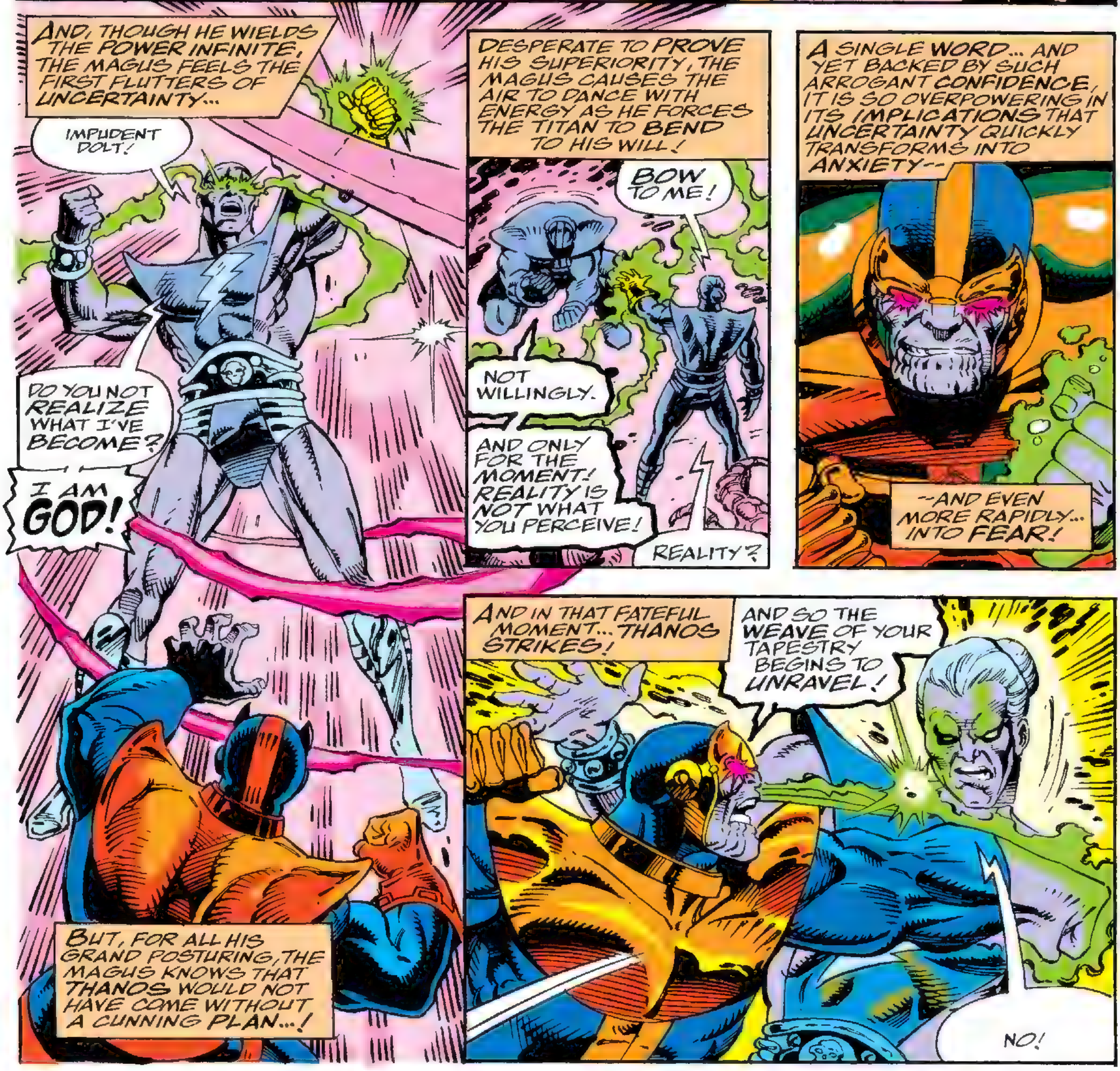

ANOTHER FORCE-FIELD SOON PRIES OPEN THE MASSIVE DOORS, AND--!
OH MY GOSH!
IT'S REED, AND SOME OF THE OTHERS WHO WERE CAPTURED BY THE EVIL DOPPELGANGERS!
THEY'RE SUSPENDED IN SOME SORT OF SEALED STASIS PRISON!
ACTING INSTINCTIVELY, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN FOCUSES ALL OF HER ENERGY, HER INDOMINABLE STRENGTH OF WILL, AND--
FIVE TIMES SHE IS SUCCESSFULLY REPELLED BY THE ALIEN SHIELDING--!
BUT FINALLY, IT CRACKS WIDE OPEN BEFORE HER MENTAL ASSAULT!
SUSAN--!
IS IT REALLY YOU?!
GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, REED! THIS IS NO TIME FOR A TEARFUL REUNION!
WE'RE IN THE MAGUS'S STRONGHOLD, AND OUR LIVES ARE IN GREAT JEOPARDY!

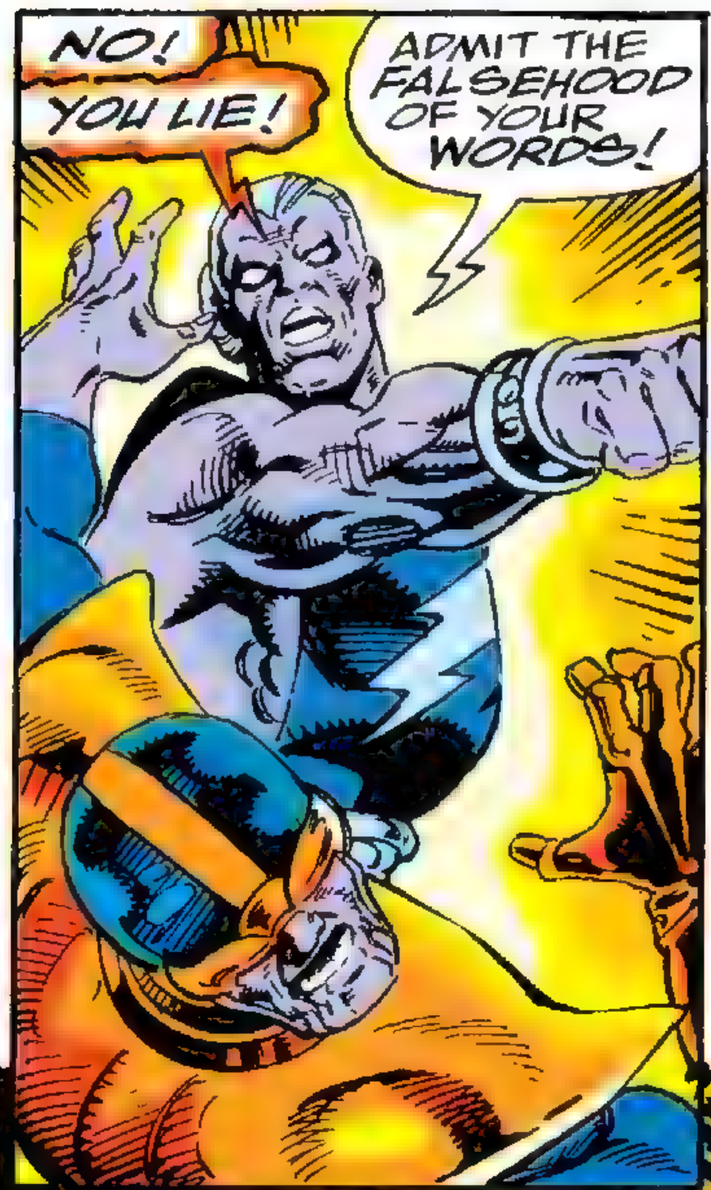

WORDS WHICH PROVE PROPHETIC THE VERY NEXT INSTANT, AS--
WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
AM I TO ASSUME THAT YOU WERE UN-HAPPY WITH THE ACCOM-MODATIONS, DR. RICHARDS?
THE MAGUS!
INCREDIBLE! THAT'S NO HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE! IT APPEARS TO HAVE PHYSICAL FORM... BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!
SHUT UP, REED!
WE CAN'T WASTE TIME ON FOOLISH, ESOTERIC INQUIRY!
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME, MISTER! ACTION IS NEEDED NOW--!
ALL OUT ACTION!
A VALIANT EFFORT, MRS. RICHARDS, BUT QUITE FUTILE! I SENSE A CHANGE IN YOU WOMAN-- AND NOT FOR THE BETTER!
YOUR HUSBAND IS CORRECT! I CAN PHYSICALLY MANIFEST MYSELF ON MANY SIMULTAN-EOUS PLANES OF REALITY! AND NOW--


I HAVE ALL THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIERS SET UP EXACTLY AS I WANT THEM!
THE GAME IS OVER!
TIME TO TIDY UP!
SNAP
BARELY HAS THE ECHO DIED, THAN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET FULFILLS THE COMMAND--
--GATHERS THE MYRIAD FORCES ALLIED AGAINST HIM... AND CONVERTS A CAPRICIOUS WISH INTO A TERRIFYING REALITY!
NOW MY HOUSE IS AT LAST IN ORDER!
BEHOLD GOD'S TROPHY ROOM!
LET ALL THE COSMOS SEE THAT MINE IS THE WILL, AND LET NONE DISPUTE THIS CLAIM--!

BUT, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF HIS GREAT TRIUMPH, THE MAGUS LURCHES SUDDENLY... UNEXPECTEDLY... AS HIS CONTROL CENTER IS ROCKED BY A BRUTAL EXPLOSION --


--AND THE RE-APPEARANCE OF A WILY AND DANGEROUS FOE!
NO SHRED OF DOUBT EXISTS!
THIS IS NO MERE SHADE!
IT IS THE ORIGINAL THANOS OF TITAN--!


AND, THOUGH HE WIELDS THE POWER INFINITE, THE MAGUS FEELS THE FIRST FLUTTERS OF UNCERTAINTY...
IMPUDENT DOLT!
DO YOU NOT REALIZE WHAT I'VE BECOME?
I AM GOD!
DESPERATE TO PROVE HIS SUPERIORITY, THE MAGUS CAUSES THE AIR TO DANCE WITH ENERGY AS HE FORCES THE TITAN TO BEND TO HIS WILL!
BOW TO ME!
NOT WILLINGLY.
AND ONLY FOR THE MOMENT! REALITY IS NOT WHAT YOU PERCEIVE!
REALITY?
A SINGLE WORD... AND YET BACKED BY SUCH ARROGANT CONFIDENCE, IT IS SO OVERPOWERING IN ITS IMPLICATIONS THAT UNCERTAINTY QUICKLY TRANSFORMS INTO ANXIETY--
--AND EVEN MORE RAPIDLY... INTO FEAR!
BUT, FOR ALL HIS GRAND POSTURING, THE MAGUS KNOWS THAT THANOS WOULD NOT HAVE COME WITHOUT A CUNNING PLAN...!
AND IN THAT FATEFUL MOMENT... THANOS STRIKES!
AND SO THE WEAVE OF YOUR TAPESTRY BEGINS TO UNRAVEL!
NO!

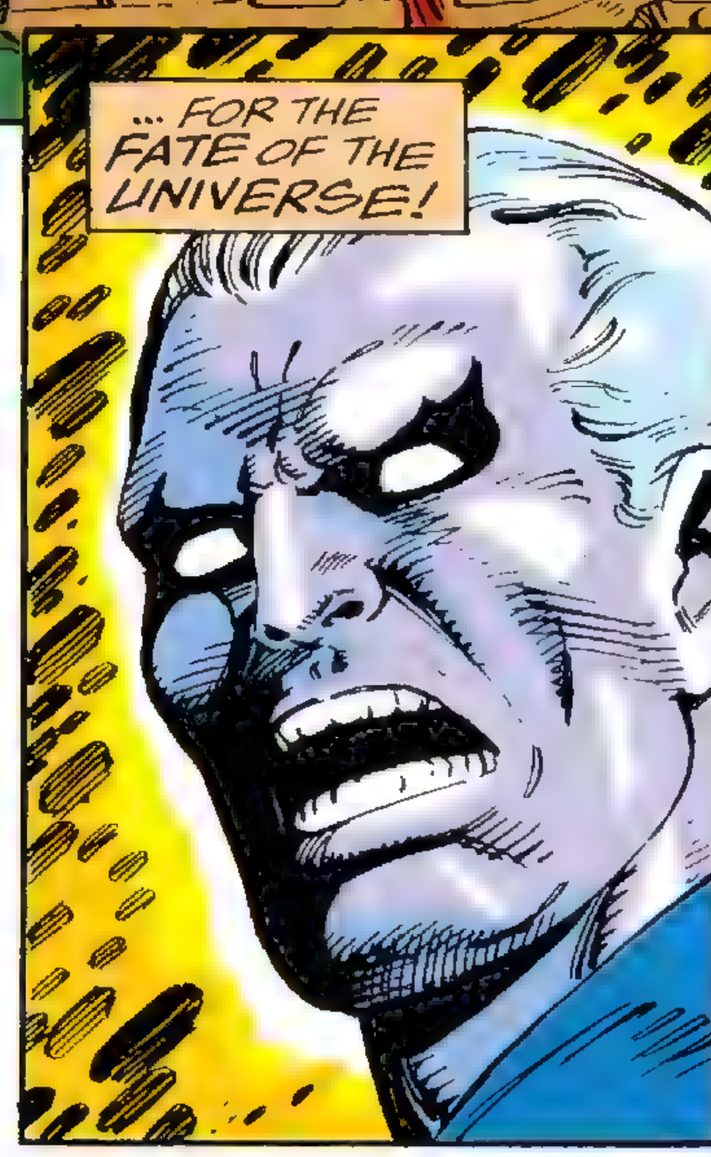


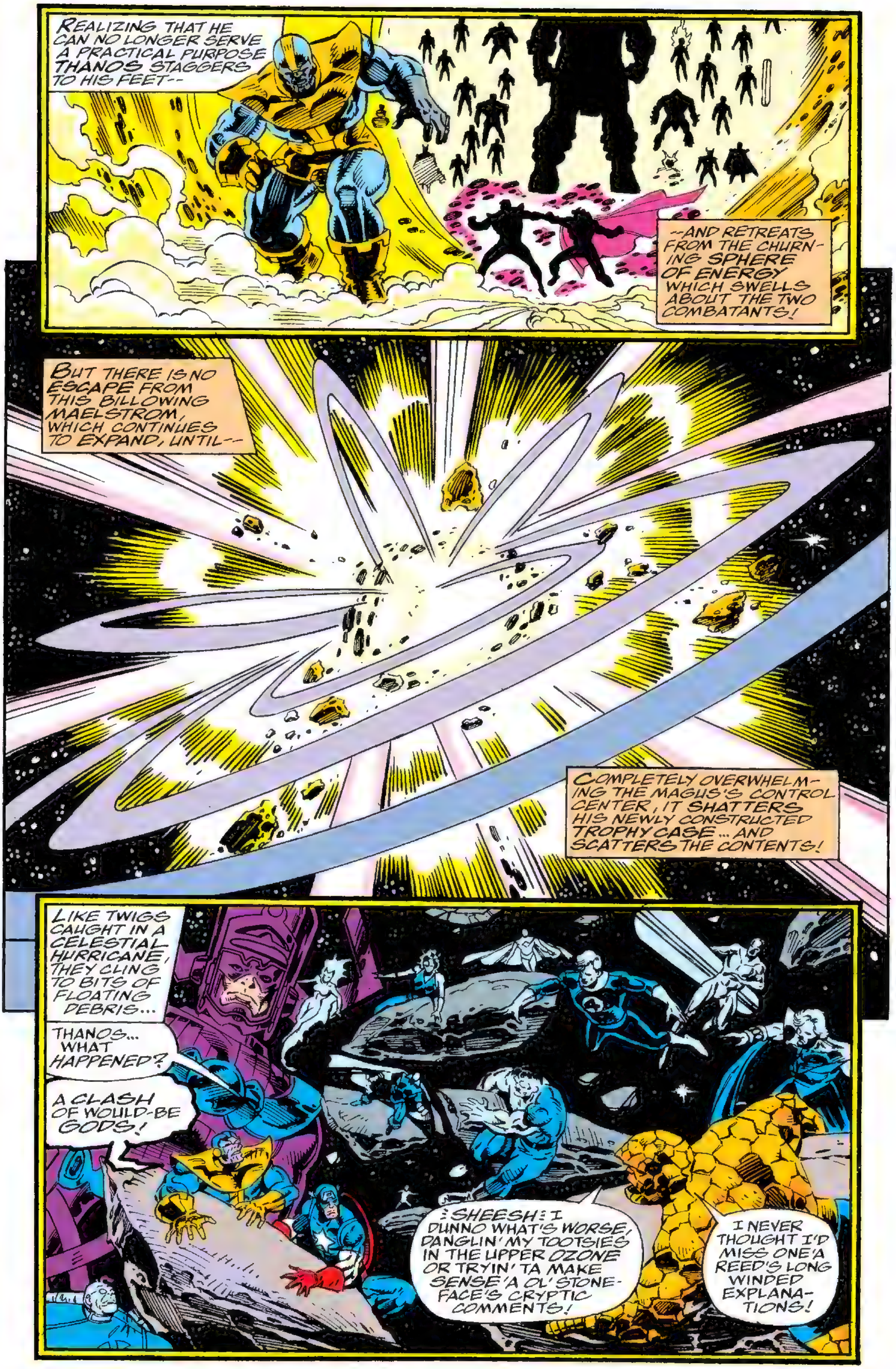
PLAYED LIKE A CARELESS FOOL BY THANOS, HE ALLOWED CONFUSION AND APPREHENSION TO DISTRACT HIM--!

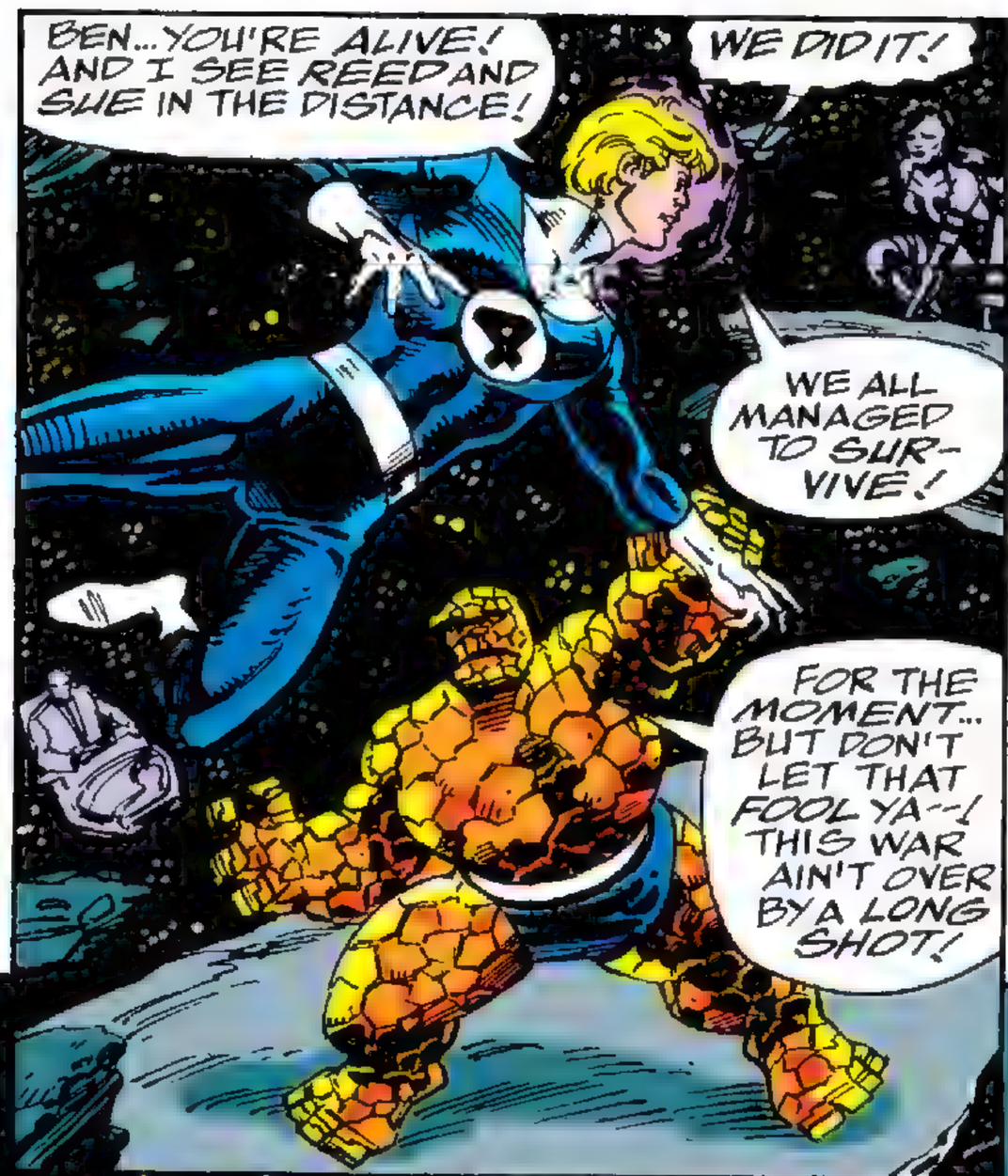
I AM NOW IN CONTACT WITH THE INFINITY GAUNTLET!

THE POWER WAS MINE LONG BEFORE YOU EVER DREAMT OF USURPING IT!

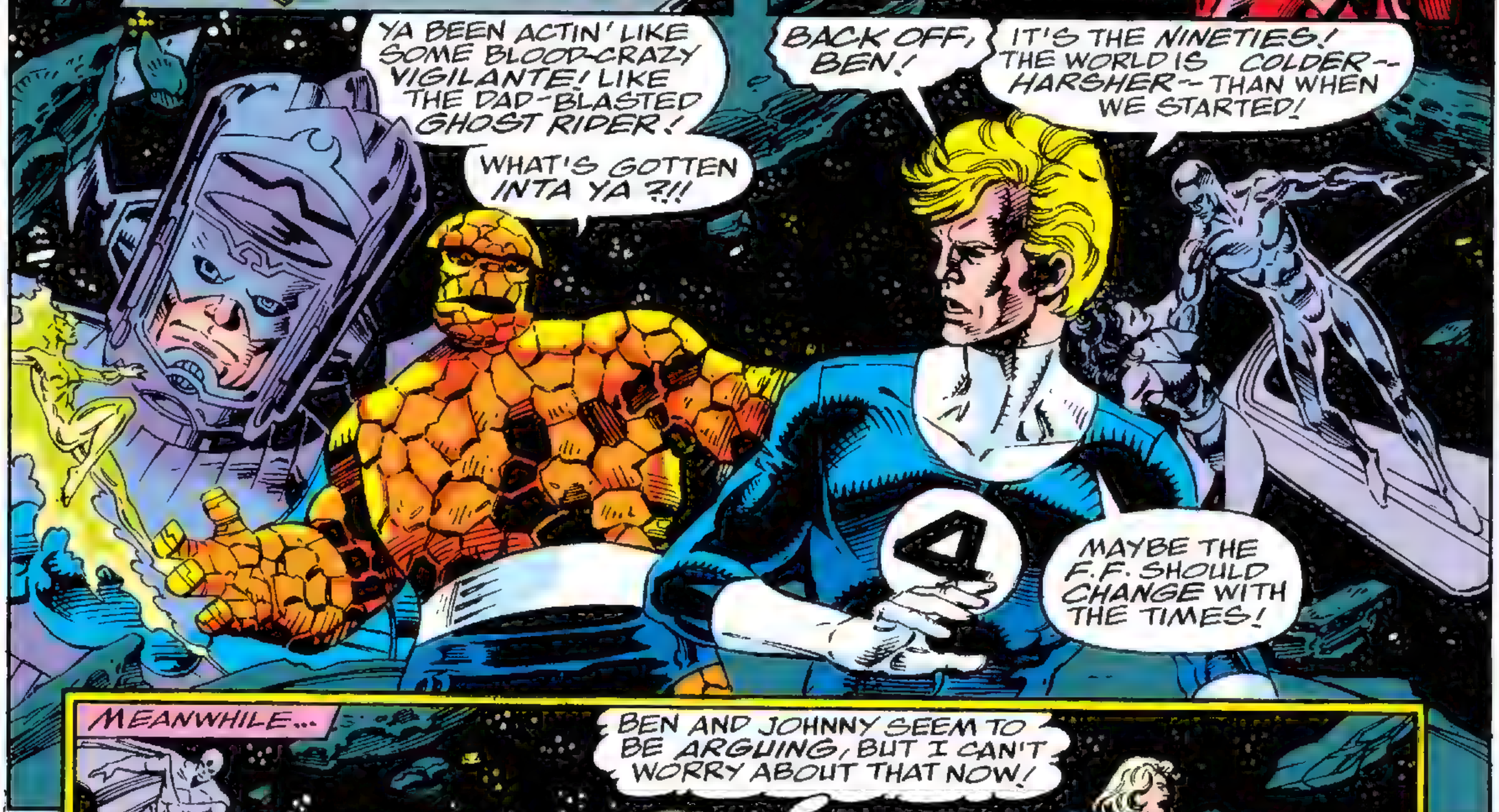
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT THE INFINITE WELL REMEMBERS MY TOUCH!

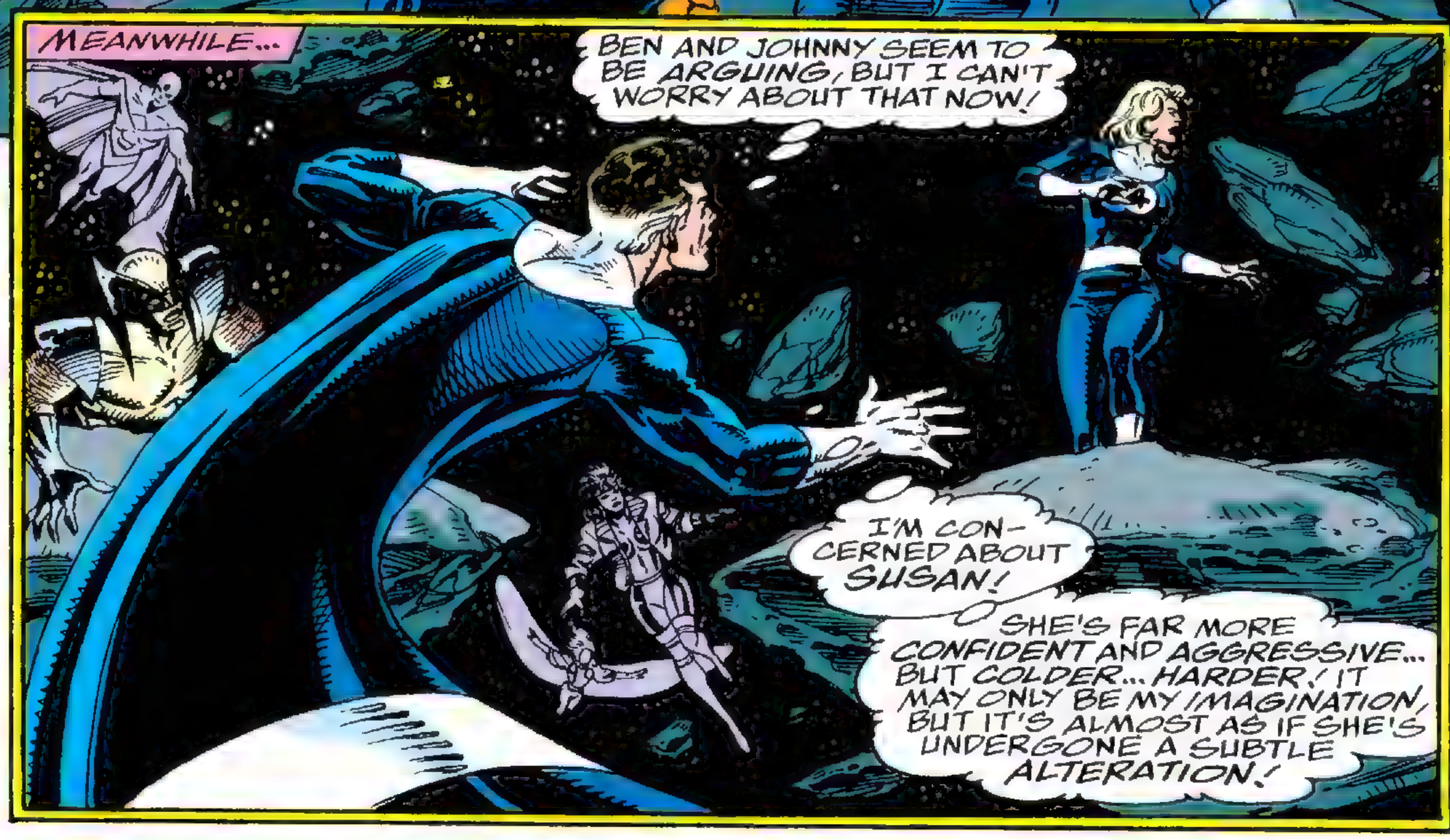


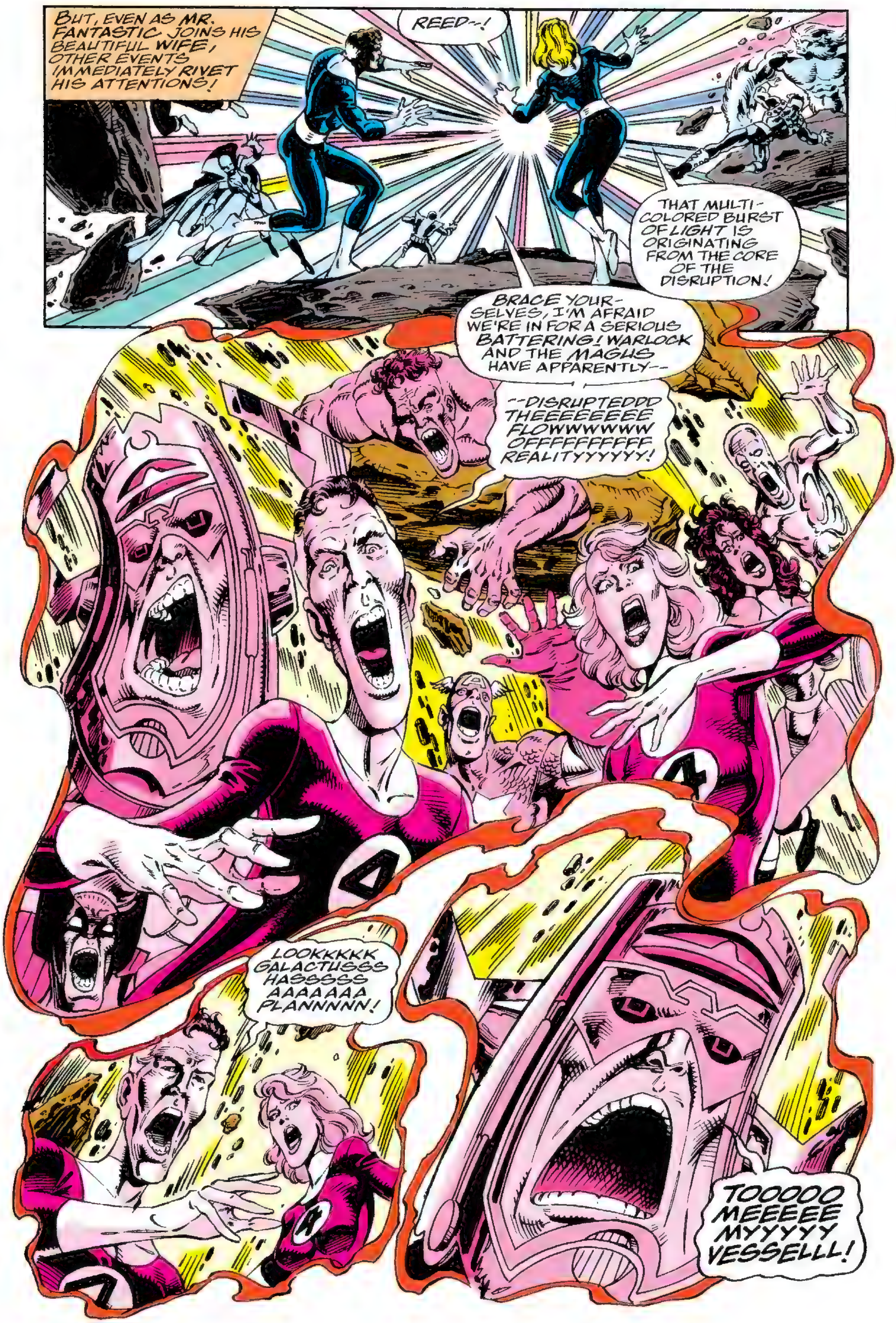

REALIZING THAT HE CAN NO LONGER SERVE A PRACTICAL PURPOSE THANOS STAGGERS TO HIS FEET--
--AND RETREATS FROM THE CHURNING SPHERE OF ENERGY WHICH SWELLS ABOUT THE TWO COMBATANTS!
BUT THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS BILLOWING MAELSTROM, WHICH CONTINUES TO EXPAND, UNTIL--
COMPLETELY OVERWHELMING THE MAGUS'S CONTROL CENTER, IT SHATTERS HIS NEWLY CONSTRUCTED TROPHY CASE ... AND SCATTERS THE CONTENTS!
LIKE TWIGS CAUGHT IN A CELESTIAL HURRICANE, THEY CLING TO BITS OF FLOATING DEBRIS...
THANOS... WHAT HAPPENED?
A CLASH OF WOULD-BE GODS!
:SHEESH: I DUNNO WHAT'S WORSE, DANGLIN' MY TOOTSIES IN THE UPPER OZONE OR TRYIN' TA MAKE SENSE 'A OL' STONE-FACE'S CRYPTIC COMMENTS!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS ONE'A REED'S LONG WINDED EXPLANATIONS!

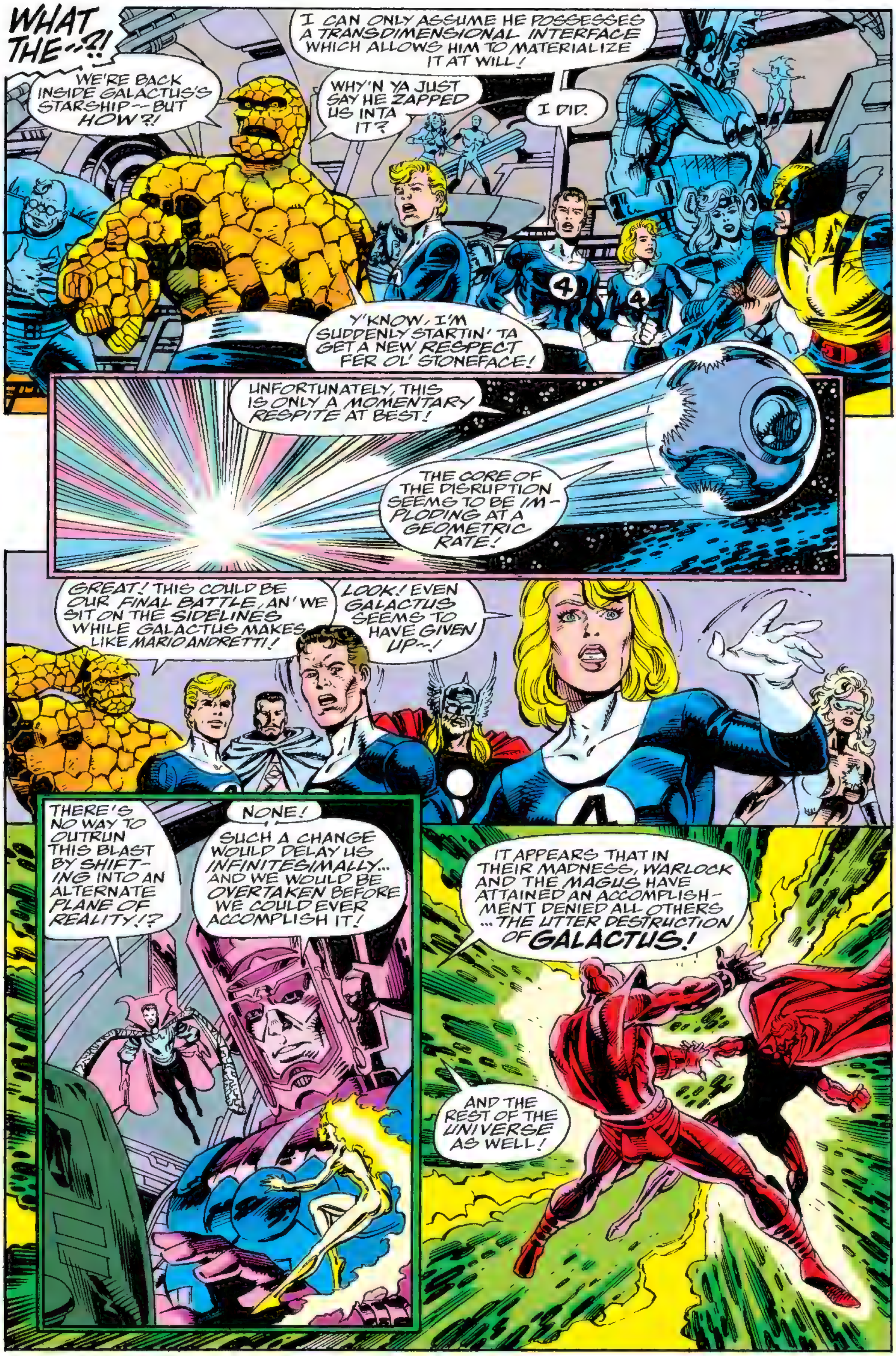

BEN...YOU'RE ALIVE! AND I SEE REED AND SUE IN THE DISTANCE!
WE DID IT!
WE ALL MANAGED TO SUR-VIVE!
FOR THE MOMENT... BUT DON'T LET THAT FOOL YA--! THIS WAR AIN'T OVER BY A LONG SHOT!

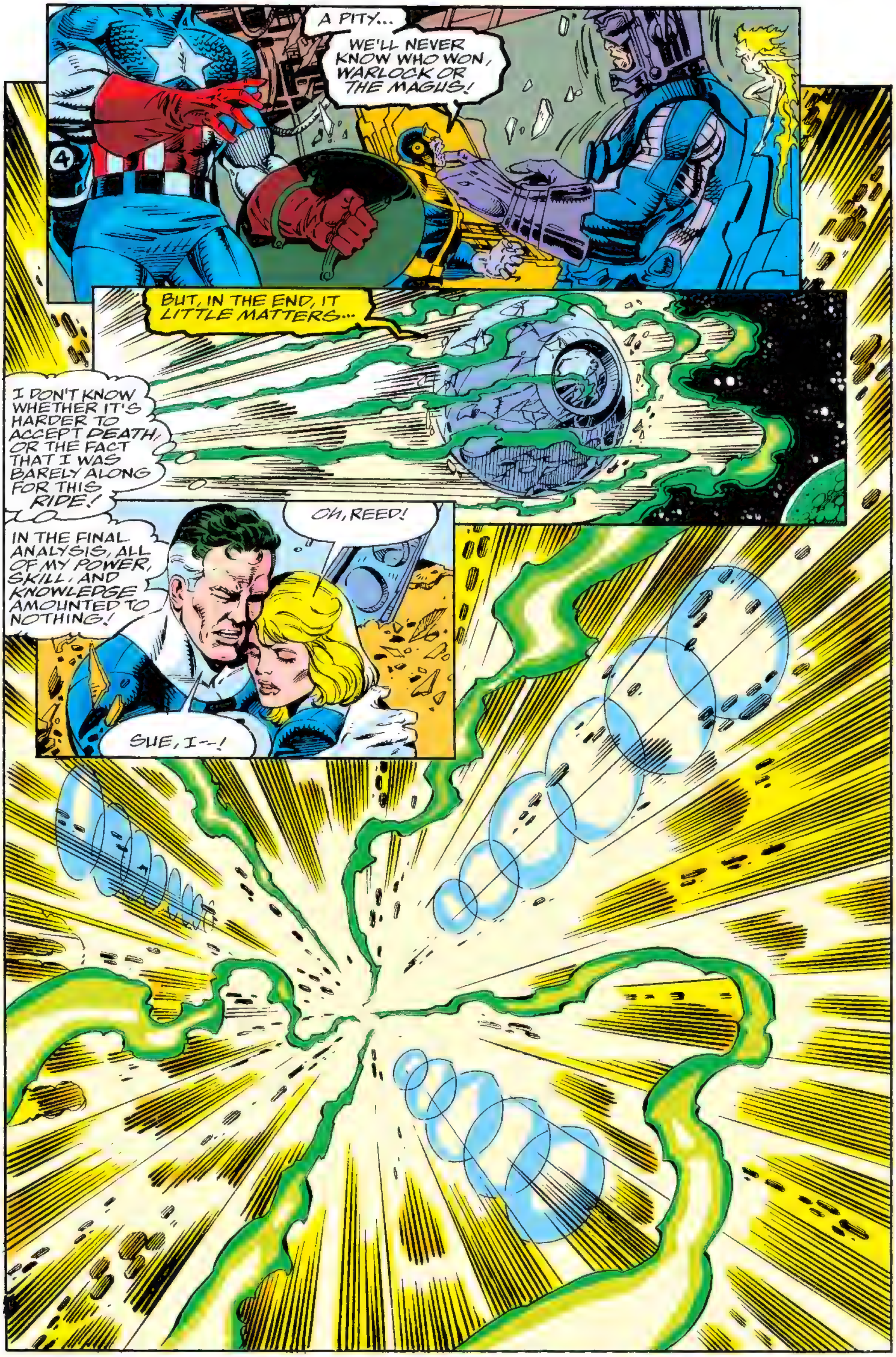
LIGHTEN UP, BIG BUDDY! WE'RE THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTING TEAM!
IF ANYONE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BEAT THE MAGUS, WE WILL! WE ALWAYS DO!
THAT'S JUST THE TROUBLE! WE ARE THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- BUT YER THE ONE WHO FERGOT IT!


YA BEEN ACTIN' LIKE SOME BLOOD-CRAZY VIGILANTE! LIKE THE DAD-BLASTED GHOST RIDER!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTA YA ?!!
BACK OFF, BEN!
IT'S THE NINETIES! THE WORLD IS COLDER-- HARSHER-- THAN WHEN WE STARTED!
MAYBE THE F.F. SHOULD CHANGE WITH THE TIMES!


MEANWHILE...
BEN AND JOHNNY SEEM TO BE ARGUING, BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
I'M CON-CERNED ABOUT SUSAN!
SHE'S FAR MORE CONFIDENT AND AGGRESSIVE... BUT COLDER... HARDER! IT MAY ONLY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE'S UNDERGONE A SUBTLE ALTERATION!


BUT, EVEN AS MR. FANTASTIC JOINS HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE, OTHER EVENTS IMMEDIATELY RIVET HIS ATTENTIONS!
REED--!
THAT MULTI-COLORED BURST OF LIGHT IS ORIGINATING FROM THE CORE OF THE DISRUPTION!
BRACE YOURSELVES, I'M AFRAID WE'RE IN FOR A SERIOUS BATTERING! WARLOCK AND THE MAGUS HAVE APPARENTLY--
--DISRUPTEDDD THEEEEEEEE FLOWWWWWW OFFFFFFFFFF REALITYYYYYY!
LOOKKKKK GALACTUSSS HASSSSS AAAAAAA PLANNNNN!
TOOOOO MEEEEE MYYYYY VESSELLL!

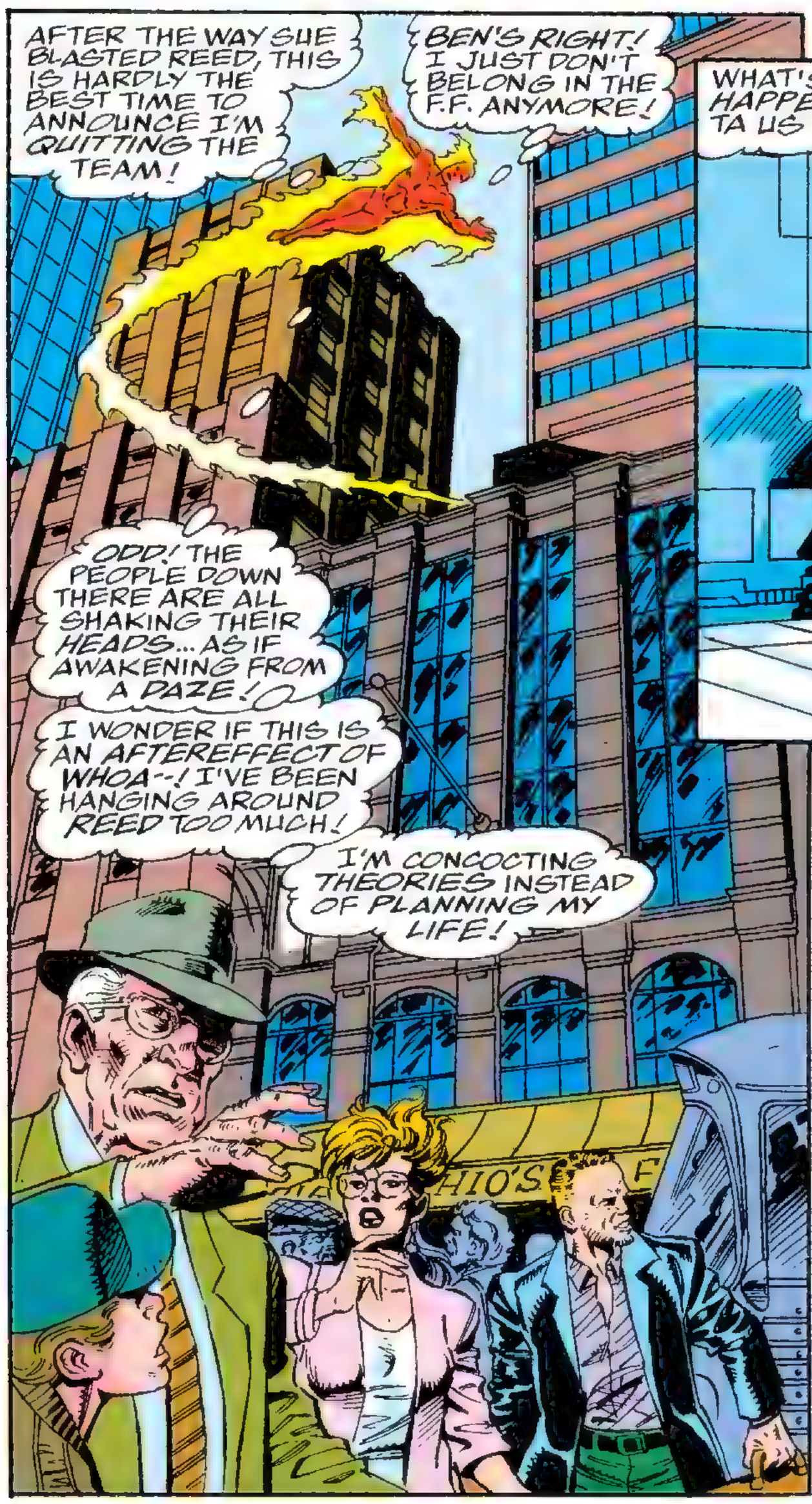

WHAT THE--?!
WE'RE BACK INSIDE GALACTUS'S STARSHIP--BUT HOW?!
I CAN ONLY ASSUME HE POSSESSES A TRANSDIMENSIONAL INTERFACE WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO MATERIALIZE IT AT WILL!
WHY'N YA JUST SAY HE ZAPPED US INTA IT?
I DID.
Y'KNOW, I'M SUDDENLY STARTIN' TA GET A NEW RESPECT FER OL' STONEFACE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS ONLY A MOMENTARY RESPITE AT BEST!
THE CORE OF THE DISRUPTION SEEMS TO BE IM-PLODING AT A GEOMETRIC RATE!
GREAT! THIS COULD BE OUR FINAL BATTLE, AN' WE SIT ON THE SIDELINES WHILE GALACTUS MAKES LIKE MARIO ANDRETTI!
LOOK! EVEN GALACTUS SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN UP--!
THERE'S NO WAY TO OUTRUN THIS BLAST BY SHIFT-ING INTO AN ALTERNATE PLANE OF REALITY!?
NONE!
SUCH A CHANGE WOULD DELAY US INFINITESIMALLY... AND WE WOULD BE OVERTAKEN BEFORE WE COULD EVER ACCOMPLISH IT!
IT APPEARS THAT IN THEIR MADNESS, WARLOCK AND THE MAGUS HAVE ATTAINED AN ACCOMPLISH-MENT DENIED ALL OTHERS ...THE UTTER DESTRUCTION OF GALACTUS!
AND THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE AS WELL!

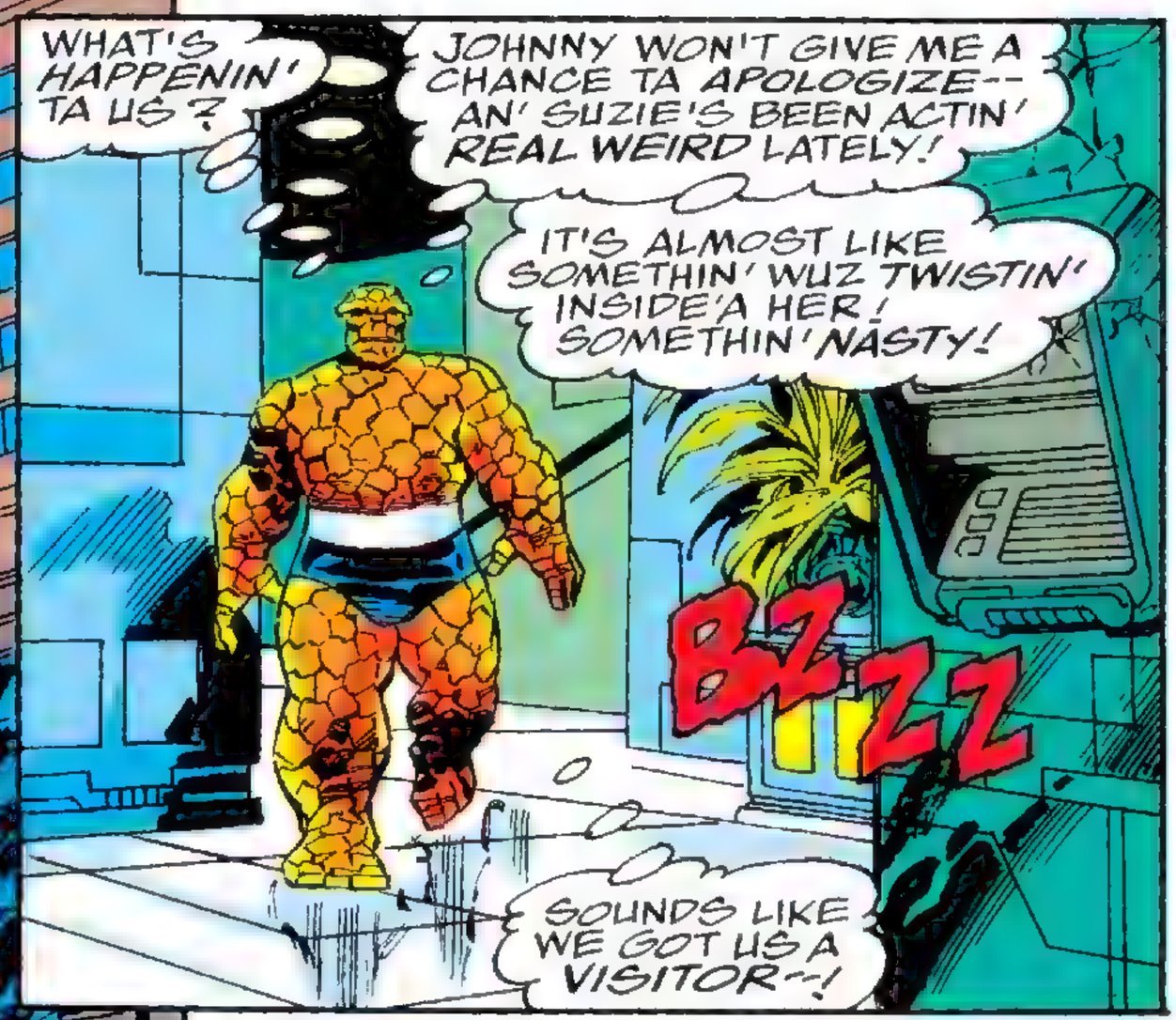

A PITY...
WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO WON, WARLOCK OR THE MAGUS!
BUT, IN THE END, IT LITTLE MATTERS...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S HARDER TO ACCEPT DEATH, OR THE FACT THAT I WAS BARELY ALONG FOR THIS RIDE!
IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ALL OF MY POWER, SKILL, AND KNOWLEDGE AMOUNTED TO NOTHING!
OH, REED!
SUE, I--!

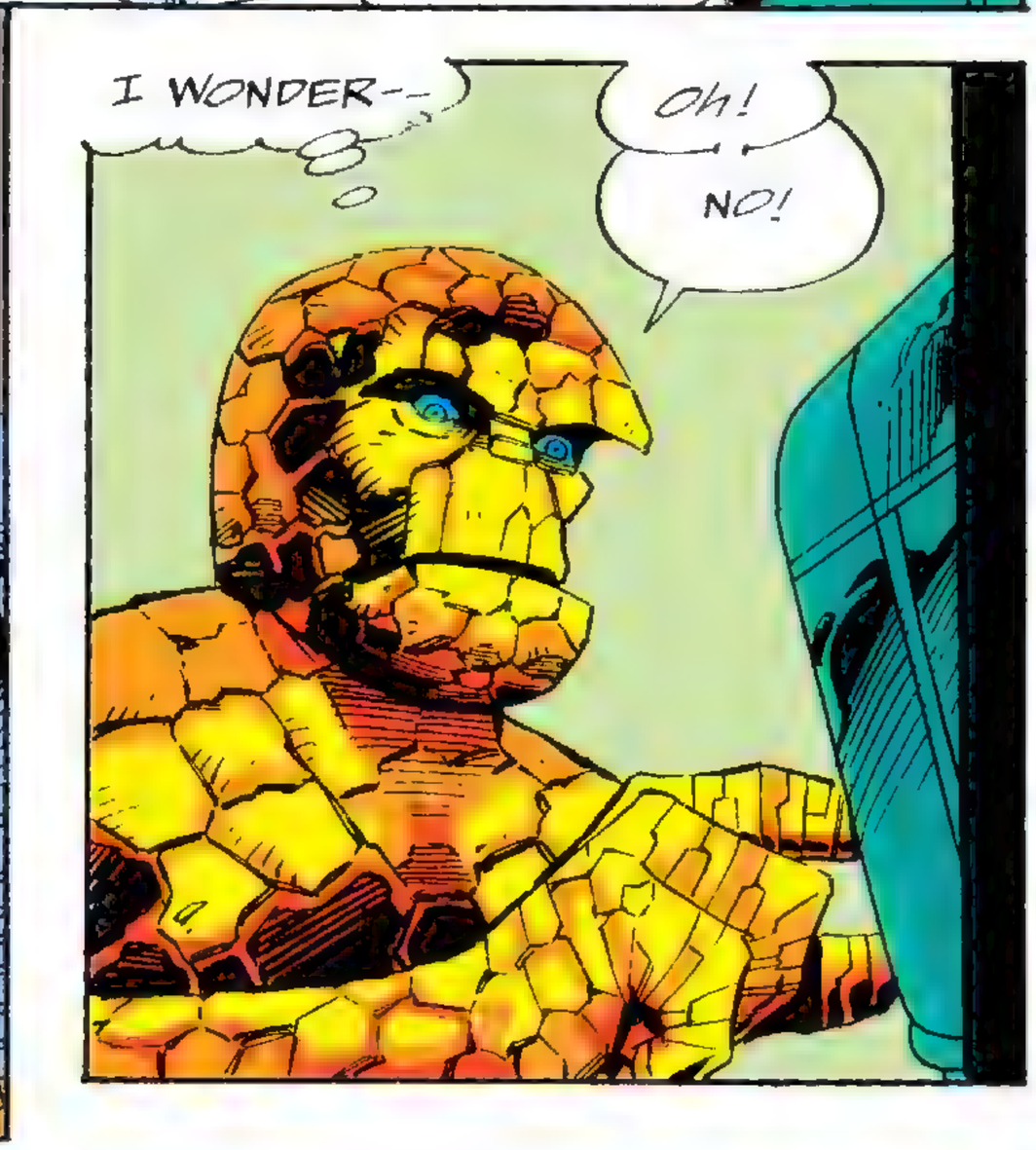
WE'RE ALIVE!
IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW?
WHO CARES?
WE'RE BACK HOME! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE GOOD GUYS WON!
JOHNNY'S PROBABLY RIGHT, BUT IT'S ANNOYING TO BE OUT OF THE LOOP ON A RESOLUTION OF THIS MAGNITUDE!
WE CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT WARLOCK, PERHAPS WORKING WITH THANOS, WAS ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR AN ATTACK OF THIS NATURE -- THEY MAY HAVE EVEN BUILT A FAIL-SAFE INTO THE INFINITY GAUNTLET ITSELF!
BY THE WAY... WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS ROOF?!
YOUR DOPPELGANGER HAPPENED TO IT!
HE WOULD'VE KILLED US ALL WITH A GAMMA BOMB... IF I HADN'T REACTED IN TIME!
I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS OUR WEAK LINK, REED -- BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE OF US BEATEN BY HIS SHADE!
BUT I --!
NOT NOW!
I'M IN NO MOOD TO HEAR ANOTHER USELESS THEORY!
WHERE WAS ALL OF YOUR GREAT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE WHEN WE NEEDED IT THE MOST!?

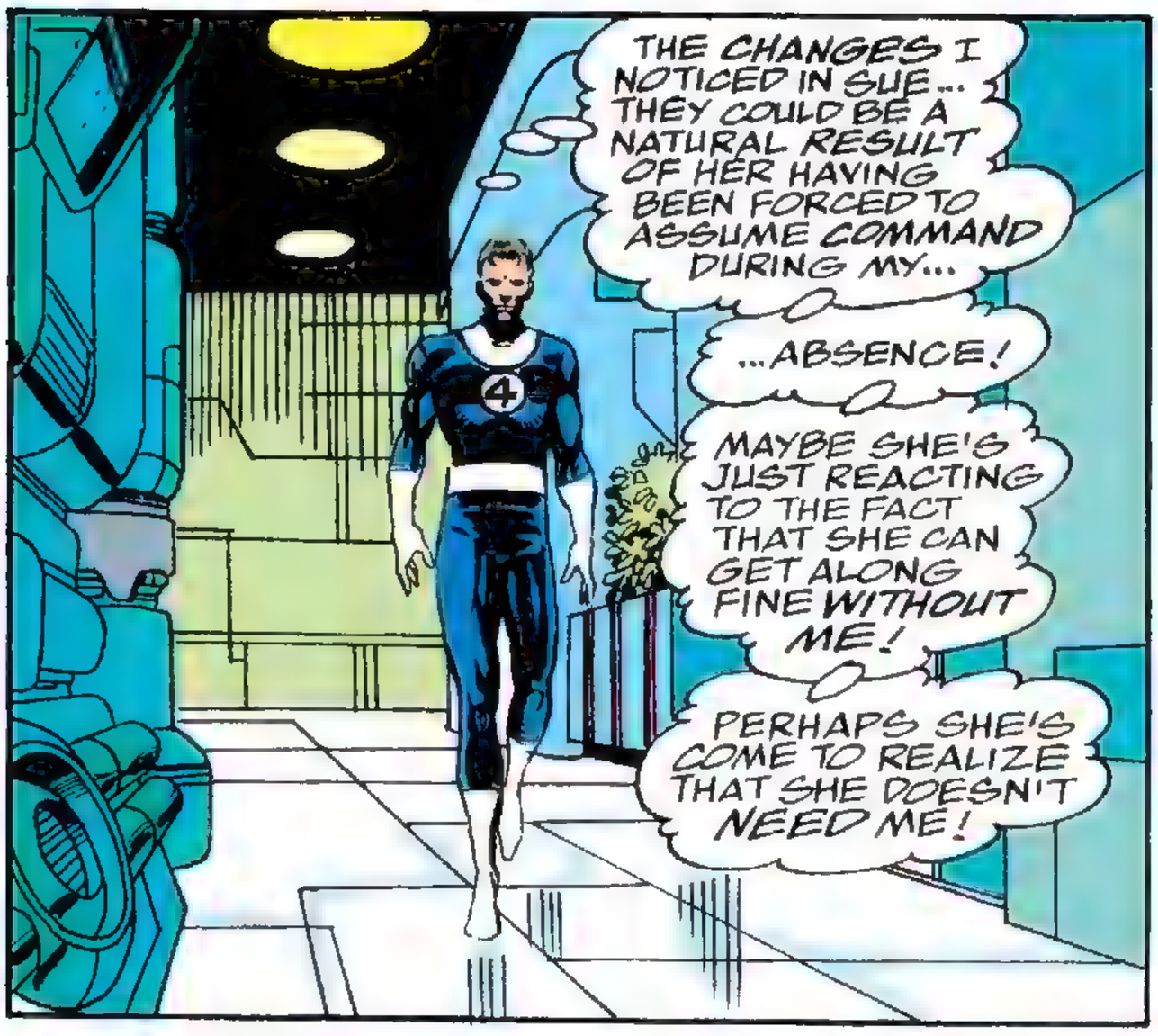
JOHNNY, ABOUT WHAT I SAID EARLIER...
FORGET IT, BEN! NO MORE LECTURES!
I THINK I'M JUST GONNA FOLLOW MY SISTER'S LEAD--
4

--AND TAKE OFF!
I HAD TO LEAVE BEFORE I SAID SOMETHING I KNOW I'D REGRET LATER!

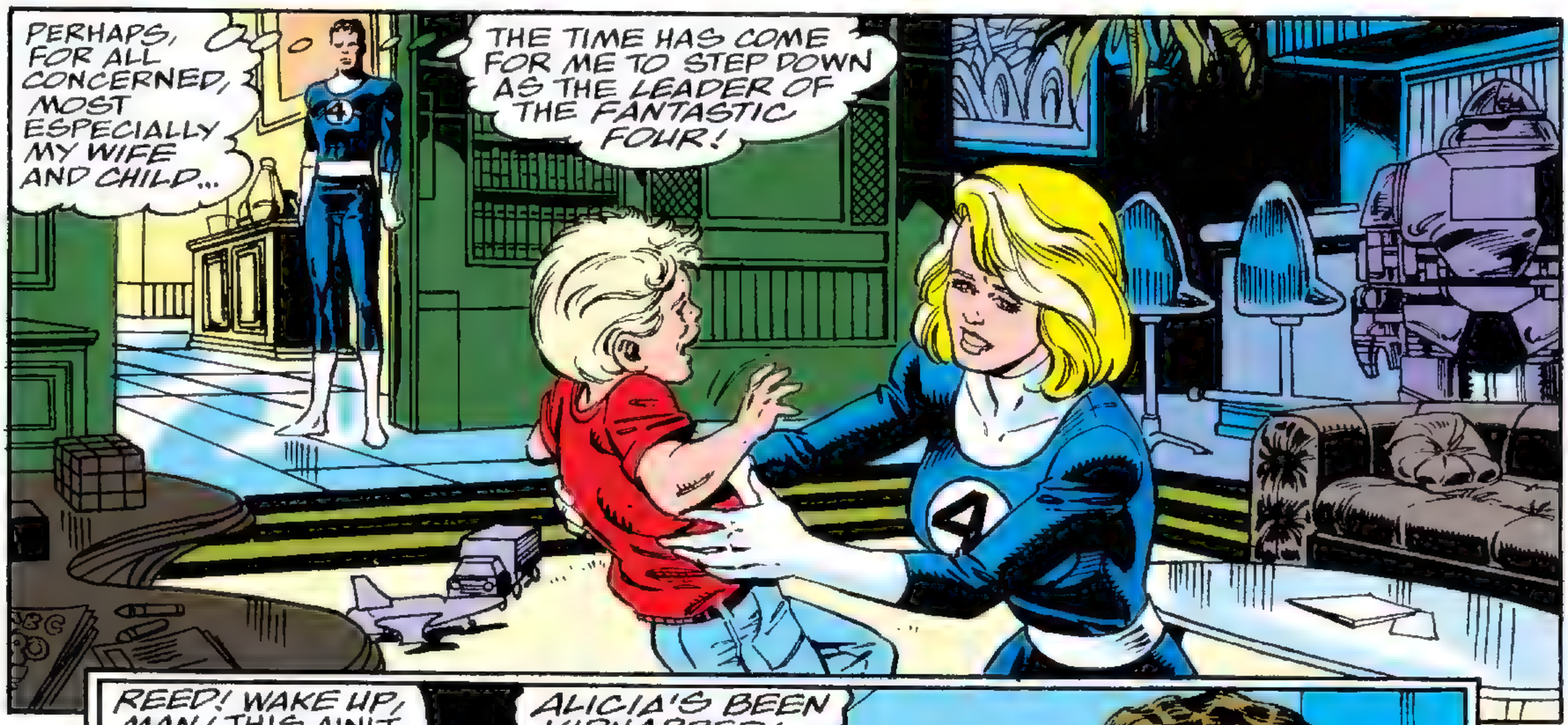

AFTER THE WAY SUE BLASTED REED, THIS IS HARDLY THE BEST TIME TO ANNOUNCE I'M QUITTING THE TEAM!
BEN'S RIGHT! I JUST DON'T BELONG IN THE F.F. ANYMORE!
ODD! THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE ARE ALL SHAKING THEIR HEADS... AS IF AWAKENING FROM A DAZE!
I WONDER IF THIS IS AN AFTEREFFECT OF WHOA--! I'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND REED TOO MUCH!
I'M CONCOCTING THEORIES INSTEAD OF PLANNING MY LIFE!

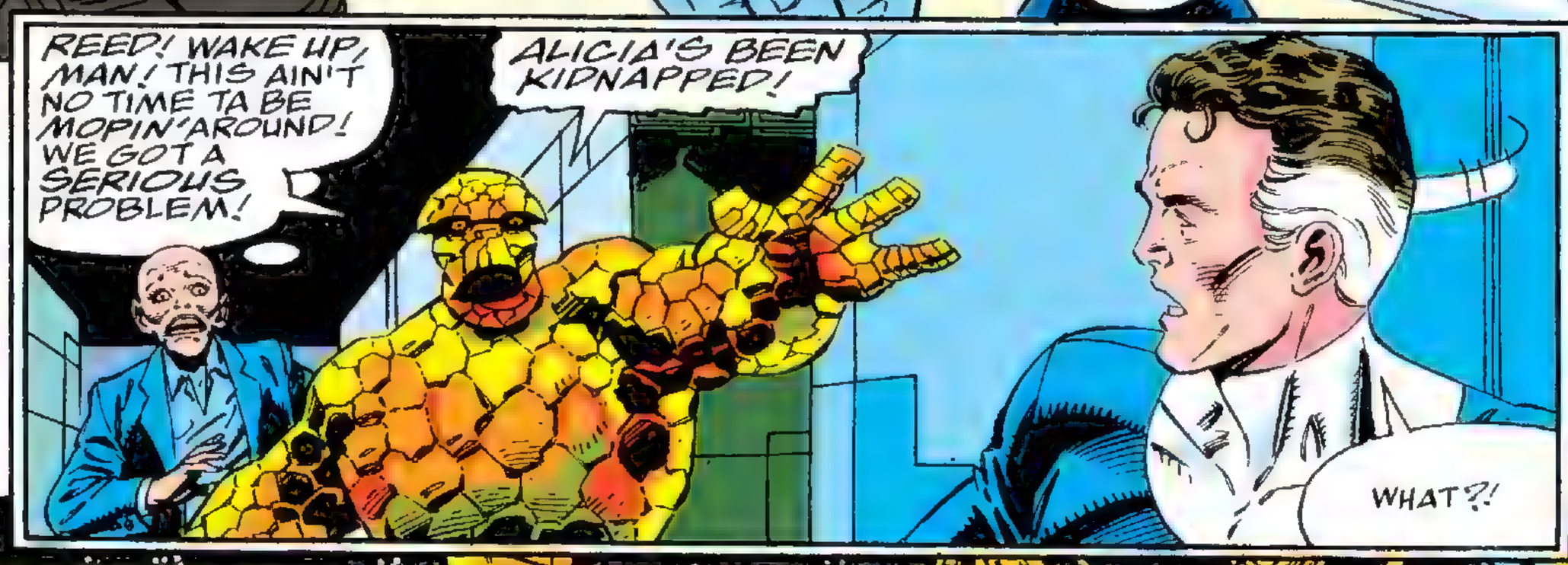

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TA US?
JOHNNY WON'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TA APOLOGIZE-- AN' SUZIE'S BEEN ACTIN' REAL WEIRD LATELY!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMETHIN' WUZ TWISTIN' INSIDE'A HER! SOMETHIN' NASTY!
BZZZZ
SOUNDS LIKE WE GOT US A VISITOR--!

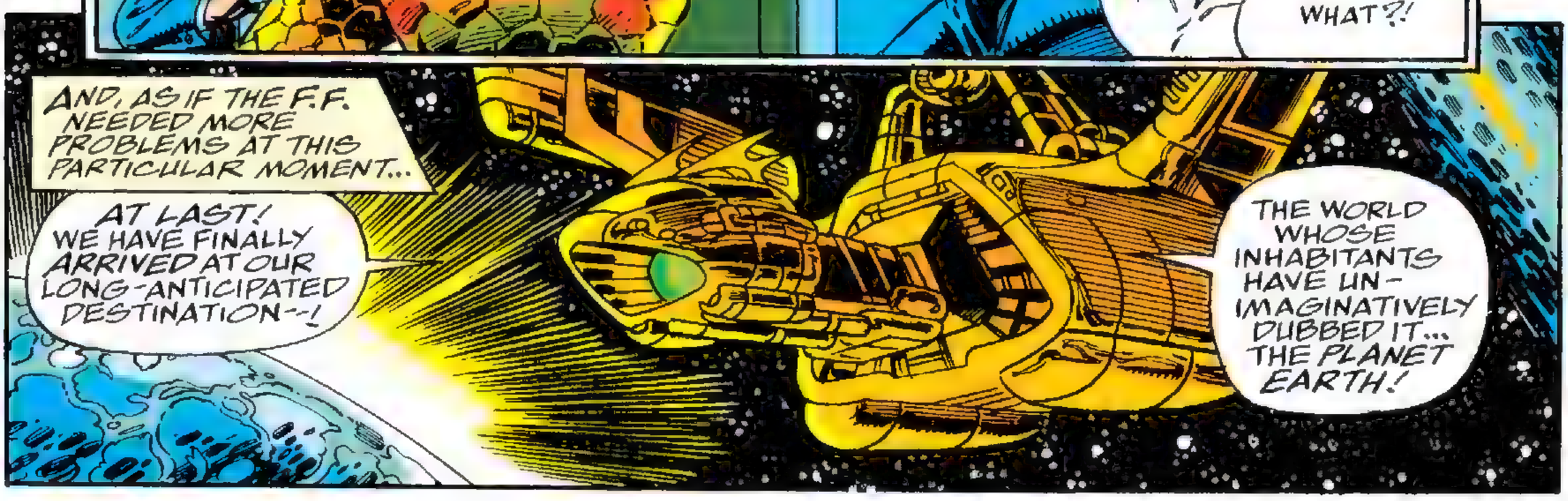

I WONDER--
Oh!
NO!


THE CHANGES I NOTICED IN SUE... THEY COULD BE A NATURAL RESULT OF HER HAVING BEEN FORCED TO ASSUME COMMAND DURING MY...
...ABSENCE!
MAYBE SHE'S JUST REACTING TO THE FACT THAT SHE CAN GET ALONG FINE WITHOUT ME!
PERHAPS SHE'S COME TO REALIZE THAT SHE DOESN'T NEED ME!

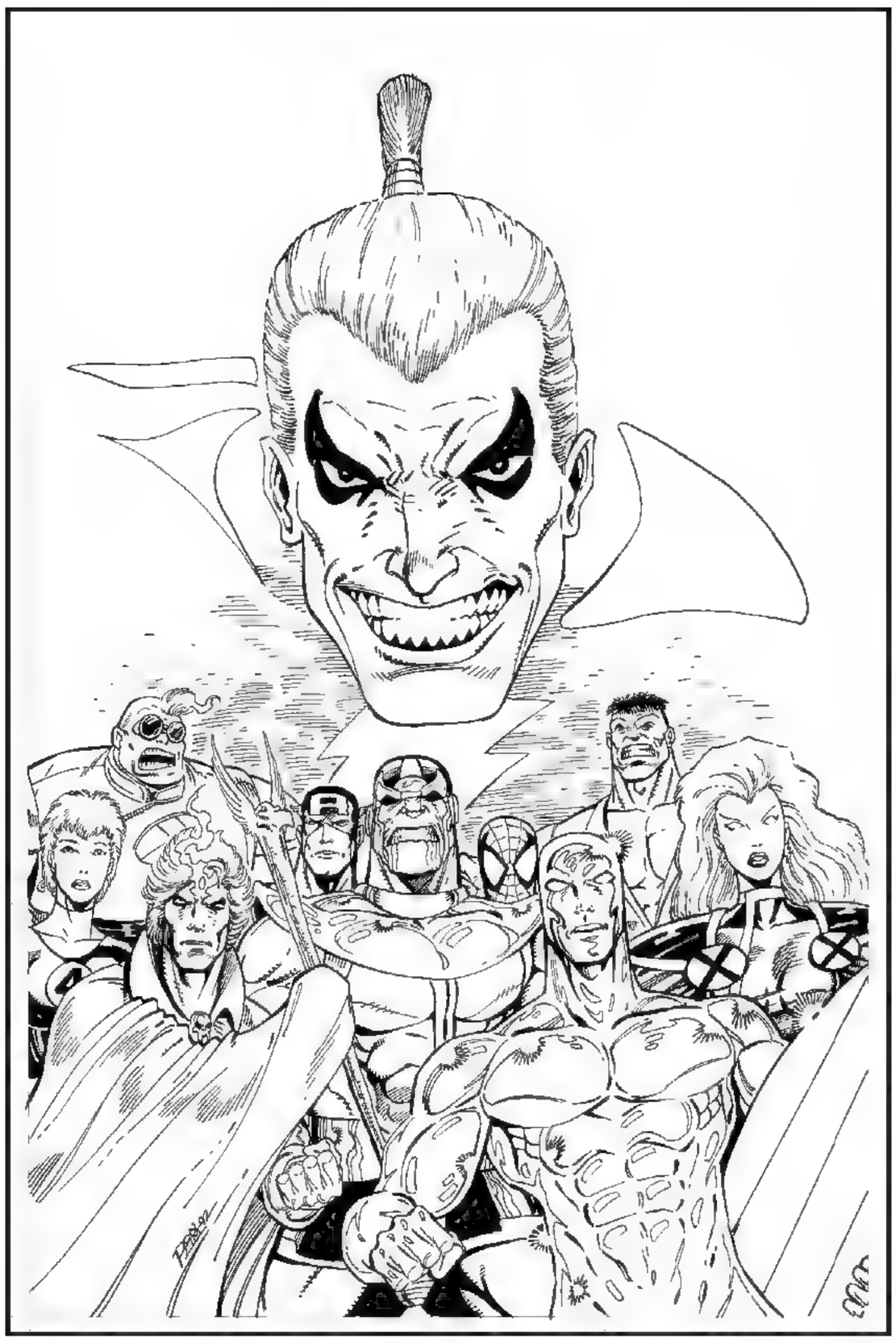
MAYBE MR. FANTASTIC ISN'T SO FANTASTIC ANYMORE!
MAYBE HE NEVER WAS!


PERHAPS, FOR ALL CONCERNED, MOST ESPECIALLY MY WIFE AND CHILD...
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO STEP DOWN AS THE LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


REED! WAKE UP, MAN! THIS AIN'T NO TIME TA BE MOPIN' AROUND! WE GOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM!
ALICIA'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
WHAT?!


AND, AS IF THE F.F. NEEDED MORE PROBLEMS AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT...
AT LAST! WE HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED AT OUR LONG-ANTICIPATED DESTINATION--!
THE WORLD WHOSE INHABITANTS HAVE UN-IMAGINATIVELY DUBBED IT... THE PLANET EARTH!

EXCELLENT, POWER SKRULL! I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO CONSUMMATE OUR ANIMOSITY AGAINST THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR!
AS AM I, DEVOS-- BUT I AM EVEN MORE ANXIOUS TO VIEW THE EXPRESSION OF HORROR WHICH WILL SURELY FILL THE FACE OF THE HATED HUMAN TORCH WHEN HE FINALLY REALIZES THAT--
--HIS BELOVED WIFE HAS RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE!
LYJA IS BACK!
AND SHE HAS COME SEEKING VENGEANCE!
TO BE CONTINUED--!



INSIDE COMICS #3 **COVER ART** BY RON LIM

INFINITY WAR **PROMOTIONAL POSTER ART** BY JIM STARLIN

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

INFINITY WAR TPB **COVER ART** BY RON LIM, AL MILGROM & TOM SMITH

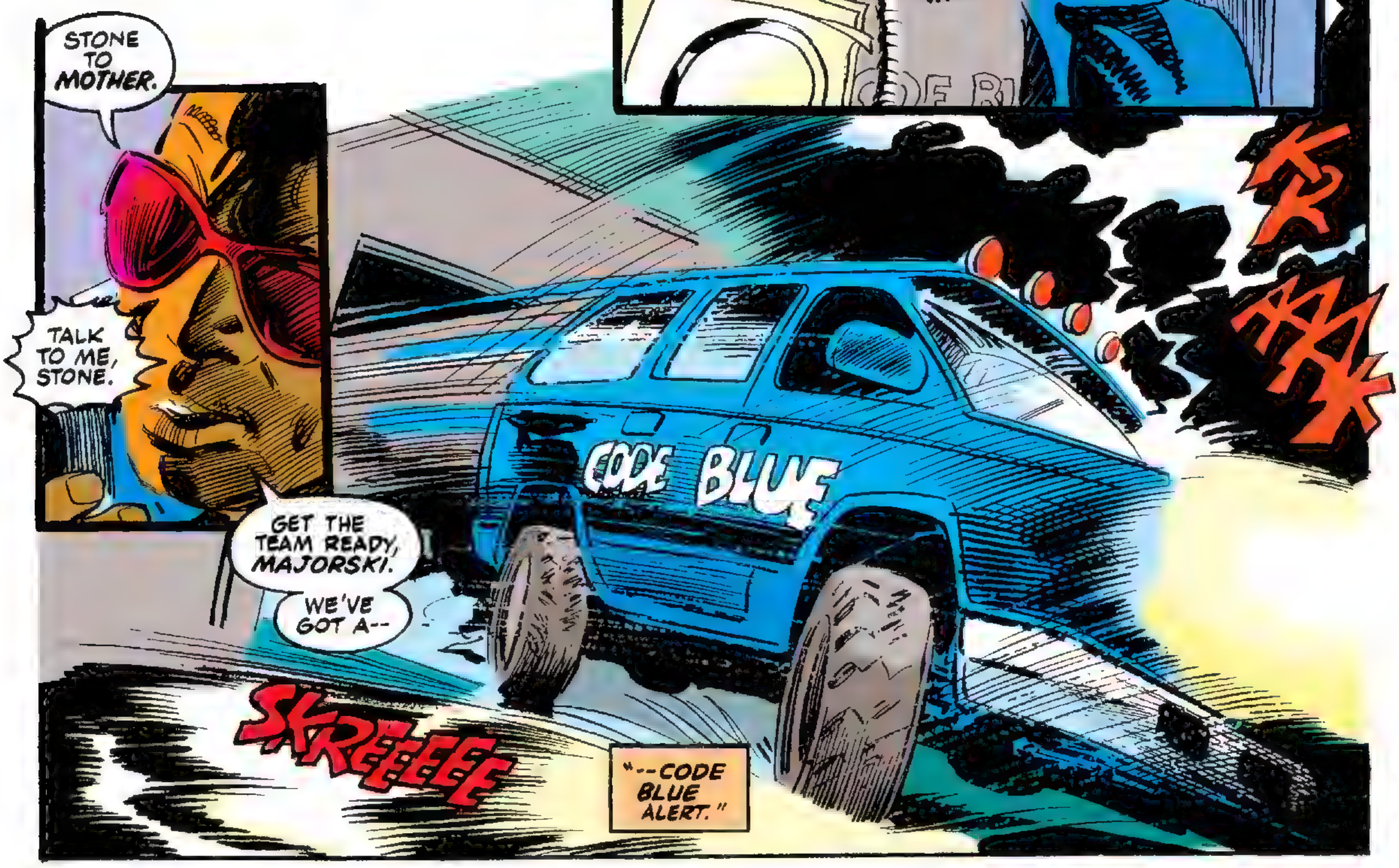
WRITER: DANNY FINGEROTH • PENCILER: GENE COLAN • INKER: AL WILLIAMSON
COLORIST: MIKE THOMAS • LETTERER: JON BABCOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR: MARK POWERS • EDITOR: TERRY KAVANAGH

DEMOGOBLIN IN...
Demogoblin's Lament
KEEP FREEZER CLOSED
THE RECESSION WEEKS AGO CLOSED THE DOORS OF ALBERTO'S UPSCALE MANHATTAN RESTAURANT.
BUT THE ELECTRICITY IS STILL POWERING THE WALK-IN FREEZER.
THE CREATURE CALLED DEMOGOBLIN DECIDED TO MAKE USE OF IT...
...FOR SOME VERY BIZARRE COLD STORAGE.
BY ALL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULDN'T EXIST, DOPPELGANGER...
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN #24 AND WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #93

YOU SHOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED LIKE ALL THE OTHER DUPLICATE HEROES DID.*
BUT YOU DIDN'T. FATE AS MUCH AS DROPPED YOU IN MY LAP...
*INFINITY WAR #6.--TERRY
...AND THERE MUST BE A WAY I CAN MAKE USE OF A CREATURE OF SUCH EXQUISITE EVIL AS--
NO! GET OUT OF MY MIND! WE DIVIDED INTO TWO * JUST SO I WOULD NOT BE HAMPERED BY YOUR HUMANITY, MACENDALE!
I DO NOT WANT TO RE-MERGE WITH YOU--YOU SO-CALLED HOBGOBLIN!
MINE IS THE TRUE REALIZATION OF THAT ENTITY--THE RECIPIENT OF N'ASTIRH'S GIFT.
BEGONE!
*WEB OF SPIDEY-MAN #86.-T.
I AM NO LONGER HUMAN --AND I REVEL IN THAT!
FREEZER CLOSED
I GO, SPIDER-MOCKERY--
--TO SEARCH THE SITE WHERE YOU FIRST APPEARED--
--THERE TO SEEK CLUES TO YOUR RESURRECTION!
HOLY--!
WHOOSH
NOTHING HOLY AT ALL, STU.

POLICE--? YEAH. I JUST SAW... SOME KIND OF... DEMON? ON A... FLAMING SLED...

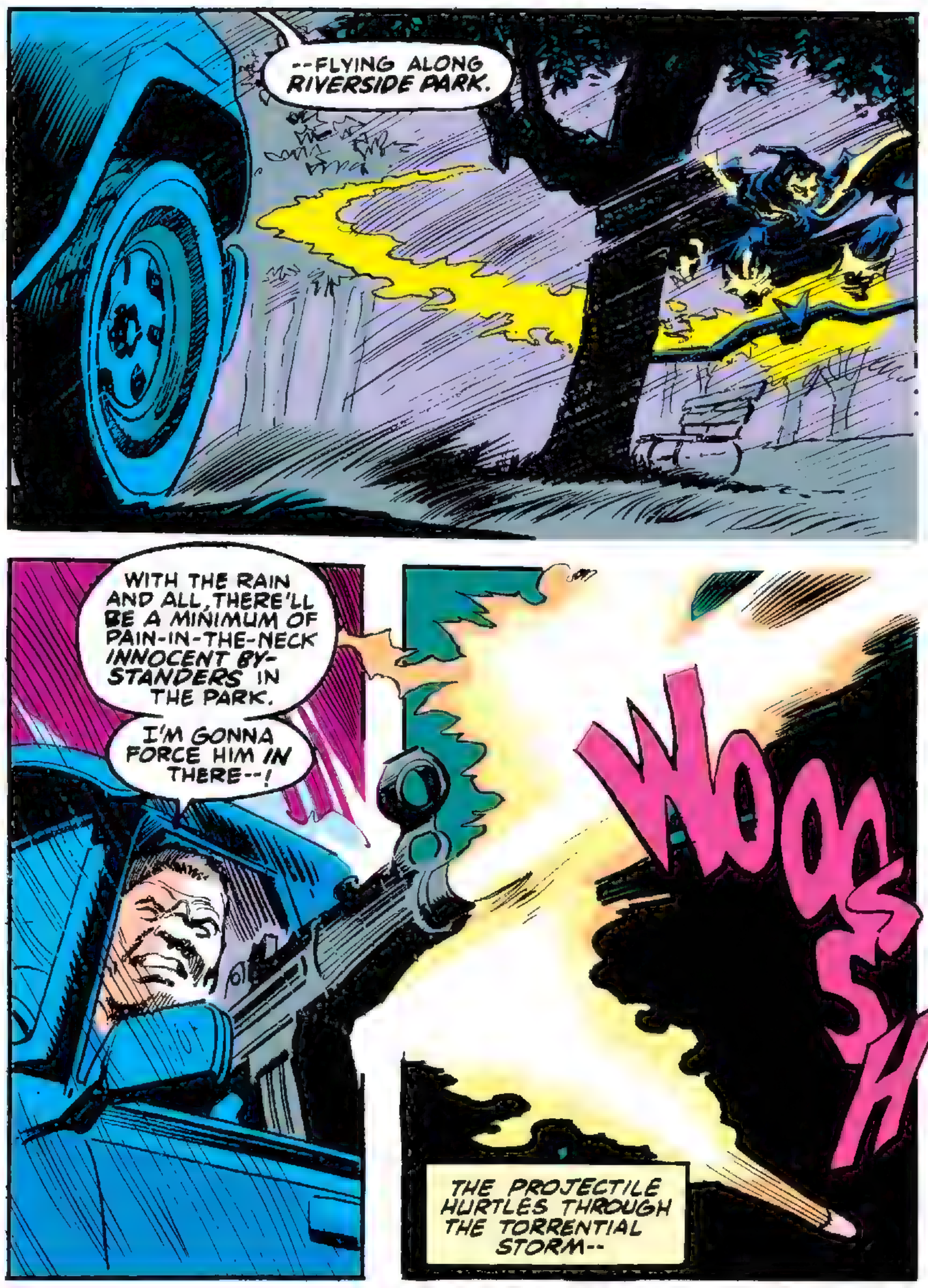
"...FLYING THROUGH THE AIR," HE SAID LIEUTENANT STONE.
THEN YOU CALLED THE RIGHT PEOPLE, OPERATOR.
UZI SMG:


STONE TO MOTHER.
TALK TO ME, STONE.
CODE BLUE
GET THE TEAM READY, MAJORSKI.
WE'VE GOT A--
SKREEEEE
"--CODE BLUE ALERT."

EASY, MOTHER. I DON'T WANT TO DIE BEFORE WE GET THERE!
DON'T SWEAT IT, LOOT--I GOT AIR-BAGS!
YEAH, MAJORSKI--BETWEEN YOUR EARS!
SHADDUP BACK THERE--

--BEFORE I GET UGLY!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN GOOD LOOKIN' UP TO NOW? YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD US!
CHILL, RUIZ. WE NEED TO PLOT STRATEGY.
WHAT KINDA STRATEGY, RASSITANO? WE FIND THE BIG, BAD SUPER-GUY-- TAKE 'IM DOWN-- AND THEN LET SOME SPANDEX BUM COME ALONG AND TAKE CREDIT FOR IT.
THAT'S HARDLY FAIR, FIELSTEIN. SUPER HEROES ARE FOR THE MOST PART FAIR-MINDED AND--
POLICE
JACKSON--

--GET A LIFE!
PUT A SOCK IN IT, BACK THERE.
OUR TARGET'S DEAD AHEAD--


--FLYING ALONG RIVERSIDE PARK.
WITH THE RAIN AND ALL, THERE'LL BE A MINIMUM OF PAIN-IN-THE-NECK INNOCENT BY-STANDERS IN THE PARK.
I'M GONNA FORCE HIM IN THERE--!
WOOSH
THE PROJECTILE HURTLES THROUGH THE TORRENTIAL STORM--

--AND HITS IT'S MARK!
THERE--! A TITANIUM STEEL NET--LACED WITH ENOUGH KNOCKOUT DRUGS TO STOP A HERD 'A ELEPHANTS--OUGHT TO MAKE OUR JOB EASIER.
WHAT--?
SPLANGG
FOOLS--!
KUMP
YOUR DEATHS ARE NOW--
--ASSURED!
CODE BLUE
uh-oh...

AH--SO THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST THE TWO IN FRONT!
FOLLOW ME, THEN, AS I LEAD YOU TO YOUR COLLECTIVE DOOM!
BLAM BLAM
YOU CAN TALK AS FANCY AS YOU WANT, GOBLIN GUY--
--BUT WE'VE FOUGHT ASGARDIANS...
--AND COMPARED TO THOSE GUYS...
...YOU'RE A STROLL IN THE PARK!
BUDADADA
YOU ARE JUST HUMAN, WOMAN--ALBEIT HUMANS WITH ADVANCED WEAPONRY--
--UNLIKE THIS POOR CACHE OF HOMELESS--
--SOON TO BE LIFELESS--
--THAT I KNOW YOU WILL SO NOBLY TRY TO SAVE--
--THEREBY MAKING EASIER TARGETS OF YOURSELVES!
SPAKOW
EASY, FELLA--I'VE GOT YOU!

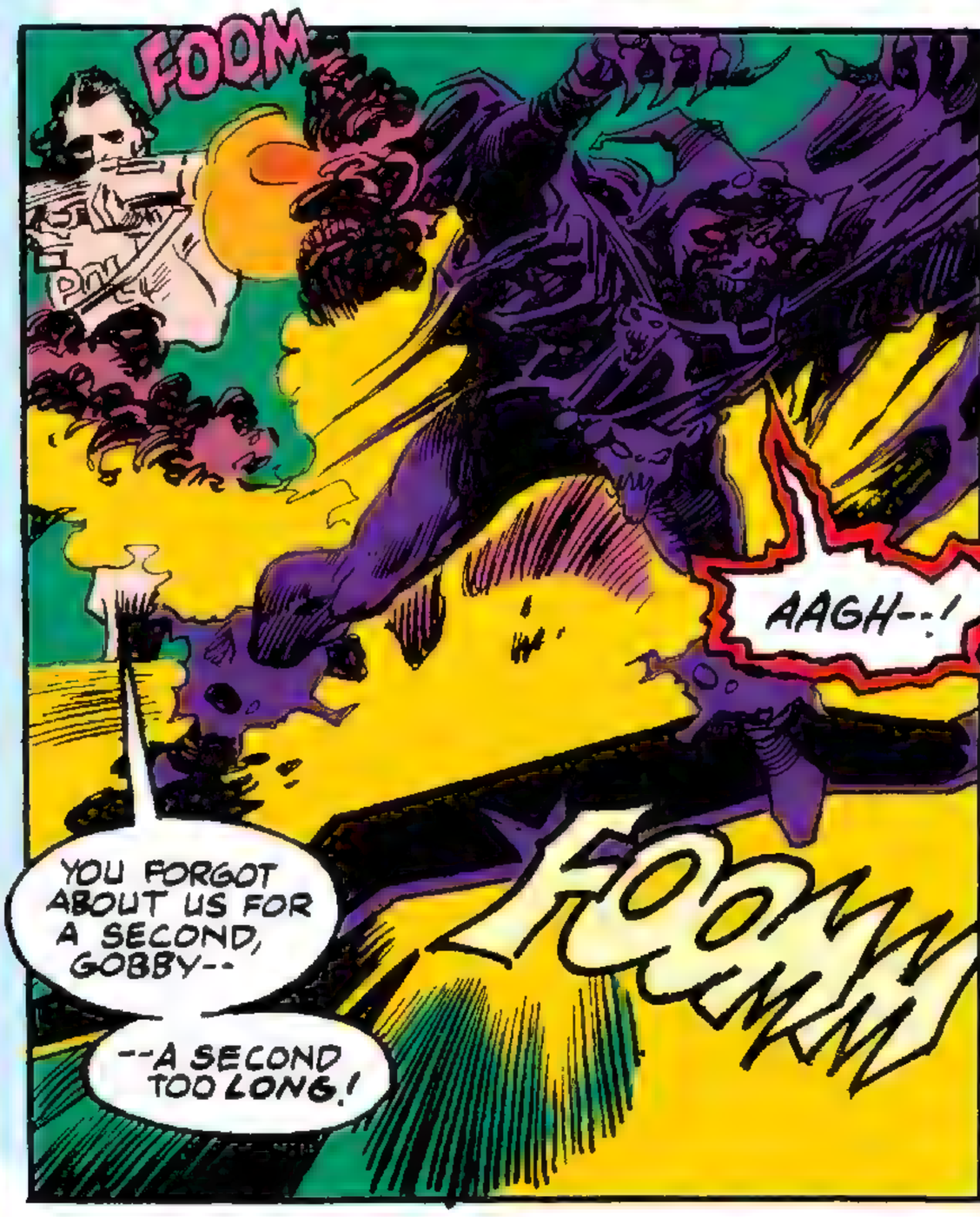
AH--BUT DO YOU HAVE...
NO!

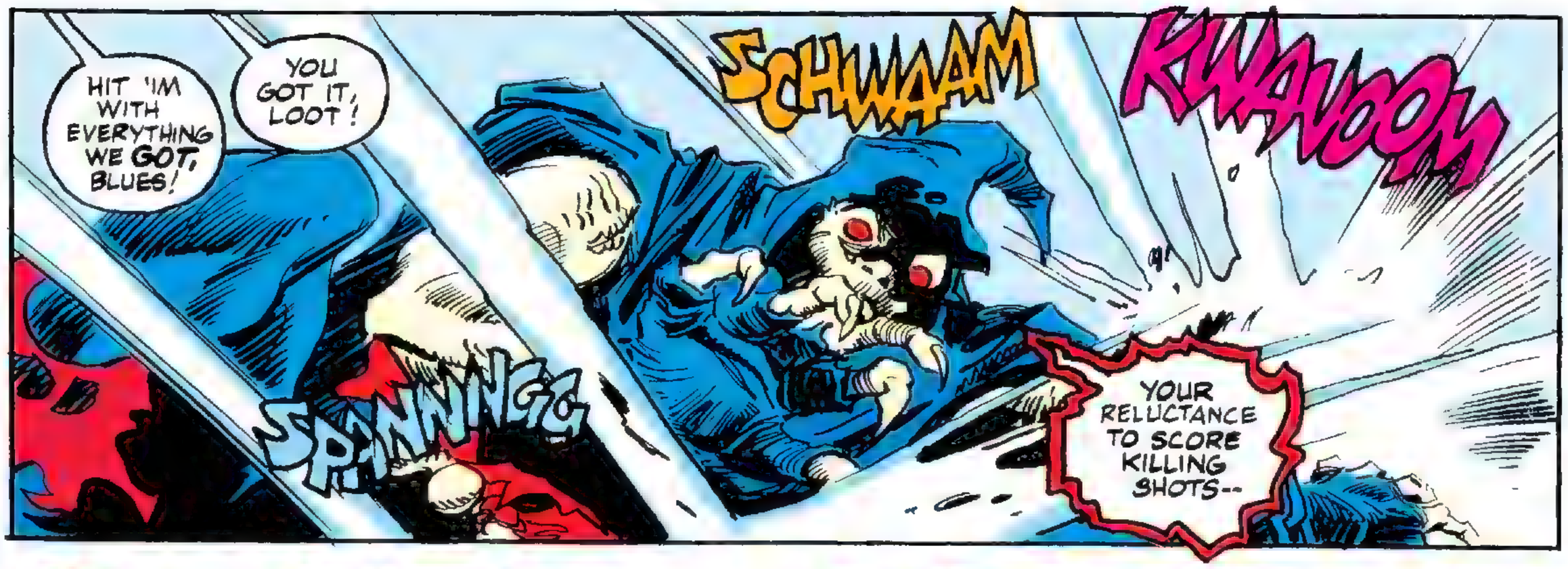
...HIM?!
SPLAT

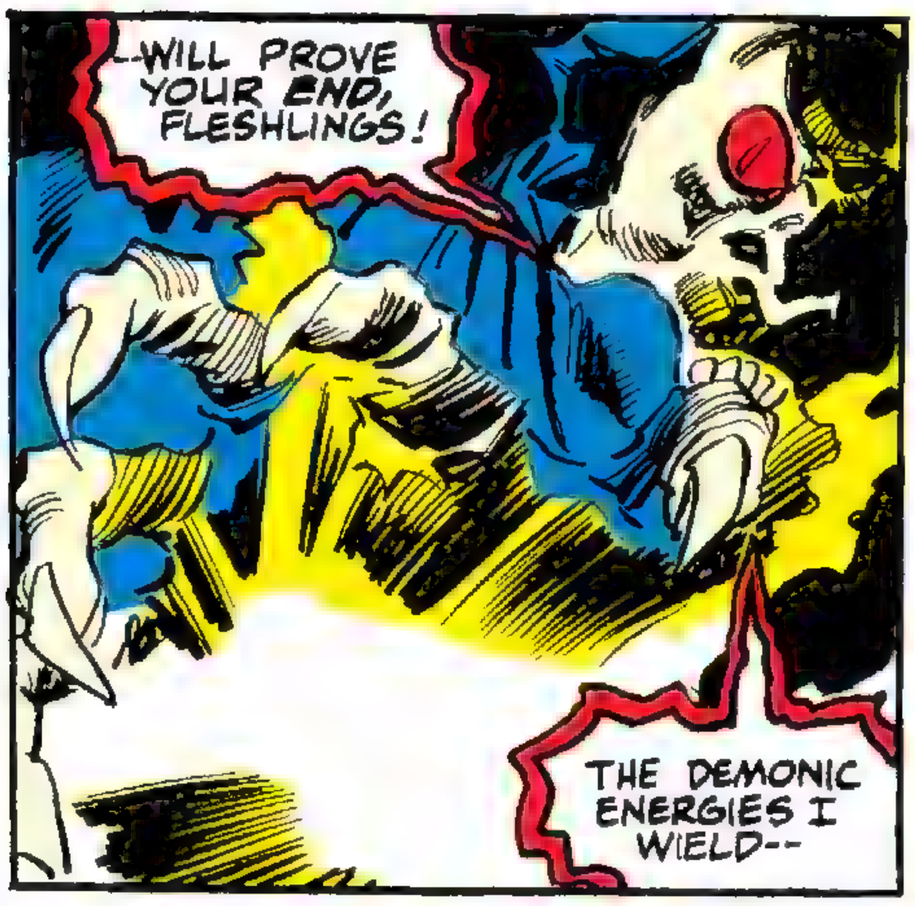
HAHAHAHAHA--
NO... HE'S JUST A HELPLESS VICTIM... NOT A PART OF THIS...
IT'S NOT RIGHT... NOT HIS BATTLE...
Huh...?

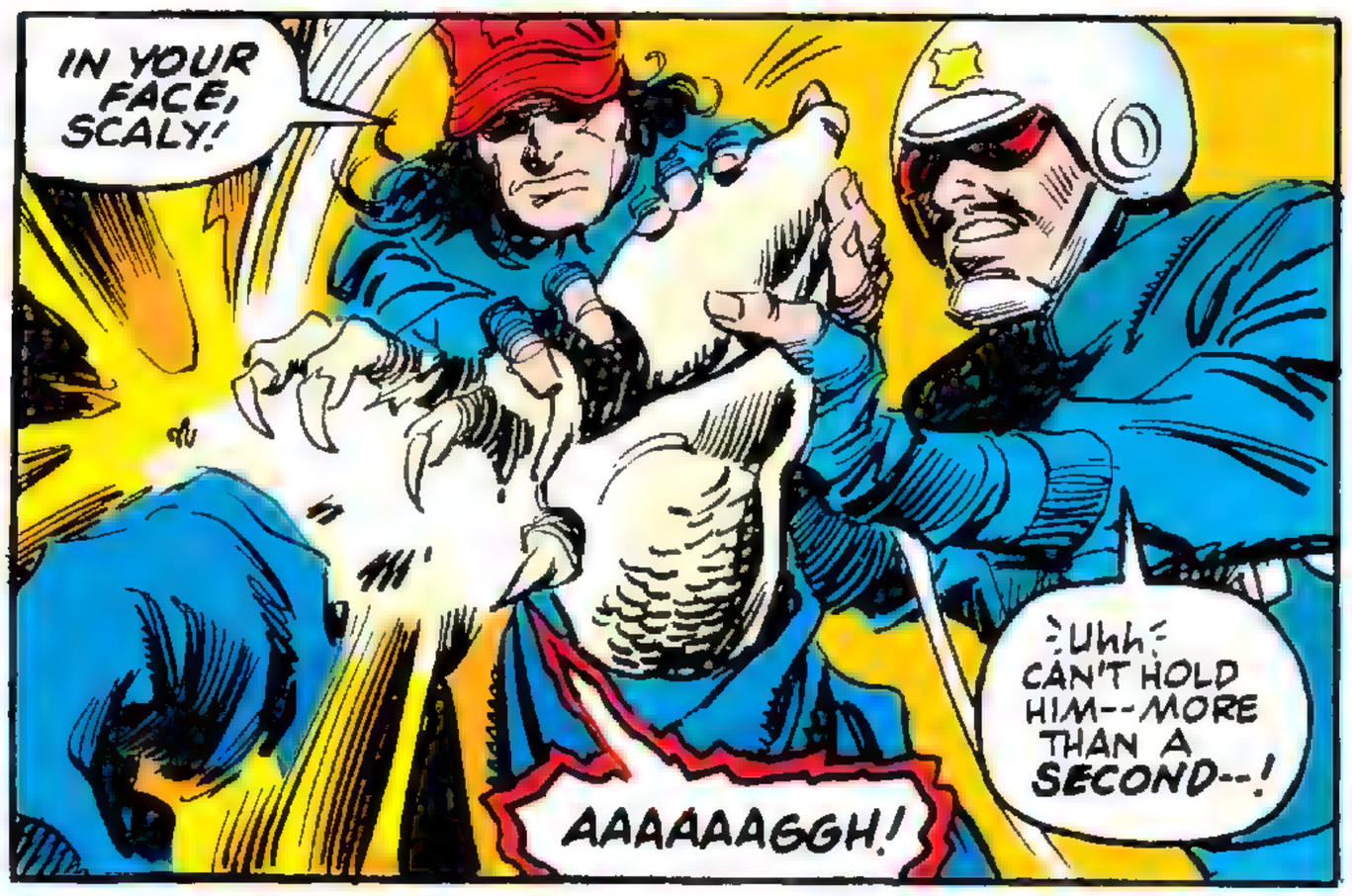
THANKS... I THINK...
FOOL! THE HUMAN VIRUS THAT LURKS WITHIN--

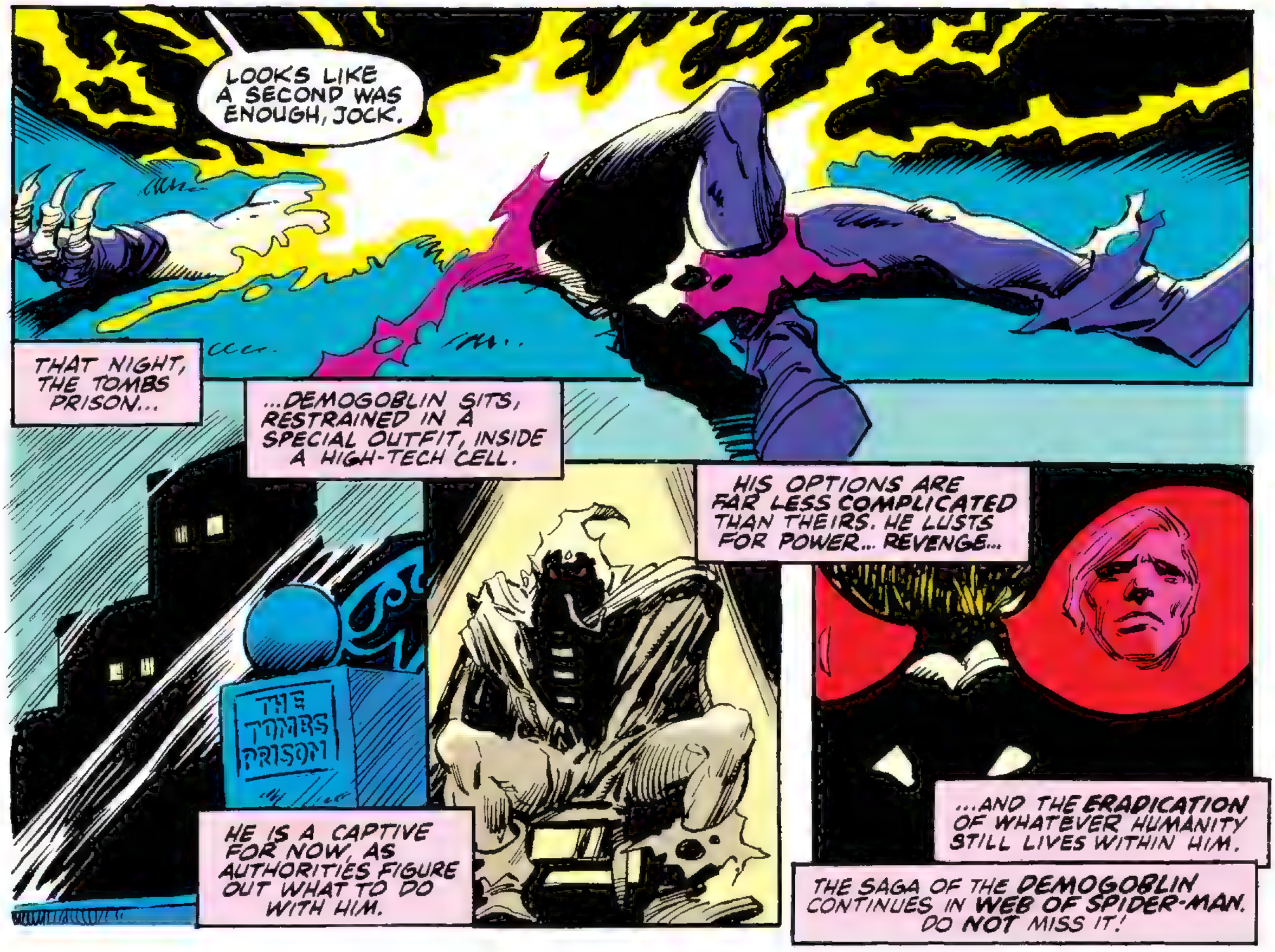
--IS THANKFULLY SUBMERGED AGAIN
SHRAAH


FOOM
AAGH--!
YOU FORGOT ABOUT US FOR A SECOND, GOBBY--
--A SECOND TOO LONG!
FOOMM


HIT 'IM WITH EVERYTHING WE GOT, BLUES!
YOU GOT IT, LOOT!
SCHWAAM
KWAVOOM
SPINNNGG
YOUR RELUCTANCE TO SCORE KILLING SHOTS--


WILL PROVE YOUR END, FLESHLINGS!
THE DEMONIC ENERGIES I WIELD--


IN YOUR FACE, SCALY!
:Uhh: CAN'T HOLD HIM--MORE THAN A SECOND--!
AAAAAAGGH!


LOOKS LIKE A SECOND WAS ENOUGH, JOCK.
THAT NIGHT, THE TOMBS PRISON...
...DEMOGOBLIN SITS, RESTRAINED IN A SPECIAL OUTFIT, INSIDE A HIGH-TECH CELL.
THE TOMBS PRISON
HE IS A CAPTIVE FOR NOW, AS AUTHORITIES FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
HIS OPTIONS ARE FAR LESS COMPLICATED THAN THEIRS. HE LUSTS FOR POWER... REVENGE...
...AND THE ERADICATION OF WHATEVER HUMANITY STILL LIVES WITHIN HIM.
THE SAGA OF THE DEMOGOBLIN CONTINUES IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN. DO NOT MISS IT!

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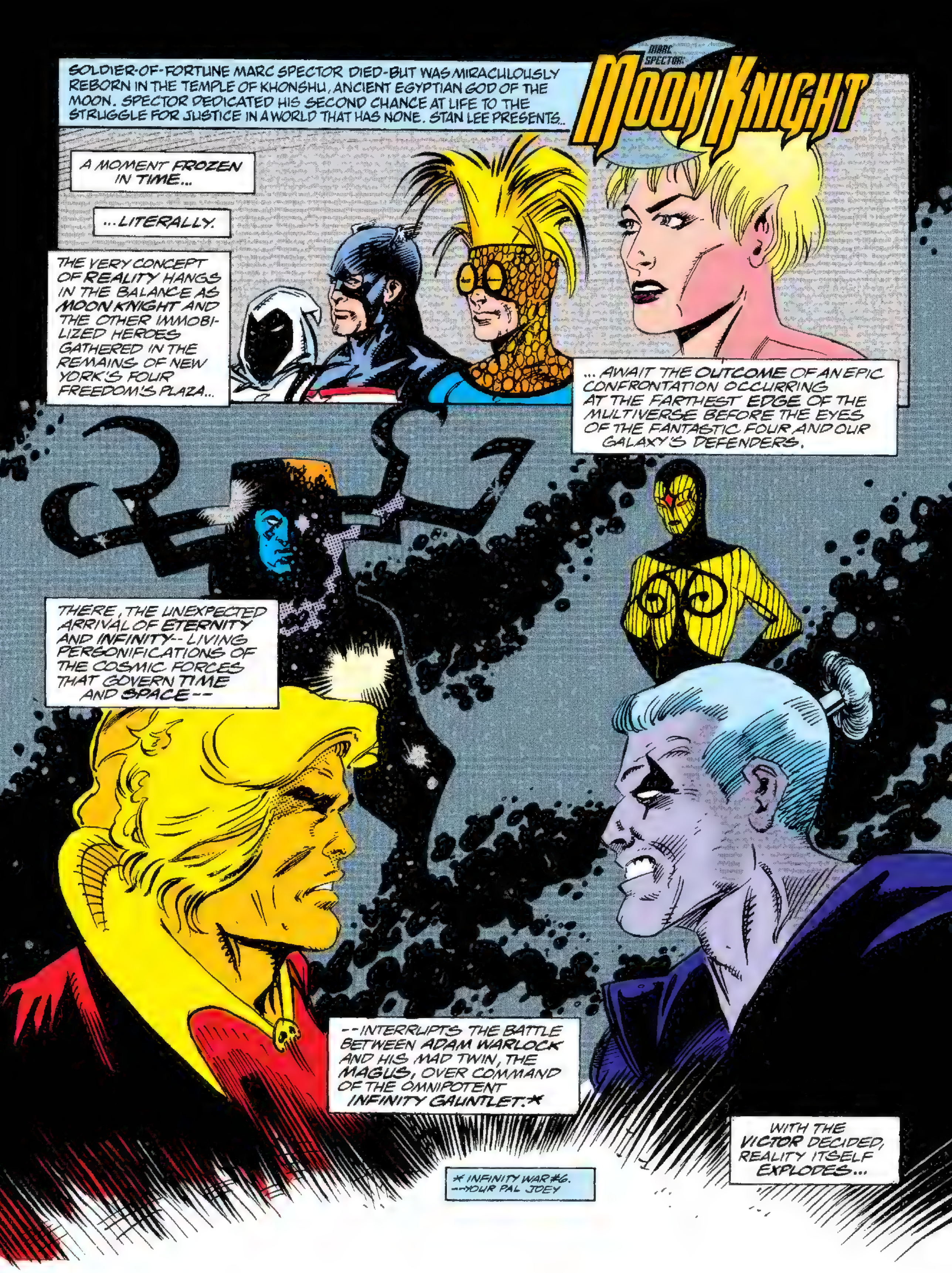
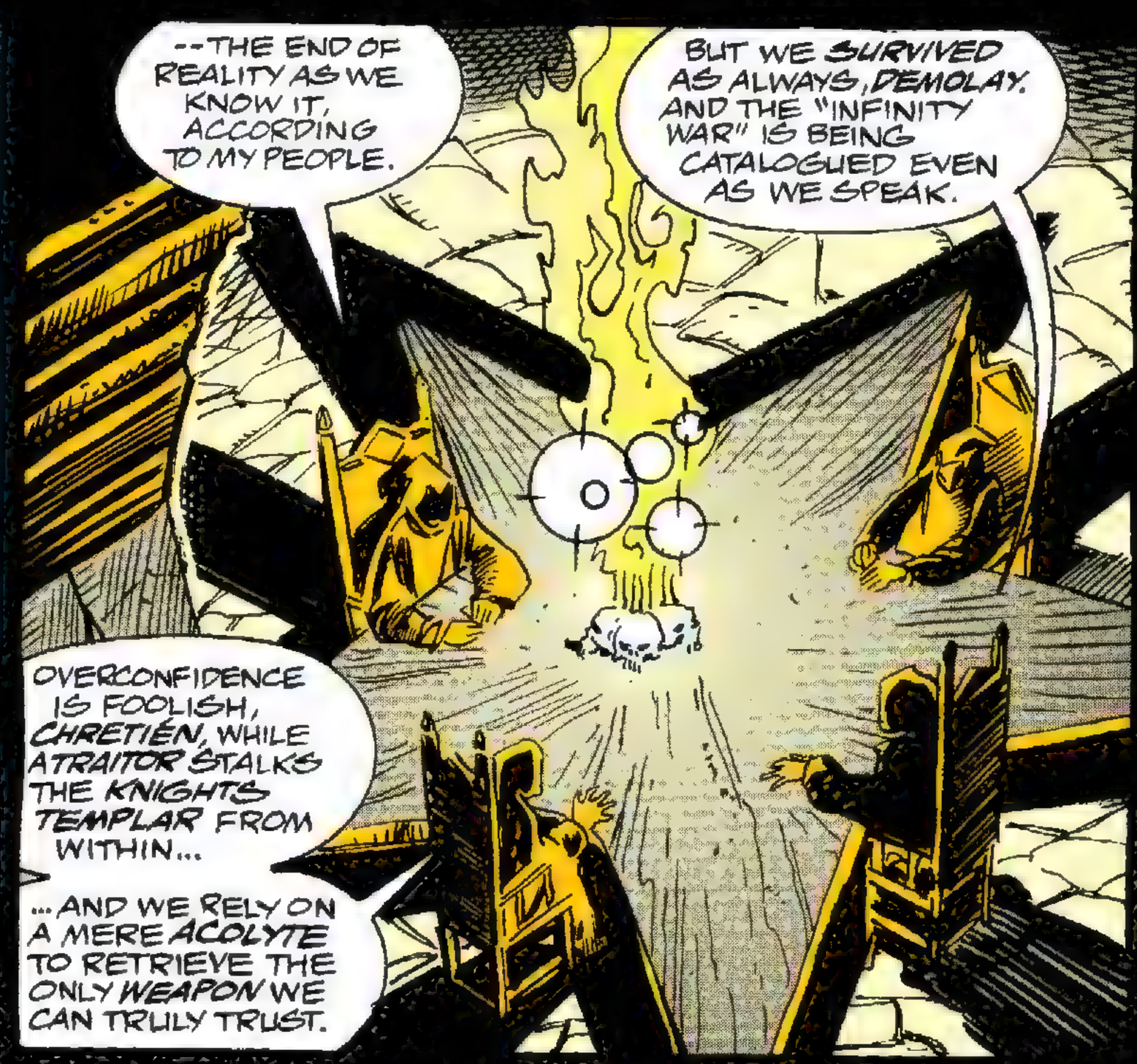
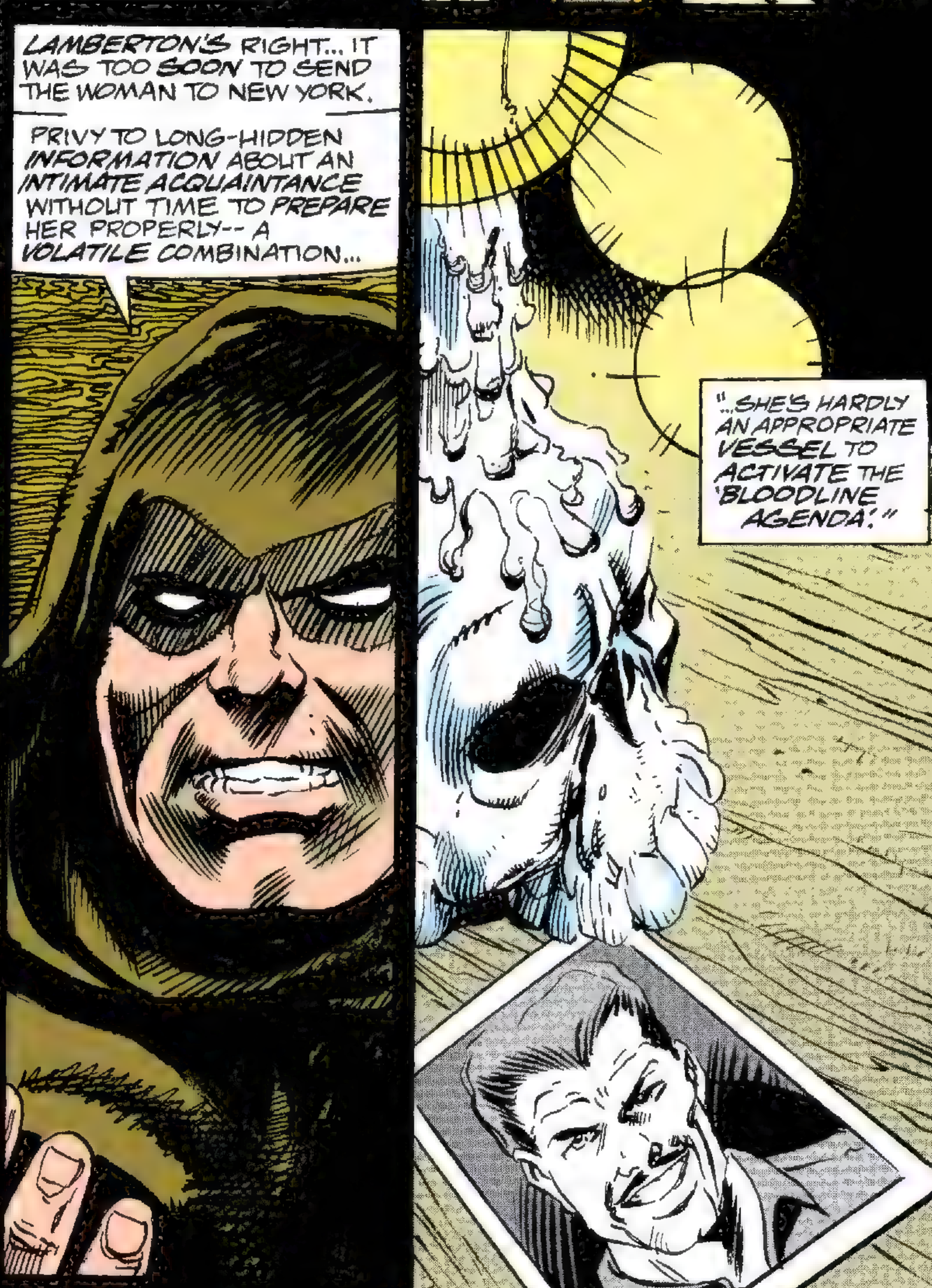
NOV
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE FACE OF...
MARC SPECTOR:
MOON KNIGHT
AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER
KWAPISZ & PALMER


SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE MARC SPECTOR DIED-BUT WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR DEDICATED HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE IN A WORLD THAT HAS NONE. STAN LEE PRESENTS...
MARC SPECTOR:
MOON KNIGHT
A MOMENT FROZEN IN TIME...
...LITERALLY.
THE VERY CONCEPT OF REALITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE AS MOON KNIGHT AND THE OTHER IMMOBILIZED HEROES GATHERED IN THE REMAINS OF NEW YORK'S FOUR FREEDOM'S PLAZA...
...AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF AN EPIC CONFRONTATION OCCURRING AT THE FARTHEST EDGE OF THE MULTIVERSE BEFORE THE EYES OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND OUR GALAXY'S DEFENDERS.
THERE, THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF ETERNITY AND INFINITY-- LIVING PERSONIFICATIONS OF THE COSMIC FORCES THAT GOVERN TIME AND SPACE--
--INTERRUPTS THE BATTLE BETWEEN ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS MAD TWIN, THE MAGUS, OVER COMMAND OF THE OMNIPOTENT INFINITY GAUNTLET.*
WITH THE VICTOR DECIDED, REALITY ITSELF EXPLODES...
* INFINITY WAR #6.
--YOUR PAL JOEY

...AND THERE IS NO MORE NEED FOR THIS TRULY VANISHING BREED OF HEROES.
THE END HAS JUST BEGUN...
TERRY KAVANAGH - WRITER
GARY KWAPISZ - PENCILER
JIMMY PALMIOTTI - GUEST INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE - COLORIST
KEN LOPEZ - LETTERER
JOEY CAVALIERI - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - LIVING TRIBUNAL

ALTHOUGH IT IS A VAST DISTANCE--IN MANY MORE WAYS THAN ONE--FROM THE SKYSCRAPERS OF MANHATTAN TO THE CAVERNS BENEATH AN ANCIENT MONASTERY IN WESTERN SCOTLAND...
...BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST.

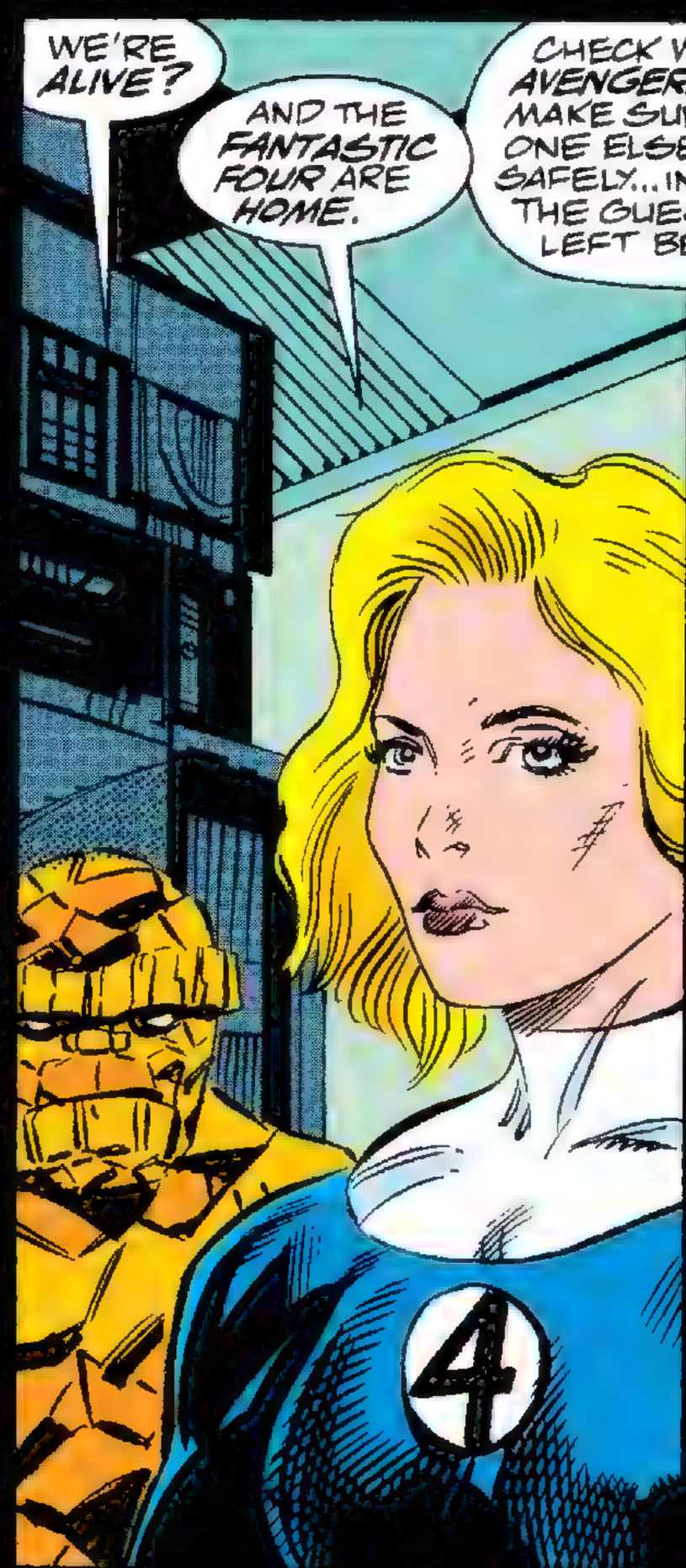

--THE END OF REALITY AS WE KNOW IT, ACCORDING TO MY PEOPLE.
BUT WE SURVIVED AS ALWAYS, DEMOLAY. AND THE "INFINITY WAR" IS BEING CATALOGUED EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
OVERCONFIDENCE IS FOOLISH, CHRETIÉN, WHILE A TRAITOR STALKS THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FROM WITHIN...
...AND WE RELY ON A MERE ACOLYTE TO RETRIEVE THE ONLY WEAPON WE CAN TRULY TRUST.

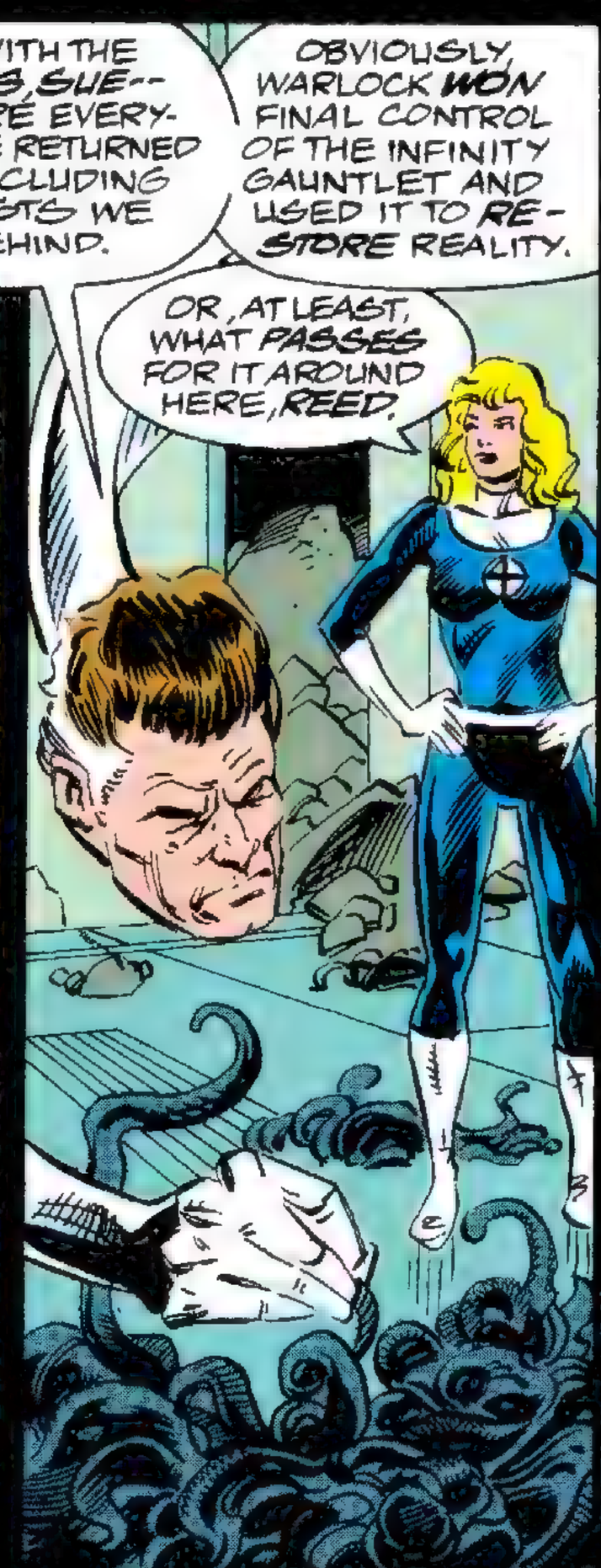

LAMBERTON'S RIGHT... IT WAS TOO SOON TO SEND THE WOMAN TO NEW YORK.
PRIVY TO LONG-HIDDEN INFORMATION ABOUT AN INTIMATE ACQUAINTANCE WITHOUT TIME TO PREPARE HER PROPERLY-- A VOLATILE COMBINATION...
"...SHE'S HARDLY AN APPROPRIATE VESSEL TO ACTIVATE THE 'BLOODLINE AGENDA'."

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, DEMOLAY!
THAT PRIVILEGE IS THE DESTINY OF ONE TEMPLAR ONLY.
AND I CLAIM THAT RIGHT AS MINE...
SKRODM
SKRAASH
BASILISK AND AGONY SECOND THE MOTION.
NO-- SETH HIMSELF HAS BETRAYED US!
AND NOW THE HELL-BENT WALK AMONG US!

KILL THEM.
SETH'S ENLISTED THE DEMON-SPAWN AS HIS ASSASSINS.
SOMEONE MUST WARN THE OTHER CELLS BEFORE--
URK!
SHLIK
ALL THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WILL SOON KNOW THE PAINFUL TRUTH, CHRETIÉN...
...BUT THEY WON'T BE HEARING IT FROM YOU.
AND DEMOLAY DOESN'T--
--LOOK--
--LIKE SHE'LL BE TELLING TALES.
UHN...
WHY...URK... BETRAY US... URK...SETH...?
BECAUSE YOUR SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE HAS BEEN TO GUARD THE BLOODLINE.
WITH THAT PURPOSE FULFILLED...YOU ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY.

BUT, EVEN IN A UNIVERSE RENT ASUNDER...
... A VACUUM, BY ITS VERY NATURE, MUST BE FILLED.
IMPOSSIBLE!
WE'RE BACK AT FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA!
HOW?
WHO CARES?

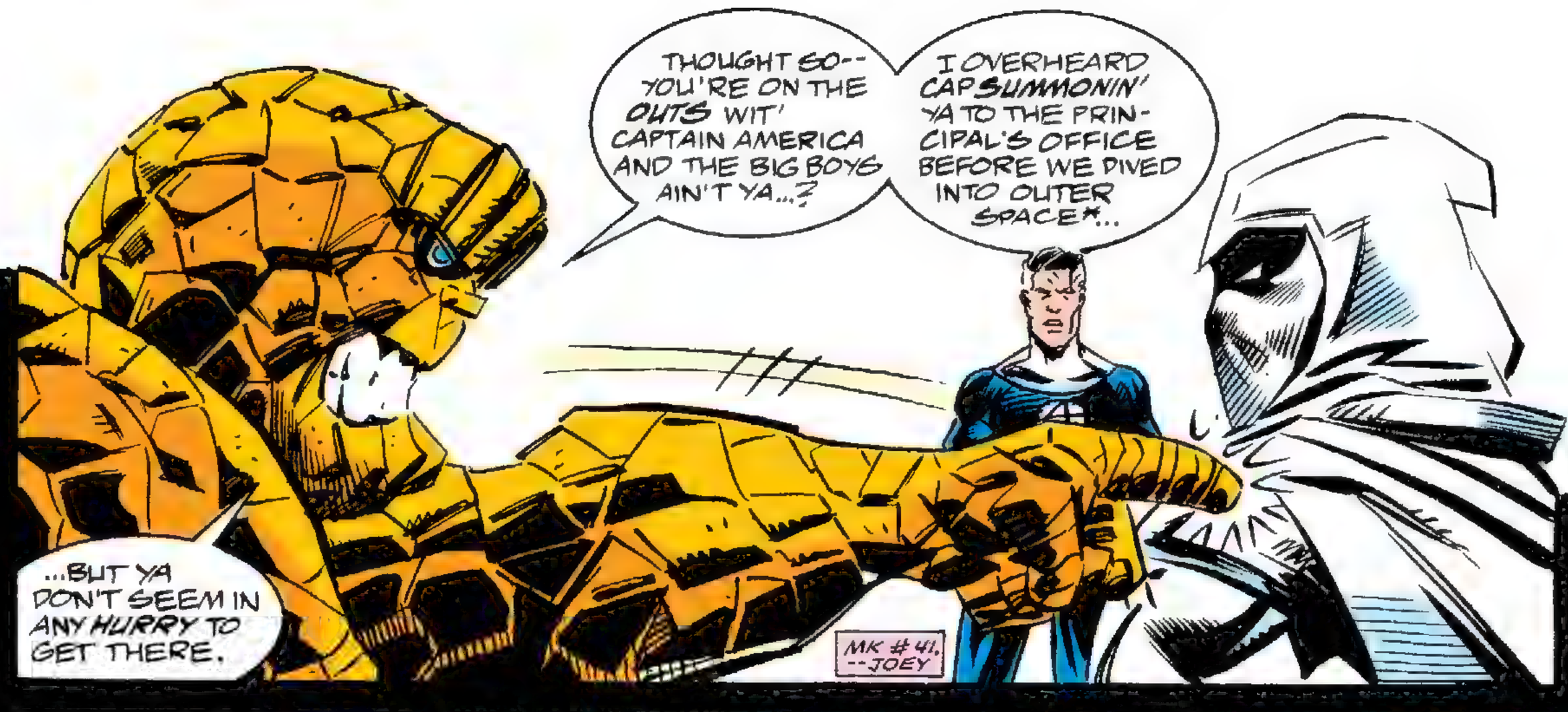

WE'RE ALIVE?
AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE HOME.
CHECK WITH THE AVENGERS, SUE-- MAKE SURE EVERYONE ELSE RETURNED SAFELY... INCLUDING THE GUESTS WE LEFT BEHIND.


OBVIOUSLY, WARLOCK WON FINAL CONTROL OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET AND USED IT TO RESTORE REALITY.
OR, AT LEAST, WHAT PASSES FOR IT AROUND HERE, REED.

QUIT WHININ', TORCH! AT LEAST YOU DON'T GOTTA TOUCH THESE CLAMMY DEAD DOPPELGANGER THINGS...
...ALTHOUGH THEY KINDA REMIND ME O' YER HANDSHAKE.

FIRE MARSHAL HATES WHEN WE LEAVE HUGE CHUNKS OF THE ROOF LYING AROUND...
...BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D APPROVE OF MY SOLUTION.

I'VE GOT TO GET RIGHT ONTO THIS SPECIMEN ANALYSIS, BEN...
...BRING THE REST OF THE ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCTS TO MY LAB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHO--?!
MOON KNIGHT!?
AFTER WE DEFEATED THE MAGUS, EVERYONE ELSE AUTOMATICALLY RETURNED TO WHEREVER THEY WERE BEFORE THIS WHOLE "INFINITY WAR" STARTED...
SO DID I... AND IT TOOK FAR TOO LONG TO GET BACK HERE.
ALICIA MASTERS LET ME IN AND TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND YOU--I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN, REED...
DOCTOR DOOM...?
NO...I TOOK CARE OF THAT SITUATION.*
* MOON KNIGHT #40. --JOEY
I'D BE REAL CURIOUS TO HEAR HOW, KNIGHT...
SO WOULD I, SILVER--
--BUT WE MIGHT AS WELL SEE WHAT YER FELLOW AVENGERS CAN DO TO HELP YA OUT FIRST.
BLACK WIDOW HERE, THING... WHAT CAN I--
TEK
TEK
THWAK
TEK
NO!


THOUGHT SO-- YOU'RE ON THE OUTS WIT' CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE BIG BOYS AIN'T YA...?
I OVERHEARD CAP SUMMONIN' YA TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE BEFORE WE DIVED INTO OUTER SPACE*...
...BUT YA DON'T SEEM IN ANY HURRY TO GET THERE.
MK #41. --JOEY

OBVIOUSLY, YOU TRICKED ME INTO HELPING YOU INFILTRATE DOCTOR DOOM'S LEGALLY-SANCTIONED CONSULATE BY LYING TO ME ABOUT YOUR AVENGERS STATUS, MOON KNIGHT*...
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I DON'T BELIEVE I CAN HONOR ANOTHER REQUEST FROM YOU.
YOU'RE FOLLOWING A ROGUE PATH THAT LEADS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PUNISHER, FRIEND...
*MOON KNIGHT #40. --JOEY
REAL LIFE'S HARDLY THAT BLACK AND WHITE, "FRIEND"!--
--BUT MY PATH HAS CERTAINLY GROWN DARKER THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S OR THE AVENGERS'...
...WITH A LOT MORE GREY AREAS.
NOT SO FAST, HERO--
SUSAN...?
YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.

SORRY ABOUT THE FORCE-BUBBLE, KNIGHT--BUT, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, I WANT MY HUSBAND TO HEAR WHAT ALICIA HAS TO SAY...

...ABOUT OUR SON.

WITH ALL THE COMMOTION SURROUNDING THE INFINITY WAR HERE IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, SUE WAS WORRIED ABOUT LITTLE FRANKLIN...

...SO, SHORTLY AFTER THE FANTASTIC FOUR WENT TO BATTLE THE MAGUS, I LEFT THE REMAINING HEROES TO CHECK ON THE BOY, AS SHE'D ASKED.

HOWEVER, OUR GUESTS WERE SOON ATTACKED BY A CADRE OF THEIR DEMONIC DOUBLES...

"...TWO OF THEM WITH AN AGENDA OF THEIR OWN.

"MOON KNIGHT'S DUPLICATE DISPATCHED ME...

"...WHILE FRANKLIN WAS TARGETED BY HIS OWN EVIL DOUBLE.

"THEY ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THE HELPLESS CHILD'S VERY LIFE FORCE...

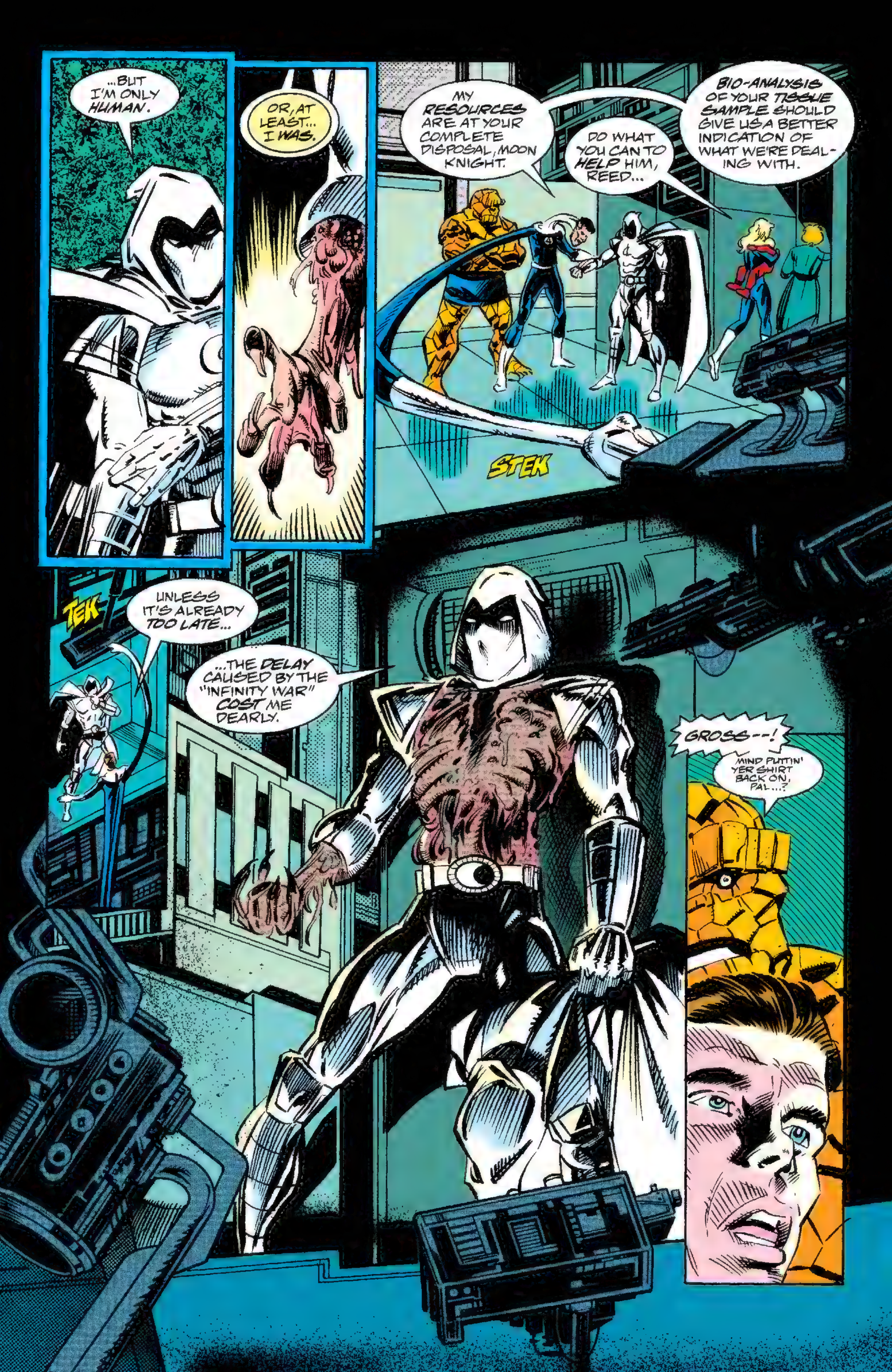
"...INTENDING TO USE FRANKLIN'S NEAR-INFINITE DREAM POWER FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

"BUT, THE REAL MOON KNIGHT'S ARRIVAL...

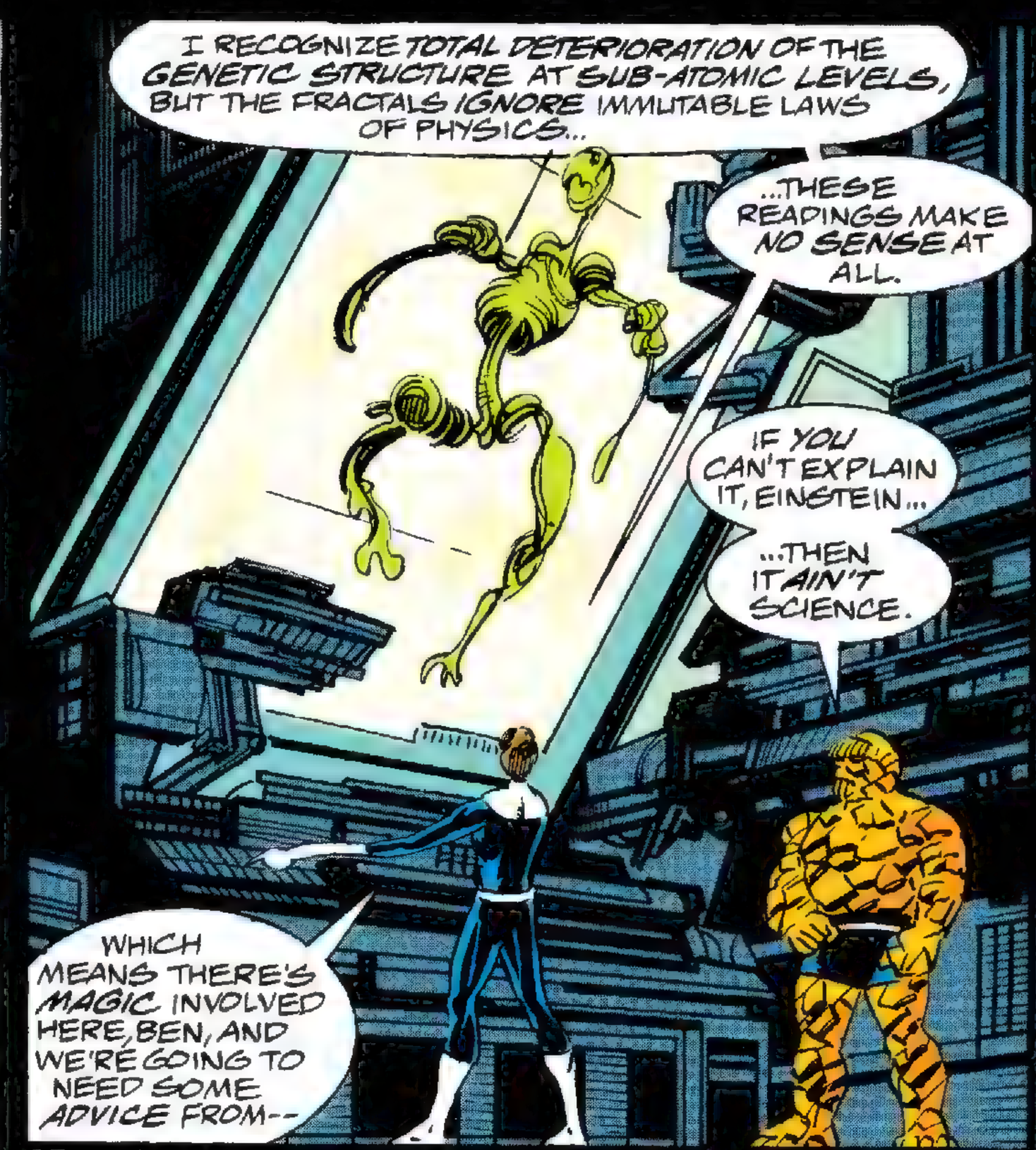
"GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY WITH FRANKLIN."*

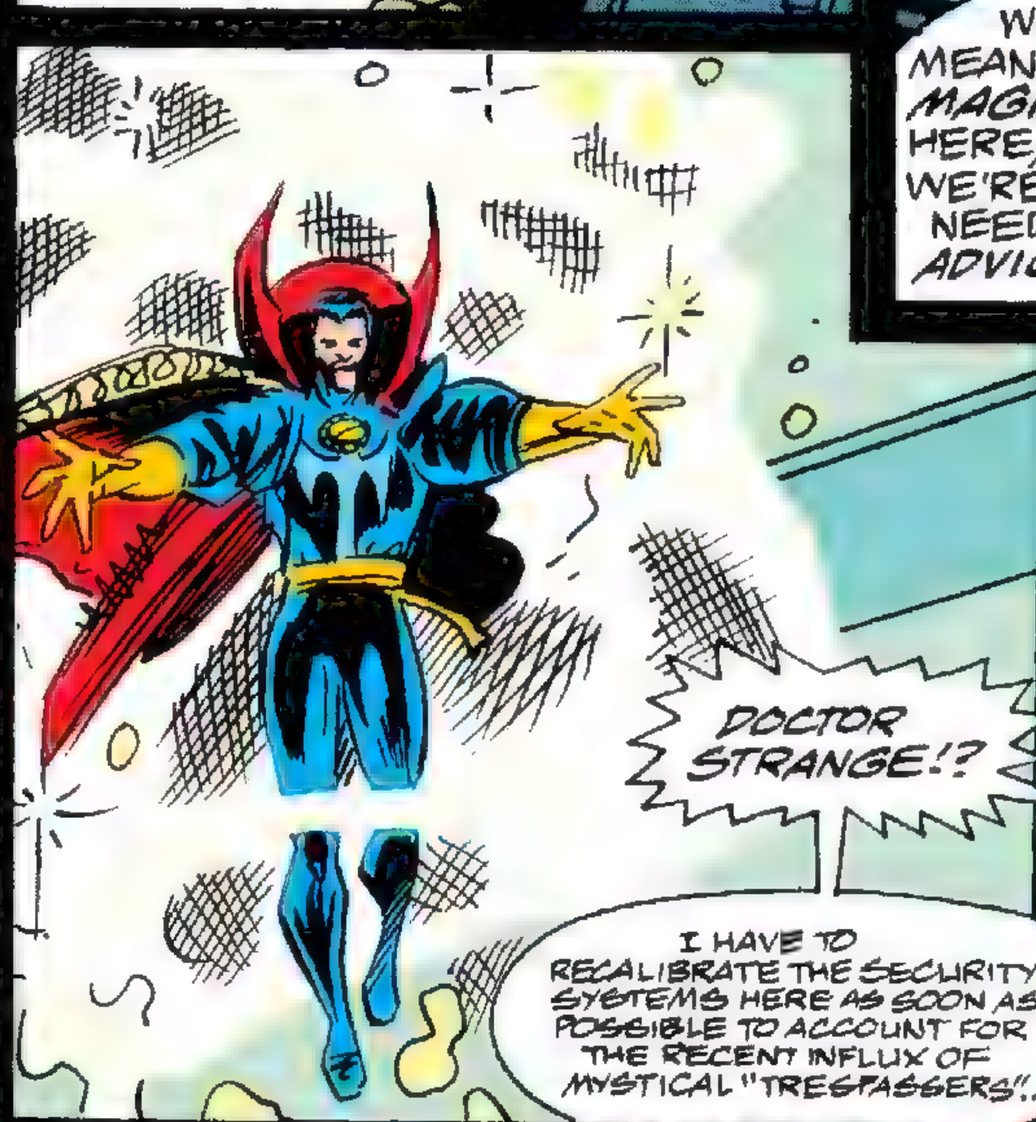
*MOON KNIGHT #41.--JOEY

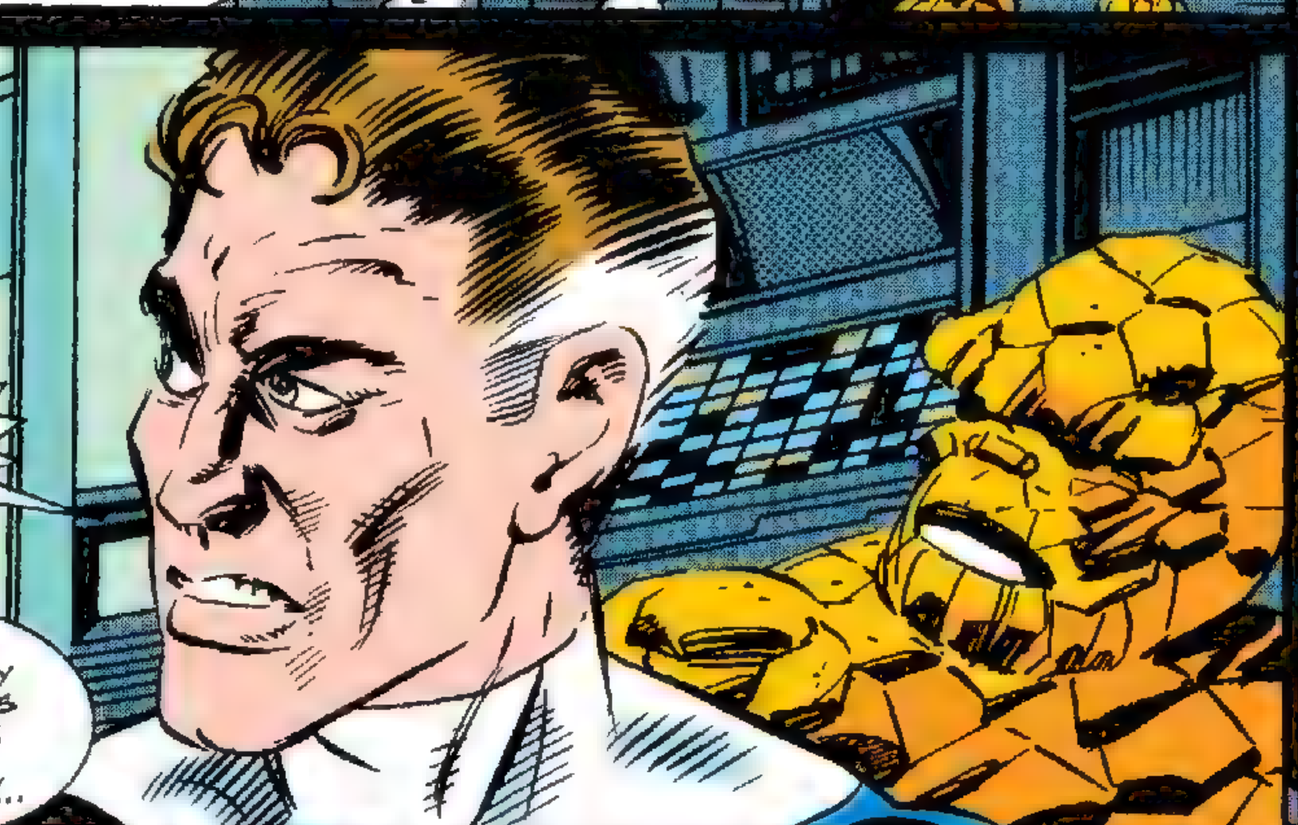
OKAY, SO YA SAVED MY GOD-SON'S LIFE...
...I'M WILLIN' TA LISSEN TA THE REST O' YER STORY.
APPARENTLY FRANKLIN RICHARDS' DOPPELGANGER HAD ALREADY DRAINED ENOUGH OF HIS VICTIM'S POTENTIAL ENERGY TO ALMOST FULLY CHARGE HIS "PSI-PHON"...
...GIVING MY EVIL TWIN THE CHANCE TO BETRAY HIS PARTNER BY STEALING THE FINAL FATAL FORCE FROM HIS CONFEDERATE.
"HE USED THAT POWER TO WRENCH THE LIFE-ESSENCES OUT OF MOST OF THE MOON KNIGHTS OF THE MULTIVERSE--
"--PULLING THEM SCREAMING INTO HIS SOULLESS SHELL--
"TO CREATE THE OMNI-DIMENSIONAL MOONSHADE.
"THE MONSTER DRAGGED ME ALONG ON HIS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ODYSSEY--
"--TO COMPLETE HIS COLLECTION OF MOON KNIGHTS... SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST, I SUPPOSE.
"MR. FANTASTIC MIGHT HAVE RECOGNIZED MOONSHADE'S VULNERABILITY TO ADAMANTIUM--POSSIBLY UNIQUE TO OUR SINGULAR REALITY--
"--IN TIME TO SAVE MORE THAN ONE OF MY ALTERNATE COUNTERPARTS..."*
* MOON KNIGHT #42. --JOEY

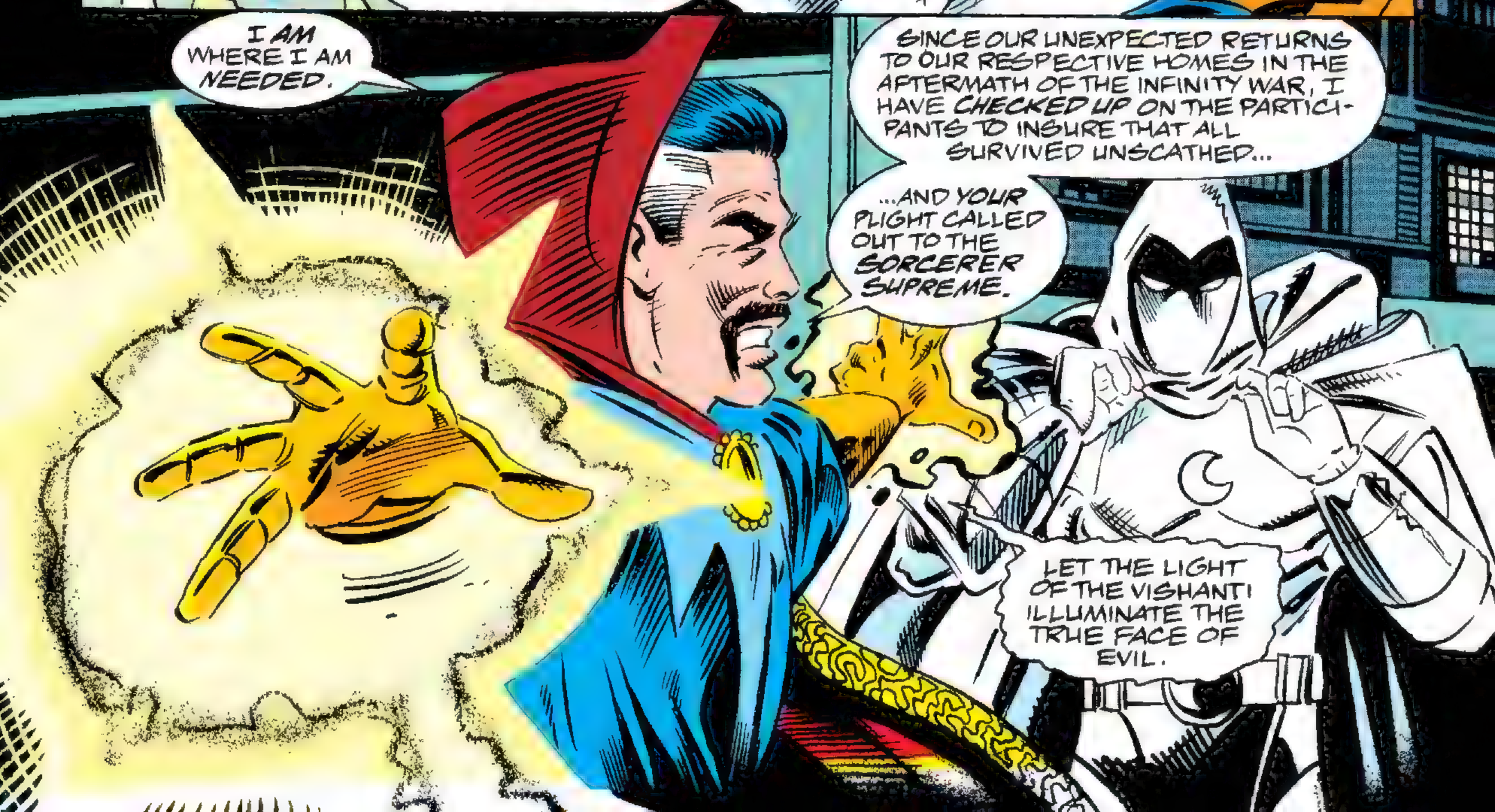

...BUT I'M ONLY HUMAN.
OR, AT LEAST... I WAS.
MY RESOURCES ARE AT YOUR COMPLETE DISPOSAL, MOON KNIGHT.
DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP HIM, REED...
BIO-ANALYSIS OF YOUR TISSUE SAMPLE SHOULD GIVE US A BETTER INDICATION OF WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
STEK
TEK
UNLESS IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE...
...THE DELAY CAUSED BY THE "INFINITY WAR" COST ME DEARLY.
GROSS--!
MIND PUTTIN' YER SHIRT BACK ON, PAL...?

THE THING HAS A GOOD POINT, MOON KNIGHT...
...YOUR ARMOR APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY THING HOLDING YOU TOGETHER.
TEK
IMPOSSIBLE.


I RECOGNIZE TOTAL DETERIORATION OF THE GENETIC STRUCTURE AT SUB-ATOMIC LEVELS, BUT THE FRACTALS IGNORE IMMUTABLE LAWS OF PHYSICS...
...THESE READINGS MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL.
IF YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, EINSTEIN...
...THEN IT AIN'T SCIENCE.
WHICH MEANS THERE'S MAGIC INVOLVED HERE, BEN, AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME ADVICE FROM--


DOCTOR STRANGE!?
I HAVE TO RECALIBRATE THE SECURITY SYSTEMS HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE RECENT INFLUX OF MYSTICAL "TRESPASSERS"...




I AM WHERE I AM NEEDED.
SINCE OUR UNEXPECTED RETURNS TO OUR RESPECTIVE HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE INFINITY WAR, I HAVE CHECKED UP ON THE PARTICIPANTS TO INSURE THAT ALL SURVIVED UNSCATHED...
...AND YOUR PLIGHT CALLED OUT TO THE SORCERER SUPREME.
LET THE LIGHT OF THE VISHANTI ILLUMINATE THE TRUE FACE OF EVIL.

THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY INFECTING MOON KNIGHT...!?
ON A MYSTICAL SUB-PLANE, YES...BUT--

IT HAS TO BE DEFINABLE AS SOME LEVEL OF DIMENSIONAL INTER-PHASE, STEPHEN...

IT IS EXTREMELY DEFINABLE, REED-- JUST NOT IN YOUR TERMS!

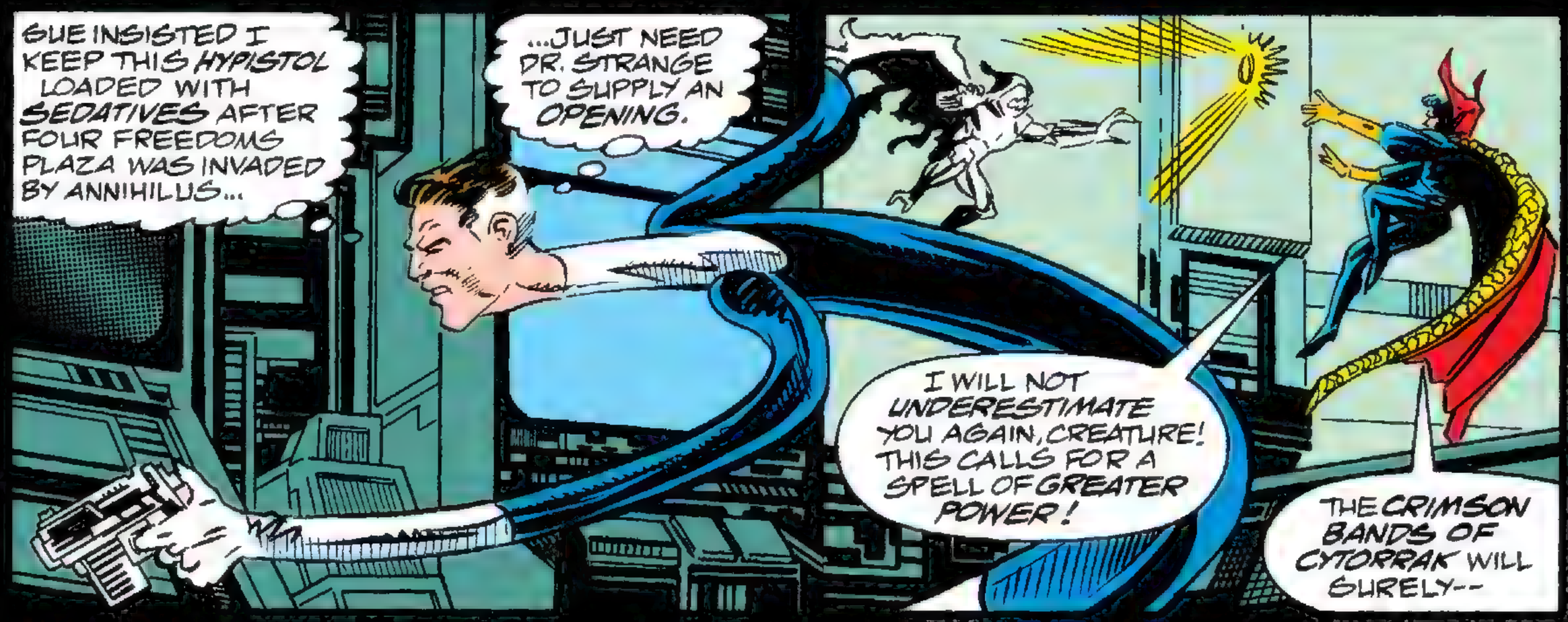
AREN'T WE DIGRESSING A BIT HERE, GUYS...?
BEST O'LUCK WITH 'EM, KNIGHT...
...I KNOW WHEN I'M OUT O' MY LEAGUE.

MY EXPERIENCE ENCOMPASSES A WIDE VARIETY OF THEORETICALLY PRETERNATURAL PHENOMENA, DOCTOR...
THEN I AM SURE YOU REALIZE WHAT OUR NEXT STEP MUST BE, DOCTOR...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO BABBLING ABOUT?!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO OPERATE.

HOWEVER, WE CAN'T MAKE A COMPLETE DIAGNOSIS WITHOUT A CLOSER LOOK...
EYE OF AGAMOTTO REVEAL THE TRUTH BENEATH HIS SKIN.
YEARRRRGGH!
SKREEEAK
THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING... MOON KNIGHT SUFFERS A PHYSICAL REACTION TO THE PURE LIGHT OF AGAMOTTO.
HE'S AFTER THE EYE--!

GRRR
I'M ON HIM, DOCTOR...
HSSSS
...AND AROUND HIM...
...AND UNDER HIM...
SHLAAK
BUT HE'S SIGNIFICANTLY FASTER THAN MOON KNIGHT WAS PREVIOUSLY--
REED--!
WHF...
AND FAR, FAR SSSTRONGER, FOOLSSS...

BUT CERTAINLY NOT AS SMART AS THE REAL MOON KNIGHT, FIEND...
...ALTHOUGH YOUR SENTIENCE DOES CONFIRM THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH MUCH MORE THAN A SIMPLE "VIRUS".
A MIRAGE!?
THE VERY LEAST OF A SORCERER SUPREME'S ABILITIES.
THIS ISSS NO MERE CASE OF POSSESSION, MAGE...
...I AM OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF DEMONSS!
...ALL THAT IS NEEDED FOR A MINOR ENTITY SUCH AS YOU.
SSSS
COILS OF RYZZANEL-- RESTRAIN AND RECLAIM HIM!
CRAAK
I CAN BURSSST THESE..."COILS" AS YOU CALL THEM, ALL TOO EASSSILY!


SUE INSISTED I KEEP THIS HYPISTOL LOADED WITH SEDATIVES AFTER FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA WAS INVADED BY ANNIHILUS...
...JUST NEED DR. STRANGE TO SUPPLY AN OPENING.
I WILL NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOU AGAIN, CREATURE! THIS CALLS FOR A SPELL OF GREATER POWER!
THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTORRAK WILL SURELY--

TOO LATE FOR YOUR ACCURSSED BAUBLE, MAGE, AND ITSSS SSSEARING--

LLLLLIGHT!
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO'S RADIANCE IS PENETRATING RIGHT THROUGH THAT DEMON'S HIDE--
GOOD LORD... IS THAT ALL THAT'S LEFT OF MOON KNIGHT?!
NOT JUST YET, REED... FIRE!
THANKS...
PAWT

...I NEEDED THAT.

INCREDIBLE-- THERE WAS ENOUGH TRANQUILIZER IN THAT HYPODERMIC TO SEDATE AN ELEPHANT.

IRONICALLY, I'VE NOTICED THAT AS MY BODY'S DETERIORATION CONTINUES, MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH INCREASES CONVERSELY.

FASCINATING...

GLAD YOU THINK SO.

BUT, IF IT HELPS ANY, I THINK I CAUGHT IT FROM A PARTICULARLY VICIOUS DANCE PARTNER.

WE'LL NEED A TISSUE SAMPLE FROM THE SOURCE OF THE INFECTION FOR A PRE-OP CULTURE.

THE SIGNS POINT TO AN INCREDIBLY STRONG DEMON'S HANDIWORK...

...BUT THERE IS SOMETHING HUMAN ENOUGH ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR FIEND'S BLOOD TO ALLOW FOR A FULLY INTEGRATED BOND WITH YOU.

WE WILL NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT BEFORE WE SET OUT TO CAPTURE THE CREATURE.

APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, FRIENDS, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HANDLE THAT LITTLE DETAIL...

...ALONE.

PRIDE, MOON KNIGHT...?

YOUR ARROGANCE COULD BE FATAL, HERO... IF WE DON'T HAVE AN ORGANIC TEMPLATE TO TREAT YOUR CONDITION--

--YOU'LL DIE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVENTY-TWO HOURS, ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS.

DAWN EVENTUALLY ENCROACHES NONETHELESS...
...OVER THE DARKNESS THAT SHROUDS MOON KNIGHT'S SHADOWKEEP.
MARC SPECTOR'S DIED BEFORE--SO THE CONCEPT OF DEATH ITSELF DOESN'T REALLY SCARE ME--
--BUT THE END OF MY LIFE TRULY TERRIFIES ME NOW.
WHEN YOU FIRST RESURRECTED ME IN THE DESERT WITH A MERE GLINT FROM YOUR EYE, I BELIEVED MOON KNIGHT SHARED A COMMON PURPOSE WITH KHONSHU--VENGEANCE.
SINCE DISCOVERING YOU ARE IN REALITY A GOD OF JUSTICE*, I DRAW MORE STRENGTH THAN EVER FROM WHAT YOU REPRESENT...
...AND I REALIZE THE DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE SERVED AND THE ABILITY TO ACT ON IT ARE QUALITIES THAT MAKE GODS OF MORTAL MEN AND WOMEN.
* MOON KNIGHT #38: --JOEY
THE TRAPPINGS OF MOON KNIGHT CAN BE PASSED ON...
...SO THE AVATAR CAN OUTLIVE THE MAN.
BUT THE FIGHT FOR MY LIFE ISN'T OVER...
...UNTIL IT'S OVER.

PROGRESS REPORT, MERCY...?

WITH THE HELP OF SOME ARCANE MEDICAL TEXTS DISCOVERED BY STASH WHO-KNOWS-WHERE--AND PROCURED BY FINGERS WHO-KNOWS-HOW--

--I'VE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH THAT COULD BE OF USE TO YOUR NEW DOCTORS.

I MAY HAVE IDENTIFIED THE ANCIENT BACTERIAL STRAIN IN QUESTION...

...BUT WE'LL STILL REQUIRE A TISSUE SAMPLE FROM WHOMEVER INFECTED YOU FOR CROSS-CONFIRMATION.

I ASSUMED AS MUCH.

STEALING A PIECE OF A PRISONER'S BODY VIOLATES NOT ONLY HIS LEGAL CIVIL RIGHTS, BUT HIS BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL.

I'M ALREADY WELL AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES, SHARK...

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T ACCEPT STRANGE AND FANTASTIC'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE.

BUT DEMOGOBLIN IS THE FARTHEST THING FROM HUMAN... AS I LEARNED WHEN SPIDER-MAN AND I CONFRONTED THE HOBGOBLIN ON MY WAY BACK HERE.*

IF I'D HAD MERCY'S DATA THEN, I COULD'VE BEEN SURE THE DEMOGOBLIN WAS THE TRANSMITTER AND TAKEN CARE OF BUSINESS ON THE SPOT.

FINGERS...?

THEY'RE HOLDING DEMOGOBLIN IN A NEW PRISON IN CONNECTICUT WITH MODERN FACILITIES FOR SUPER-CRIMINALS.

ANNOTATED BLUEPRINTS AND SUGGESTED ENTRY SITES ARE ALREADY DOWNLOADED TO YOUR STRATEGY TABLE, BOSS.

IS OUR MAN IN PLACE, SHERIFF...?

WITHOUT SHARK'S HELP IT WAS DIFFICULT, BUT I MANAGED TO SECURE PSYCHO'S LIMITED TRANSFER TO THE GOBLIN'S PRISON ON A HEALTH PRETEXT.

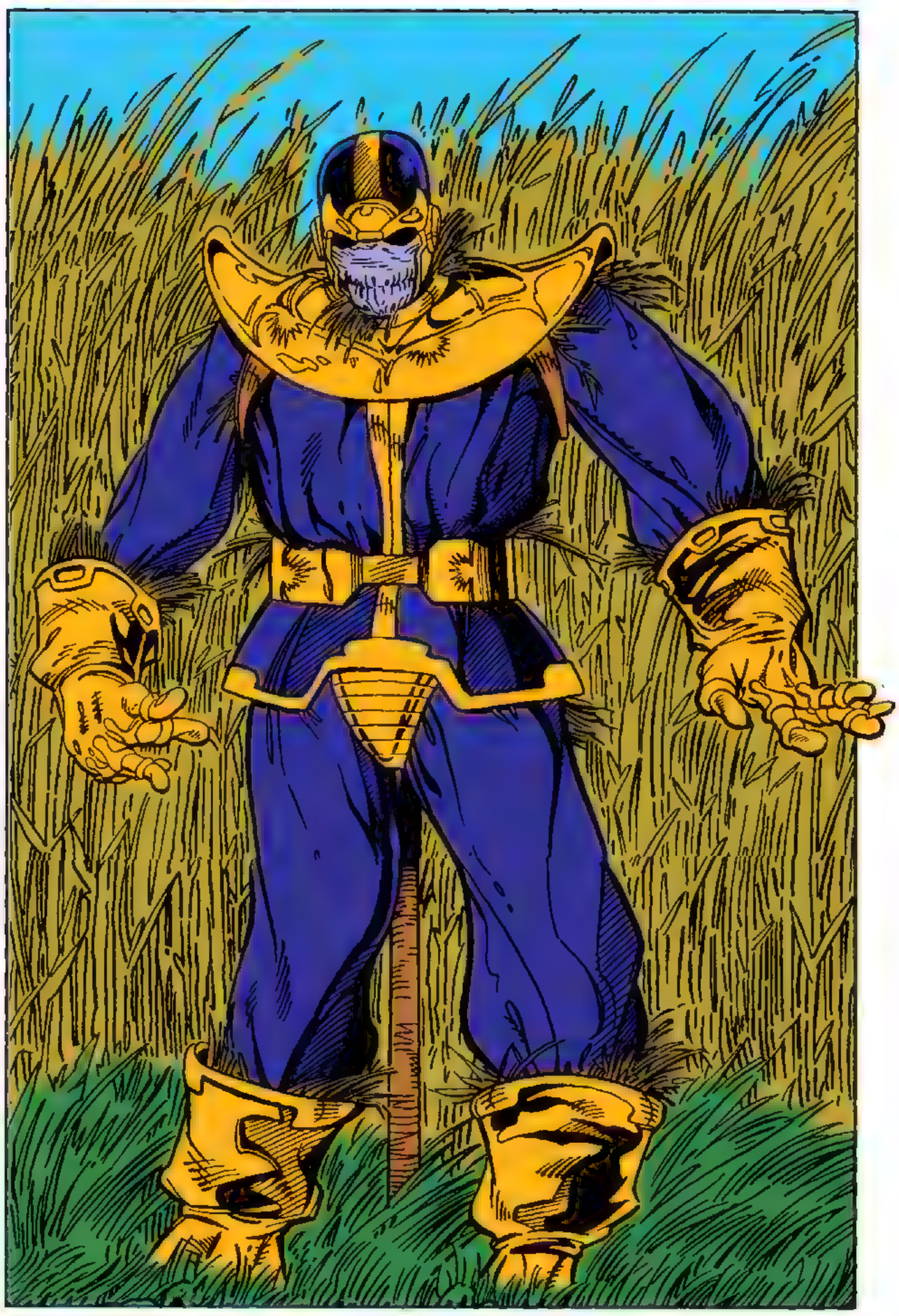
THEN WHERE'S HIS HOLO-JECTION...?

WE HAVE LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE HOURS LEFT BEFORE--

*WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #93. --JOEY

PSYCHO... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TOTAL BREAKDOWN.
PUT ON ANY ONE OF THE LOCAL NEWS STATIONS AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCENE RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW!
ONE OF THE DISSATISFIED RESIDENTS OF MY HAPPY HOME HAS DEVELOPED A FAN CLUB WITH CLOUT!
HUGE CROWDS RALLIED BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN FRONT OF BRINKSTONE PENITENTIARY HAVE MANAGED TO DELAY CONVICTED SERIAL-KILLER JOHN DEZOAN'S EXECUTION--
--SCHEDULED FOR EARLIER TODAY--UNTIL MIDNIGHT.
ELECTRICITY FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT THROUGH THE PEOPLE!
NO MURDU
NO DEATH PENALTY
SAY NO TO STATE MURDER
NO!
TURN OFF THE JUICE!
LIF FO DEZO
LOOKS LIKE YOUR LITTLE SCHEME IS OVER BEFORE IT CAN EVEN BEGIN, BOSS-MAN.
HARDLY, PSYCHO...WE'LL PUSH OUR AGENDA BACK TO THE WIRE, BUT I'M GOING IN AFTER THE DEMOGOBLIN--
--TONIGHT.
NEXT ISSUE:
A NEW ART TEAM AND NEW EXCITEMENT AS MOON KNIGHT BREAKS INTO PRISON! BUT CAN HE BREAK OUT OF THE PRISON DEMOGOBLIN CREATES?

THE INFINITY WARS



Earth's super heroes are being replaced by evil doppelgangers who steal both victims' bodies and their identities.

These inhuman doubles are under the control of a powerful and mysterious mastermind who resides in another dimension. His power is so great as to nearly equal that of the Infinity Gauntlet.

So it is that when Thanos of Titan inadvertently stumbles upon the dangerous takeover scheme, and comes to realize that its scope is far greater than it appears on the surface. He comes to realize that the entire universe is in peril.

This leads to perhaps the strangest bedfellows in history, as Thanos joins forces with Adam Warlock and the Infinity Watch, placing him in the bizarre position of siding with the angels to protect that which he had so fervently tried to destroy not so very long ago.

The scheme also comes to the attention of the mighty Galactus when the planet eater finds none other than Eternity in a virtually catatonic state. Dire circumstances impel Galactus to join forces with his former herald, The Silver Surfer, and with Doctor Strange, in the second strangest alliance in the history of the Marvel Universe.

As the danger becomes more apparent, Mr. Fantastic (of the Fantastic Four) rallies the rest of Earth's heroes to confront the danger that threatens them all.

Doctor Doom gets into the act when he teams up with Kang The Conqueror in the hope of wresting the incredible energy source from its mysterious wielder, to exploit it to their own ends.

But at this point it becomes even more apparent how great the threat is, for no one can be trusted to be who he/she seem.

Thus, four separate groups of powerful players are seeking the same goal for diverse reasons. The six-issue limited series THE INFINITY WAR will reveal who, if anyone, comes up the victor, in this dramatic sequel to THANOS QUEST and THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

Jim Starlin and Ron Lim deliver the action, which will feature:

Thanos
West Coast Avengers
Adam Warlock
X-Factor
The Infinity Watch
The New Warriors
The X-Men
Alpha Flight
The Avengers
Namor, the Sub-Mariner
X-Force
The Mighty Thor
The Silver Surfer
Doctor Strange
Galactus and Nova
Darkhawk
Daredevil

Each issue will be 48 pages, and there are plans for extensive crossovers.

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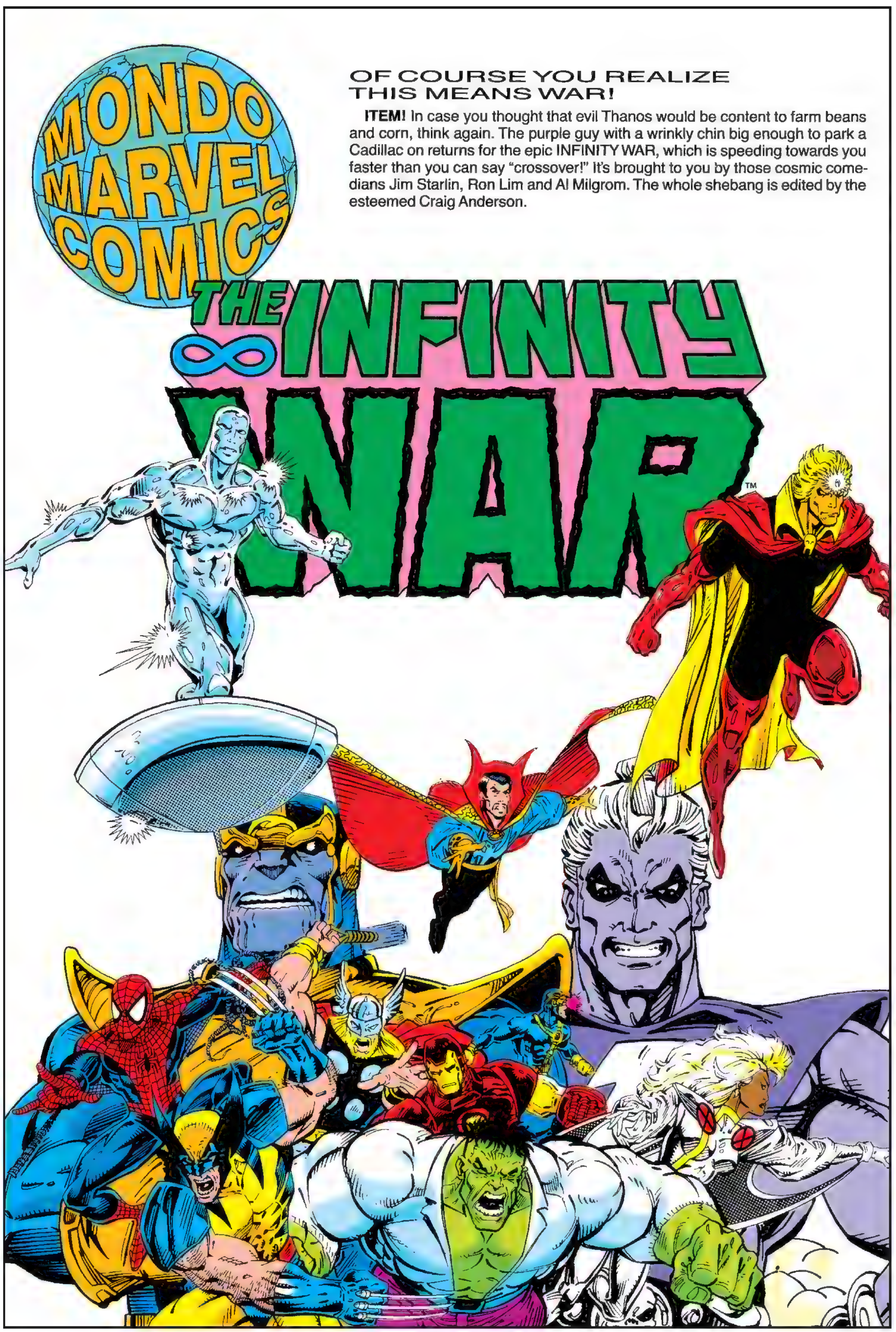

OF COURSE YOU REALIZE THIS MEANS WAR!

ITEM! In case you thought that evil Thanos would be content to farm beans and corn, think again. The purple guy with a wrinkly chin big enough to park a Cadillac on returns for the epic INFINITY WAR, which is speeding towards you faster than you can say "crossover!" It's brought to you by those cosmic comedians Jim Starlin, Ron Lim and Al Milgrom. The whole shebang is edited by the esteemed Craig Anderson.

MONDO MARVEL COMICS
IT'S WAR!
ITEM! This month we launch the INFINITY WARS, a six-issue limited series by INFINITY GAUNTLET veterans Jim Starlin and Ron Lim. It'll be the biggest super hero conflagration in years, as the excitement crosses over into Marvel's hottest titles, with heroes and villains joining forces against the threat only *they themselves* could pose. Just about anyone who's *anyone* will join in the action. Look for a handy INFINITY WARS crossover checklist in each MARVEL AGE, and while you're at it, check out the Ron Lim/Terry Austin INFINITY WARS poster from Marvel Press, available in fine comic book stores everywhere.

"MARK'S REMARKS"

BY MARK GRUENWALD

FROM *MARVEL AGE #124*

Crossovers. In other entertainment media, this refers to bringing an audience that likes one genre (like country-western music) to another, hybrid genre (country-western-rock), usually through the strength of a given performer's performance. This broadens their base of appeal, giving the artist a more mainstream audience. Hip-Hoppers dream of crossing over and attracting a pop audience. Action stars like Jean-Claude Van Damme dream of crossing over and attracting more women to his pictures. In comics, the term has a different meaning. Crossovers are done within the same genre, and the one doing the crossing over is not the artist or the work, but the characters in the story.

Imagine Clive Barker characters making guest appearances in Stephen King's books. Imagine the kid from *Home Alone* meeting *Problem Child*. We occasionally see some of this. *Seinfeld*'s Kramer did a guest shot as Kramer on *Mad About You* earlier this TV season. On the rarest occasions you'll even get genre crossovers on TV, the classic example being when a few doctors from the dramatic series *St. Elsewhere* showed up on *Cheers*.

But when it comes to character crossovers, the comics medium is the champion. Marvel is the champion's champion, and there's no end in sight as long as you readers demand we keep doing them. Make no mistake, the vast majority of you do demand them, and they still do their magic, attracting readers to try a certain title they ordinarily would not buy. And crossovers can still be a lot of fun for us creative types, too.

Industry jargon time. There are two different types of crossovers. A closed crossover is conceived of as involving specific titles where each title is equally important in advancing the storyline. Recent examples are "Operation: Galactic Storm" in seven different *Avengers* titles; "Dead Man's Hand" in *Nomad, Daredevil* and *Punisher*; and "X-Cutioner's Song" in the core X-titles. An open crossover is one which has a basic storyline told in one major series, but its ramifications and complications can play out in any title that chooses to get involved. Recent examples include the *Infinity* trilogy (*Gauntlet, War* and *Crusade*); "Inferno" in *X-Men* and "Acts of Vengeance" in *Avengers*.

The merits and demerits of the two types of crossovers? Open crossovers are more difficult to coordinate, due to the greater number of titles usually involved. On the other hand, they are more creator-friendly: no one is barred from participating ("Sorry, fella, this crossover is closed."). Open crossovers also enable the readers to pick and choose which tie-in issues of which they wish to partake. They pick up the key elements of the story by reading the keystone series, and the rest is just gravy.

Tom DeFalco has a theory that *every other* open crossover has lots of participants. Writers and artists get involved one year, discover all of the coordination headaches involved, vow to never do it again and so pass up the chance to participate the next year. Months later, they get their sales incentive checks, realize the benefits and, forgetting the aggravation, agree to participate in the next one, having missed the intervening event. So it goes, year after year, according to the Chief.

The merits and demerits of a closed crossover? Each part of a closed crossover is essential, so to buy one is to commit to buying them all, or else the storyline is not going to be intelligible. They're creator-unfriendly, not allowing others to jump in if they have an inclination. Taken as a whole, they are probably more coherent, since more centralized scrutiny is given to every integral part. Participation in a closed crossover is probably a better sales boost for a title, since *every* part of a closed crossover is equally important to the advancement of the storyline.

In a crossover, there's usually one editor who's in charge of the whole megillah, and that's the person who's the regular editor of the main title character around whom the crossover revolves. The editor in charge, of course, has a supervisor (one of the executive editors) to look over everything in an advisory capacity, but the editor in charge has to do all the hands-on work: distributing the rough outline to everyone involved, answering continuity questions and reviewing all the tie-in plots to make sure they conform to the details of the overall storyline.

Sound complicated? I'm not done yet. All the participating editors of the crossover must also submit their book's plots to the other participating editors if there's so much as a cameo of a given editor's character in their story. And once the art is done, photocopies of the art-boards must also be distributed to fellow editors in the crossover so they can make certain that costume details and so forth are consistent. We're talking major league coordination here, folks, and it's never any wonder to me that try as hard as we might, there is always a detail that is a little off in one title or another.

I've initiated major storylines in closed crossovers. I've participated in open crossovers whose premises I had nothing to do with. I've read and supervised crossovers for which I had no input or participation. Let me bend your attention span a bit with some of my specific experiences.

"Operation: Galactic Storm" was based on a plot germ growing out of my *Quasar* continuity. Quaze is supposed to be the Protector of the Universe. What would happen, thought I, if some aliens wanted to enlist his aid in a war with some other aliens? How would he decide which side to assist? Would he try to prevent the whole thing from happening, or would he turn his back on the whole murky affair? Well, when Bob Harras, Fabian Nicieza and I were casting around for premises big enough to involve all the *Avengers* titles, I offered my *Quasar* idea. Obviously, if the war infringed upon Earth in some way it could be "opened up" beyond the *Quasar* title. Bob, Fabe and I then thrashed out a raw outline of key events in each of the nineteen (ulp!) chapters that comprised the crossover. This took a lot of lunches.

Then we held an *Avengers* summit meeting with all the writers and editors, in order to debug and flesh out the outline. The writers were required to cover the events that were slotted for their issues of the storyline, like it or not. In most cases, there was plenty of room for the individual writers to make their portions uniquely their own, but it was still a far greater imposition upon their titles than usual. The net result, in my opinion, was pretty successful.

Last year I also participated in the open crossover *Infinity War*. I had nothing to do with the basic premise — the extent of my influence on the core storyline was "Since this story's so darn cosmic, and Quasar has a unique role in the cosmos, make sure he's got something special to do, please." And so he did. Writer Jim Starlin had the Mad Titan Thanos choose Quasar, of all the assembled multitude, to wield the Ultimate Nullifier. Unique enough for me. And when I wrote my tie-ins, I was obliged to deal with events in the limited series. In one issue, Quasar's role was to "find Eternity." I relished this, since I have long been interested in exploring the means by which omnipotent, abstract entities acquire humanoid forms. I used my assignment to do a real offbeat story. I was happy.

For my second crossover issue, I was a little more hamstrung. My issue came between two issues of *War* and, at the beginning of the second issue, Quas was in exactly the same predicament he was in at the end of the first. I had an issue of *Quasar* where he couldn't do anything! I managed to get around this as best I could by having Q go on a fact-finding quest that no one knew he went on. *Whew.* Then for my third crossover issue, Quas got nullified in *War* and never came back in the course of the story(!). Obviously, I had to tell what happened to him after he got nullified, and bring him back to life. This challenge was compounded by the fact that, in his own series, Quasar had already spent a few recent issues being "dead," so it was incumbent upon me to make this new experience as different from the previous one as possible. Truth to tell, I would never have chosen to do another "after death" storyline in the course of the book if I hadn't been obliged to. I now find that having had a character come back from the dead twice makes the threat of corporeal harm pretty empty.

So that's my side of the story on the subject of crossovers. They sometimes seem like a necessary evil, and sometimes like an unnecessary good! I would be interested to hear from you what you think our best and worst coordinated mass crossovers have been (I have my own theories). But as long as the idea of crossing over from one title to another remains a way to boost interest among you readers, we're going to keep doing it. And hey, maybe one time we'll get it absolutely right.

THE EPIC SEQUEL TO **INFINITY GAUNTLET!**

All of reality is at stake once more — but this time Thanos is on *our* side! Featuring Jim Starlin and Ron Lim's classic saga of Adam Warlock's dark half, the maniacal Magus — plus every doppelganger-filled crossover!

Collecting *Infinity War #1-6*; *Fantastic Four (1961) #366-370*; *Spider-Man (1990) #24*; *Deathlok (1991) #16*; *Daredevil (1964) #310*; *Warlock and the Infinity Watch #7-10*; *Doctor Strange, Sorcerer Supreme #42-47*; *Silver Surfer (1987) #67-69*; *Wonder Man (1991) #13-15*; *Alpha Flight (1983) #110-112*; *Silver Sable & the Wild Pack #4-5*; *Guardians of the Galaxy (1990) #27-29*; *Quasar #37-40*; *New Warriors (1990) #27*; *Marc Spector: Moon Knight #41-44*; *Nomad (1992) #7*; *Sleepwalker #18*; and material from *Captain America (1968) #408*, *Alpha Flight (1983) #109* and *Marvel Comics Presents (1988) #108-112*.

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